

## CHAPTER 10

# Healthy Community Element

## Introduction

Pico Rivera is committed to a future that promotes the social, physical, and mental well-being of its residents, workers and visitors. It is the purpose of the Pico Rivera Healthy Community Element to highlight the connections between health and the local physical, natural, social, and economic environments to set forth a strategy for achieving and maintaining a healthy community.

It is widely understood that the way a community is built and functions has a direct impact on the physical health, mental health, and social interactions of its citizens. An increasing number of Americans suffer from chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and depression. Designing communities that facilitate active lifestyles and healthy choices is a critical component in combating such chronic diseases and improving the long term health and welfare of our population.

A healthy community provides opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to engage in routine and safe physical activity, to access basic needs, and to promote self-improvement and intellectual development for personal and economic growth. Communities that have access to safe and convenient transportation options, arts and cultural facilities, extensive social interaction, varied parks and recreation facilities and programs, healthy foods, medical and mental health care services, and quality educational facilities experience better health outcomes and improved quality of life.

Recognizing that planning decisions can have a strong impact on our transportation choices, housing, and social interactions, this Element recognizes that proper planning can improve our residents' physical and mental health by providing opportunities for physical activity like walking, providing easier access to nutritious food, and facilitating the ability of neighbors to interact with each other on a regular basis.

## Safe and Balanced Transportation System

Healthy communities are designed to provide for safe and balanced multi-modal travel including transit use, walking, and biking. The desirability of alternative travel modes is influenced by the availability of quality interconnected



Smith Park

transportation facilities, as well as the nature of adjacent land uses. Compact, higher density land use patterns that provide for a mix of complementary uses and services increase the destinations that can comfortably and conveniently be reached by alternatives to the automobile.

Pico Rivera is largely built out with a mix of residential, commercial, employment and public uses, the predominant use being lower density residential. The City experiences substantial traffic congestion along many of its key transportation routes during peak hours, and there are a number of constraints to providing added roadway capacity. Public transit options exist, but are limited to fixed route buses. Washington Boulevard, including a station at Rosemead Boulevard, is one of two alternative alignments being considered for the proposed Metro Gold Line light rail extension. Opportunities exist to promote focused higher intensity mixed use projects at key locations, and to encourage alternative travel modes within the city.

Alternative travel modes reduce vehicle miles traveled, resulting in decreased congestion, vehicle emissions, greenhouse gas impacts, and noise generation. In addition, lower driving rates can reduce stress, anxiety, traffic accident rates, and transportation costs. Walking and bicycling to school, work or for daily errands increases overall physical activity and contributes to physical and mental health.

### Non-Motorized Transportation

Non-motorized transportation, including facilities for biking and walking, are addressed in Section 5, Circulation Element, in the non-motorized transportation section.

### Arts and Culture

Cultural enrichment helps shape a community's quality of life and identity by offering forms of expression and engagement that embody local spirit. Public art displays and performances bring people together, offer social and educational opportunities, augment the local economy, and contribute to a healthy community.

Major cultural facilities in Pico Rivera include two public libraries, the Center for the Arts, Senior Center and the Pico Rivera Historical Museum, as shown in **Figure 10-1**. The City is also home to the Pico Rivera Municipal Sports Arena, a popular entertainment venue for the Los Angeles area Hispanic community, famous for its Mexican rodeos (chareadas) and Latin entertainment. In addition, residents are only ten to twenty miles from several regional cultural centers that serve Los Angeles County, such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Children's Museum.

A variety of programs that support social interaction are provided to residents of Pico Rivera by federal, state, county, City, non-profit, school, religious,



Pico Rivera Sports Arena

recreation, business, and other organizations. These programs target youths, adults, seniors and other special and general interests. Communities with good social capital tend to be safer and benefit from better health, higher educational achievement, enhanced economic growth, and a strong sense of civic identity.

## Libraries

Pico Rivera contracts with the Los Angeles County Public Library system to operate two libraries within the community: the Pico Rivera Library and the Rivera Library. They both offer residents and local business people a wealth of information and entertainment through books, periodicals, audio and video discs, research materials and on-line access. They also provide homework help, career guidance materials, reading events and a quiet place to read or study. Meeting rooms are also available for rental.

The Pico Rivera Library is in the center of the city across Mines Avenue from Smith Park. The Library recently underwent an expansion, funded by the City and Los Angeles County. The second facility is the Rivera Library located at 7828 S. Serapis Avenue. The Friends of the Pico Rivera Libraries Book Store is located at 9449 Slauson Avenue and helps to raise money and collect books for the Pico Rivera and Rivera Libraries.



Pico Rivera Library

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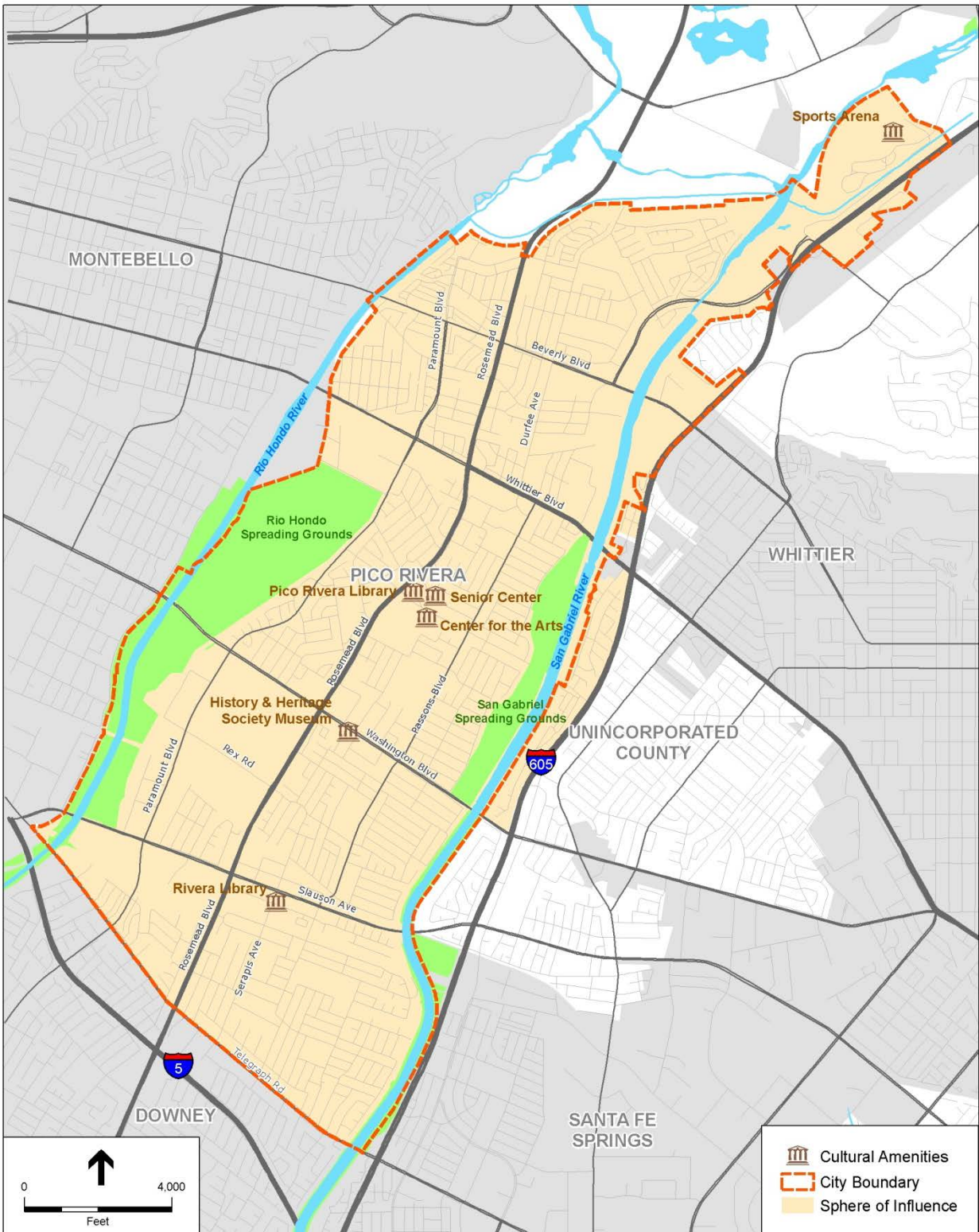


Figure 10-1: Cultural Amenities

## Social Capital

Social networks are a valuable asset to a community. Social interaction enables people to build a sense of community, trust, reciprocity and tolerance. Social capital refers to the integrated network of family, community, and civic institutions and networks that shape the quality and frequency of community interactions.

## Parks and Recreation

Open space and recreational facilities for the enjoyment of all citizens are essential for the well being of a community. Parks not only serve the recreation and social needs of individuals, they act as community gathering places for families and neighbors to meet and interact, as well as add relief to the surrounding urban environment. Convenient access to parks, trails, open space, and recreation programs provide opportunities for organized and informal recreation and associated physical activity. An active lifestyle can provide a wide range of physical, social and mental health benefits.

When the City of Pico Rivera incorporated in 1958, it inherited an existing park system from Los Angeles County. As the community built out, additional parks were added and existing parks were improved. Today, with little or no land available for park development or expansion, the City is focusing its efforts on improving existing facilities. The result is a well-developed parks system that includes athletic fields, sports courts, playgrounds, picnic areas, gymnasiums, community centers, youth and senior centers, community gardens, an outdoor amphitheater, a skate park, aquatic facilities, and a nine-hole executive golf course (privately managed under contract to the City).

The City's existing parks and recreation facilities and service areas are illustrated on **Figure 10-2**.

The City previously used a traditional parks classification system to sort parks into various neighborhood, community and regional categories. However, in a built out community with little opportunity for new park development, these traditional classifications have little meaning, and are no longer in use. The National Recreation and Park Association recommends that cities, based on their unique needs, establish a park classification system that details service areas, size of parks, intended uses and preferred sets of amenities. This would support the city focusing their efforts on providing a high level of facilities and recreational services within existing parks, as well as expanding existing facilities when opportunities arise. The City's developed parks and recreational facilities, including nearby regional facilities, and planned improvements are shown in **Table 10-1**.

As shown in **Table 10-1**, the City has approximately 102 acres of developed park and recreation facilities. This total includes the City's Community Parks,



Smith Park Aquatic Center



Rivera Park

Neighborhood Parks, Mini-Parks and the Pico Rivera Municipal Golf Course and results in approximately 1.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. If the Sports Arena/Bicentennial Park Campground area is rehabilitated for recreational use it would add 120 acres to the city's developed park and recreation facilities resulting in approximately 3.5 acres of parkland per 1,000.

The City's future park system will allow for a broader range of parks, including linear, mini, school, neighborhood, and special-use facilities. The City will create a park classification system and design standards for each type of park as part of a Comprehensive Park and Open Space Master Plan. Recommended park classifications are shown in **Table 10-2**:



Obregon Park

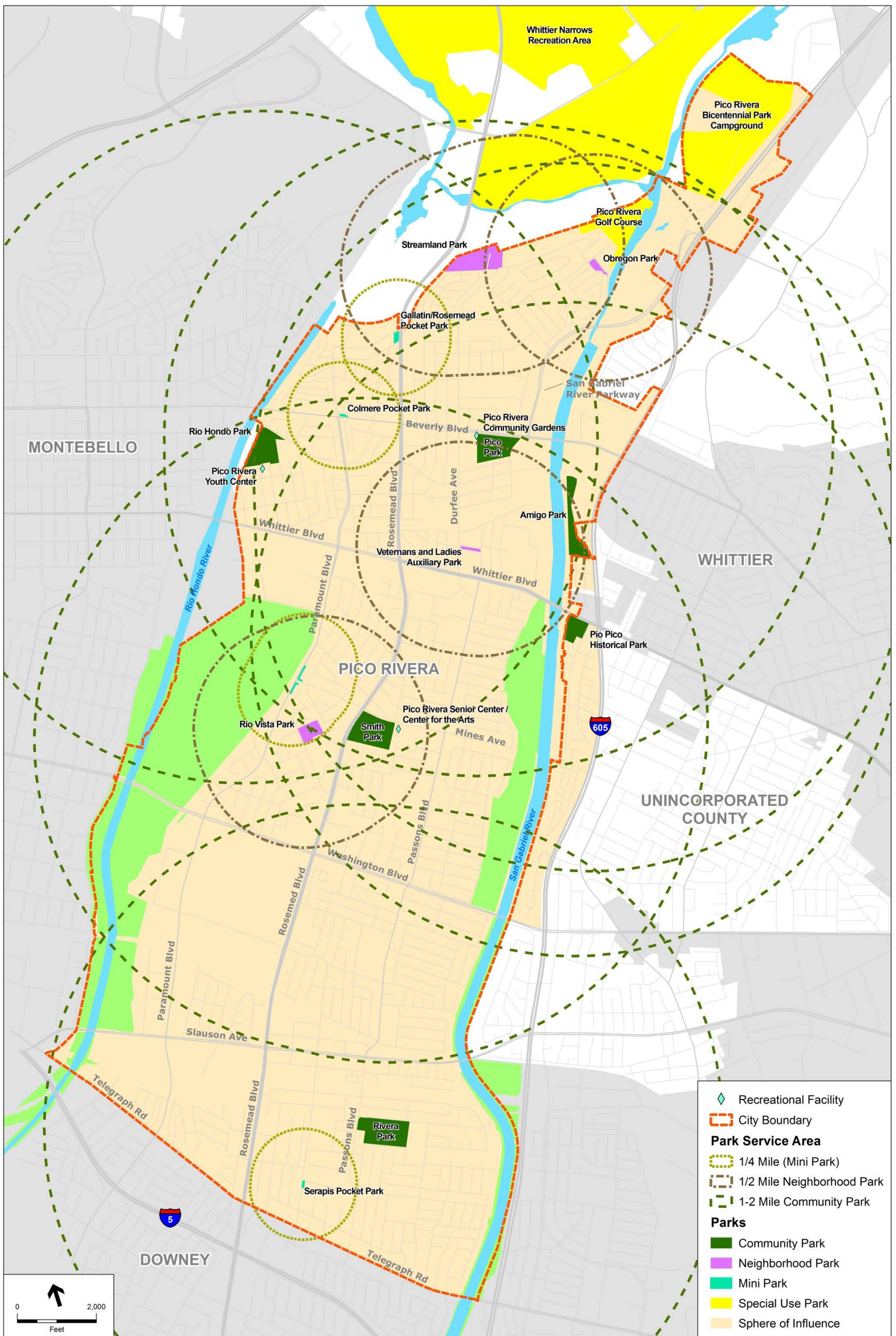


Figure 10-2: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities

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**Table 10-1:**  
Existing Park and Recreation Facilities Serving Pico Rivera

| Park or Recreation Facility <sup>1</sup> | Address                     | Existing Amenities  | Planned Improvements   | Acres |
|--|-----------------------------|---|--|-------|
| <b>Pico Rivera Community Parks</b>       |                             |   |  |       |
| Pico Park                                | 9528 Beverly Boulevard      | Indoor gymnasium, multi-purpose auditorium, meeting rooms, dance studio, lighted baseball/softball and football fields, walking path, drinking fountains, outdoor patio, picnic pavilion, picnic benches and barbecues, playground equipment, outdoor restrooms, and parking lot.   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New picnic facilities</li> <li>2. New restrooms</li> <li>3. New perimeter access road, pedestrian walkways, and jogging trail</li> <li>4. Exercise equipment</li> <li>5. New children's playground</li> <li>6. Changes to irrigation systems to reclaimed water</li> <li>7. New landscaping</li> </ol> | 17    |
| Rio Hondo Park                           | 8421 San Luis Potosi Street | Multi-purpose auditorium, dance studio, lighted baseball/softball and soccer fields, lighted handball courts, picnic pavilion, picnic benches and barbecues, playground equipment, outdoor restrooms, outdoor basketball courts, and parking lot.   | Complete renovation of the sports field, turf, lights, playground, picnic areas, and additional security lighting.   | 13    |
| Rivera Park                              | 9530 Shade Lane             | Indoor gymnasium, multi-purpose auditorium, meeting rooms, lighted baseball/softball and football fields with covered bleachers, scoreboards and dugouts, concession/restroom building with storage, shade shelter, group picnic area with shade shelter, individual picnic areas, batting cage, lighted handball courts, horse shoe courts, universal access playground, drinking fountains, a walking path, parking lot, and maintenance yard.  | Renovated in January 2013.   | 15.8  |
| Smith Park                               | 6016 Rosemead Boulevard     | Multipurpose auditorium; two meeting rooms; lighted baseball/softball fields with grass, skinned infields, public address system, bleachers, and covered dugouts; football/soccer stadium with grandstand, artificial turf and practice fields; lighted basketball courts with spectator seating; skate park; picnic facilities, drinking fountains; walking path; Olympic size swimming pool; picnic areas; accessible playground equipment; exercise stations ; lighted walkways and parking. | Renovations pending completion at time of General Plan Update.   | 16    |

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**Table 10-1 (continued):  
Existing Park and Recreation Facilities Serving Pico Rivera**

| Park or Recreation Facility           | Address                  | Existing Facilities  | Planned Improvements   | Acres            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Pico Rivera Neighborhood Parks</b> |                          |  |  |                  |
| Rio Vista Park                        | 8751 Coffman & Pico Road | Lighted baseball/softball fields with dugouts and spectator seating; basketball courts; shade shelter; picnic tables; barbecues; playground equipment; restroom/concession/storage building; drinking fountains and parking. | Renovations pending completion at time of General Plan Update.   | 4.5 <sup>2</sup> |
| Oregon Park                           | 3298 S. Sandoval Avenue  | Walking path, sitting benches, drinking fountains, open grass area.  | No improvements are planned at this time.  | 1.3              |
| Streamland Park                       | 3539 Durfee Avenue       | Lighted baseball fields, outdoor basketball courts, picnic pavilion, picnic benches and barbecues, playground equipment, outdoor restrooms, equestrian trails, and parking lot.  | Planned renovations at Streamland Park are pending funding. Planned renovations include:<br>1. An additional parking lot and additional parking stalls<br>2. Separation of the baseball diamonds<br>3. Improved area lighting<br>4. A new soccer field with lights<br>5. New play area<br>6. New changing room/restroom facility<br>7. ADA access improvements | 7.6              |
| Veterans & Ladies Auxiliary Park      | 9325 Garth Gardner Lane  | This facility includes a playground, park benches, a walking path and parking lot.   | No improvements are planned at this time.  | 0.7              |
| <b>Pico Rivera Mini-Parks</b>         |                          |  |  |                  |
| Gallatin/Rosemead Pocket Park         |                          | Park benches   |  | 0.5              |
| Colmere Pocket Park                   |                          | Park bench   |  | 0.25             |
| Serapis Pocket Park                   |                          | Park bench   |  | 0.1              |
| Paramount/Mines Parkway               |                          |  |  | 0.5              |
| <b>Pico Rivera Special Use Parks</b>  |                          |  |  |                  |
| Pico Rivera Municipal Golf Course     | 3260 Fairway Drive       | Nine-hole, par 29 executive course, covered driving range, two putting greens, a café and banquet facility. Privately managed under city contract.   | 1. Renovations completed in July 2013.   | 24.5             |

**Table 10-1 (continued):  
Existing Park and Recreation Facilities Serving Pico Rivera**

| Park or Recreation Facility                      | Address   | Existing Facilities   | Planned Improvements   | Acres |
|--|---|---|--|-------|
| Sports Arena/<br>Bicentennial Park<br>Campground | 11003 Rooks Rd  | Adjacent to the former Bicentennial Park Campground is the 6,000 seat Sports Arena. Famous for its Mexican rodeos (chateadas) and Latin entertainment, the Pico Rivera Sports Arena is a popular recreation spot for the Los Angeles area Hispanic community. This facility was built in 1979, and is reputed to be the largest Mexican rodeo ring in the country. An average of 25 shows, preceded by a traditional Mexican rodeo, is held at the Sports Arena every year. Since 1975, the 120-acre site within the Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin has been leased to the City of Pico Rivera for recreational activities. It presently encompasses the Pico Rivera Sports Arena, the former Bicentennial Park campgrounds, and the former Pico Rivera Stables | The Sports Arena concessionaires are renovating the Sports Arena with landscape improvements, the installation of an LED billboard and infrastructure improvements. A Campground Master Plan was recently prepared for rehabilitation of the campground area.<br>Since the area's primary purpose is flood protection, water supply and groundwater recharge, these proposals are subject to environmental review and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.  | 120   |
| Pico Rivera Community Gardens                    | 8535 Beverly Road<br>Near Paramount<br>and Beverly Road | The community gardens provide a gathering place for community residents and an area for residents to lease a plot of land to grow their own fruits and vegetables. The City provides water to the garden free of charge.  | No improvements are planned at this time.  | N/A   |
| Pico Rivera Youth Center                         | 4632 Orange Street                                      | Auditorium and kitchen  | No improvements are planned at this time.  | N/A   |
| Pico Rivera Senior Center                        | 9200 Mines Avenue                                       | Multi-purpose auditorium, fitness center, billiard/game room, computer lab, dance studio, meeting room, wireless accessible, outdoor patio, kitchen and parking lot.  | Recently renovated.  | N/A   |
| Centre for the Arts                              | 9200 Mines Avenue                                       | Gallery space and classroom area.   |  | N/A   |
| <b>Natural Resources Areas</b>                   |   |   |  |       |
| Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Spreading Grounds      |   | The facility serves as water storage/recharge facility and consists of 698 acres with 6 miles of proposed trails, under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County Public Works Department Flood Control Division.  | A bike path that connects the existing County LARIO (Los Angeles River) trail with the city's bike lane along Mine Avenue. The bike path is part of the "Paseo del Rio at Rio Hondo Coastal Basins Spreading Grounds" project, collaboration between the City of Pico Rivera and the County of Los Angeles that began in 1999.<br>Educational programs, field trips and group visitors may also become a part of the project. The project is also being developed in conjunction with the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan in order to promote a regional river parkway that connects neighboring jurisdictions. | 698   |

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**Table 10-1 (continued):  
Existing Park and Recreation Facilities Serving Pico Rivera**

| Park or Recreation Facility                              | Address                                    | Existing Facilities   | Planned Improvements | Acres |
|--|--|---|----------------------|-------|
| <b>Nearby Park and Recreation Facilities</b>             |  |   |                      |       |
| Whittier Narrows Recreation Area <sup>1</sup>            | 750 Santa Anita Avenue, South El Monte, CA | Picnic grounds, a water sanctuary, fishing lakes, a skeet and trap shooting area, baseball and softball fields, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, and an archery area.  |                      | 973   |
| Whittier Narrows Natural Area/Nature Center <sup>1</sup> | 1000 Durfee Road, South El Monte, CA       | A 400-acre sanctuary of riparian woodland that borders the San Gabriel River. It features four lakes, including many plants and animals native to wetland communities and the lakes provide a winter sanctuary for migrating waterfowl.                         |                      | 133   |
| Whittier Narrows Golf Course <sup>1</sup>                | 8640 Rush Street, Rosemead, CA             | This facility features 27 regulation holes of golf: one 18-hole regulation course and one 9-hole regulation course.   |                      | 278   |
| Amigo Park <sup>2</sup>                                  | 5700 S. Juarez Avenue Whittier, CA         | Baseball/Softball Fields, Children's Play Area, Multi-purpose Field, Picnic Areas with BBQ Grill, Walking and Biking Trails   |                      | 4.52  |
| Pio Pico State Historical Park                           | 6003 Pioneer Boulevard, Whittier, CA       | Includes historic gardens and the restored adobe home of Pio Pico. Is registered as California Historic Landmark No. 127. Park activities include guided tours, interpretive school group programs, special events, living history days, and picnic facilities. |                      | 5     |

Notes:

1. These facilities are owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, but are operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.
2. This facility is owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Source: City of Pico Rivera Parks and Recreation staff; Rio Vista, Rivera, Smith Park and Streamland Park Concept Plans; City of Pico Rivera, Parks and Recreation Department, <http://www.pico-rivera.org/depts/parks/facilities/default.asp>, accessed May 28, 2014; Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, <http://parks.lacounty.gov>, accessed May 13, 2014.

**Table 10-2:**  
Pico Rivera Park Classification

| Category               | Park Classification   |
|------------------------|---|
| Mini Parks             | Mini parks serve adjacent residents, address limited, isolated or unique recreational and aesthetic needs, and serve as recreational and beautification spaces where acquisition of larger parks is not possible. Mini parks can provide limited active and passive recreation opportunities and be linked to community pathways and sidewalks.   |
| Neighborhood Park      | Neighborhood parks typically serve residents within a ½ mile and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. These parks, which are the basic unit of the City’s park system, provide informal, active and reflective recreational options for all ages. These parks are often interconnected to trails/sidewalks and within walking/biking distance of most users. Neighborhood park facilities are typically less than 10 acres in size.  |
| Community Parks        | Community parks provide a broader range of recreational and community gathering place functions than neighborhood parks, and typically serve residents within 1 to 2 miles. Community parks provide larger-scale sports fields, gymnasium, and community center needs, as well as facilities for recreation programs. Located more centrally and connected by collector streets and trail networks, community parks are generally larger than 10 acres in size. |
| Natural Resource Areas | This includes lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources and open space and includes the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River spreading grounds.  |
| Special Use            | Special-use park and recreational facilities include the Golf Course, Community Gardens, Youth Center, Senior Center, and Centre for the Arts that are designed for specific or specialized uses. This also includes the Sports Arena/Bicentennial Park Campground, which provides commercial and regionally oriented facilities.   |
| Greenways/linear parks | Greenways and linear parks are intended to tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment, and provide uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community and opportunities for water quality. Typical locations include natural features, such as along the rivers, remnant right-of-way, railroad sites, power-line easement areas and street rights-of-way.  |

In 2002, the City developed conceptual drawings for the upgrade of the city’s major park facilities. As part of the city’s effort to enhance the provision of vital city services, the City has made recent renovations to Smith, Rio Vista, Pico, Rivera, Rio Hondo and Streamland parks. The City has also completed renovations to the Senior Center, Golf Course and aquatic center. Future projects will include improvements to the former Bicentennial Park campgrounds and the Pico Rivera Sports Arena Complex. The City also has a Joint-Use Agreement with the El Rancho Unified School District (ERUSD), which gives them access to the classrooms, cafeteria, athletic fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds at the elementary, middle, and high schools within ERUSD.



Equestrian trail near Streamland Park



Lario Trail

In addition to City facilities, there is a wide range of regional recreation facilities accessible to Pico Rivera residents. The nearby Whittier Narrows and the Santa Fe Dam recreation areas provide a range of recreational opportunities. Rio Hondo Park and the San Gabriel River spreading grounds offer bike trails and walking/jogging paths. The Whittier Narrows area and the City also provide for equestrian trails. In addition, there are numerous other public and private recreation facilities located throughout the Los Angeles basin.

The City has received several grants from KaBoom, a national non-profit, to construct a shade shelter and children's playground equipment at existing playgrounds and was designated Playful City USA by KaBoom in 2011, 2012 and 2013. This recognition honors communities that are making bold commitments by investing in program and infrastructure to keep kids active, playing and healthy.

### Access to Healthy Foods and Nutrition

A healthy community offers access to an abundant selection of healthy foods, fresh produce, and other locally grown products. Access to healthy and locally grown products can assist people in making informed decisions about what they eat, enhance consumption of fresh products, reduce the risks of a number of chronic health issues, and minimize environmental impacts associated with long-distance shipping.

In addition to traditional food outlets, farmers markets, community gardens, urban produce stands, and school food service and garden programs can increase access to healthy food options. While such programs are limited in Pico Rivera, the City's Parks and Recreation Department has established the Pico Rivera Community Gardens to promote healthy living and provide residents who do not have garden space with the opportunity to grow produce for personal use. In addition, there are farmers markets in nearby Whittier, Montebello, and Downey. The City also participates in the Let's Move Campaign and promotes a walking program and healthy food policies.

### Access to Health Care and Mental Health Care

Ensuring adequate, accessible and affordable health care and mental health care facilities and programs is important for maintaining a healthy community. A number of private and non-profit care providers offer routine medical, hospital and mental health services to local residents. In addition, a variety of programs are provided by federal, state, county, and local/non-profit agencies including intervention, medical, support, and recovery programs. Many of these services and facilities are located outside of Pico Rivera, requiring residents to travel to access necessary health needs. It is anticipated that service demand will increase in the future, particularly as the population ages, adding to the need for local health care in Pico Rivera.

There is no homeless shelter in the City, although shelters are provided in the surrounding cities of Whittier, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, and Bell. To address the local homeless situation, Pico Rivera is cooperating with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments in addition to providing financial support to local service providers. The City, as required by Program 11 of the Housing Element, will also continue to monitor the inventory of sites appropriate to accommodate emergency shelters and transitional and supportive housing and will work with the appropriate organizations to ensure the needs of homeless and low income residents are met.

## Schools and Day Care Facilities

Schools and day care facilities contribute to the overall well-being of residents. A variety of public and private entities within and surrounding Pico Rivera provide educational and day care services.

The El Rancho Unified School District and the Montebello Unified School District serve Pico Rivera. Included within the city are elementary, middle and high schools, as well as an early learning center and adult education facility (see **Figure 10-3**). The Whittier School District serves the portion of the City's sphere of influence east of the San Gabriel River and south of the Whittier Boulevard, but has no facilities located in this area. The Pico Rivera Parks Department oversees a K-5 after school REACH program which operates within state curriculum guidelines. The last several years have demonstrated a trend of declining grades K-12 enrollment, which is anticipated to continue in Pico Rivera as well as Los Angeles County as a whole. Beyond the public K-12 system, there are a number of private schools, trade institutions and higher education facilities located within or near the city. This includes Rio Hondo Community College in adjacent Whittier, which serves Pico Rivera and the remainder of the southern San Gabriel Valley and the El Rancho Adult Education Center located in Pico Rivera.

The City of Pico Rivera and its citizens place a high priority on quality education. The high priority placed on schools results from the stable, family-oriented nature of the community and is reflected in a key initiative of the community to have a college graduate residing within every Pico Rivera household.

Although the construction of school is the responsibility of local school districts and not the City, municipal development policies, along with changing demographics, significantly affect school facilities needs. In addition, school districts are exempt from local regulations and cannot be required to adhere to City General Plan policies. However, cooperation between the City and the local



El Rancho High School

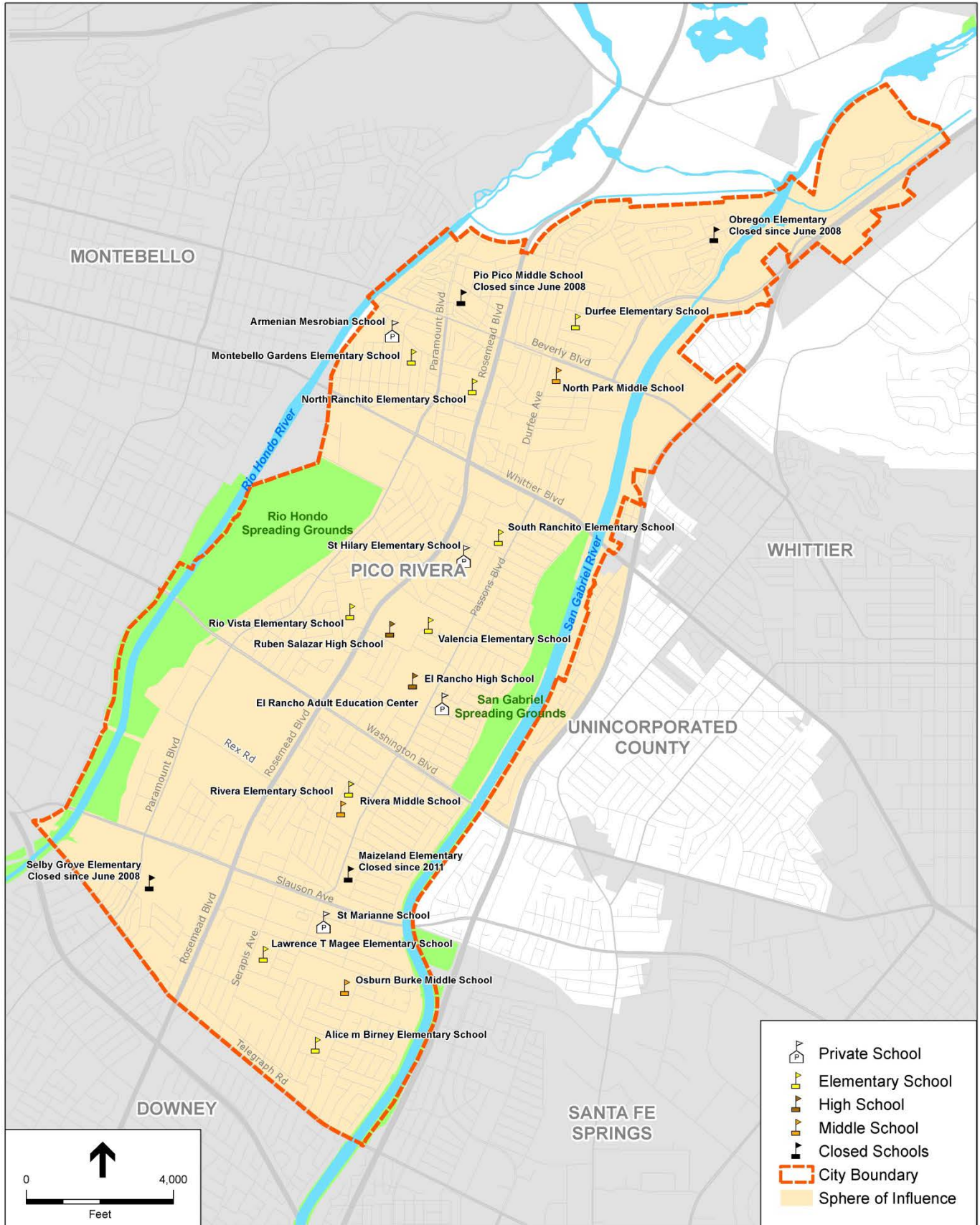


Figure 10-3: School Facilities



school districts is essential to provide high quality educational facilities. Present laws regulating school facility financing place responsibility on the State and local school districts. State law also caps development fees for schools, and limits the ability of cities to require new development to provide new school facilities. In general, payment of development fees established by local school districts is considered to be “mitigation in full” for the impacts of such development on schools, whether or not the maximum fees allowable under the law are adequate to construct new facilities.

There are a variety of day care facilities serving City residents. The City of Pico Rivera Parks Department runs a pre-school program for pre-kindergarten children at three park sites. Quality child care establishes a foundation for success in school, contributes to work/life balance, reduces workplace absenteeism, and is beneficial to economic growth.

## Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

### Overall Community Health

#### Goal 10.1

##### **Health and well-being for all members of the community.**

**Policy 10.1-1 Education.** Collaborate with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, health care providers, and social organizations to educate the public on healthy lifestyles and promote preventative health care and behaviors to improve overall health of the community.

**Policy 10.1-2 Health Events.** Host, sponsor, and/or work with non-profit groups and public and private institutions to organize citywide public health events such as health fairs, senior fairs, speakers, lectures, and workshops.

**Policy 10.1-3 Community Health Monitoring.** Establish procedures to track community health information, determine indicators to measure results by, and improve health over time.

##### *Implementation Program for Policy 10.1-4:*

- *Work with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, local and regional healthcare providers, and social organizations to obtain and track community health data. Work to define indicators to measure community health results, which could include the amount of bicycle routes or walking trails in the City, or park acreage per resident.*

### Healthy Transportation System

#### Goal 10.2

##### **A balanced and healthy transportation system where transit, bicycling, and walking are alternative methods to the automobile.**

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*See also policies addressing bicycle and pedestrian trails in the Circulation Element.*

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## Transit

**Policy 10.2-1 Transit Service Expansion.** Work with appropriate providers to expand transit service throughout Pico Rivera especially along major transportation corridors, and to key locations such as employment centers, grocery stores, medical offices, schools, libraries, parks, and other civic facilities.

**Policy 10.2-2 Transit Improvements.** Work with appropriate providers to improve transit facilities and stations to make them safer and conveniently located.

**Policy 10.2-3 Gold Line Light Rail Extension.** Continue to work with the Metropolitan Transit Authority to locate the station for the Gold Line light rail extension within Pico Rivera to encourage transit ridership.

**Policy 10.2-4 Bus Turnouts.** Work with the Metropolitan Transit Authority, Montebello Bus Lines, and Downey Link to identify locations along existing and future transit routes for additional bus turnouts to increase transit usage.

*Implementation Program for Policy 10.2-4:*

- *Prioritize transit routes where additional bus turnouts are needed; and work with the transit agencies to pursue funding for construction of turnouts.*

## Safe Transportation System

### Goal 10.3

**A transportation system where residents can safely walk or ride their bicycles to school and other destinations.**

**Policy 10.3-1 Safe Routes to School.** Continue working with the school districts to implement safe routes to schools projects for all schools within the City.

*Implementation Program for Policy 10.3-1:*

- *Complete a Safe Routes to School Master Plan to integrate infrastructure improvements, education programs, activities and events to encourage participation in bicycling and walking to school, and enforcement of traffic regulations to address safety concerns.*

**Policy 10.3-2 Traffic Calming.** Implement traffic calming features to reduce traffic speeds, improve safety, and minimize pollution in residential neighborhoods.

**Policy 10.3-3 Conflicts with Vehicles.** Ensure safe bicycle lanes and pedestrian routes that reduce conflicts with users and motor vehicles through design improvements, and well-marked pedestrian crossings and bicycle routes.

**Policy 10.3-4 Truck Routes.** Modify designated truck routes to limit or avoid truck traffic through or adjacent to residential neighborhoods and schools, to the extent feasible, to minimize health and safety concerns.

**Policy 10.3-5 Rail Crossings.** Continue to work with railroad companies and appropriate agencies to create railroad grade separations to increase safety, while taking steps to make the existing at-grade rail crossings safer for pedestrians and vehicles.

**Policy 10.3-6 Education.** Encourage bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicle safety through education programs.

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*See also policies addressing safe routes to schools in the Circulation Element.*

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## Arts and Culture

### Goal 10.4

#### Enhanced quality of life through arts and culture.

**Policy 10.4-1 Public Art.** Encourage the provision of public art, especially in municipal locations accessible to the public and at key entryways into the City to serve as landmarks and entry features.

**Policy 10.4-2 Art Programs.** Continue to promote arts and cultural programs at the Pico Rivera Centre for the Arts and other appropriate locations to foster community identity.

**Policy 10.4-3 Display of Public Art.** Encourage the use of publicly owned facilities and spaces, such as the Pico Rivera Centre for the Arts and City Hall, for the display of local art, and for future art and cultural events.

## Libraries

### Goal 10.5

#### Opportunities for lifelong learning and cultural enrichment.

**Policy 10.5-1 Libraries.** Continue to work with Los Angeles County in the provision of adequate library services, facilities, materials and programs that meet the needs of all residents.

**Policy 10.5-1 Convenient Access.** Continue to coordinate with Los Angeles County to ensure that library facilities are conveniently accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists and along transit corridors.

**Policy 10.5-1 Multi-Functional Use.** Support the use of libraries as multi-functional facilities, acting as gathering places, cultural centers, and venues for community events and programs.

## Social Capital

### Goal 10.6

#### An improved and integrated system of family, community, and civic networks in Pico Rivera.

**Policy 10.6-1 Development patterns.** Promote development patterns that reduce commute times, provide public space for people to congregate and interact socially, that encourage civic participation and foster safe and attractive environments.

**Policy 10.6-2 Community Event Participation.** Strive to increase participation in community events that include youth and senior activities, and family programs.

*Implementation Program for Policy 10.6-2:*

- *Continue to disseminate information on community events through the City's website, local newspapers, direct mailers, at community centers, and through community organizations such as churches and schools.*

## Parks and Recreation

### Goal 10.7

**A complete system of parks and recreational facilities and programs that provide diverse opportunities for active recreation, passive recreation, and social interaction, meeting the needs of the community.**

**Policy 10.7-1 Parks Master Plan.** Adopt and maintain a Parks Master Plan, responding to community needs as they change over time.

*Implementation Programs for Policy 10.7-1:*

- *Implement any identified improvements in the conceptual drawings to ensure the community's park needs are being met.*
- *Adopt a Comprehensive Parks and Open Space Plan that provides for and addresses the following:*
  - *Identifies gaps within the City with insufficient green space and identifies options to meet those needs*
  - *Identifies sites for mini-parks*
  - *Land banking for future parks*
  - *Expands opportunities for passive recreation*
  - *Expands jogging/walking paths and fitness stations at parks*
  - *Identifies opportunities for dog parks*
  - *Strives to attain a parks standard of three (3) acres per 1,000 people*
  - *Continually revise the Parks and Recreation Standards Manual to provide guidance for the development of new parks and rehabilitation of existing parks*
  - *Regularly review and update the Parks Master Plan.*

**Policy 10.7-2 Existing Facility Improvement.** Continue to improve, rehabilitate, and expand existing park and recreation facilities, as funding is available, to meet the needs of Pico Rivera residents, employees, and visitors.

**Policy 10.7-3 New Development.** Require new residential development to dedicate land or contribute in-lieu fees at a standard of three (3) acres per 1,000 population, and contribute park development fees, to finance acquisition, development, improvement, and maintenance of park and recreational facilities.

**Policy 10.7-4 Fees.** Periodically review park development fees and funding sources to ensure their adequacy to cover park acquisition, development, improvement, and maintenance.

**Policy 10.7-5 Public Involvement.** Encourage residents to become involved in the design, improvement, operation, maintenance, and security of park facilities throughout the community.

**Policy 10.7-6 Collaboration.** Coordinate park and recreational facilities planning with local and regional agencies in an effort to enhance recreational opportunities in the City.

**Policy 10.7-7 Sports Arena and former Bicentennial Park Campground.** Improve the Sports Arena and Bicentennial Park Campground area as a major

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*See also policies for the Sports Arena/Kruse Road Area Opportunity Area.*

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recreational venue, including sports fields, equestrian uses, and habitat restoration.

*Implementation Program for Policies 10.7-7 and 10.7-8:*

- *Continue working with Army Corps of Engineers to implement the Campground Master Plan which provides for the rehabilitation of the campground site.*
- *Prepare a comprehensive plan for the future use of the Sports Arena and Bicentennial Park Campground area, which also includes the former campgrounds, to ensure that the area's value as a recreational resource, community gathering place, conservation area and economic driver are addressed.*
- *Pursue local, state, and federal funding (such as Strategic Growth Council "Greening" grants) to plan for and improve the Sports Arena and Bicentennial Park Campground area.*

**Policy 10.7-8 Sports Arena Entrance.** Work with Caltrans, Los Angeles County, and City of South El Monte to include signage, improve access, and create an entry from Highway 60 to the Sports Arena and Bicentennial Park Campground.

**Policy 10.7-9 Easements.** Consider the use of utility and railroad right-of-ways for active and passive recreation uses, such as including a linear park along the rail line west of Passons Boulevard, as part of the lands originally purchased for the Passons Grade Separation project, as well as providing for expanded park land as part of the proposed Durfee grade separation.

**Policy 10.7-10 Joint Use.** Support the City's joint use agreement with El Rancho Unified School District which provides access to the classrooms, cafeteria, athletic fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds at the elementary, middle, and high schools within ERUSD El Rancho Unified School District.

**Policy 10.7-11 Onsite Open Spaces.** Provide development incentives for private commercial, office, industrial, and other non-residential developments to provide onsite usable open space that is accessible to the public such as green rooftops, public plazas, and walking paths.

**Policy 10.7-12 Increasing Recreational Opportunities.** Partner with the Watershed Conservation Authority to promote and increase recreational opportunities in the City by:

- Expanding trails, where feasible, along the portions of the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel river corridors;
- Exploring opportunities to create more passive recreation, including fitness zones at the spreading grounds
- Assisting in improving the access to Whittier Narrows recreation areas; and
- Promoting a coordinated approach to future land use decisions adjacent to the Sports Arena.
- Conducting an equestrian trails study to identify where equestrian trails may be properly developed and link to the Whittier Narrows equestrian trails and local horse boarding facilities.

**Policy 10.7-13 Municipal Golf Course.** Support continued renovation efforts and any future expansions of the Pico Rivera Golf Course to help meet the recreational needs in the City and provide additional economic opportunities.

**Policy 10.7-14 Equestrian Facilities.** Expand opportunities for equestrian-oriented recreational facilities in the City, and permit this use in the Sports Arena and Bicentennial Park Campground area.

**Policy 10.6-15 Efficiency and Conservation.** Incorporate energy efficiency and water conservation in parks and recreation areas, and require the use of native, drought-tolerant plants, to the extent feasible and as recommended by Assembly Bill 1881.

**Policy 10.7-16 Private Recreation.** Encourage the location of additional private health clubs and recreation facilities in Pico Rivera.

**Policy 10.7-17 Parks as Gathering Places.** Identify and provide facilities within City parks to enhance their function as community gathering places and ensure they are distributed throughout the community.

**Policy 10.7-18 New Gathering Places.** Support the revitalization of the shopping center at the southwest corner of Rosemead Boulevard and Mines Avenue to reinforce Smith Park, the community center and adjacent library as a community gathering place.

### Community Centers

**Policy 10.7-19 Community Centers.** Regularly maintain, improve, and expand, when necessary, existing community centers to adequately meet the City's needs.

### Recreational Programs

**Policy 10.7-20 Program Diversity.** Ensure that recreation programs and services meet the diverse needs of the community that serve residents of all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

*Implementation Program for Policy 10.6-20:*

- *Periodically assess the city's recreation programming needs through citywide surveys to ensure that that community's needs are being met.*

**Policy 10.7-21 Recreational Program Costs.** Continue maintaining fees for residents to participate in city recreational programs at or below the city's cost whenever feasible.

**Policy 10.7-22 Seniors.** Continue to provide dance classes, recreational programs, local and regional trip opportunities for physical activity, and services for seniors.

**Policy 10.7-23 Youth Programs.** Collaborate with the school district, religious organizations, non-profit groups, law enforcement, and other appropriate organizations to determine needs and continually improve upon the services and programs for children and youth.

### Access to Healthy Foods and Nutrition

#### Goal 10.8

**Convenient access to and a range of options for fresh and nutritious foods in Pico Rivera.**

**Policy 10.8-1 Food Access.** Strive for the majority of residents to be in close proximity to a supermarket or other healthy food establishment.

*Implementation Program for Policy 10.8-1:*

- *Consider facilitating consolidation of the vacant commercial parcel at the southeast corner of Rosemead Boulevard and Beverly Boulevard with existing commercial centers to the south to provide for a larger commercial capable of supporting development of a supermarket at that location.*

**Policy 10.8-2 Transit Service to Access Healthy Foods.** Work with local and regional transit agencies to ensure that bus routes provide service from underserved neighborhoods to healthy food retail stores.

**Policy 10.8-3 Community Gardens.** Facilitate establishment of community gardens by allowing gardens on vacant properties, at existing parks, and any other appropriate locations provided the gardens are managed and operated to prevent adverse impacts on adjoining uses.

**Policy 10.8-4 Green Roofs.** Encourage new buildings to incorporate green roofs and the conversion of existing roofs to maximize opportunities for urban gardening.

**Policy 10.8-5 Edible School Yards.** Work with the El Rancho Unified School District to explore the feasibility for creating “edible school yards” that provide gardens and gardening educational programs on school property.

**Policy 10.8-6 Healthy Foods at Schools.** Work with the El Rancho Unified School District to ensure provision of healthy food options.

**Policy 10.8-7 Summer Meals Program.** Continue to provide summer meal programs for youth.

**Policy 10.8-8 Seniors.** Continue to provide nutritious meals to seniors at the Senior Center.

**Policy 10.8-9 Healthy Foods at City Events.** Provide healthy food options at municipal buildings and at city events where food is available by the City.

**Policy 10.8-10 Drive-Through Restaurants.** Limit the number of drive-through restaurants near schools, and in areas where there are high concentrations of these uses.

**Policy 10.8-11 Food Education.** Disseminate information about healthful eating habits.

**Policy 10.8-12 Farmers Market.** Pursue the establishment of a farmers market within the city limits to increase access to healthy, local, affordable foods and encourage community-building.

*Implementation Program for Policy 10.8-12:*

- *Identify potential farmers’ market sites on public property, including parks and schools.*
- *Adopt zoning regulations that establish farmers’ markets as a permitted use in appropriate locations. Farmers markets are compatible with all land use designations shown on the General Plan Land Use Plan.*

**Policy 10.8-13 Sit-down Restaurants.** Pursue and encourage sit-down restaurants within City limits.

## Access to Health Care and Mental Health Care

### Goal 10.9

#### Access to affordable and high quality health care in Pico Rivera.

**Policy 10.9-1 Healthcare Services.** Work with local health care providers to increase the availability of high quality and affordable health care services that is in Pico Rivera.

**Policy 10.9-2 Healthcare Facility Sites.** Identify potential sites for healthcare facilities that are well-served by transit, and specifically include these types of facilities as a permitted use within appropriate commercial and industrial areas.

**Policy 10.9-3 Seniors.** Continue to provide, and support other organizations that provide, health screenings for seniors as preventative care.

**Policy 10.9-4 Mental Health Care.** Support the efforts of Los Angeles County and other local organizations that provide mental health services to ensure residents of Pico Rivera are being adequately served.

**Policy 10.9-5 Homeless.** Support the efforts of various agencies such as the Los Angeles County and the Gateway Council of Governments to address homeless issues and to help advance individuals to lead a stabilized and productive life.

**Policy 10.9-6 Co-location of Facilities.** Encourage the co-location of healthcare and social services to increase access to care.

**Policy 10.9-7 Outreach.** Educate the community on the availability of health care options, as well as social services in and around Pico Rivera.

## Schools and Day Care Facilities

### Goal 10.10

#### High quality day care, education, and lifelong learning opportunities for all members of the community.

### Schools

**Policy 10.10-1 School Services.** Support public school districts and private schools in providing educational services.

#### *Implementation Program for Policy 10.10-1:*

- *Undertake regular meetings with local school districts and private schools to address and resolve issues of mutual interest.*

**Policy 10.10-2 School Capacity.** Work with local school districts to ensure that school facilities have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of current and projected enrollment, within the limits of State law.

**Policy 10.10-3 Development Proposal Review.** Provide school districts the opportunity to review and comment on residential development proposals to ensure projects adequately address school capacity issues.

**Policy 10.10-4 Joint Use.** Coordinate with the school district to maintain joint use of school and park facilities during non-school hours. Joint use agreements should be maintained to maximize public use of facilities with shared financial and operational responsibilities.



**Policy 10.10-5 Funding Sources.** Cooperate with school districts in identifying and pursuing sources of funding for the improvement of existing schools.

**Policy 10.10-6 Higher Education.** Support the development of higher education and vocational education facilities in the City to increase access to these services.

### Day Care Facilities

**Policy 10.10-7 Range of Day Care Services.** Encourage the development of a range of day care facilities including family day care homes and public and private day care centers for youth and seniors that are high quality and affordable to meet the needs of Pico Rivera residents.

**Policy 10.10-8 High Quality and Affordable Day Care.** Encourage day care facilities and services to be located in or near residential areas and employment centers, as well as along transit and major transportation routes.

*Implementation Program for Policies 10-10-7 and 10.10-8:*

- *Work with local and regional agencies to assess childcare supply and demand, and implement programs to address any deficiencies.*

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