

INTRODUCTION

This section describes the impact of the Project on existing and future parks and recreation facilities in the City of Glendale. Information for this section was derived from the City of Glendale Recreation Element, the City of Glendale Open Space and Conservation Element, and communications with City staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Existing Conditions

Developed Park and Recreation Facilities

The City of Glendale Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department owns and operates public parks and recreation facilities in the City. More than 6,098 acres of public open space exists within the boundaries of the City, of which 5,020 acres are City owned.¹ City-owned open space consists of undeveloped parkland in the form of regional and community parks such as Brand Park, Deukmejian Wilderness Park, Verdugo Mountain Park, and Lower Scholl Canyon. The remaining 1,078 acres of public open space includes lands owned by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Los Angeles County, Southern California Edison Company, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Flood Control Division.²

In addition, privately held properties comprise a total of 1,302 acres of open space. Privately held open space includes unsubdivided land and developed recreation and education facilities (e.g., golf courses, youth camps, and religious retreats).³

The Glendale park system consists of approximately 281 acres of developed parkland in 37 parks.⁴ Six types of parks within the City are defined in the General Plan Recreation Element; these include regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, mini-parks, community centers, and special facilities. Definitions of each recreation facility type and the associated characteristics of each are summarized in **Table 4.11-1, Park and Recreation Facilities Classification and Service Area Standards.**

¹ Personal correspondence with George Balteria, CIP Project Development Coordinator, Glendale Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department, June 5, 2006.

² Ibid, *see also*, City of Glendale, Open Space and Conservation Element, 1993, p. 4–3.

³ Personal correspondence with George Balteria, CIP Project Development Coordinator, Glendale Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department, June 5, 2006.

⁴ Ibid.

**Table 4.11-1
Park and Recreation Facilities Classification and Service Area Standards**

Component	Service Area	Size (acres)	Amount per 1,000 Population in Acres	Desirable Uses	Site Characteristics
Regional Park	Several cities (1 hour drive time)	30+	N/A	Picnicking, play area, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, trails	Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.
Community Park	1-mile-radius	10-30	5.0-8.0	Athletic fields and courts, gymnasiums, swimming pools, picnic sites, play areas	Suited for intense development. May encompass natural resources.
Neighborhood Park	0.5-mile radius	2-10	1.0-2.0	Athletic fields and courts, play areas, picnic sites, wading pools	Suited for intense development with safe pedestrian and bike access. May be developed as a school site facility.
Mini-Park	Less than a 0.25-mile radius	1 or less	0.25-0.5	Play equipment areas, wading pools	Suited for high-density multi-family and senior housing units.
Community Center	2-mile radius	1/2-5	N/A	Multipurpose building and gymnasium, open play area	Suited for intense development with safe pedestrian access.
Special Facilities	No applicable standard	N/A	N/A	May include golf courses, historic grounds or buildings, botanical gardens, commercial plazas or squares, nature centers	

Source: City of Glendale General Plan Recreation Element, 1996.

In addition to City recreation facilities, trailhead access to regional trail systems outside the City, including trail systems in the Verdugo Mountains, San Rafael Hills, Santa Monica Mountains, and Angeles National Forest (San Gabriel Mountains), is provided from City community parks.

For purposes of planning its recreation facilities, the City has established 11 "Recreation Planning Areas" in accordance with patterns of community boundaries and park facility accessibility, as defined by mountains, freeways, and other barriers to use. The Project site is located in Recreation Planning Area No. 10, which encompasses a 1,344-acre area characterized by residential, commercial, and industrial uses.⁵ Recreation Planning Area No. 10 includes the portion of downtown Glendale located east of Brand Boulevard and the Civic Center.

Several City park and recreational facilities are located within an approximately 1-mile radius of the Project site. The location of these facilities are shown in **Figure 4.11-1, City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Facilities Within 1 Mile of the Project Site**, and its characteristics are summarized below in **Table 4.11-2, City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Facilities Within 1 Mile of the Project Site**. Currently, the closest facility to the Project site is Glendale Central Park/Adult Recreation Center, located 0.3 mile south of the Project site.

Amenities at the Glendale Central Park/Adult Recreation Center include four tennis courts, eight shuffleboard courts, a pool table, a putting green, a bowling green, and a picnic area. Programs available to seniors at the center include health screening and wellness programs, housing and legal assistance, life-long learning classes, travel and volunteer opportunities, recreational activities, and special events with an emphasis on diversity. Construction on the Glendale Central Park/Adult Recreation Center will begin in March 2008 and will include the demolition and reconstruction of the recreation center building and removal of the shuffleboard courts, putting green, picnic area, and tennis courts. Two options being considered for relocation of the tennis courts include construction of two new courts at Fremont Park or the renovation of six courts at Glendale High School for joint use.

Pacific Community Center is located 1.2 miles from the Project site. Indoor facilities include a multi-purpose gymnasium, computer lab, arts and science room, game room, conference room and a variety of meeting rooms. Park facilities include a little league baseball field, group picnic area, multi-purpose field, multi-purpose court, children's playground, water play area, and outdoor theater. The Center also includes a recreation room that houses two pool tables, a table tennis table, and a foosball table.

Planned Park Acquisition, Development and Construction

Glendale is currently devoting additional resources for the acquisition, development and construction of parks within residential areas. Future acquisition of land for recreational use will provide a wide array of activities and facilities. The following is a list of tasks currently being undertaken by the City related to

⁵ City of Glendale, Recreation Element, 1996, p. 5-9.

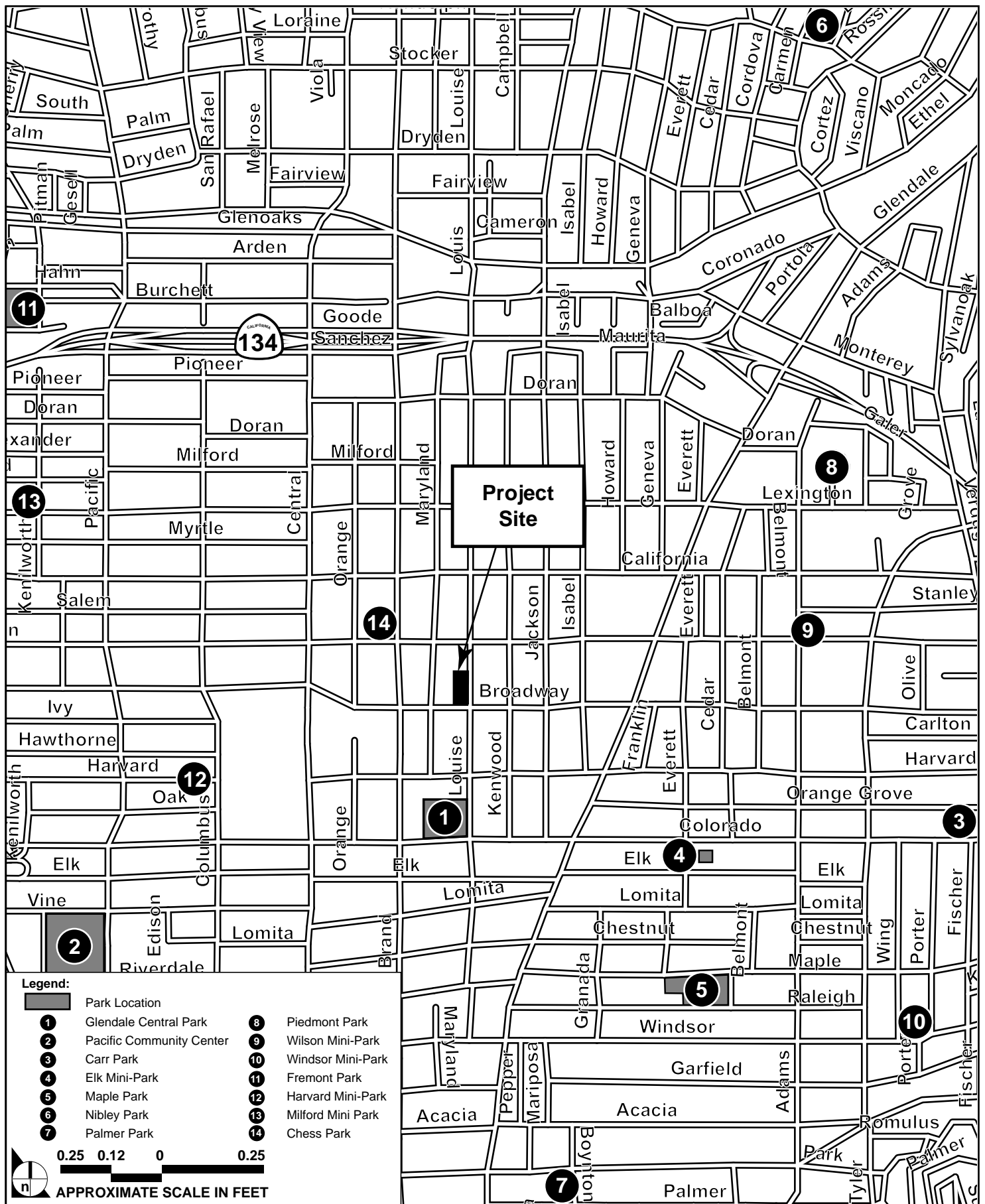
acquiring land for recreational purposes.⁶ It should be noted that the tasks listed below are in different stages of acquisition, development, and/or construction.

Table 4.11-2
City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Facilities
Within 1 Mile of the Project Site

Facilities	Acres	Features
1) Glendale Central Park/Adult Recreation Center	3.2	Special Facility/Neighborhood Park: Senior citizen center and tennis courts.
2) Pacific Community Center/Edison Park	10.1	Indoor facilities include a gymnasium, computer lab, arts and science room, game room, conference room, meeting rooms, recreation room that houses two pool tables, a table tennis table, and a foosball table. Outdoor park facilities include a little league baseball field, group picnic area, multi-purpose field, multi-purpose court, children's playground, water play area, and outdoor theater.
3) Carr Park	2.33	Basketball Court, children's play area, and picnic areas.
4) Elk Mini-Park	0.3	Children's play area, picnic, and seating areas.
5) Maple Park	3.8	Neighborhood Park: Children's Play Area, Community Building, Gymnasium, Picnic Areas, Special Facilities, and Tennis Court.
6) Nibley Park	2.4	Basketball court, children's play area, picnic areas, and 2 tennis courts.
7) Palmer Park	2.8	Basketball court, children's play area, special facilities, and wading pool.
8) Piedmont Park	.25	No amenities.
9) Wilson Avenue Mini Park	.3	Children's play area and picnic facilities.
10) Windsor Mini Park	0.38	Children's play area, seating area with a shade canopy, open lawn area.
11) Fremont Park	7.9	Basketball Court, Children's Play Area, 4 Horseshoe Courts, Picnic Areas, 8 Tennis Courts, Volleyball, and Wading Pool.
12) Harvard Mini Park	0.29	Fire Department theme play area, seating area with a shade canopy, open lawn area.
13) Milford Mini Park	0.30	Children's play area, picnic areas.
14) Chess Park	0.10	16 concrete chess tables with black and white inlaid boards providing seating for retail workers and patrons to enjoy their lunches and coffee breaks.

Source: City of Glendale Parks, Recreation & Community Services Website, [Online] June 14, 2007. <<http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/parks>>.

⁶ Personal correspondence with George Balteria, CIP Project Development Coordinator, Glendale Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department, June 5, 2006.



SOURCE: Impact Sciences, Inc. – October 2007

FIGURE 4.11-1

City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Facilities Within One Mile Radius of the Project Site

Mini-Park Development

- Cedar Mini-Park (0.5 acre);
- Adams Square Mini-Park (0.33 acre); and
- Maryland Mini-Park (0.5 acre).

Joint City/School Parks Development

- Construction of approximately 1 acre Cerritos Park adjacent to Cerritos Elementary School; and
- Joint use of Columbus Elementary School property as a soccer field.

In addition, the Glendale Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Division is actively looking for opportunities to acquire and develop new park facilities. Some possibilities include the development of subterranean parking facilities with rooftop recreational use, as well as rooftop use of existing above ground parking structures.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Recreation Element of the General Plan

Parks and Recreation Facility Service Standards

The Recreation Element of the Glendale General Plan addresses City parks and recreation needs, management of parks and use of these facilities, and the development of additional park resources. The City park classification system, recommended that service radii and area standards adhere closely to those established by the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards (1983), which serves as the national standard for the assessment of parkland in cities. Specifically, the Recreation Element establishes a standard of 6 acres per 1,000 residents of neighborhood park and community parkland combined.⁷ This standard calls for the provision of 1 acre of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents and 5 acres of community parkland per 1,000 residents. Currently, the City's parkland-to-resident ratio is 1.4 acres per 1,000 residents. It should be noted that this standard represents a desired goal and is not considered a threshold.

Parks and Recreation Goals, Policies, and Objectives

The Recreation Element also contains general recreation-related goals, objectives, and policies. Goals in the Recreation Element include: having a variety of recreational opportunities and programs for all

⁷ City of Glendale, Recreation Element, 1996, p. 6-11.

residents; the conservation and preservation of cultural, historical, archaeological, and paleontological structures and sites as links to community identity; the management of aesthetic resources, both natural and man-made to create a visually pleasing City; and the development of new parks and recreation facilities responsive to particular neighborhoods or areas in the City, as identified in the Recreation Element. A description of applicable goals, policies, and objectives is provided in **Section 4.7, Land Use and Planning**. As discussed in **Section 4.7**, the Project does not conflict with applicable General Plan goals and policies relating to recreation.

As the Recreation Element makes clear, these parkland standards are desired goals, and are not strictly applied to development projects on an individual basis. None of the Goals, Objectives, or Policies of the Recreation Element requires that individual development projects meet these standards. In addition, the Recreation Element does not require that new residential development comply with these standards, acknowledging that, “[s]trict adherence to these standards would dictate that the City not permit anymore [sic] housing units in areas with a deficiency of park land,” and that, “[f]ollowing this argument to its logical conclusion, based on existing neighborhood park supply, it would be difficult to permit any additional residential development.”⁸ This language recognizes the problems faced by the City with respect to the need for new residential development and the associated impact to local parks and the need for additional parkland in the City.

The Recreation Element also discusses the relationship of this element to the other elements of the General Plan and other plans, policies, and programs. This discussion notes that the streetscape improvements and open space acquisitions discussed in the General Plan will provide for both the daytime population and residents in the immediate area passive recreation opportunities and an improvement in their quality of life.⁹ In addition, the Recreation Element specifically addresses the downtown area in a policy that calls for the City to promote and, when possible, provide recreational opportunities for the daytime population in the downtown, commercial, and industrial areas of the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Methodology

Project impacts on recreational facilities in the City are provided below. This assessment is based on City planning standards for recreational facilities and the increase in population that would result from Project implementation.

⁸ City of Glendale, Recreation Element, 1996, p. 1-3

⁹ Ibid. pp. 2-5.

Thresholds of Significance

The following thresholds for determining the significance of impacts related to recreation are contained in the environmental checklist form contained in Appendix G of the most recent update of the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines*.

- Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
- Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Impact Analysis

Each applicable threshold of significance is listed below followed by analysis of the significance of any potential impacts and the identification of mitigation measures that would lessen or avoid potential impacts. Finally, the significance of potential impacts after implementation of all identified mitigation measures is presented.

Threshold: **Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

Impact Analysis: As described in **Section 4.9, Population and Housing**, Project implementation would result in an estimated population increase of approximately 328 residents within Glendale. This increase in population would incrementally increase the use of existing neighborhood and community parks. Employees and patrons of the proposed Hollywood Production Center offices may occasionally use City parks but are expected to place a negligible demand on those facilities. As discussed above, the City currently has a park land-to-resident ratio of approximately 1.4 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents, while the City's park planning standard is 6 acres of neighborhood and community parkland per 1,000 residents. Even with implementation of all parkland under development, the parkland-to-resident ratio would remain relatively the same. Based upon the ideal park land-to-resident ratio standard, the Project would require 1 additional acre of parkland. To maintain the existing park land-to-resident ratio, the Project would require 0.25 additional acres of parkland.

The Project includes amenities that would meet some of the recreational needs of Project residents, Hollywood Production Center employees and the general population in the City. The proposed residential condominium building would include a landscaped outdoor roof deck and a 3,400-square-foot landscaped courtyard, which would include a swimming pool and water feature. The Hollywood

Production Center building would include a roof garden with a central water feature surrounded by seating areas and potted plants. Finally, the alley between the office building at 225 East Broadway and existing apartment building at 111 North Louise Street is proposed for vacation in order to create a 2,250-square-foot landscaped public open space pedestrian passageway with seating areas. The public open space pedestrian passageway would provide a pedestrian connection between North Louise Street and North Brand Boulevard. While the proposed amenities would meet some of the recreational needs of Project residents, employees and the Glendale population, existing park facilities are currently heavily used due to the deficit in parkland in the City. As such, the nominal increase in use of neighborhood and community parks in the City that would occur as result of the Project is considered a significant impact.

The City Council recently approved the Development Impact Fee Ordinance, which requires a Citywide developer fee for parks, recreation, and library facilities. Under the ordinance, developer fees would be deposited into a specially created account to be used to fund parks, recreation, and library facilities. The City conducted a Public Facilities fee nexus study and it was determined that the full fair-share per unit fee for multi-family residential projects is \$14,197.00. However, the City Council has approved a fee phase-in program that allows projects with Stage I design review approvals to pay a “pipeline” project fee of \$2,000.00 per unit. The Project qualifies to pay the “pipeline” fee. Even with the payment of the “pipeline” fee, Project impacts would remain significant because there is no requirement that the Project pay the full fair share fee of \$14,197.00 per residential unit. As no other mitigation exists, which would reduce the impact to less than significant, Project impacts to existing recreational facilities in Glendale would be significant and unavoidable.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Significant.

Mitigation Measure:

4.13-1 The Project applicant shall pay the Development Impact Fee Ordinance “pipeline” impact fee for parks, recreation, and library facilities. At \$2,000 per residential unit, the impact fee for the Project would be \$126,000. These collected fees will be deposited by the City of Glendale into a specially created account to be used to fund parks, recreation, and library facilities. The Glendale Parks, Recreation and Community Services and Public Library Departments will then design and construct parks, recreation, and library facilities to serve City residents.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Significant and unavoidable.

Threshold: Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Impact Analysis: As discussed above, the Project includes several recreational amenities that would serve Project residents, employees and the general population in the City. These recreation facilities are incorporated into Project design and would be constructed concurrently with the Project. The short-term impacts associated with the construction of these facilities are addressed in **Sections 4.12, Traffic, Circulation and Parking, 4.2, Air Quality, and 4.8, Noise**. While, the public open space pedestrian passageway does not qualify as a recreational amenity, impacts associated with this proposed passageway are analyzed throughout this EIR. Construction of these proposed recreational facilities is a part of the Project and would not result in additional significant impacts.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are recommended.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The following cumulative analysis evaluates the impact of the Project and related projects on Parks and recreation in the City. Each applicable threshold is listed below in bold followed by an analysis of the cumulative impact of the Project and related projects.

Threshold: Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

Impact Analysis: Implementation of the Project and related projects would increase the use of existing recreational facilities in the City. As discussed in **Section 4.9, Population and Housing**, direct and indirect population growth associated with the Project and related projects could result in the addition of 11,489 new residents to Glendale. As discussed above, the existing ratio of parkland to residents of the City is approximately 1.4 acres per 1,000, which is below the City's planning standard of 6 acres per 1,000 residents. The addition of 11,489 residents would lower this ratio to approximately 1.3 acres per 1,000 residents.

Given the existing deficiency of parkland in the City, the combined effects of the Project and related projects on existing facilities is considered cumulatively significant because the use of existing parks

would increase, thus contributing to an acceleration in the physical deterioration of these facilities. The contribution of the Project to this impact would be cumulatively considerable.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Significant.

Mitigation Measures: No feasible mitigation measures are available to reduce the impact to less than significant. The City Council recently approved the Development Impact Fee Ordinance, which requires a Citywide developer fee for parks, recreation, and library facilities. However, the ordinance does not require payment of a full fair-share fee and, therefore, Project and related project impacts would not be mitigated fully.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Significant and unavoidable.

Threshold: Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Impact Analysis: In order to accommodate related projects, as well as the existing deficiency in parkland within the City, the City is devoting additional resources to the acquisition and development of parks within residential areas throughout the City. It is reasonable to expect that all these facilities will undergo California Environmental Quality Act review and the project-specific impacts associated with the development of each will be mitigated to the extent feasible. As discussed above, impacts associated with recreational amenities included in the Project and the proposed public open space pedestrian passageway would be less than significant. As a result, cumulative impacts associated with the construction of future parks are expected to be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are recommended.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant.