





Chapter 10

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

The purpose of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element is to set goals, policies and actions related to the acquisition, management, and maintenance of parks and open space, and planning of recreational facilities and programs.

Statutory Requirements

Palmdale’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element meets the State of California requirements for Open Space Elements as defined in Sections 65302(a) of the Government Code. The Open Space Element must contain goals and policies to protect and maintain undeveloped lands, natural resources, and recreation areas such as parks and trails.

Topics covered in this element include parks and open space access and services, trails, priority areas, funding mechanisms, and goals and policies for preserving and expanding parks, recreation, trails, and open space across the city.

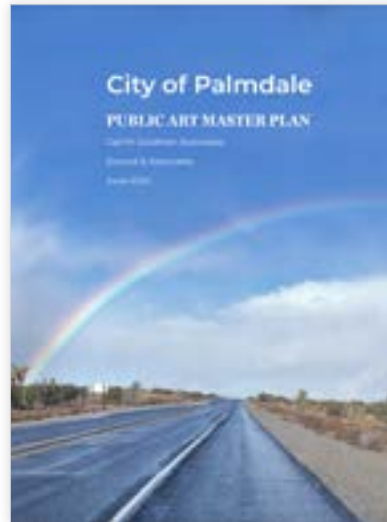


Walking Trail in Palmdale

Relevant Plans & Documents

Public Art Master Plan

Finalized in 2020, the Palmdale Public Art Master Plan sets forth a vision and key goals to expand artwork on City property and within the public realm throughout Palmdale. The Plan includes a summary of key recommendations and a strategic approach to funding, managing, and reviewing local public art projects that will celebrate Palmdale's identity, expand economic opportunities, and encourage multidisciplinary collaboration.



Palmdale Public Art Master Plan



Existing Context

The City’s Department of Parks and Recreation oversees the planning, acquisition, and programming of public parks and recreational opportunities in Palmdale. City parks and trails are maintained by the Department of Public Works, while limited City-owned open spaces are overseen by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The sections below provide background and context for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space goals and policies, which are provided at the end of this chapter.

Parkland

The City of Palmdale operates 19 parks, totaling 370 acres, which provide a variety of features for residents and visitors. Palmdale parks include active and passive leisure amenities like grassy areas, playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, skateparks, walking paths, softball fields, sand volleyball courts, picnic tables, community rooms, pools, and public restrooms, among others. The City’s largest Park, Marie Kerr, has a variety of lighted sports facilities and outdoor fields, a picnic pavilion, barbeques, walking paths, and a public pool. Detailed descriptions of this park, and all others can be found in the Public Facilities and Open Space Existing Conditions Report.

Palmdale’s parks can be categorized as in fair to good condition, though the City prioritizes additional improvements to better serve the community. The City’s newest park, Rancho Vista Neighborhood Park, was completed in Summer 2022. This and other Palmdale parks are listed in Table 10.1 below. The distribution of existing parks is illustrated on Figure 10.1.

Parks Service and Access

The City of Palmdale has a parkland-to-population goal of 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents. The City’s current population of 169,450⁴⁷ and existing parkland of 351 acres result in approximately 45% of the current target for public parks. The City would need an additional 496 acres of parkland to meet the current parkland to resident ratio target.

Figure 10.2 illustrates the current distribution and access to public parks from residential neighborhoods as they stand today. While Palmdale’s overall parks acreage is below the target, walk access is relatively high. As shown on the map, most residential neighborhoods in the city’s core are within a 20-minute walk of a park.

Table 10.1

Existing Palmdale Parks

#	Facility	Size
COMMUNITY PARKS		
5	Anaverde Hills Park	6 acres
1	Arnie Quinones Park	10 acres, 3 developed
18	Domenic Massari Park	38 acres
9	Desert Sands Park	20 acres
4	Foothill Park	12 acres
15	Joshua Hills Park	4 acres
7	Manzanita Heights Park	4 acres
3	Marie Kerr Park	77 acres
12	Melville J. Courson Park	5 acres
16	Palmdale Oasis Park	29 acres
6	Pelona Vista Park	76 acres
2	Rancho Vista Neighborhood Park*	4 acres
17	Sam Yellen Community Park	25 acres, 12 developed
13	Tejon Equestrian Park	20 acres
14	William J. McAdam Park	19 acres
GREENWAYS		
10	Dr. Robert C. St. Clair Parkway	9 acres
19	Legacy Park	1 acre
11	Poncitlan Square	2 acres
SPECIAL USE PARKS		
8	American Indian Little League Fields*	5 acres
20	Palmdale Pony League Baseball Fields**	5 acres
Total		351 developed acres

*Property not owned by the City of Palmdale

**Property not owned by the City of Palmdale and not operational

47. 2020 U.S. Census

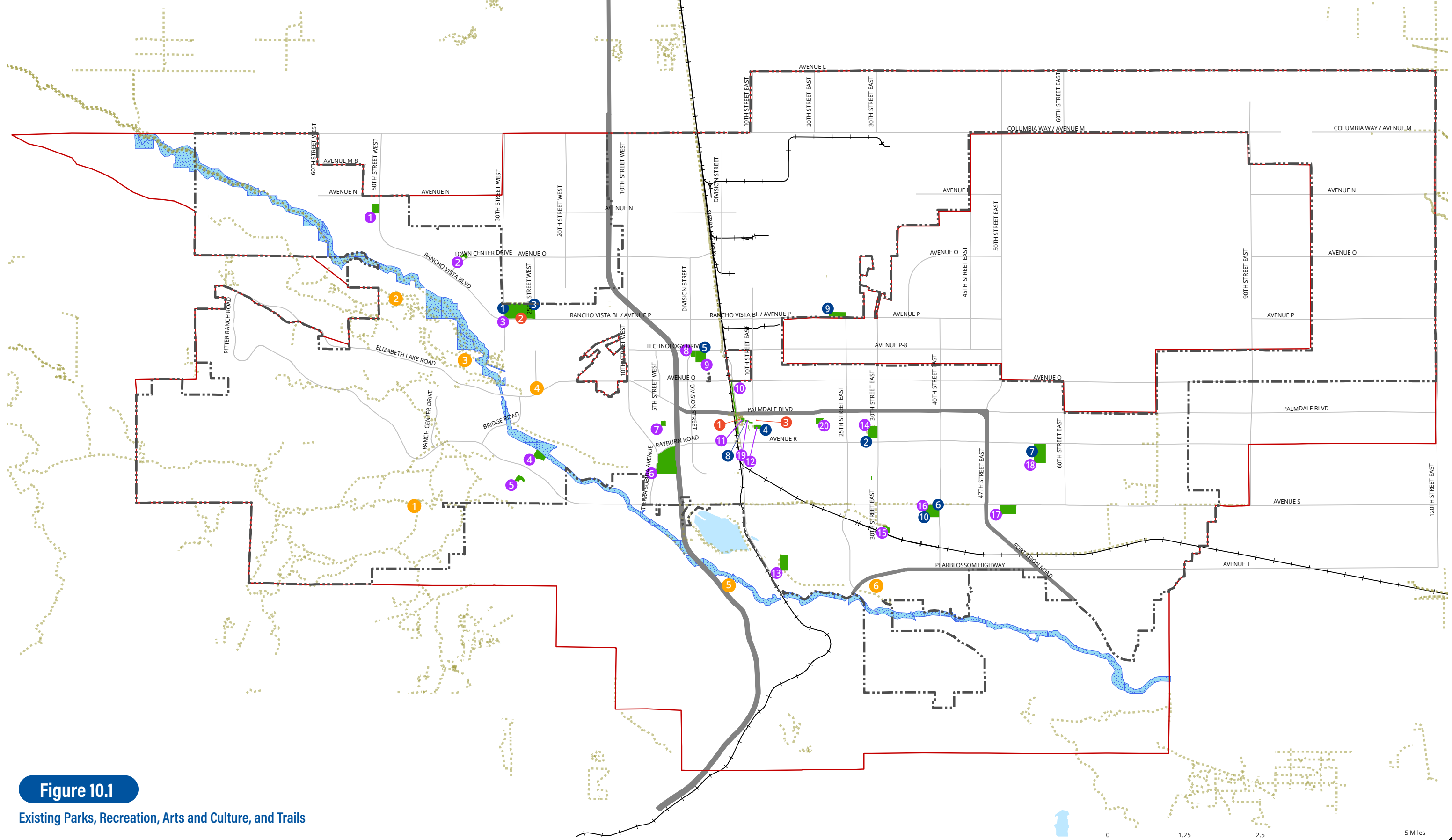
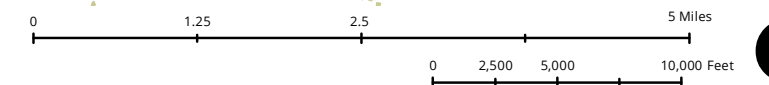


Figure 10.1

Existing Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture, and Trails

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Major Arterials
- Highway
- Railroad
- Existing Trails
- Water Body
- Existing Parks
- California Aqueduct
- Parks
- Recreation Facilities
- Trailheads
- Arts and Culture Facilities



Data Sources: Urban Footprint, City of Palmdale GIS
 Data, World Terrain Base, 2015 Esri, USGS, NOAA
 Produced by Raimi + Associates
 April 2022

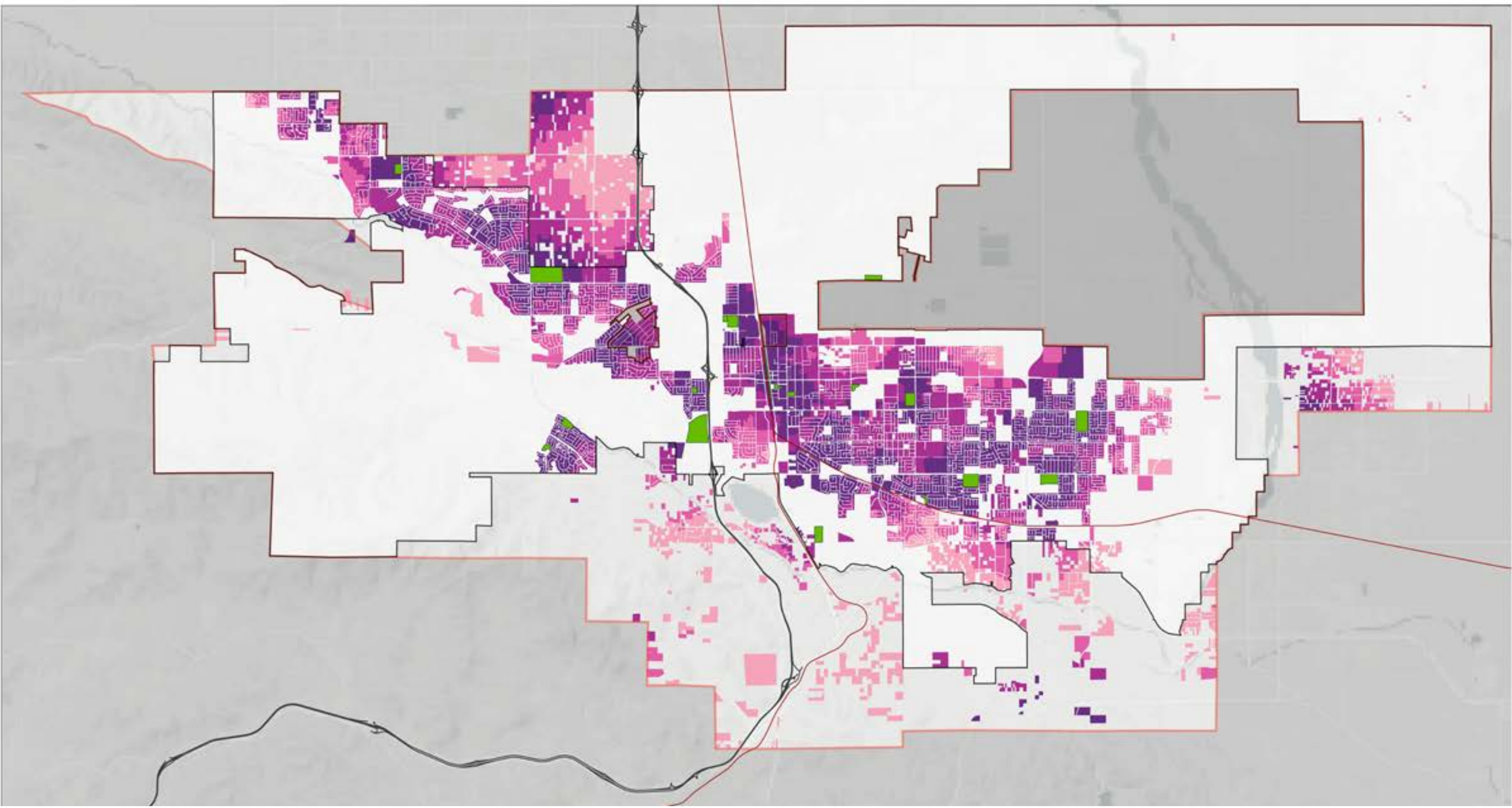
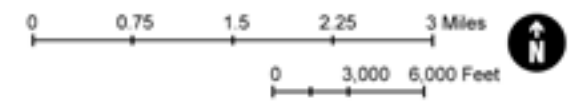


Figure 10.2
Current Park Access

- City Boundary
 - Sphere of Influence
 - Major Roads
 - Freeway
 - Railroad
 - Developed Park
- <10
 - 10-20
 - 20-30
 - >30



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Planned and Proposed Parks

Several parcels of land, both publicly and privately owned, are planned for future park development. These parks will be constructed as Specific Plan development phases are completed – in the case of privately owned land – or as funds are available and public need arises – for publicly owned properties.

It is estimated that 27 parks are planned or anticipated across the city. Of these, 21 are attributed to two Specific Plans - Ritter Ranch Specific Plan and Anaverde Nuevo Specific Plan. The remaining six undeveloped park properties are owned by the City of Palmdale and located adjacent to the developed core of the city. Future parks are illustrated on Figure 10.3, along with priority areas that are discussed in the next section.

Future Park Priority Areas

Improving parks and open space access is critically important to the Palmdale community and decision-makers. This Element aims to increase park access and service across the city by strategically identifying future park priority areas in underserved neighborhoods. Figure 10.3 (Future Parks Priority Areas) and Figure 10.4 (Residential Neighborhoods Compared to Park Priority Areas) illustrate the distribution of existing parks to future residential land uses—based on the Land Use Map—and indicate where future parks are needed. The future park priority analysis considers areas that are or will contain higher density residential⁴⁸ uses or development, and areas that are low-income and disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards (known as Disadvantaged Communities per SB 1000: see Equitable and Healthy Communities Element). While these priority areas are not exact locations of where future parks will occur, they indicate priority areas that should be examined as future development in these areas occurs.



Marie Kerr Park



DryTown Water Park

⁴⁸. High density residential refers to multifamily housing where population per square mile is higher as compared to single-family housing units.

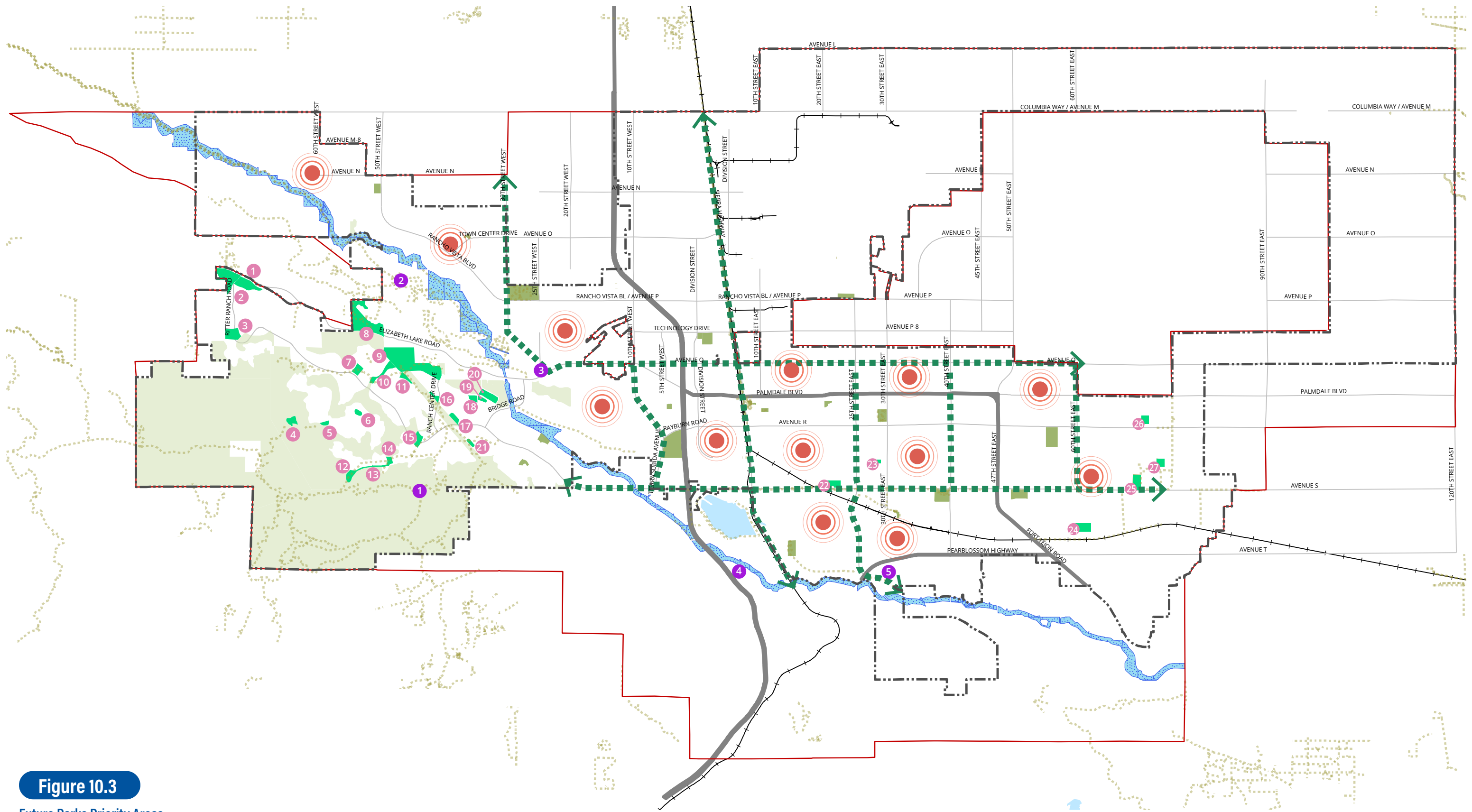


Figure 10.3

Future Parks Priority Areas

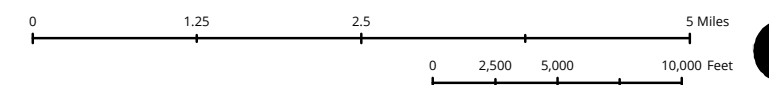
- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Major Arterials
- Highway
- Railroad

- Existing Parks
- Future Parks
- Future Open Space
- California Aqueduct
- Water Body

- Future Park Priority Area
- Existing Trails
- Key Access Routes

- Trailheads
 - 1-Ritter Ranch Park
 - 2-Joshua Hills Trail (not currently accessible)
 - 3-Amargosa Creek Trail
 - 4-Palmdale Hills Trail
 - 5-Barrel Springs Trail

- Future Parks
 - 1-18-Ritter Ranch Specific Plan
 - 19-21-City Ranch Specific Plan
 - 22-Palmenthol History Park
 - 23-Undeveloped Park
 - 24-60th St East & Avenue S8
 - 25-Undeveloped Park
 - 26-70th St East & North of Avenue R
 - 27-72nd St East & Avenue R8



Data Sources: Urban Footprint, City of Palmdale GIS Data, World Terrain Base, 2015 Esri, USGS, NOAA

Produced by Raimi + Associates
November 2021

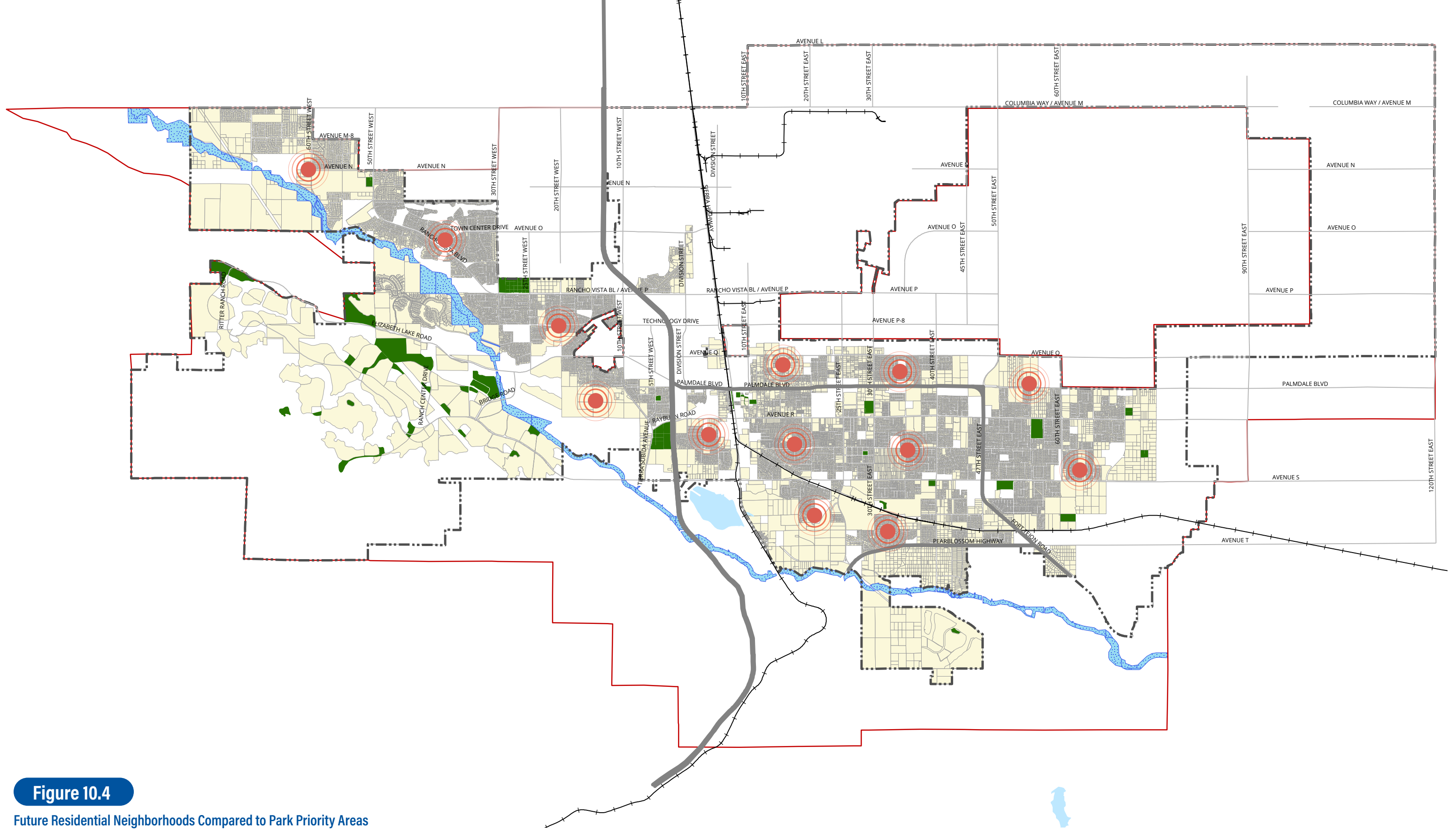










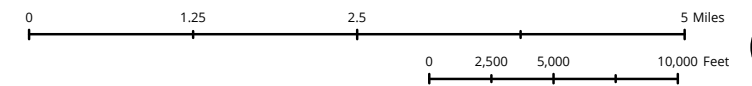


Figure 10.4

Future Residential Neighborhoods Compared to Park Priority Areas

-  City Boundary
-  Sphere of Influence
-  Major Arterials
-  Highway
-  Railroad
-  Residential or Mixed Use
-  Existing or Future Park
-  Future Park Priority Area
-  California Aqueduct
-  Water Body



Data Sources: Urban Footprint, City of Palmdale GIS Data, World Terrain Base, 2015 Esri, USGS, NOAA

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April 2022

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Recreation Facilities

Existing Recreation Facilities

The City of Palmdale offers several recreation facilities including community centers, public pools, an outdoor amphitheater, playhouse, and waterpark, as listed in Table 10.2 below and shown on Figure 10.1. Many of these facilities are co-located, offering meeting and special event space, active and passive recreation space, aquatics, and arts and culture opportunities in proximity. Facilities typically include restrooms, vehicle and bicycle parking, and athletic fields or courts.

In addition to active and passive recreation space, the City operates a public waterpark and several public pools. All public pools are integrated into City parks; Marie Kerr, McAdams, Courson, and Palmdale Oasis.

The Palmdale City Library also offer community resources, meeting space, and recreational programming which is detailed further in the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element of the General Plan.

Planned Recreation Facility Improvements

Notable recreation facility upgrades or expansions that are currently funded include: expansion of the Marie Kerr Pool Deck, regular investments in maintaining DryTown water park and City pool infrastructure, McAdam Park sports field, restroom, playground and parking improvements, Courson Park irrigation, restroom and park amenity improvements, Yellen Phase II construction, Marie Kerr Park parking lot and playground expansion, Domenic Massari Park athletic field lighting expansion, Wi-Fi improvements at Desert Sands Park and Palmdale Amphitheater.

Shared Use Agreements

Several High School athletic facilities are utilized for local sports leagues and organizations after school hours. Shared access or shared use allows an existing recreation asset to be used by a larger subset of the Palmdale community, and to expose youth to High School campuses. The City of Palmdale encourages the ongoing shared access of recreational facilities, especially in neighborhoods where recreation amenities are lacking.

Table 10.2

Existing Recreation Facilities

#	Facility	Address
3	Best of the West Softball Complex	2723 W Rancho Vista Boulevard
5	Desert Sands Community Building	39117 3rd Street East
7	Domenic Massari Park Chris O’Leary Skatepark	37716 55th Street East
6	DryTown Water Park	3850 East Avenue S
9	Joe Davies Heritage Airpark	2001 East Ave P
8	Legacy Commons for Active Seniors	930 East Avenue Q-9
1	Marie Kerr Pool, Community Building, Recreation Center, and Skate Park	39700 30th Street West
4	Courson Pool	38226 10th Street East
10	Palmdale Oasis Park Pool and Recreation Center	3850 East Avenue S
2	William J. McAdam Park Pool	38115 30th Street East

Parks and Recreation Funding

Existing parks and recreation facilities lack permanent funding sources to support ongoing maintenance and improvements. While a top City priority, funding for parks and recreation can prove challenging. In addition to the funding sources listed below, the City of Palmdale seeks additional special funding sources like state and federal grants, and the non-profit collaborations to finance parks and recreations facilities, improvements, and ongoing maintenance.

Park Maintenance and Recreation Improvement District

The City of Palmdale’s Park Maintenance and Recreation Improvement District provides funding for the installation, maintenance, and servicing of parks and recreation facilities until 2032. The Improvements District is financed by an annual assessment which is set by the City Engineer and approved by City Council.

Park Development Impact Fees

Park Development Impact fees are collected from development projects to mitigate the impacts associated with that development on the City’s existing park system. Fees go toward assisting with the development and rehabilitation of City parks and recreation facilities.



Arts and Culture

The City of Palmdale celebrates local arts and culture through its facilities, events, committees, and physical representations, among others. Listed below are some of the primary arts and culture resources in Palmdale.

Public Art Commission

Palmdale’s Public Art Commission provides recommendations to the City Council for the commission and acquisition of public art on City property, deaccession of artwork, acceptance of artwork gifts and loans, and proposals for memorials and murals on City-owned property.

Existing Arts and Culture Facilities

In addition to several private art galleries, studios, and schools, the City of Palmdale offers three public regional arts and cultural facilities. These include:



Palmdale Playhouse

The Palmdale Playhouse is a community theater serving the Antelope Valley that offers all forms of art and music. The Playhouse offers touring performances, classes and workshops, recitals, and family friendly events year-round.



Palmdale Amphitheater

The Palmdale Amphitheater is an outdoor event stage that offers live music, movie nights, and other events for families, residents, and visitors of the Antelope Valley.



Chimbole Cultural Center

The Chimbole Cultural Center is a public facility that offers meeting rooms, banquet space, a commercial kitchen and stage, and other resources for the Palmdale community.

Table 10.3 Existing Arts and Cultural Facilities

#	Facility	Address
1	Chimbole Cultural Center	38250 Sierra Highway
2	Palmdale Amphitheater (at Marie Kerr Park)	2723 Rancho Vista Boulevard
3	Palmdale Playhouse	38334 10th Street East



Open Space at Ritter Ranch

Open Space

Open Space is undeveloped land that is preserved from future development and typically accessible by the public for passive and active recreation. Palmdale has a plethora of undeveloped land, though most is not currently protected open space owned by a public agency for public recreation. In order to preserve hillsides and natural areas, and accommodate outdoor recreation, the City will need to earmark additional acres of open space either through acquisition, partnerships with open space conservancies, or as part of private development.

Existing and Future Open Space

The City of Palmdale contains 1,129 acres of open space, of which, 75 acres are outside the City limits in the Sphere of Influence area. Across the City, many acres of open space are owned by agencies or private individuals, these include private open space uses like cemeteries and golf courses. Within Palmdale, the County of Los Angeles and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority own and manage open spaces.

In addition to open space shown on the General Plan Land Use Map (Figure 5.18), several of the Specific Plans across Palmdale include dedicated Open Space. The Ritter Ranch Specific Plan area includes nearly 7,700 acres of preserved public open space within City limits, as indicated on Figure 10.3 Future Park Priority Areas. A portion of the Ritter Ranch open space is located outside City limits and managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority⁴⁹, offering residents nearby access to scenic views and hiking trails.

⁴⁹. Source: <https://mrca.ca.gov/parks/park-listing/ritter-ranch/>

Trails

Trails offer safe recreation options and alternative forms of travel throughout the City. While Palmdale has abundant undeveloped land, formal bicycle and pedestrian trails are fairly limited within City limits. As the community grows and develops, Palmdale has the desire to increase formalized trails, trailheads, signage, and improve access to residential neighborhoods.

Current trails include the Avenue S Bike Trail—a Class I bike path—which runs approximately 4.7 miles, with minor gaps, east to west along Avenue S from SR-14 to 45th Street East. The 1.5-mile Barrel Springs Trail also provides access to open space. Other trails include the Ritter Ridge and Joshua Ranch Loop that offer hikers and mountain bikers an 11-mile trail to enjoy and view wildlife⁵⁰. While the Sierra Highway Bike Trail, a Class 1 bike path, extends from the Lancaster Metrolink Station south to the Palmdale Transit Center, totalling nearly 7.5 miles. Table 10.4 lists the approximate location of each trail, which corresponds to Figure 10.1.

Future Trails

The City of Palmdale 2018 Draft Bicycle Transportation Plan prioritizes development of over 173 new miles of trails for biking, hiking, and horseback riding, dependent on the availability of future funding. These along with bike lanes, bikeways, bike routes and multi-use trails detailed in the Mobility Element, promote alternative modes of travel, and connect key destinations throughout the city. The trail system could be further expanded by formalizing trails in the foothills near Barrel Springs, as funding and acquisition of land allows.

⁵⁰. Source: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/ritter-ridge-joshua-ranch>

Table 10.4

Trailheads

	Facility	Address
4	Amargosa Creek Trail	Elizabeth Lake Rd, 25th St W
6	Barrel Springs Trail	1300 E Barrel Springs Rd
2	Joshua Hills Trail	North of Pearblossom Highway and West of 25 Street East
5	Palmdale Hills Trail	E Barrel Springs Rd and Courson Ranch Rd
1	Ritter Ranch Park	4010 Elizabeth Lake Rd
3	Joshua Ranch Trail	Joshua Ranch Rd; West of the California Aqueduct

Open Space in Palmdale



Trails in Palmdale



Parks and Recreation Standards

The following tables include standards for various parks and amenities throughout Palmdale. These standards shall remain in place unless or until the City of Palmdale adopts a Parks Master Plan or similar document to include further detail and guidelines documentation for parks and recreation facilities and amenities.

Table 10.5

Parks Standards

Park Type	Typical Size	Typical Features
Mini-Park	0-3 Acres	Tot lots, play areas and picnic areas
Neighborhood Park	3-7 Acres	Ballfields, picnic areas, tot lots, restrooms, playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, trails
Community Park (Including linear park, specialty parks, and nature parks)	5-50+ Acres	Includes features found in neighborhood parks plus pools, gymnasiums, amphitheaters, equestrian facilities, sports complexes, and other similar facilities

Table 10.6

Recreation Facility Guidelines

Facility Type	Guideline
Tot lots	1 per park
Picnic areas	1 per acre, which should be shaded by trees or a structure
Ballfields (softball, baseball, little league, soccer/football)	1 field/5,000 population
Courts(basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts)	1 court/5,000 population
Swimming pools	1 pool/20,000 population
Gymnasium	1 gymnasium/20,000 population
Stage/bandstand	1 stage or bandstand/50,000 population
Amphitheater	1 amphitheater/100,000 population
Equestrian center	1 equestrian center/150,000
Sports complex	1 sports complex/150,000 population

(Guidelines include all available facilities citywide, including those facilities provided on school sites or by private recreation providers)

Table 10.7

Trails Standards

Facility Type	Guideline
EASEMENTS	Typical width: 12 to 20 feet, unless adjacent to a bikeway. Easements for feeder trails can be as narrow as 8 feet
TRAIL TREAD	Minimum width: 10 feet for backbone trails, 6 feet for feeder trails
MINIMUM CLEARANCE FROM GRADE: 12 FEET	
Vertical Grade:	
0% to 5%	Optimum vertical grade
6% to 10%	Maximum grade for distanced over 500 feet
11% to 15%	Permitted vertical grade, limited to distances of 500 feet or less
16% to 20%	Vertical grade permitted only in extreme cases and for distances less than 100 feet
21% and above	Not permitted
CROSS SECTION SLOPES:	
1% to 2%	Optimum cross section slope
3%	Permitted cross section slope
4%	Maximum cross section slope, and only as approved by City Engineer
5% and above	Not permitted
SIDE SLOPE CUTS AND FILLS:	2:1 grade maximum permitted
TREAD SURFACING	Decomposed granite or cinder (or other materials approved by the City), minimum depth of 6" after 90% compaction. At trail entrances, tread surface may be asphalt or other surface which facilitates wheelchair access
FENCING	Fencing not required within areas designated as open space. Fencing is required on all other trail segments. Fencing may consist of lodge pole pine, PVC or equivalent.

Desired Outcomes, Indicators, and Targets

The following desired outcomes and metrics have been identified to help the City of Palmdale track progress toward creating a more diverse and equitable economy. This process follows Palmdale 2045's General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles document, which was informed by the GPAC, the Planning Commission and City Council.

Top Key Outcomes

OUTCOME: Provide more publicly accessible trails

KPI's:

- Increase in miles of trails
- Connections to existing neighborhoods

TARGETS:

- Increase miles of trails
- All new trails provide trailheads with basic amenities

OUTCOME: Provide more public parkland and open space

KPI's:

- Increase in acres of parks and open space
- Connections to existing neighborhoods

TARGETS:

- 5.0 acres of parkland or open space per 1,000 residents
- 90% of residents are within 20-minute walk of park, trailhead, open space, or recreation facility

OUTCOME: Expanded public recreation amenities and programs

KPI's:

- Participation in self-directed and organized public programs
- Equitable access to amenities and programs citywide
- Diversity of programs offered

TARGETS:

- Maximize program participation citywide
- Expand and create new programs reflective of current community needs
- Utilize community partners to grow recreational opportunities

Marie Kerr Park



Goals and Policies

The following section includes goals and policies for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element. Goals and policies are followed by implementation actions.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Goal PR-1

Provision of adequate park and recreation facilities to meet the needs of all existing and future residents.

PR-1.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to address park conditions and needs, recreation programming, facilities, and funding opportunities. As a part of a Parks Master Plan, evaluate adopted park standards, including designations for type of parks and guidelines for the facilities to be developed in future parks.

PR-1.2 Park location. Ensure that park sites are located equitably, throughout the city, to maximize access to parks for residents within a 20-minute walking distance.

PR-1.3 Parks accessibility. Provide a variety of parks and recreational facilities accessible to all residents throughout the city, including community and neighborhood parks, to meet the needs of youth, adults, and senior citizens.

PR-1.4 Future parks priority areas. As feasible, work with the private development community to facilitate creation of parks in the future parks priority areas as indicated in Figure 10.3.

PR-1.5 Prioritize underserved areas. Prioritize development of new parks and recreation facilities in underserved areas of the city, encouraging access to free or low-cost recreation for all Palmdale residents.

PR-1.6 Expand park amenities. Encourage expansion of amenities at existing public parks.

PR-1.7 ADA Design. Incorporate all design features, required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, which improve access to parks and park facilities for citizens with different abilities and needs.

PR-1.8 School and park synergy. Co-locate schools and parks and partner with non-profit organizations to provide recreational opportunities that benefit both students and the public.

PR-1.9 Parkland incentives. Work with the private development community to incentivize creation of publicly accessible parkland either on-or-off-site.

Goal PR-2

Promote bicycling as an important mode of transportation and recreation in the City of Palmdale.

PR-2.1 Bikeway network. Encourage bicycle use by developing a comprehensive bikeway network for the city that meets access needs of all bicyclists.

PR-2.2 Bicycle safety. Increase the level of public safety for all bicyclists.

PR-2.3 Transportation modes to parks, schools, and recreation. Promote biking, walking, or taking public transit to public parks and recreation facilities.

PR-2.4 Sidewalks. Ensure connecting sidewalks are well maintained throughout the city.

Goal PR-3

Provide a broad range of recreational programs for all ages and activity levels to enrich the lives of residents.

PR-3.1 Recreation education. Collaborate with community partners to expand healthy, and educational recreation programs and services for youth and families.

PR-3.2 Culturally sensitive programming. Provide culturally sensitive programming at various recreation facilities to serve the city's diverse population.

PR-3.3 Shared school amenities. Work with local school districts to make campus recreation amenities (such as open grassy areas, basketball courts, baseball fields, gymnasiums, among others) available to surrounding neighborhoods and local sports leagues or organizations during off-school hours.

PR-3.4 Arts and culture programming. Work with local schools, non-profits, local organizations, and artists to increase arts and culture programming (such as performing arts and theater, visual arts, youth, and senior programs) throughout Palmdale.

PARKLAND

Goal PR-4

Explore various means of acquiring parkland and seek creative and flexible techniques to accomplish park goals.

PR-4.1 Incorporate parkland.

Wherever feasible, incorporate uses that increase the public benefit of park land, and are compatible with the goal of providing active recreation opportunities.

PR-4.2 Non-traditional parks.

Consider non-traditional types of parks to extend the range of recreational opportunities available within the city, including linear parks, neighborhood parks, and remodeling vacant buildings for indoor activities, among others.

PR-4.3 Public input. Seek public input on locations for and amenities in new neighborhood and community parks.

PR-4.4 Recreation, cultural and artistic opportunities. Continue to work with public and private entities to provide opportunities for recreational, cultural, and artistic activities within the community.

PR-4.5 Park site considerations.

Account for physical, land use, and cost considerations when evaluating future park sites for acquisition or dedication.

PR-4.6 Dual purpose recreation.

Explore options to provide public recreation access (i.e., walking or picnicking) to utility and or drainage basin areas as safety permits.

Goal PR-5

Evaluate the need for establishing a funding mechanism for parks development and the need for satellite services.

PR-5.1 Park maintenance and improvements funding. Provide sufficient funding for maintenance and improvements for all parks.

PR-5.2 Park fees. Collect park fees and review this fee annually, to provide financing for improvement of parkland.

PR-5.3 Parks financing. Consider formation of a citywide public financing district to provide funding for design, acquisition, construction, and maintenance of parks throughout Palmdale.

PR-5.4 Parks planning. Continue to use the City's Capital Improvement Program as the mechanism for short-term planning for acquisition of park land and construction of park and upgrades to existing facilities.

PR-5.5 Grant funding opportunities. Identify and pursue Quimby grant funding and other opportunities to finance future park development to meet parkland goals.

OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Goal PR-6

Provide a network of open space areas to provide for passive and active recreation opportunities, enhance the integrity of biological systems, and provide visual relief from the developed portions of the city.

PR-6.1 Open Space network.

Develop an open space network through preservation of corridors along fault zones, natural drainage courses and in hillside areas to connect with the large areas of open space designated on the General Plan Land Use Map.

PR-6.2 Acquire natural open spaces.

Work with private property owners, conservation agencies, and the County of Los Angeles to expand and acquire natural open spaces and hillsides on the periphery of the city.

PR-6.3 Passive recreation use.

Encourage the use of open space areas for passive recreation with access points, multi-use trails, and interpretive information.

PR-6.4 Incentivize open space.

Work with the private development community to incentivize new publicly accessible open space through land dedications, land swaps, or other means.

TRAILS NETWORK

Goal PR-7

Maintain a system of multi-use trails that provide connections to regional trails systems and residential neighborhoods.

PR-7.1 Multi-use trails. Provide and maintain multi-use trails, for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians, connecting to existing or currently planned multi-use trails.

PR-7.2 Multi-use trail connections.

Prioritize multi-use trail connections to existing neighborhoods, public parks, and public facilities based on the modal priority network in the Mobility Element.

PR-7.3 Promote new multi-use trails.

When feasible, consider adding multi-use paths near or within areas used for water retention, like the aqueduct, or below transmission lines, to increase local walking and biking routes.

PR-7.4 Trail accessibility. To the extent feasible, ensure that trails are accessible to all residents and incorporate ADA design features.

PR-7.5 Trail amenities and facilities.

Provide trail support facilities, such as benches, trash cans and trail heads/staging areas, as needed throughout the multi-use trails network.

PR-7.6 Trails acquisition. Explore various means of acquiring trail easements or rights-of-way and pursue all available funding sources to provide trail acquisition and construction.

PR-7.7 Trail financing. To the extent feasible, use grant funding and private donations to finance trail construction.

PR-7.8 Trails network adoption.

Incorporate the citywide multi-purpose trail network adopted under the General Plan into the regional trail system.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Goal PR-8

Preserve significant natural and constructed open space areas that give the city its distinct form and identity.

PR-8.1 Greenbelt program.

Establish a greenbelt program to create a network of open spaces on the city's periphery.

PR-8.2 Varied open space features.

Utilize a variety of features, including city entry points, landscaped arterial roadways, bikeways, equestrian paths, hiking trails, and park sites, to create an open space network.

PR-8.3 Open space linkages.

Create a network of open space by creating linkages wherever possible, especially to and from residential neighborhoods.

PR-8.4 Open Space preservation through Hillside Management Ordinance.

Implement the standards adopted under the City's Hillside Management Ordinance for new development including clustering and density transfer of housing units, in order to maintain areas of scenic and other open space within hillside areas.

PR-8.5 Location and retain

open spaces. Utilize the City's discretionary land use approval process to locate and retain areas for use as open space through dedication or other legal means. Develop criteria and guidelines to identify areas that should be protected.

PR-8.6 Integrate natural hazards to open spaces. Integrate natural hazard areas, such as floodways, seismic fault zones, and unstable soils, among others into the open space network to ensure public health, safety and welfare while preserving open space.

PR-8.7 Open Space funding.

Identify and utilize all available funding sources for acquisition and maintenance of open space areas for public benefit.

PR-8.8 Work to preserve Open

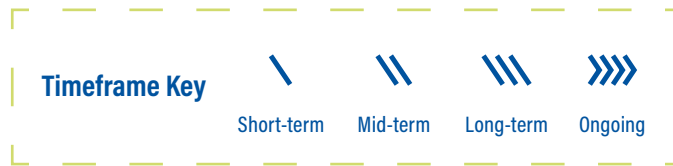
Space. Cooperate with private and public entities whose goals are to preserve natural and constructed open space.

PR-8.9 Land Trust criteria. Develop criteria and guidelines to identify how to establish land trust open space locations.

Implementation Actions

The table below identifies programs, coordination efforts, and other actions that will help implement the General Plan’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Space vision and policies. Programs listed below are consistent with this chapter’s goals and policies.

The table provides a description of each Implementation Action and lists the correlating policies. Each action also identifies a timeframe for implementation with Short-term representing a 1–3-year timeframe, Medium-term is 4-7 years, Long-term is 8+ years and Ongoing represents an action that the City should continue. Additionally, the table includes the City department that should function as the lead for implementing the actions.



Correlating Goals	Action	Timeframe	Department Responsible
PR-1, PR-4	Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Develop and implement a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to increase parkland and meet current and future parks and recreation needs. Every three years revisit and update (as needed) the Master Plan.	Mid-term	Parks and Recreation and Public Works
PR-5	Parks Funding. Pursue long term funding sources and grants to fund park development and ongoing maintenance.	Ongoing	Parks and Recreation and Public Works
PR-6, PR-8,	Green Belt Program. Establish a greenbelt program to create a network of open spaces on the city’s periphery.	Short-term	Parks and Recreation and Public Works
PR-5	Parks District. Investigate the feasibility of instituting a Parks District to help fund park development, improvements, and ongoing maintenance.	Short-term	Parks and Recreation and Public Works
PR-3	Arts and Culture events at City Parks. Develop public arts and culture programming at City Parks.	Mid-term	Parks and Recreation
PR-3	Recreation Programming. Expand and diversify recreation programming and locations around the city.	Mid-term	Parks and Recreation
PR-1, PR-6, PR-8	Development Incentives. Provide incentives for development to increase publicly accessible parkland and open space in Palmdale.	Mid-term	Parks and Recreation, Economic and Community Development, and Public Works