



Chapter 6

Parks and Open Space

Overview of Chapter

Parks and open spaces provide vital health and social benefits to the residents of Thousand Oaks. They provide space for exercise, socialization, and relaxation, enhance the visual appearance of the City, and make the City an enticing place to live and work. The parks and open space network also supports Thousand Oaks' unique identity by defining the urban edges of the community and protecting important views and vistas for residents. A well-connected park, trail, and open space system can also help bridge geographic divides and create opportunities for more interaction among Thousand Oaks residents. Parks and open space also contribute to local environmental health by improving air quality, providing cool and shaded areas, and enhancing biodiversity.

The Parks and Open Space Element supports the Thousand Oaks vision to protect natural open spaces, provide convenient access to well-maintained parks, and maintain the community's character and enviable quality of life. This Element identifies goals and policies

to preserve open space resources as well as to provide diverse opportunities for recreation throughout the City. The City actively partners with the Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD) and Conejo Open Space and Conservation Agency (COSCA) to ensure parks, trails, and open spaces are well-maintained and located equitably throughout the community. This Element should be implemented through detailed master plans and strategic plans prepared by CRPD and COSCA. The following topics are included in this chapter:

- Statutory Requirements
- The Open Space System
- Parks and Recreation System
- Key Issues and Opportunities
- Goals and Policies

Statutory Requirements

The Open Space Element meets the State of California requirements for an open space element as defined in Sections 65302 and 65563 of the Government Code. State law requires all general plans to contain an open space element, which must contain goals, policies, and actions for the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of open space land, including undeveloped lands and outdoor recreation areas.

Background

This section provides an overview of existing parks, trails, and open space conditions in Thousand Oaks. The description includes a detailed inventory of the City's existing facilities as well as information on the benefits of open spaces and trails for Thousand Oaks residents.

Open Space

Open space means any area designated by the City to preserve the City's natural resources and open space character. Such lands include scenic ridgelines and steeply sloping hillside terrain, arroyos and barrancas, lakes, creeks, riparian vegetation, floodplains, ecologically diverse native plant and animal communities that include rare and endangered species, critical habitat linkages, and movement corridors that are necessary for the local and regional linkages and movement corridors important to the dispersal of wildlife populations, farming and grazing, historic and archaeological resources, and passive recreation areas.



The hillsides and open spaces form a "ring of green" and enhance the City's identity and character

Benefits of Open Space

Open space areas serve a variety of critical functions in maintaining the balance of natural and built environments, including serving as habitat for wildlife, preventing soil erosion, maintaining air quality, controlling water runoff, serving as the subject for art and educational study, and providing opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and bird watching. Open space also plays an invaluable role in community development by delineating the urban edge where development ends and natural land begins, thus preventing the sprawl of urbanization.

Environmental Benefits

Preserving open space benefits and supports wildlife resources through habitat protection and restoration. Loss or alteration of habitat contributes to the loss of species diversity, and this can cause other ecological disruptions that impact other species. Open space preservation also serves as a critical function to provide wildlife movement corridors. Movement corridors are habitat linkages utilized



Wildlife thrives in the habitat surrounding Thousand Oaks

by wildlife species to gain access to preferred foraging, water sources, nesting, and breeding areas. In the Conejo Valley, wildlife movement corridors also function as critical access routes around developed areas to undeveloped habitats.

Additionally, plant and vegetative resources should be carefully conserved because of their importance for wildlife habitat, watershed protection, climate moderation, erosion control, and their scenic beauty. Open space affords permanent protection to biologically diverse native plant communities including rare and endangered species. Vegetation prevents erosion and flooding which, in turn, enhances both the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water resources.

Open space preservation benefits wetlands and the riparian lands which border them as some of the most biologically productive habitats. They provide important breeding grounds for waterfowl and are an essential water source for wildlife. In addition to valuable habitat, these lands protect water quality by reducing runoff, allowing groundwater recharge, and helping control flooding.

Health and Recreational Benefits

Open spaces in combination with park facilities provide numerous public health benefits for residents of the City. For example, parks allow for group activities and organized sports that provide physical, mental, and social benefits for all ages, especially physical education for the youth. Whereas natural dirt trails provide opportunities for people to engage in physical activity, such as through hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Open spaces also allow residents to seek quiet solitude in the beauty of nature, which research has shown reduces stress, anxiety, and other mental health illnesses. Thus, by having access to open spaces, the rate of obesity, mental health illnesses, and other preventable chronic diseases can be reduced.

The open space system contributes to improved air quality and mitigates weather impacts locally. Trees and other plant life can filter air pollution, especially harmful particulate matter, and reflect some of the sun's radiation. By improving air quality and reducing the urban heat island effect at a local level, open spaces help to reduce the incidence of asthma attacks, heat strokes, and other health conditions exacerbated by poor environmental quality.

Cultural Resource Benefits

Open space in Thousand Oaks preserves archaeological and historic resources including significant prehistoric inland Chumash archaeological sites and historic structures. Safeguarding such resources links the community with its history, addresses community concerns over urban growth, and ensures the City is examining the interplay between nature and culture.

Many significant paleontological resources are preserved in fossil-bearing rocks within the open space system. These fossil remains of plants and animals provide an important record of previous life forms from past geologic ages and aid in our understanding of how the Conejo Valley has changed over time.



Replica of a Chumash 'ap (house) in the reconstructed Chumash village



Trails traversing the open spaces provide health and recreational benefits for residents and visitors

The Open Space System

The open space system delineated by the General Plan includes natural open space lands, parks for both active and passive recreation, and golf courses, and a system of equestrian, hiking, and bicycle trails linking sections of the City with each other, and with regional trail systems.

Open space land is critically important to preserve and enhance the Conejo Valley's unique beauty and spaciousness. The great majority of natural open space land has been, and will continue to be, set aside within development projects in compliance with local land use policies and regulations and acquired through purchase or donation by property owners.

This open space system is intended to be a contiguous "ring" concept, providing a greenbelt around the perimeter of the City, surrounding areas of development rather than just areas of open space within developments, and extending into the community, preserving lower slopes and meadow areas as buffers from adjacent developments, adjoining parks and school sites. In addition to contiguous large open spaces, linkages between open space encompass a system of trails and corridors that allow for the movement of wildlife and people within the ring of open space. This open space network encourages land use patterns which accommodate necessary development while protecting environmental quality and curbing urban sprawl. The open space lands acquired to date have nearly completed the original goal of a ring of open space around the Conejo Valley.

Natural Open Space

Thousand Oaks' permanent natural open space has grown steadily since the 1970s. The majority of this land is owned by COSCA. COSCA was created in 1977 by a joint powers agreement (JPA) between the City of Thousand Oaks and CRPD to coordinate land use planning and policy decisions, and facilitate open space acquisition, management, and conservation according to the goals identified in the City's General Plan.

Its primary responsibility is to manage open space to preserve its natural characteristics while providing opportunities for passive recreational enjoyment.

COSCA is governed by a 5-member Board of Directors made up of two City Council members, two District Board Members, and one member of the general public. In 2009, the COSCA Board of Directors adopted Ordinance No. 01-2009 to establish rules and regulations governing public use of COSCA open space. COSCA's open space management is also guided by its Management Policies and Guidelines, the Conejo Canyons Management Plan, and the COSCA Strategic Plan.

Open Space Inventory

The Conejo Valley open space system includes approximately 15,215 acres of open space in the City's Planning Area, with 67% owned by COSCA; 5% owned by the City of Thousand Oaks; 10% owned by CRPD; 10% owned by other public agencies including the National Parks Service (NPS), the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), Ventura County, and the State of California; and 8% under private ownership. Table 6.1 provides an inventory of open space in the City, which is also mapped in Figure 6.1 along with the Conejo Valley open space system.



One of the many trails in Thousand Oaks' natural open spaces

TABLE 6.1 Thousand Oaks Open Space

#	Open Space Area	Acres
1	Alta Vista	43
2	Arroyo Conejo	328
3	Conejo Canyons	1,628
4	Conejo Ridge	404
5	Deer Ridge	188
6	Dos Vientos	1,230
7	Fireworks Hill	33
8	Glider Hill	57
9	Hope Nature Preserve	348
10	Knoll	21
11	La Jolla	15
12	Labisco Hill	24
13	Lake Eleanor	516
14	Lang Ranch	863
15	Los Padres	187
16	Los Robles	357
17	Los Vientos	28
18	Lynmere	107
19	McCrea	174
20	Mt. Clef Ridge	212
21	North Ranch	2,595
22	Oakbrook Regional Park	425
23	Old Conejo	38
24	Old Meadows	48
25	Potrero Ridge	210
26	Rancho Potrero	326
27	Santa Monica Mountains, NRA	964
28	Skyline	59
29	South Ranch	662
30	Southshore Hills	13
31	Summit House	34

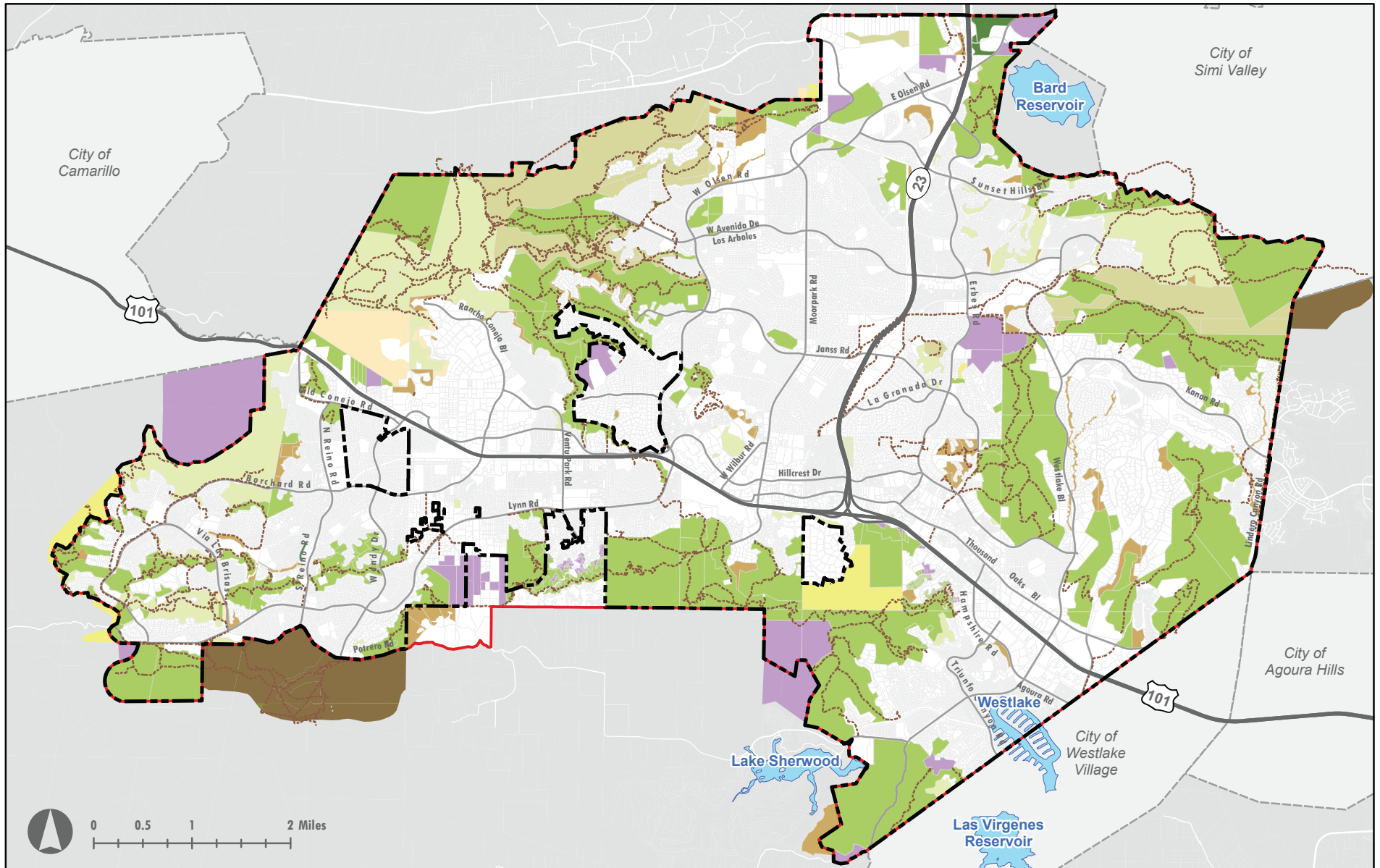
#	Open Space Area	Acres
32	Sunset Hills	410
33	Tarantula Hill	47
34	Vallecito	67
35	Ventu Park	141
36	Vista Del Mar	9
37	Walnut	9
38	Wildwood Regional Park	1,732
39	Woodridge	622
40	Zuniga Ridge	1
Total		15,215

Source: COSCA. 2019.

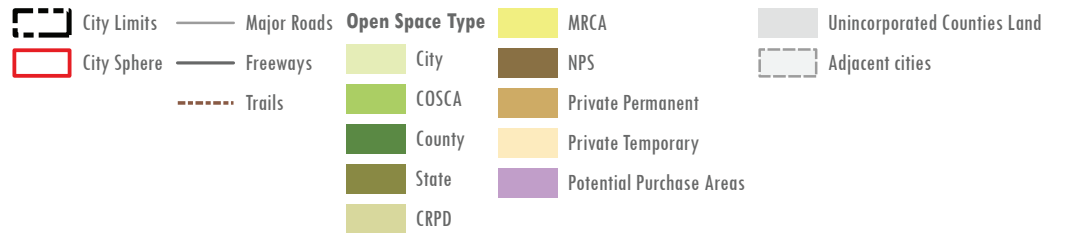


Trail in Thousand Oaks overlooking greenfields and rolling hills

FIGURE 6.1 Open Space Type and Trails Inventory



Raimi + Associates 2023 | Data Source: City of Thousand Oaks, County of Ventura, County of Los Angeles, National Wetlands Inventory, 2023



Hiking and Riding Trails

Thousand Oaks is known for having dozens of publicly accessible hiking trails, many with scenic views. There are about 170 miles of public multi-use trails within the Planning Area. Most trails are managed by COSCA and connect with trails managed by the NPS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Santa Rosa Valley Trails Inc., and MRCA. Trails also often run through CRPD parks and facility sites. As shown in Figure 6.1, most open space areas feature extensive trail connections, and in many cases, direct connections to residential neighborhoods.

Areas with Important Open Space Resources

The trails and open spaces described in the previous sections are owned by public agencies or owned by private entities subject to City-imposed restrictions. In addition to these areas, there are other parcels of land not currently considered open space but that contain important open space resources which may be considered for future inclusion into the City's open space system. The City and COSCA have identified parcels located near the ring of open space along the perimeter of the City as priority areas for potential purchase. In total, there are about 1,200 acres of land identified for potential future acquisition and preservation as open space (See Figure 6.1).



Equestrians frequent the open spaces in Thousand Oaks

Parks and Recreation System

Park and recreational services in the City are provided by CRPD, a special district formed with the purpose of providing recreation and park services for the Conejo Valley, including Thousand Oaks, Lynn Ranch, Rolling Oaks, Lake Sherwood, and unincorporated Ventura County. The CRPD service area is approximately 65 square miles, and generally, corresponds with the border of the Planning Area, though some residents living in the unincorporated Sphere of Influence (SOI) along Potrero Road are not served by CRPD. CRPD provides opportunities for active recreation (e.g., athletic fields and courts) and passive recreation (e.g. walking paths).

CRPD is governed by a 5-member Board of Directors. CRPD's park management is guided by the Conejo Recreation and Park District Master Plan and Strategic Plan. CRPD also coordinates with several other agencies to provide services and conserve natural resources. Among these agencies are the City of Thousand Oaks, California Lutheran University (CLU), the Conejo Valley Unified School District (CVUSD), the NPS. A joint use agreement with CVUSD enables CRPD to use some school facilities, when not used by the school district or its permittees.



Healing Garden at Conejo Creek North Park

Park Standards

Park standards determine how many parkland acres should be developed based on population levels, location of parks, and the amount of existing parkland. CRPD follows the current National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) park standard of 10 acres per 1,000 people. Community parks, playfields, and neighborhood parks account for 5 acres of the 10 acres per 1,000 people and district-wide parks account for 5 acres of the 10 acres per 1,000 residents. Acreages for open spaces and regional parks are not included within the established ratio.

CRPD splits the City into six Community Park Planning Zones. Each planning zone is further divided into unique Neighborhood Planning Areas with acreage requirements for community parks, playfields, and neighborhood parks. Overall, park acreage requirements are mostly met. However, as the community population grows, and residential development grows denser in specific locations, availability and quantity of developable park sites are key to providing park services to all current and future residents.



Play structures in Thousand Oaks Community Park

Park Inventory

CRPD currently owns, operates, and/or maintains more than 50 developed sites consisting of neighborhood parks, playfields, community parks, district-wide parks, and special facilities. Parks mapped in Figure 6.2 and listed in Table 6.2. CRPD categorizes parks as follows:

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve residents generally within a 1-mile radius of the park. These parks typically provide both active and passive recreation opportunities such as playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts, picnic areas, outdoor fitness areas, and walking paths and trails and can be up to 10 acres in size.



Open areas and play structure in one of the many parks owned by CRPD in Thousand Oaks

Playfields

Playfields generally serve residents who live within 0.75- to 1- mile from the park. They are oriented to athletic uses, including soccer, baseball and softball, tennis, and basketball. Playfields are usually 10 to 20 acres in size and may have lighting to accommodate evening activity.

Community Parks

Community parks serve residents who live within 1- to 2-miles from the park. Community parks have lights for evening use and include athletic fields and courts, picnic facilities, and a community center building. Community parks are typically between 20 and 50 acres in size.

District-wide Parks

District-wide parks serve residents in the entire CRPD service area. District-wide parks include special features like wooded areas, water features, dog parks, equestrian, community gardens, and sports field. District-wide parks are typically between 50 and 250 acres. They generally serve people beyond the district boundary within a 30-mile radius.

Regional Parks

Regional parks often feature natural areas, museums, educational facilities, campgrounds, trails. They are usually greater than 250 acres and serve the entire region.

Open Space Area

Open space area refers to areas where most of the park is undeveloped and contains vegetation, topography, and features in their natural and undisturbed states.

Special Facilities

Special facilities include unique recreational areas, such as equestrian facilities and botanic gardens, which may be included as part of any park within the CRPD.

TABLE 6.2 Parks in Thousand Oaks (Numbering Corresponds to Figure 6.2)

#	Neighborhood Park	Acres
1	Banyan Park	7.4
2	Beyer Park	4.0
3	Canada Park	4.0
4	Cypress Park	5.0
5	Dos Vientos Neighborhood Park	5.2
6	El Parque de la Paz	4.8
7	Estella Park	1.9
8	Evenstar Park	4.0
9	Glenwood Park	5.2
10	Hickory Park	4.6
11	Kimber Park	8.3
12	Lang Ranch Neighborhood Park	7.0
13	Lynn Oaks Park	4.0
14	Newbury Gateway Park	2.3
15	North Ranch Neighborhood Park	12.0
16	Northwood Park	8.5
17	Oakbrook Neighborhood Park	13.5
18	Old Meadows Park	6.2
19	Paige Lane Neighborhood Park	14.1
20	Russell Park	7.3
21	Southshore Hills Park	4.5
22	Spring Meadow Park	7.2
23	Stagecoach Inn Park	4.9
24	Suburbia Park	2.0
25	Sunset Hills Park	5.8
26	Sycamore Neighborhood Park	4.5
27	Walnut Grove Park	6.5
28	Waverly Park	8.8
29	Wendy Park	4.3
30	Wildwood Neighborhood Park	5.8
Total		183.6

#	Playfield	Acres
31	Del Prado Playfield	26.0
32	Fiore Playfield	7.1
33	North Ranch Playfield	12.0
34	Pepper Tree Playfield	21.7
35	Rancho Conejo Playfield	12.7
36	Wildflower Playfield	19.0
Total		98.5
#	Community Park	Acres
37	Borchard Community Park	28.7
38	Conejo Community Park	17.1
39	Dos Vientos Community Park	27.8
40	Sapwi Trails Community Park	122.7
41	Thousand Oaks Community Park	35.8
42	Triunfo Community Park	23.4
Total		255.5
#	District-Wide / Regional Park	Acres
43	Conejo Creek Complex (North, West, South)	126
44	Oakbrook Regional Park	431.4
45	Wildwood Regional Park	1,824.5
Total		2,381.9

#	Special Facility	Acres
46	Chumash Museum	11.3*
47	Community Garden	2.0*
48	Conejo Creek Dog Park	3.5*
49	Conejo Creek Equestrian Park	39.5*
50	Conejo Valley Botanic Garden	41.4
51	Crowley House	0.5
52	Goebel Adult Community Center	6.5
53	Hillcrest Center for the Arts	4.0
54	McCrea Ranch	17.1
55	Stagecoach Inn Museum	5.0
56	Thousand Oaks Teen Center	3.8
57	Walnut Grove Equestrian Center	4.5
58	Rancho Potrero Community Equestrian Center	20.0
59	Community Pool at CLU	0.6
60	Thousand Oaks High School Pool	0.5
61	Newbury Park High School Pool	0.5
Total		104.4

Source: Conejo Recreation & Park District. 2023.

* Acreage not included in calculation due to being included in other park types. These facilities are not shown explicitly on the parks inventory map.

Proposed and Planned Parks

CRPD has four undeveloped park sites and one future expansion planned, shown in Figure 6.2 and Table 6.3. The undeveloped sites are Conejo Creek Northwest (7.5 acres), Del Norte Park (3.6 acres), Knoll Park (20.8 acres), Rolling Oaks Park (5.5 acres) and the future expansion at Lynn Oaks Park (4.8 acres). Together they total 42.6 acres. CRPD has not announced plans to develop these remaining parks.

TABLE 6.3 Planned Parks in Thousand Oaks (Numbering Corresponds to Figure 6.2)

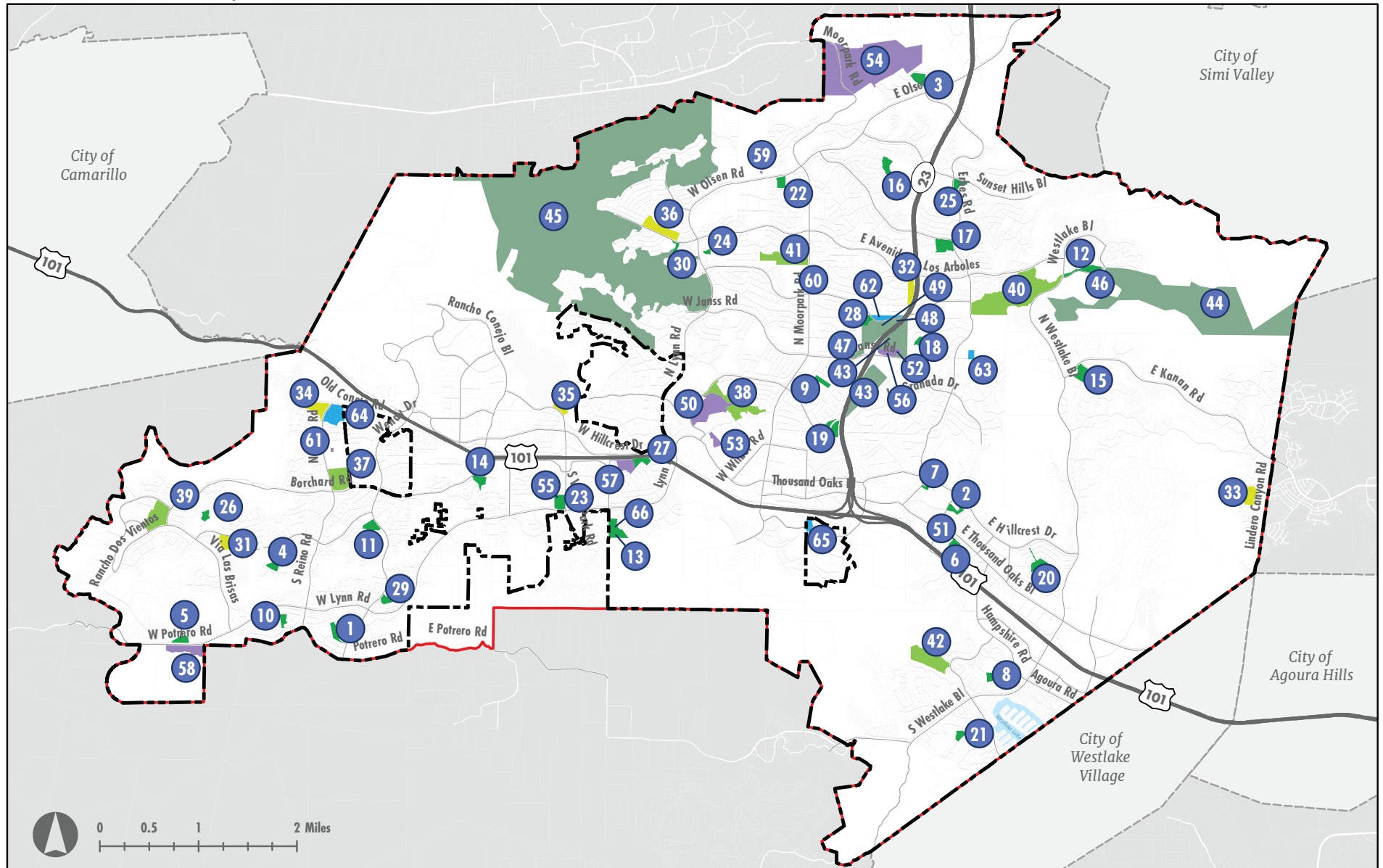
#	Planned & Proposed Parks	Acres
62	Conejo Creek Northwest Park	7.5
63	Del Norte Park	3.6
64	Knoll Park	20.8
65	Rolling Oaks Park	5.5
66	Lynn Oaks Expansion	4.8
Total		42.6

Source: Conejo Recreation & Park District. 2023.



Multiple new parks are planned throughout the City

FIGURE 6.2 Parks Inventory



Raimi + Associates 2023 | Data Source: City of Thousand Oaks, County of Ventura, County of Los Angeles

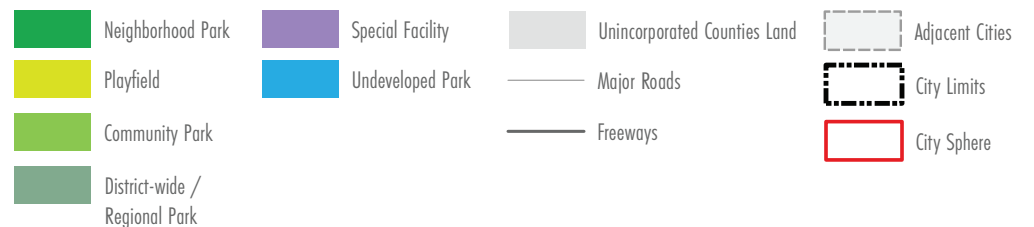
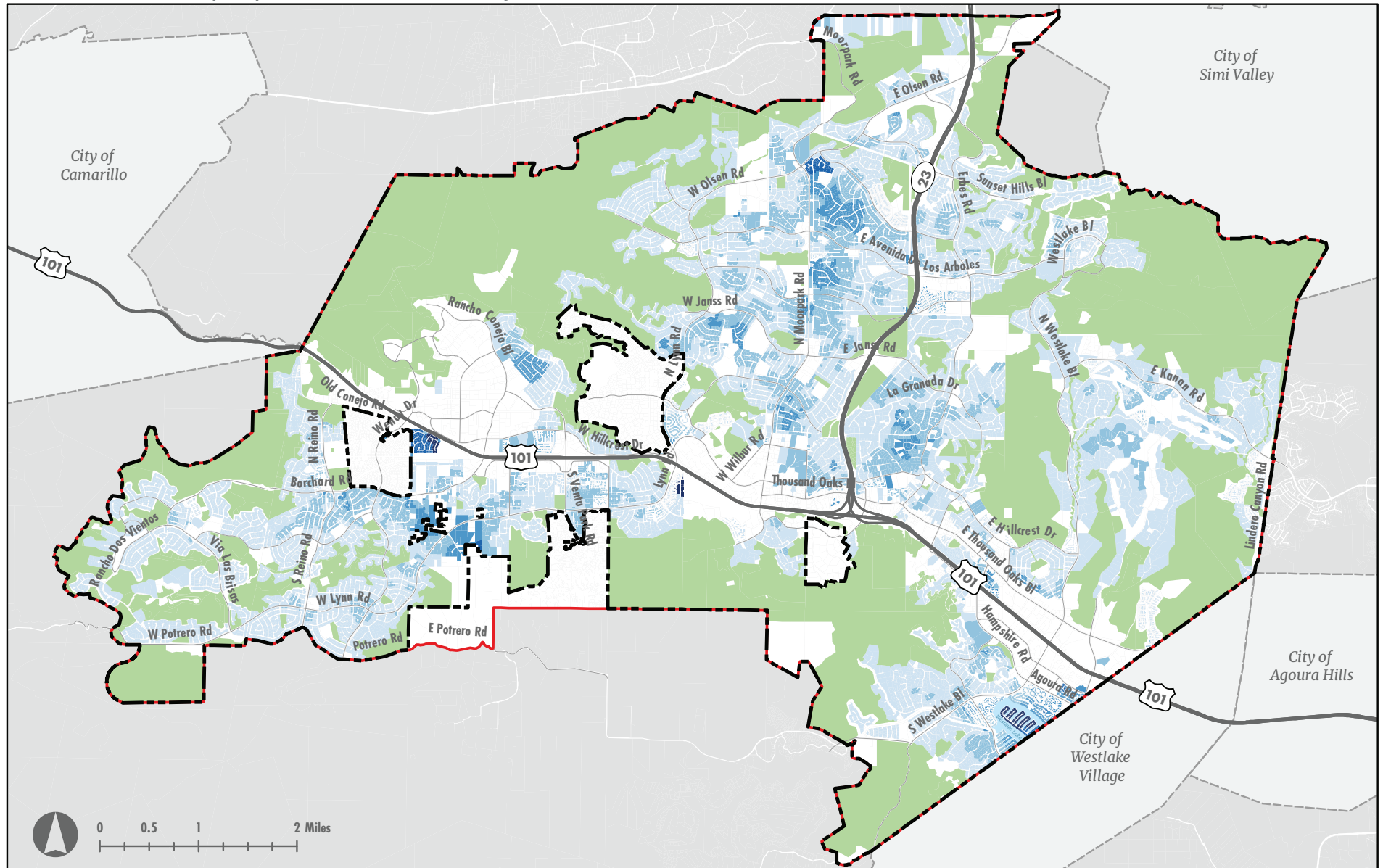
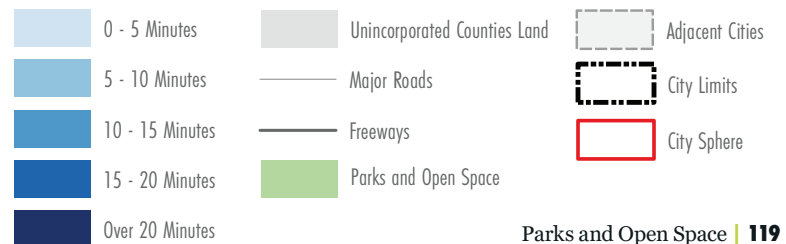


FIGURE 6.3 Park and Open Space Access from Residential Neighborhoods



Raimi + Associates 2023 | Data Source: City of Thousand Oaks, County of Ventura, County of Los Angeles, UrbanFootprint.



Park Funding

CRPD collects Park Impact (Quimby Act) Fees and Development Impact Fees (DIFs) from developers when new residential units are created to acquire, rehabilitate, and develop parks. Quimby fees must be expended to serve areas near where they are collected. Residential developers who are not subject to the Quimby Act (i.e., are not developing subdivisions) must contribute DIFs. DIFs may be spent anywhere in the City, if the expenditure bears a reasonable relationship to the future inhabitants of the future property. Additionally, CRPD has three maintenance assessment districts. Park maintenance and operation is paid for by CRPD.

Park and Open Space Access

Accessing parks and open space from home or work is important to accommodating the needs of the community. Citywide, nearly every residential neighborhood can access a park or open space area within a 10-minute walk. As shown in Figure 6.3, areas of light blue have a 10-minutes or less walk time, while darker blue areas increase walk time. Very few dark blue areas are distributed throughout the City. However, some residents living in parts of Newbury Park, Westlake Village, and west of State Route 23 near Janss Road have less convenient access to parks and open space than other parts of the City. As new residential development occurs near Thousand Oaks Boulevard, The Oaks Mall, and South Moorpark Road, additional park and open space access should be provided. New development should reflect the need for passive and active recreation to serve new residential uses, especially in areas with less parks and open space access.



Off-leash dog parks are located throughout the community

Key Issues & Opportunities

This section identifies key issues and opportunities facing the City of Thousand Oaks, relative to parks and open spaces. This concise list was developed in combination of the public engagement phase and existing data to address issues facing the City now, and in the future, and the opportunities for positive change. The topics inform the overall direction identified in the goals, policies, and actions listed below.

New Park Opportunities

CRPD has four undeveloped park sites and one future expansion plan that total 42.6 acres. These undeveloped park sites are opportunities to provide additional recreational facilities, such as playgrounds, multi-use sport courts, and picnic areas.

“Ring of Green”

There are several opportunities for future acquisition of open space resources, especially along the City’s Planning Area boundaries. Currently, COSCA is prioritizing acquisition of about 1,200 acres of open space land. These acquisitions will help to complete the “Ring of Green” around the city.

Updating Recreational Programming

As the City’s population grows increasingly older, there is a need to update facilities and expand programming geared for older adults. In addition, there is an unmet demand for multi-use space that can be used for classes, athletic fields, and specialized courts.

Protection of Open Spaces

As Thousand Oaks welcomes new visitors to its open spaces, there will be an increasing challenge of balancing visitor presence with the protection of natural resources.



One of many open spaces and trails in the “ring of green” surrounding the City

Park Standards

The General Plan anticipates most of the new housing development to be multifamily and on smaller parcels. It will be an increasing challenge for housing developers to achieve the current park standards of requiring onsite parks and a high ratio of parkland. Therefore, the City and its partners need to determine how best to provide parks for new residents.

Park Funding

Historically, funding for park acquisition and maintenance came from park development fees imposed on new residential construction. Since Thousand Oaks is now mostly built out residentially, this traditional funding source has diminished substantially and, thus, new dedicated sources of funding must be secured to enhance the park system.

Open Space Funding

Growing public use impacts on open space areas, and aging infrastructure such as fences, roads, signs, and drainage structures will require additional funding to manage in the long-term, along with regular management activities. Additional funding is also needed to acquire new open spaces and ensure sufficient agency staffing.



Youth and adult sports leagues provide opportunities for physical activity and community building



Recreation centers provide activities for residents of all ages

Goals and Policies

The following section includes goals and policies for the use of open space resources, including parks. The responsibility for carrying out the program falls with City staff in carrying out activities related to development project review, capital program planning interaction with CRPD, County, State, and Federal agencies, and through participation with COSCA. Parks and open space implementation actions are located in Chapter 13: Implementation.

Open Space

Goal POS-1: Preserve open space lands for future generations of Thousand Oaks residents.

1.1 COSCA Strategic Plan.

Actively collaborate with CRPD and COSCA during their regular updates to the COSCA Strategic Plan to ensure the plan's open space management objectives and implementation actions are consistent with the City's Parks and Open Space Element.

1.2 Transfer ownership.

In order to preserve open space in perpetuity, coordinate with COSCA to transfer ownership of natural open space parcels owned by the City and CRPD to COSCA for consistent planning and management.

1.3 Privately-owned open space.

Ensure privately-owned open spaces are subject to appropriate conditions of approval, deed restrictions, or easements with the City or COSCA as a beneficiary.

1.4 Privately-owned golf courses.

In the event private golf courses that are designated as open space are no longer economically viable, a public referendum is required to determine any future non-open space allowed use.

1.5 Public agency ownership.

Continue the transfer of private open space lands to public agency ownership as conditioned during the entitlement process to provide consistent management, linkage with other components of the open space system, and appropriate recreational and educational opportunities.

1.6 Thousand Oaks City Urban Restriction Boundary

Comply with the restrictions of the 2016 Save Open-space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) and Parks Initiative Ordinance known as Measure W to the extent required by its terms. A copy of Measure W is included in Appendix E.

Goal POS-2: Complete the connected ring of natural open space around the developed portions of Thousand Oaks.

2.1 Preserve public parks and open space.

Strategically acquire undeveloped parcels that contribute to completion of the ring of open space around developed areas.

2.2 Regional trail planning.

Participate in cooperative regional trail planning with public and private organizations, such as California State Parks, NPS, SMMC, County of Ventura, MRCA, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, other adjacent municipalities, CRPD, and COSCA to identify and develop new regional trail connections, including beyond the City's Planning Area boundaries.

2.3 Greenbelt agreements.

Participate in cooperative regional planning efforts, such as greenbelt agreements, which reinforce and extend the ring of open space, which may include low intensity rural agricultural land use, beyond the Planning Area boundaries.

2.4 Funding opportunities.

Seek grants and other special funding sources for prioritized trail easements and habitat restoration or enhancement projects.

2.5 Restoration of new open spaces.

In areas to be dedicated as natural open space, remove ground disturbances, such as unauthorized roads and trails not part of the trail system, and remove debris and improvements foreign to the natural environment.

2.6 Regional advocacy.

Support regional planning efforts which promote infill development within cities, avoid sprawling development, and preserve large open area buffers and wildlife corridors between cities.

2.7 Ring of open space in planning documents.

Regularly review and ensure that local and regional planning documents appropriately describe and depict the ring of open space.

Goal POS-3: Manage and regulate open spaces to protect the natural environment.

3.1 Public service facilities.

Locate and design emergency facilities, or other necessary public service facilities such as trail heads, access roads and parking lots and restrooms, to minimize impacts to open space areas.

3.2 Roads in open spaces.

Limit the development of roads, either unimproved or improved, within or traversing natural open space areas. Any proposed road easements potentially affecting open space lands shall be carefully

reviewed to avoid or minimize impact on open space resources. Management of existing access roads shall seek to minimize impacts on adjacent natural areas.

3.3 Restricted hunting.

Prohibit all forms of hunting or trapping, except hunting conducted under the auspices of a public agency for public safety purposes and live trapping which is necessary for purposes of scientific study conducted by, or under the auspices of, a public agency and which does not result in injury or death to the animal. Prohibit use of anti-coagulant baits, which are known to be harmful to non-target species.

3.4 Stream water quality in open space areas.

Promote efforts to protect water quality of streams located within open space areas from the adverse effects associated with unpermitted recreational use and stormwater runoff.

3.5 Agency partnerships.

Work cooperatively with utility companies, water agencies, and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District to ensure that facilities subject to their jurisdiction are planned and designed in a manner which provides effective public service and protects the natural environment.

3.6 Natural drainage courses in open space areas.

Discourage use of concrete or other flood control improvements in natural drainage courses within open space areas, unless no reasonable alternatives can be found that would maintain natural hydrological and ecological functions.

3.7 Groundwater recharge in open space areas.

Allow groundwater recharge areas if they are beneficial to regional water conservation and groundwater replenishment efforts and not detrimental to the function and resources of the open space system.

3.8 Fuel modification zones.

Protect open space vegetation by restricting new development that expands fuel modification zones onto designated open space properties.

Goal POS-4: Design trails and open spaces to encourage outdoor recreation and education while protecting natural resources.

4.1 Diversity of trail experiences.

Provide a range of scenic experiences and degrees of difficulty on trails and regulate trail use as necessary in order to maintain and protect both the natural environment and trail improvements.

4.2 Visitor facilities.

Locate visitor facilities such as signs and kiosks, principally at trailheads to limit impact on natural resources and maintain the natural appeal of trails.

4.3 Natural materials.

Design trail facilities to blend unobtrusively with the natural setting by using natural building materials, native plant materials, and earth-tone colors to the greatest extent possible in all fencing, trailheads, kiosks, and other open space improvements.

4.4 Outdoor programming.

Promote outdoor recreation activities and programming within open spaces that avoid adverse impacts to natural and cultural resources.

4.5 Educational materials.

Emphasize the importance of natural resource protection as well as trail etiquette and visitor rules in educational materials related to recreational use of open space.

4.6 Fencing and barriers.

Install fencing and barrier materials where appropriate to direct public access to specific entry points, control off-road vehicle access, and provide public safety and resource protection. Preclude individual residential lots from direct access to open space.

Goal POS-5: Manage open spaces to reduce risk of natural hazards and promote the safety of the public.

5.1 Natural hazards.

Flood plains, areas of unstable slopes, and fuel modification zones should remain in an undeveloped state for the purposes of maintaining public safety.

5.2 Fuel modification zones.

Ensure the ongoing implementation of defensible space maintenance by the property owners, as required by the Ventura County Fire Department.

5.3 Fire protection access.

Continue to accommodate fire protection access, including helipads and fire roads, within natural open space areas in a manner which provides effective protection to the public and minimizes disturbance to natural resources.

5.4 New developments.

Plan new developments to avoid direct and secondary impacts on valuable open space resources, including visual impacts from the trail system, appropriate access control, location, and maintenance of fuel modification areas.

Parks

Goal POS-6: Create and maintain beautiful and accessible parks and recreational facilities that meet the needs of all residents of Thousand Oaks.

6.1 Preserve public parks and open space.

Restrict future development in areas designated for public parks and open space on land owned by the City or other public agencies. Development or maintenance of supportive structures and recreation facilities within these designations is permitted, as allowed by each agency.

6.2 Enhance existing facilities.

Enhance and update facilities and amenities at existing public parks to meet the recreational needs and interests of residents of all ages.

6.3 Environmental stewardship.

Incorporate low impact and sustainable building practices in the revitalization and development of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation facilities.

6.4 Public safety.

Consider the safety of park uses with the design of new and expanded park facilities.

6.5 Equitable park access.

Ensure that new parks and recreational facilities are placed equitably throughout the city to maximize access to parks for all residents.

6.6 Accessible parks.

Park design should consider usability by and safety for children, seniors, and those with mobility, sight, hearing or other special needs.

6.7 Community and regional parks.

Encourage the development of community or regional parks, to address expanded demand for organized sports activities and community functions.

6.8 Neighborhood parks.

Support enhancing existing neighborhood parks and developing future neighborhood park sites.

6.9 Joint use.

Pursue and expand joint use of public lands that are available and suitable for recreational purposes, including school district properties, as well as flood control district, water district, and other utility properties.

Goal POS-7: Provide diverse and affordable recreational programs and services for all Thousand Oaks residents, regardless of age, activity level, physical ability, or income level.

7.1 Expansive programming.

Offer diversified programs and services that meet the recreational needs of community members.

7.2 Active recreational programs.

Encourage recreational programs that provide active and health-promoting opportunities for residents of all ages.

7.3 Culturally relevant programming.

Encourage culturally relevant programming at various recreation facilities to serve the City's population.

7.4 Older adult programming.

Expand recreational programs, such as socialization classes and adult daycare, that meet the needs of older adults of all ages and abilities.

7.5 Fee discounts.

Consider fee discounts for low-income families, such as families with children who participate in the National School Lunch Program, so that all residents have access to the City's recreational programming.

7.6 Partnerships with private entities.

Explore opportunities to cooperate with private, for-profit recreation, and leisure businesses to expand and enhance recreational programming.

7.7 Educational amenities.

Promote public awareness and use of the significant educational facilities owned by CRPD, such as the Oakbrook Chumash Indian Museum, the Stagecoach Inn Museum, and the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden.

Goal POS-8: Expand and fund parks to keep pace with the City's long-term growth.

8.1 New parks.

Work with CRPD to achieve a goal of 10 acres of parks, accessible open space and recreational facilities for every 1,000 residents in the City as follows:

- A goal of 5 acres of community parks, playfields, and neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents.
- A goal of 5 acres of district-wide parks, including accessible open spaces, per 1,000 residents.

8.2 Parks fees.

Maintain and amend as needed, ordinances imposing impact fees and Quimby Act fees on new development.

8.3 On-site parks.

Require development projects of greater than 10 acres in size to provide parks on-site.

8.4 Funding sources.

In partnership with CRPD, explore new potential funding sources to enhance programming, property acquisition, park improvements, operations and maintenance, and capital facility replacements.

8.5 Parks long-term planning.

Collaborate with CRPD on their 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan, 30-Year maintenance plan, and long-term master plan.