

### **INTRODUCTION**

*This section describes the impact of the Glendale Town Center 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 and the City of Glendale Open Space and Conservation Element.*

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

#### **Existing Conditions**

##### *Developed Park and Recreation Facilities*

The City of Glendale Parks, Recreation and Community Services Division owns and operates public parks and recreation facilities in the City. More than 5,860 acres of public open space exists within the boundaries of the City of Glendale, of which 4,782 acres are City owned.<sup>1</sup> City-owned open space consists of undeveloped park land 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 Caltrans, Los Angeles County, Southern California Edison Company, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Flood Control Division.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, privately held properties comprise a total of 1,540 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).<sup>3</sup>

The City of Glendale's park system consists of approximately 280 acres of developed park land in 35 parks.<sup>4</sup> 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 4.13-1** on the following page.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Glendale, Recreation Element, 1996, pg. 4-11.

<sup>2</sup> City of Glendale, Open Space and Conservation Element, 1993, pg. 4-3.

<sup>3</sup> City of Glendale, Recreation Element, 1996, pg. 4-11.

<sup>4</sup> City of Glendale, The Quality of Life Indicators, January 2003 (Revised), pg. 56.

**Table 4.13-1  
Park and Recreation Facilities Classification and Service Area Standards**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>	<b>Amount per 1,000 Population in Acres</b>	<b>Desirable Uses</b>	<b>Site Characteristics</b>
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	1/2-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 1/4-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 the City's community parks.

For purposes of planning its recreation facilities, the City of Glendale 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 Glendale Town Center project site is located in Recreation Planning Area No. 7, which encompasses a 640-acre area characterized by residential, commercial, and industrial uses.<sup>5</sup>

Three existing parks and recreation facilities are located within a 1/2 mile of the Glendale Town Center project site. These facilities are: (1) Adult Recreation Center/Central Park, (2) Pacific Park and Pool, and (3) Maple Park. The locations of these facilities are shown in **Figure 4.13.1** and the characteristics of each are summarized below in **Table 4.13-2**.

**Table 4.13-2**  
**City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Facilities**  
**Within Approximately 1/2-Mile of the Project Site**

Facilities	Acres	Features
Adult Recreation Center/Central Park	3.2	Special Facility/Neighborhood Park: Senior citizen center and tennis courts.
Edison /Pacific Park/Pacific Pool	5.0	Neighborhood Park: Ballfield, multi-purpose field, tennis courts, basketball court, play equipment area, and wading pool.
Maple Park	3.8	Neighborhood Park: Basketball court and play equipment area.

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

<sup>5</sup> City of Glendale, Recreation Element, 1996, pg. 5-7.

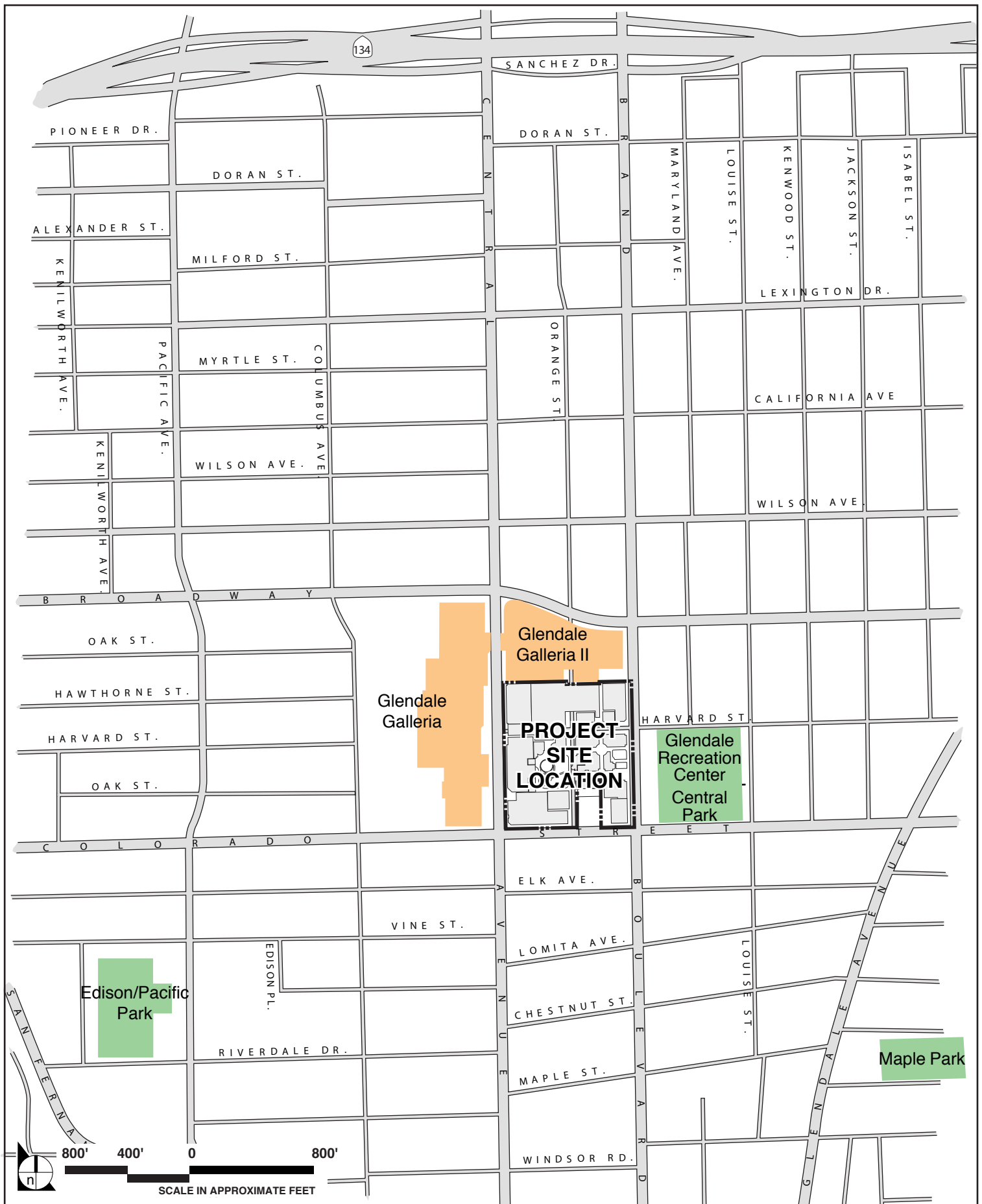


FIGURE 4.13-1

City of Glendale Parks & Recreation Facilities in the Project Vicinity

The Adult Recreation Center/Central Park is located 1-1/2 blocks east of the project site and contains a community senior citizen center. Amenities at the center include: four tennis courts, eight shuffleboard courts, a pool table, a putting green, a bowling green, and a picnic area. Pacific Park and Pool is located southwest of the project at the corner of Riverside Drive and Pacific Avenue. The City of Glendale, in conjunction with the Glendale Unified School District, helped fund and construct the Edison School-Pacific Park project, which included a school, a park, a library, and a community center on the site. These new facilities are open to the public for recreational uses outside of school hours. Finally, Maple Park is located southeast of the site at the corner of Maple Street and Everett Street. This park contains both a basketball court and a play equipment area.

### ***Planned Park Acquisition and Development***

The City of Glendale is currently devoting additional resources for the acquisition and development of parks within residential areas throughout the City. 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 acquiring land for recreational purposes.<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that the tasks listed below are in different stages of acquisition and/or development.

#### **Mini-park Development**

- Acquisition and development of Elk Mini Park (1/3 acre);
- Acquisition of Harvard Mini Park (1/4 acre);
- Acquisition of Windsor Mini Park (1/3 acre);
- Acquisition of Cedar Mini Park (1/2 acre); and
- Acquisition of three additional mini park sites (totaling 1.7 acres) in southern Glendale.

#### **Joint City/School Parks Development**

- Development of the Edison/Pacific Park project;
- Acquisition of approximately 1 acre of property adjacent to Cerritos Elementary School;
- Proposed closure of street adjacent to Fremont Elementary School and conversion to park land; and
- Redevelopment of the school grounds at Franklin Elementary School for neighborhood park use after hours.

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<sup>6</sup> Written correspondence from Rich Inga, Interim Assistant director, Glendale Parks, Recreation & Community Services Division, to Mark Berry, Project Manager, Glendale Redevelopment Agency, November 2003.

### **Acquisition of Open Space Acreage**

The City has recently acquired the following open space acreage properties:

- Oakmont Property (238 acres);
- Polygon Property (29 acres); and
- Scholl Canyon Property (78 acres).

In addition to the above, the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Division is looking at every opportunity to acquire and develop new park facilities. Some of the 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 the City's parks and recreation needs, management of parks and use of these facilities, and the development of additional park resources. The City's park classification system, recommended 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 park land in cities. Specifically, the Recreation Element establishes a standard of 6 acres per 1,000 residents of neighborhood park and community park land combined.<sup>7</sup> This standard calls for the provision of 1 acre of neighborhood park land per 1,000 residents and 5 acres of community park land per 1,000 residents.

#### *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 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 4.1, Land Use**

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<sup>7</sup> City of Glendale, Recreation Element, 1996, pg. 6-11.

**and Planning.** As discussed in **Section 4.1**, the project does not conflict with applicable General Plan goals and policies relating to recreation.

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 Strategic 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.<sup>8</sup> 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

An assessment of the impact of the Glendale Town Center project on recreation facilities in the City of Glendale is provided below. This assessment is based on the City's planning standards for recreation facilities and the increase in population that will result from the project.

### 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 *Guidelines*. Impacts related to recreation are considered significant if the project:

- 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, and it is followed by analysis of the significance of any potential impacts, identification and discussion of any design features of the project that would lessen or avoid potential impacts, as well as other measures identified that would lessen or avoid

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<sup>8</sup> City of Glendale, Recreation Element, 1996, pg. 2-5.

potential impacts. Finally, the significance of potential impacts after the 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 4.2, Population and Housing**, implementation of the proposed project will result in an estimated population increase of 946 directly on the project site and 1,176 indirectly within the City of Glendale. The project includes the provision of 3 acres of public open and park space. This public open space and park space would be categorized as a "Special Facility" under the City's Park and Recreation Classification System, as presented previously in **Table 4.13-1**. As discussed above, the Recreation Element of the General Plan recognizes that the provision of streetscape improvements and open space in downtown, such as public open and park space included in the project, will provide both the daytime population and residents in the immediate area passive recreation opportunities and an improvement in their quality of life.

The project will also provide residents with a fitness center, outdoor pool/spa, and barbecue area, which will partially serve to reduce demand for public recreation facilities by project residents. The public open and park space and private recreation facilities included in the project will not, however, meet the needs of the residents of the project for neighborhood or community parks.

The increase in population generated by the project would incrementally increase the use of existing neighborhood and community parks in the City. As discussed above, the City currently has a park land-to-resident ratio of approximately 1.4 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents while the City's park planning standard is 6 acres of neighborhood and community park land per 1,000 residents. Even with the implementation of all park land under development, the park land to resident ratio would remain relatively the same. The recent acquisition of 345 acres of open space by the City does apply towards the parks standard.

Existing park facilities are currently heavily used due to the deficit in park land in the City. The increase in use of neighborhood and community parks in the City that will result from the increase in residents associated with the project is considered significant and unavoidable, as an acceleration of the physical deterioration of existing parks will result.

**Project Design Features:** The following are project design features that will lessen the impacts associated with the project's impact on existing park and recreation facilities.

PDF 4.13-1(a) The project will provide 3 acres of public open and park space.

PDF 4.13-1(b) The project will include a fitness center, outdoor pool/spa, and barbecue area to help meet the needs of the residents for recreational facilities.

*Level of Significance Before Mitigation:* Significant.

*Mitigation Measures:* No feasible mitigation measures are available. The City of Glendale does not have an in-lieu developer fee for parks and recreations, and it has no method to impose a condition on the project to provide for parks and recreation space.

*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:* Implementation of the proposed project would add approximately 3 acres of public open and park space, including the pedestrian promenade along Harvard Street and the Town Square in the center of the project, to the existing environment. This public open and park space will be available to residents, employees, and visitors. In addition, the project will provide residents with a fitness center, outdoor pool/spa, and barbecue area. These recreation facilities are incorporated into the design of the project and will be constructed concurrently with the rest of the project. The short-term impacts associated with the construction of these facilities is addressed in **Sections 4.6, Traffic, Circulation and Parking, 4.7 Air Quality, and 4.8 Noise**. Construction of these recreational facilities will not result in significant impacts, but it will contribute to the overall construction impacts.

*Project Design Features:* None are required.

*Level of Significance Before Mitigation:* Less than significant.

*Mitigation Measures:* None are required.

*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Less than significant.

## Cumulative Impacts

The following cumulative analysis evaluates the impact of the proposed project and Citywide Projects on recreation in the City of Glendale. Each applicable threshold is listed below in bold followed by an analysis of the cumulative impact of the project and Citywide Projects and their potential significance.

**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 proposed project and Citywide Projects will increase the use of existing recreational facilities in the City of Glendale. As discussed in **Section 4.2, Population and Housing**, direct and indirect population growth associated with the proposed project and Citywide Projects could result in the addition of 8,189 new residents to Glendale. As discussed above, the existing ratio of park land 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 8,189 residents would lower this ratio to approximately 1.3 acres per 1,000 residents.

Given the existing deficiency of park land in the City, the combined effects of the proposed project and Citywide Projects on existing facilities is considered cumulatively significant because the use of existing parks will increase, thus contributing to an acceleration in the physical deterioration of these facilities. The contribution of the proposed project to this impact is cumulatively considerable.

**Project Design Features:** Implementation of **PDFs 4.13-1(a)** and **4.13-1(b)**.

**Level of Significance Before Mitigation:** Significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** No feasible mitigation measures are available. The City of Glendale does not have an in-lieu developer fee for parks and recreations, and it has no method to impose a condition on the project to provide for parks and recreation space.

**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 future Citywide Projects, as well as the existing deficiency in park land 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 that project-specific impacts associated with the development of each will be mitigated to the extent feasible. As a result, cumulative impacts associated with construction of future parks is expected to be less than significant. While the proposed project as a whole is expected to result in a number of significant and unavoidable impacts associated with the development of the public open space areas and other on-site recreational amenities, which is attributed to construction activities, this construction activity is not anticipated to result in a significant impact when considered in conjunction with the construction of future park and recreational facilities elsewhere in the City of Glendale. Consequently, the project contribution to cumulative impacts from construction of park and recreational facilities citywide is less than significant.

*Project Design Features:* None are required.

*Level of Significance Before Mitigation:* Less than significant.

*Mitigation Measures:* None are required.

*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Less than significant.