

Parks and Recreation Element

PURPOSE

Abundant parkland and recreational space and facilities are important components of the high quality of life enjoyed by City residents. They not only provide opportunities to invigorate the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the community, they also serve as focal points and social gathering spaces for neighborhoods and help define the City's character and image. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to recognize the importance of parks and recreational areas and facilities, and to guide their expansion and improvement throughout the City. This element also addresses bikeways and trails, and references accessible open space and conservation lands as essential components of the park and recreation system. The goals, policies, and programs set forth in this element help ensure sufficient parkland and recreational spaces that reflect and are responsive to the needs of the community well into the future.

*"Parks and playgrounds are
the soul of a city."*

– Marty Rubin

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Element is directly related to the Land Use and Open Space and Conservation Elements in the designation and preservation of recreational areas. It is also related to the Community Design Element as parks provide opportunities to define and highlight cultural resources, community aesthetics and artistic themes, and social spaces. Parks and recreational facilities play an important role in creating community cohesion and attracting new residents and tourists, a key to economic growth and vitality. Therefore, this element is directly linked to the Economic and Fiscal Health Element. It is also related to the Circulation and Mobility Element, given that trails, bike paths, and park access must be integrated and coordinated with circulation plans. The Parks and Recreation Element is also closely related to the Environmental Justice and Healthy and Sustainable Community Elements that strive to ensure equitable access and opportunities for improved health and well-being for all segments of the population.

Government Code Section 65560 requires that the General Plan include discussion of areas particularly suited for parks and recreational purposes, including areas with links between major recreation and open spaces, trails, and scenic highways. Section 65561 states that the preservation of park land is necessary not only for the maintenance of the economy of the State, but also for the assurance of the continued availability of land for the enjoyment of scenic beauty and recreation. Government Code Sections 66477 and 66479 enable local governments to require park site dedications, or fees in lieu of dedication, as conditions of subdivision and parcel map approval, if the recreational facilities are consistent with the General Plan. Trail designations are also required as part of Section 5076 of the Public Resources Code.



PARKS

Parks are public spaces that serve a variety of functions in a community. While generally provided for recreational opportunities, parklands can transcend recreational or health uses and refresh or “recreate” our minds and souls. Parks and open space lands provide a pleasing contrast to an urban environment by breaking up the monotony of high-density office, commercial and residential areas. They offer a place for social and cultural activities, providing venues for public art, and enriching and promoting the community's culture and sense of place. Parks provide for the physical and mental development of Cathedral City's youth, through the organization of team sports and competitions. Parks also apply special landscaping designs, which help to improve the community's physical attributes.



Park design should incorporate and accommodate diverse activities and uses, multi-modal access and linkage, comfort and image/character, and sociability. A park with a wide range of amenities and activities will attract a broader range of people and make a more dynamic and interesting setting. While recreational amenities are a key component, it is important to also provide for other uses, including, but not limited to cultural and social events and activities. A park should also be easy to see and easy to get to. If a park is easily accessible and linked to main areas within a community, then it will be used more frequently. Comfort and image are also important elements of park design. The details within the park should welcome people and include design amenities that offer shade and water fountains, comfortable places to sit, and a pleasant and attractive environment. Lastly, a park should be a sociable place where people can go to observe the passing scene, meet friends and have fun with a wide range of people. Above all, parks function as people places that bring residents together creating greater community cohesion and coherence.

Service Providers

Parks and recreation services within the City of Cathedral City are provided by the City. Although schools are not recreation service providers per se, they help by providing important exercise and recreation space and facilities. Where provided for, joint-use facilities enable the public to utilize a school's existing space and equipment for passive and active recreation. School facilities are a valuable and important resource that help to meet the recreational demands of the community, and joint use agreements should be pursued in more school locations throughout the City.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

For thousands of years, public parks and open space have been an integral part of the urban landscape, providing natural spaces for passive enjoyment and ballfields and courts for a variety of games and recreation. The following summarizes the range of typical park types, sizes and facilities.



Table PR-1
Standards for Recreational Areas

Type of Park Area	Acres/1,000 Population	Ideal Site Size/Min.	Radius of Area Served
Community Parks	5.0	50 ac/20 ac	4.0 miles
Neighborhood Parks	1.0	15+ac/15 ac	0.5 miles
Playgrounds	1.0	15+ac/15 ac	0.5 miles
Playfields	1.0	15 ac/15 ac	1.5 miles
Mini Parks	0.25	1 ac/0.5 ac	0.25 miles

Sources: "Standards for Outdoor Recreational Areas" Planning Advisory Service, American Planning Association. 1965.

Mini Parks, Pocket Parks, and Plazas: less than 3 acres in size; typically for limited, isolated, or unique purposes; may be in office, business, or commercial centers and utilized for rest, relaxation, socializing, and display of public art and/or landscape elements.

Neighborhood Parks: are typically 5 to 10 acres, serving an area within a 1.5-mile radius; primarily devoted to serving the recreational and social needs of a particular neighborhood; designed for active and passive recreation; generally located within walking and cycling distance of residences.

Community Parks: usually 20 acres or larger and designed to serve an area within a 5-mile radius; may include facilities for low-intensity or passive recreational opportunities, such as lighted fields, tennis and sports courts, swimming pools, and areas or buildings for community festivals and civic events, as well as organized athletic competitions.

School Parks: adjacent to, but separate from, educational facilities that may serve either a neighborhood or larger area; may include playgrounds and sports fields; joint-use agreements with school districts can help the City meet its demand for parklands.

Regional Parks: Regional parks are usually at least 50 acres in size and serve the entire City or region. While regional parks can provide for varying intensities of recreational activity, a portion of the park is generally maintained in a natural setting for passive recreation use or preservation of the environment. Facilities within regional parks are similar to those in community parks, often on a larger scale, or including active or organized recreational activities which would not fit in a community park.



Existing Park Facilities

There are currently (2019) 9 parks within the City. The following table lists each park, its classification and acreage.

Table PR-2
City of Cathedral City Parks Inventory

Park Facility	Parkland Classification	Acreage
Century Park	Neighborhood Park	5.3
Dennis Keat Soccer Park	Community Park	17.77
Second Street Park	Neighborhood Park	1.0
Memorial Park	Mini Park	0.28
Ocotillo Park	Neighborhood Park	6.14
Panorama Park	Neighborhood & Dog Park	9.49
Patriot Park	Neighborhood Park	5.1
Town Square	Mini Park	1.83
Cathedral City Community Amphitheater	Performance and Event Venue	2.3
Total Park Acreage		49.2

The *Panorama Dog Park* opened in 2022 and another is planned for relocation to lands in Downtown Cathedral City east of Cathedral Canyon Drive and between A and B Streets. The park is a collaboration between the City Council and the Cathedral City Evening Rotary Club, which has provided for the park's maintenance. Planned are two sections within the park, one for larger dogs and the other for smaller dogs. A small shade structure and benches will provide amenities for residents. The park has easy walking access to the downtown shopping and entertainment district.



Century Park provides a ball field, tennis court, and tot lot, as well as restrooms and wi-fi provided by Spectrum. Picnic amenities are provided in the form of shade structures with tables and BBQ facilities. It is along the eastern edge of Cathedral City at the intersection of Century Park Drive and Da Vall Drive, approximately one mile north of Ramon Road.

Dennis Keat Soccer Park is located at 69400 30th Avenue and includes a large ball field for field sports. Other park amenities include restrooms, wi-fi, shade structures, public art and walking paths.

Festival Lawn is adjacent a part of the City Civic Center, at 68600 Avenida Lalo Guerrero. The Festival Lawn is a temporary facility and hosts three signature events: "Taste of Jalisco Festival," "Cathedral City LGBT Days," and "Cathedral City Hot Air Balloon Festival" on more than one acre of lawn space. A wide variety of other community events are also held at this venue. Parking is provided at the nearby public parking structure.

Memorial Park was constructed to honor the service of Officer David Vasquez, a Cathedral City Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty in 1988. This public park is in intended as an area for personal reflection and relaxation. There is a memorial bench located among trees and floral displays. The park's location is 68600 Officer David Vasquez Road, also named to honor the fallen officer.

Park and Amphitheater

The City's new 2.5 acre Community Amphitheater at the corner of Cathedral Canyon Drive and Avenida Lalo Guerrero will be used as a music and theater venue, and for other cultural, entertainment, and recreational uses.



Ocotillo Park is located at 33300 Moreno Road and provides ballfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, a skateboard park, tot lot, BBQ grills and tables, wi-fi and a skate park, mixed use ball field, and tot lot.

Panorama Park is located at 28905 Avenida Maravilla and is one of the city's oldest parks. It was set aside as a public park in 1960 and dedicated June 4, 1989 after undergoing a dramatic transformation adding numerous activities and sporting areas. It also includes a dog park (2022).

Patriot Park is located at 33998 Date Palm Drive. The park provides residents with shade structures, and public restrooms, as well as public art.

Second Street Park is a small neighborhood park in Cathedral City's downtown area. Located at 68752 Buddy Rogers Avenue, Second Street Park is one of Cathedral City's oldest parks.

Town Square is in front of City Hall and the Fountain of Life at 68701 Avenida Lalo Guerrero. Amenities include benches and seating, public art pieces, and a rose garden and lush landscaping.

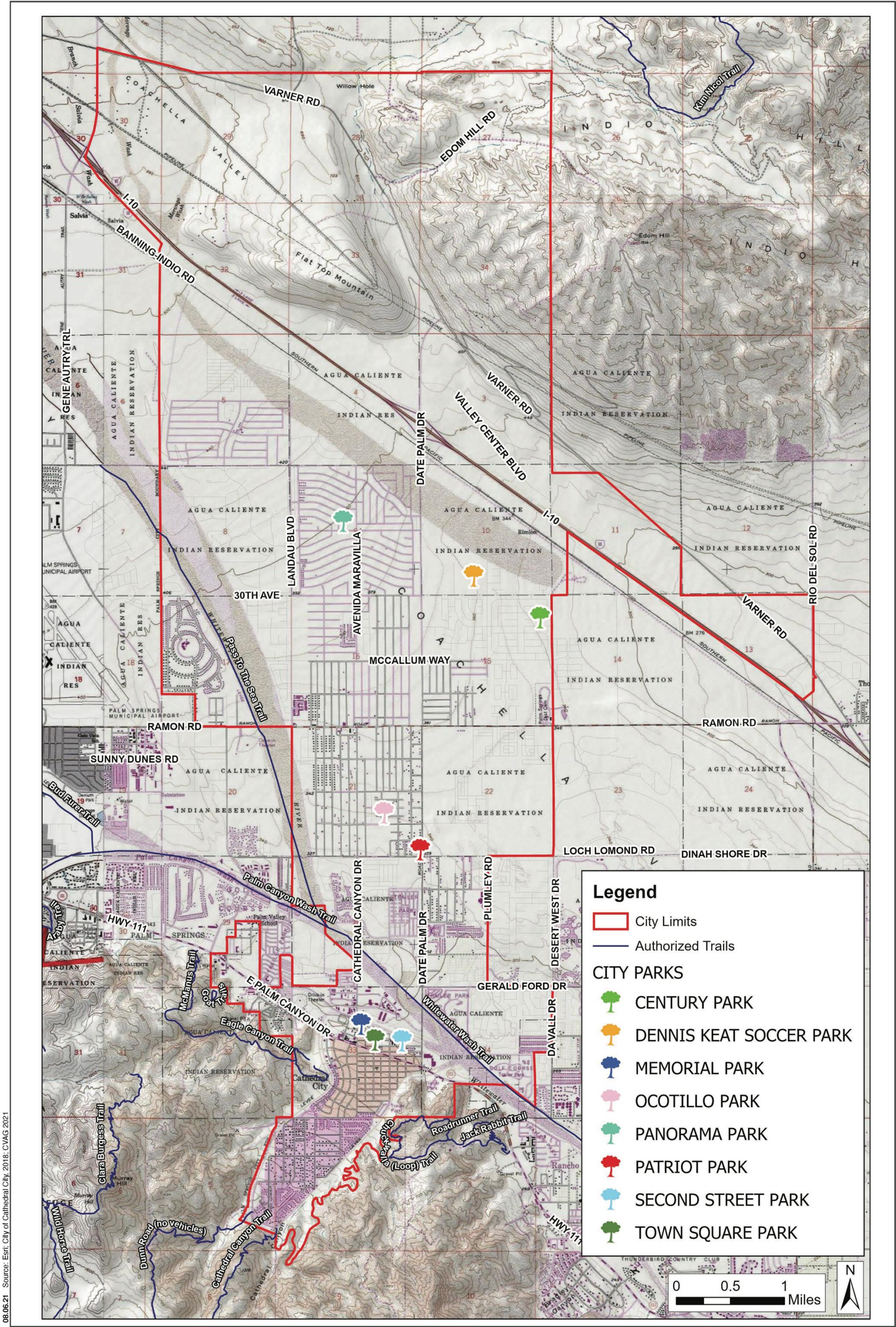


Acquired and Undeveloped Park Land

The City has continued to acquire parkland to further expand park and recreational services. Table PR-3 identifies acquired parkland that will be developed as public parks in the future, and includes the Dream River Park lands also listed in Table PR-2, above. The City is actively exploring partnerships with such entities as the Desert Health District and others. Such collaboration can extend the value and usefulness of City parks lands now and in the future.

Table PR-3
City of Cathedral Undeveloped Park Land (2019)

LOCATION	ACREAGE
Next to the Salvation Army building on Landau	3.72 acres
In the Whitewater neighborhood	5.05 acres
Railroad track area north end of town	19.31 acres
Adjacent to Rancho Mirage	26.44 acres
Future Park adjacent to Dream Homes	7.85 acres
Western part of Cove	65.93 acres
Total	128.3 acres



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Although private recreational facilities should not be relied upon to meet the City's recreational needs, they do make up a significant portion of recreational opportunities throughout the Valley.

Cathedral City Boys and Girls Club

The Cathedral City Boys and Girls Club is privately operated by the Boys and Girls Club of the Coachella Valley and located at 32141 Whispering Palms Trail. The program primarily focuses on after-school programs, but summer and off-school day camps are also offered. Core program elements include character and leadership skills, health and lifetime skills, sports, fitness and recreation, education, and career programs, arts, and specialized programs such as a digital skills and a culinary program.



Cathedral City Senior Center

The Cathedral City Senior Center is a 501c(3) non-profit organization that derives its funding principally from individuals, foundations and corporations, and from special events and offers a number of activities and support services for the senior population. The facility is located on 37171 West Buddy Rogers Avenue. Programs include meals, tables games, dance, and health-related programs, among others.



Boomers

The Boomers Amusement Park provides the city with an assortment of go-karts, two 18-hole miniature golf courses, batting cages, bumper boats, a 32-foot rock wall climb, and an arcade with over 100 state-of-the-art video games. Boomers is also available for birthday parties and other organized events.

Big League Dreams Sports Park

The Big League Dreams Sport is a 20,000 sq. ft. indoor soccer pavilion, with flag football fields, batting cages, and a Stadium Club restaurant. The facility provides a space for adult softball and indoor soccer leagues, tournaments (baseball, fastpitch and softball), and special events.



Future Opportunities

The City is exploring other opportunities to expand parks, recreational lands and facilities, and bikeways and other active transportation. The expansion of CV Link and its connectors will enhance multi-modal access to City parks and recreation lands. The City is also coordinating with local hiking organizations and others to enhance access to the unique open space activities in the City and the Coachella Valley.

Golf Courses

Golf courses also contribute significantly to the recreational opportunities of the Valley. While the majority of golf courses are associated with resort residential development in the City, they are used frequently by residents and visitors throughout the Valley. The City is home to the Cimarron, Cathedral Canyon Country Club, Date Palm Country Club and Desert Princess golf courses, which all are accessible to the public. It is also important to note that golf courses are an integral part of the City's and region's economy. Five public/private golf courses are open and available for public play. They include:



- Cimarron Golf Course
- Date Palm Country Club
- Desert Princess Country Club
- Cathedral Canyon Country Club
- Outdoor Resorts Executive Golf Course



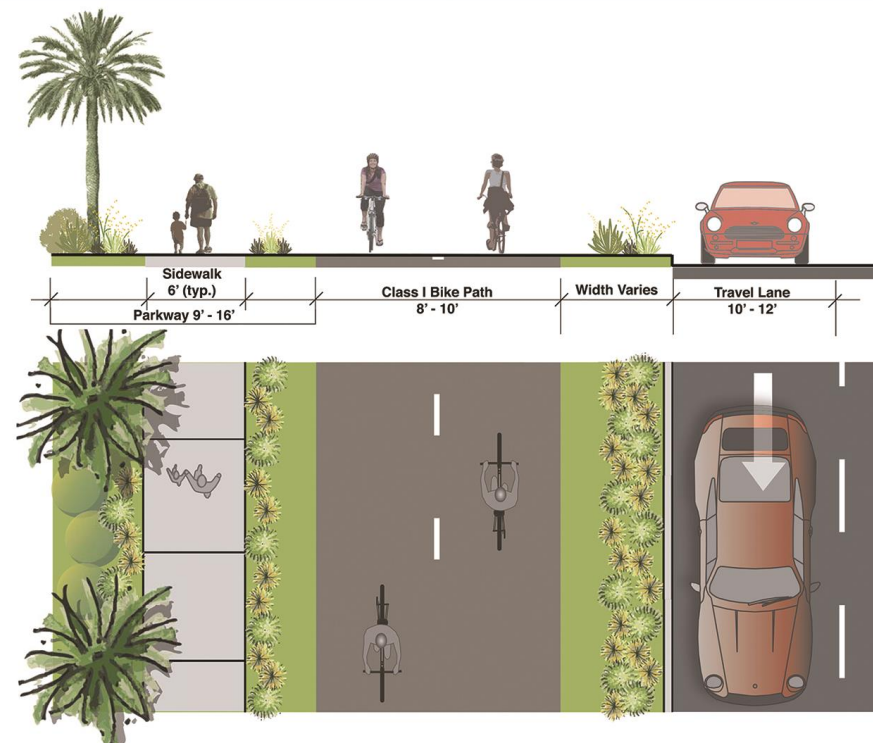
TRAILS, BIKEWAYS, AND WALKING PATHS

Bikeways, trails, and pathways are valuable recreational and community resources. A complete network of bikeways and pedestrian pathways within an urban environment helps reduce reliance on automobiles and contributes to a healthier city. Biking and pedestrian amenities help promote a sense of community by encouraging people to interact, increasing opportunities for physical fitness, and enhancing access to various land uses in the city, including shopping and employment centers. Hiking allows people to take pleasure in, and gain appreciation for, an area's natural resources and open spaces. Bicycle facilities are identified in I, II or III classifications (see Exhibit PR-2, below).



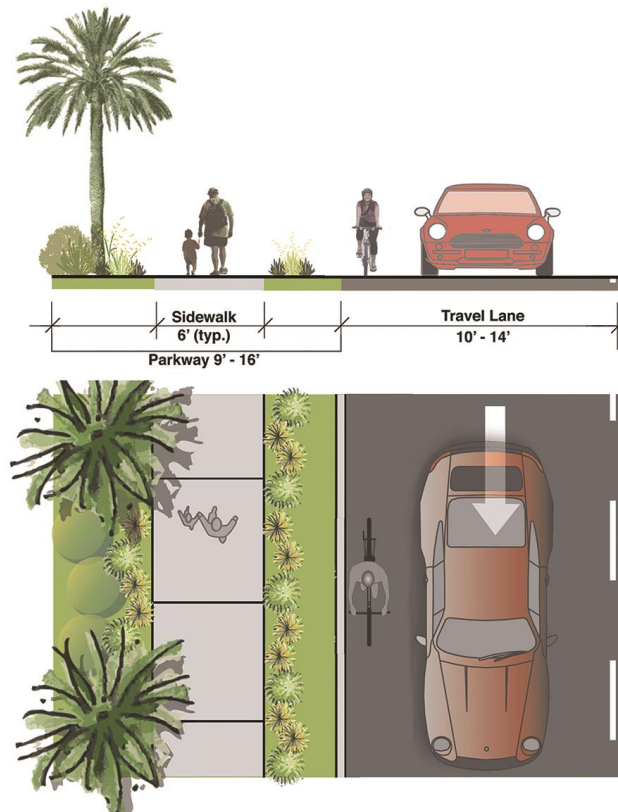
CLASS I BIKEWAY

The Class I bikeway is a bicycle path that is completely separated from a roadway or highway and is often in the form of a combined pedestrian and bicycle pathway. Class I facilities support both recreational and commuting opportunities. Common applications include CV Link and other facilities along stormwater channels, utility rights-of-way, railroad rights-of-way, within school campuses, or within and between parks.



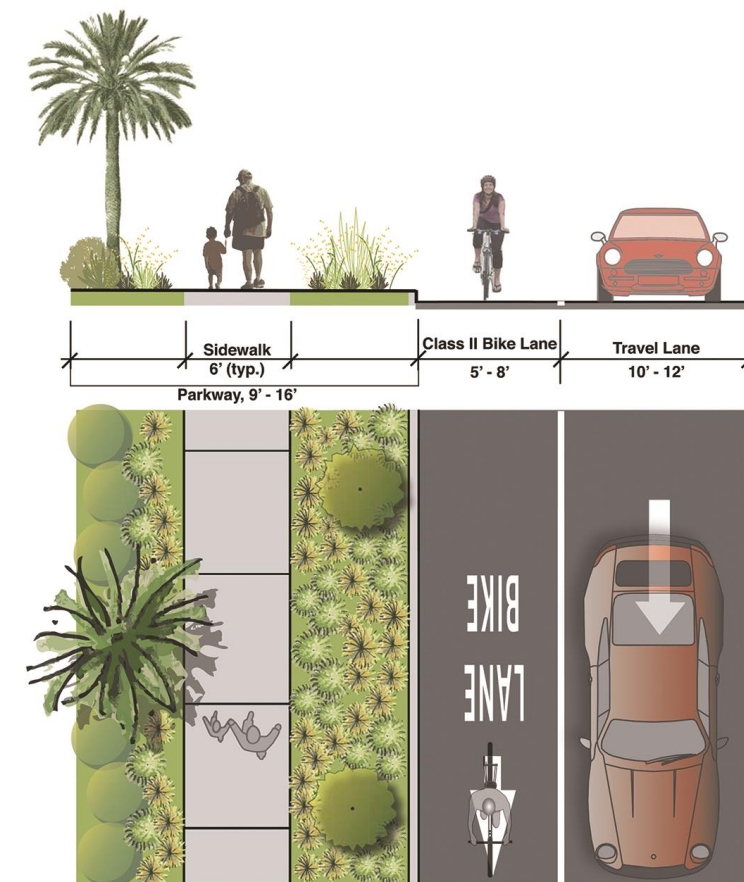
CLASS III BIKEWAY

Class III bikeways are designated but unmarked bike routes that are located on the street amidst vehicular traffic. These bikeways, or bike routes, designate a preferred route for bicyclists on streets shared with motor traffic not served by dedicated bikeways to provide continuity to the bikeway network. Class III bike routes are generally not appropriate for roadways with higher motor traffic speeds or volumes. Bike routes are established by placing bike route signs and optional shared roadway markings (sharrow) along roadways.



CLASS II BIKEWAY

Class II bikeways are signed and striped bicycle lanes within the paved section of the street. They provide a restricted right-of-way, with through travel by motorists or pedestrians prohibited, but with crossflows of pedestrian and motor traffic permitted. These bike lanes are typically established along streets and are defined by pavement striping and signage to delineate the portion of the roadway for bicycle travel. Bike lanes are one-way facilities, typically striped adjacent to motor traffic travelling in the same direction. Contraflow bike lanes can be provided on one-way streets for bicyclists travelling in the opposite direction.



As shown below in Table PR-4, in 2018 the City has five Class I (bike path) and nine Class II (bike lane) bikeways, totaling 29.3 miles in length.

Table PR-4
City of Cathedral Existing Bikeways

<u>Street/Path</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Length (mi.)</u>
Whitewater River (south Bank)	Cathedral Canyon Drive	East of Date Palm Drive	Class I (Bike path)	0.7
Vista Chino Road	Cathedral City Western city limit	Date Palm Drive	Class II (Bike lanes)	2
30th Avenue	Landau Boulevard	Da Vall Drive	Class II (Bike lanes)	1.5
Landau Boulevard	Vista Chino Road	Ramon Road	Class II (Bike lanes)	2.3
Cathedral Canyon Drive	Ramon Road	Hwy 111	Class II (Bike lanes)	2.4
Victoria Drive	Date Palm Drive	Plumley Road	Class II (Bike lanes)	0.5
Palm Drive	Desert Hot Springs City Limit (Camino Aventura)	I-10	Class II (Bike lanes)	2.1
Da Vall Drive	30th Avenue	Frank Sinatra Drive	Class I (Bike path)	4
Da Vall Drive	30th Avenue	Frank Sinatra Drive	Class II (Bike lanes)	4
Gerald Ford Drive	Plumley Road	Monterey Avenue	Class II (Bike lanes)	3.5
Gerald Ford Drive	Plumley Road	Monterey Avenue	Class I (Bike path)	3.5
Plumley Road	Dinah Shore Drive	Converse Road	Class I (Bike path)	0.8
Ramon Road	Da Vall Drive (beyond City Limits)	Los Alamos Drive	Class II (Bike lanes)	1
Ramon Road	Da Vall Drive (beyond City Limits)	Los Alamos	Class I (Bike path)	1
Total Current Length =				29.3

In the future, the City plans to add approximately 40 miles of new bikeways. Table PR-5 demonstrates that the city would more than double its current facilities by approximately 132%.

Table PR-5
Cathedral City Bikeways & Multi-Modal Facilities

Street Name	Segment	Classification	Length (Miles)	Notes
Off Street (CV Link)	Date Palm Dr to Palm Springs Motors/Motel 6	Class I Future	0.68	
Ramon Rd	Landau Blvd to DaVall	Class I Future	2.01	(Adjusted to remove lengths outside city limits, rounded)
Valley Center Bl	Palm Drive to Varner/Bob Hope	Class I Future	7.33	
Varner Rd	Palm Drive to Bob Hope Drive	Class I Future	7.67	
Bob Hope Dr/Rio Del Sol	30th Ave to I-10	Class I Future	0.84	
		Total Class I Future:	18.53	
Dinah Shore	Paseo De La Palma to DaVall	Class I Off Road Shared	1.89	(Adjusted to remove lengths outside city limits, rounded)
		Total Class I Off Road Shared:	1.89	
E Palm Cyn Dr	Golf Club to Buddy Rogers Ave	Class II Future	2.23	(Adjusted to remove lengths outside city limits, rounded)
Date Palm Dr	Varner Rd to E. Palm Canyon Dr	Class II Future	5.80	
Perez Rd	E. Palm Canyon to Kyle Road (east)	Shared NEV/Class I Bike Path Future	0.33	
Gerald Ford Dr	Date Palm to Da Vall	Class II Future	0.99	
Da Vall Dr	Varner Rd to Dinah Shore Dr	Class II Future	3.24	
Santoro Dr	McCallum Way to Ramon Rd	Class II Future	0.50	
Tachevah Dr	Santoro to Vista Chino	Class II Future	0.23	
Vista Chino	Date Palm to Da Vall	Class II Future	1.20	
Palm Dr	Varner Rd to I-10	Class II Future	0.91	
Landau Bl	Valley Center Blvd to Vista Chino	Class II Future	1.22	
		Total Class II Future:	16.64	
Cathedral Cyn Dr	Ramon Rd to E. Palm Canyon	Class II On Street Bike Lane	2.45	
Victoria Drive	Date Palm to Plumley Rd	Class II On Street Bike Lane	0.50	
Landau Blvd	Vista Chino to Ramon Road	Class II On Street Bike Lanes	2.00	
Vista Chino	Ave Maravilla to Date Palm	Class II On Street Bike Lanes	0.49	
Vista Chino	Wash/City Limits to Ave Quintana	Class II On Street Bike Lanes	0.50	
		Total Class II On Street Bike Lanes:	5.94	

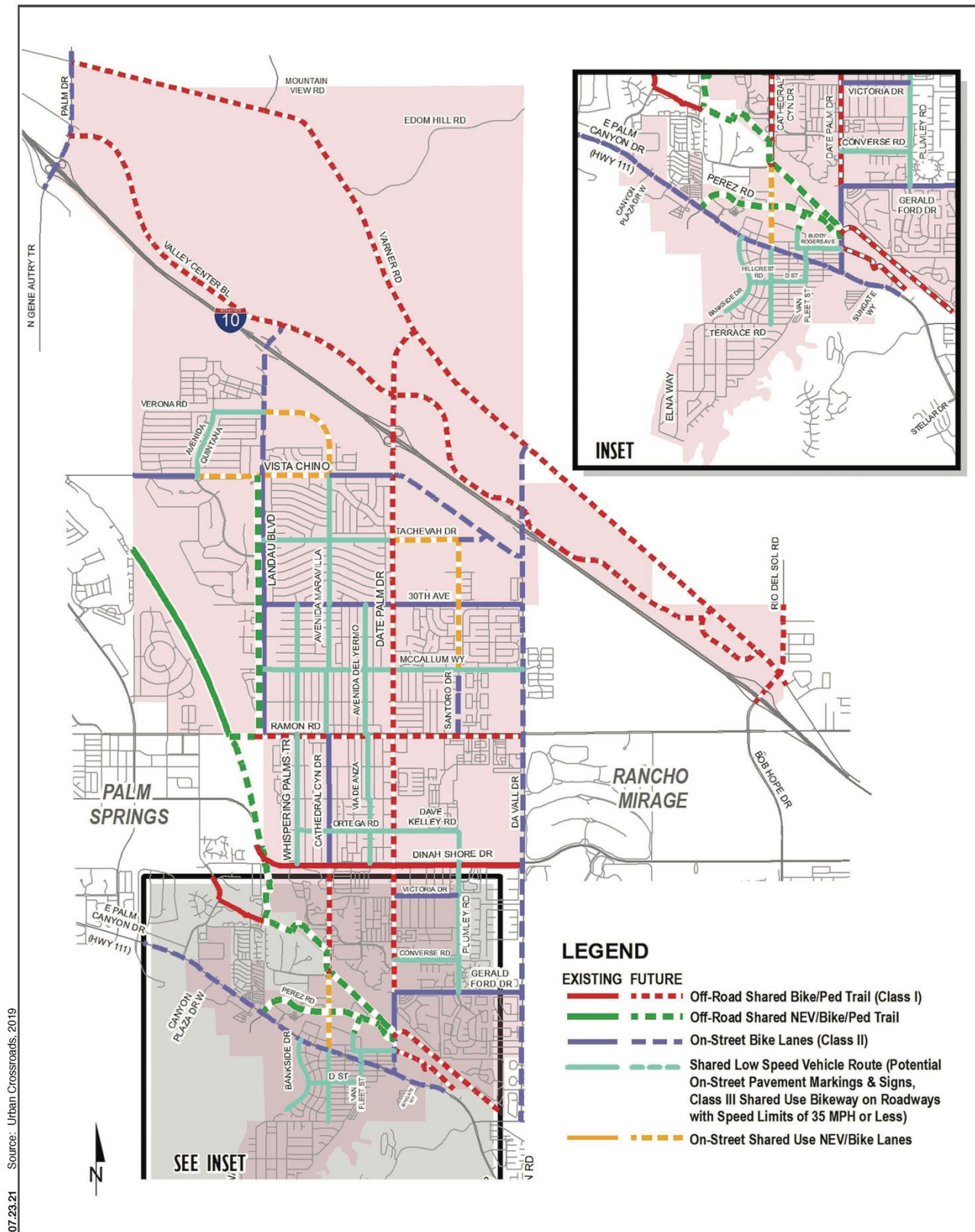
Table PR-5
Cathedral City Bikeways & Multi-Modal Facilities

Street Name	Segment	Classification	Length (Miles)	Notes
Bankside Drive	E. Palm Cyn to Farrell Ln	Class III On Street Shared	0.63	
Hillcrest Rd	Bankside Drive to Cathedral Canyon Dr	Class III On Street Shared	0.15	
Cathedral Cyn Dr	Palm Canyon to Terrace Rd	Class III On Street Shared	0.55	
D St	Cathedral Canyon to Van Fleet Ave	Class III On Street Shared	0.25	
Van Fleet	D St to Buddy Rogers	Class III On Street Shared	0.24	
Buddy Rogers Dr	Civic Center to Date Palm	Class III On Street Shared	0.32	
Civic Center E	Civic Center N to Buddy Rogers	Class III On Street Shared	0.13	
Plumley Rd	Dinah Shore to Gerald Ford	Class III On Street Shared	1.00	
Converse Rd	Date Palm to Plumley Rd	Class III On Street Shared	0.51	
Whispering Palms Tr	30th Ave to Dinah Shore	Class III On Street Shared	2.01	
Ortega Rd/Plumley Rd	Whispering Palms to Plumley Rd to Dinah Shore	Class III On Street Shared	1.50	
Via De Anza	33rd Ave to Dinah Shore	Class III On Street Shared	0.50	
Desert Vista	Ramon Rd to 33rd Ave	Class III On Street Shared	0.51	
Avenida Maravilla	Vista Chino to Ramon Rd	Class III On Street Shared	2.01	
Ave Del Yermo	30th to Ramon	Class III On Street Shared	1.00	
Tachevah Dr	Landau to Date Palm	Class III On Street Shared	1.00	
Avenida Quintana	Verona Rd to Vista Chino	Class III On Street Shared	0.53	
Verona Rd	Ave Quintana to Landau Blvd	Class III On Street Shared	0.39	
McCallum Way	Landau Blvd to DaVall	Class III On Street Shared	2.00	
30th Ave	Landau Blvd to DaVall	Class III On Street Shared	2.00	
		Total Class III On Street Shared:	17.21	
Off Road	Perez Rd to Civic Center N	Off Road Shared NEV/Bike Future	0.15	
Off Street (CV Link)	Wash/Cat Cyn Golf Club to Date Palm Drive	Off Road Shared NEV/Bike Future	1.30	(Adjusted to remove lengths outside city limits, rounded)
Off Road (CV Link?)	Dinah Shore to Cat Cyn Golf Club	Off Road Shared NEV/Bike Future	0.51	(Adjusted to remove lengths outside city limits, rounded)
Landau Blvd	Vista Chino to 30th Ave	Off Road Shared NEV/Bike Future	2.00	
		Total Off Road Shared NEV/Bike Future:	3.95	
Off Street (Cv Link)	Bernardi Ln to Ramon Rd	Off Road Shared NEV/Bike	1.62	
		Total Off Road Shared NEV/Bike:	1.62	miles

Table PR-5
Cathedral City Bikeways & Multi-Modal Facilities

Street Name	Segment	Classification	Length (Miles)	Notes
Perez Rd	Kyle Rd (east) to Date Palm	Shared NEV/Class I Bike Path Future	0.82	
Santoro Dr	Tachevah Dr to McCallum Way	Shared NEV/Class I Bike Path Future	1.00	
Tachevah Dr	Date Palm To Santoro	Shared NEV/Class I Bike Path Future	0.50	
Vista Chino	Ave Quintana to Ave Maravilla	Shared NEV/ Bike Lanes Future	1.02	
Verona Rd	Landau Blvd to Vista Chino	Shared NEV/ Bike Lanes Future	0.89	
		Total Shared NEV/ Bike Lanes Future:	4.23	
		TOTAL ALL CLASSES:	70.00	

Source: Cathedral City Active Transportation Plan, Public Works Department and Urban Crossroads, Inc. 2019



07.23.21 Source: Urban Crossroads, 2019

Multi-Modal Facilities



CV Link is an approved ± 50 -mile non-motorized, multi-modal transportation path that passes through some of the most developed and populated portions of the Coachella Valley, providing access and connectivity between residential, commercial, recreational, institutional, and other land uses throughout the region, and providing recreational opportunities for pathway users. Cathedral City

has led the way with the implementation of CV Link, building the first segment atop the levee of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel between Vista Chino and Ramon Road in Cathedral City; it became operational in February 2018.

Hiking Trails

The Coachella Valley is surrounded by a complex regional trail system which occurs primarily in the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains. Trails beginning on the valley floor connect to mountain trails which can lead hikers to Idyllwild, the top of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, and beyond. The discussion below includes trails located in and around the City.

The **Art Smith Trail** is a 16-mile long trail that extends through the Santa Rosa Mountains from Palm Canyon in Palm Springs to Palm Desert. This is a strenuous hike with a 1,200-foot elevation gain. The trail traverses the entire ridgeline of the Santa Rosa Mountains, which exhibits abundant plant and animal life. The Art Smith Trail accommodates hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use.

The **Murray Hill Trail** is located in the eastern portion of Palm Springs and accessed behind the 1905 Elks Lodge on Elks Trail. The 10-mile trail climbs 2,100 feet to the top of Murray Hill. It also offers links to other trails around Murray Hill, including the Clara Burgess and Wildhorse Trails, and access to the Eagle Canyon Oasis. The peak of Murray Hill offers views of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Palm Canyon, and the San Jacinto Mountains.



The **Araby Trail**, also called the "trail to the stars," climbs above the Bob Hope Estate and the home of the late Steve McQueen. The trail is accessed off of Rimcrest/Southridge Road in Palm Springs. It is a moderate, 6-mile hike, with an 800-foot elevation gain. It connects with the Berns/Garstin/Henderson Trails and other smaller trails in the foothills.



The **Earl Henderson Trail** and **Shannon Trail Loop** are located on the ridges and plateaus surrounding Murray Hill, east of Palm Canyon. They offer scenic views of south Palm Springs and the San Jacinto Mountains. The Earl Henderson Trail is 4 miles, with an elevation gain of 400 feet. The Shannon Trail Loop is 7 miles and gains 1,000 feet in elevation. Both trails can be accessed from Araby Drive in Palm Springs.

Eagle Canyon Trail is a 2-mile hiking and equestrian trail in the Santa Rosa Mountain foothills abutting the City, which can be accessed from the Garstin, Shannon, or Araby trails west of Cathedral City. It provides spectacular views of the surrounding mountains, Palm Canyon and the valley floor.

On the north side of the City, trail opportunities are more limited. The **Long Canyon Trail** is accessed from a trailhead north of the city limits and Long Canyon Road. It extends into Joshua Tree National Park, and although strenuous, can serve as access to facilities and trails within the park.

The 5.6-mile **Kim Nicol Trail** is located immediately north of the city limits and winds through the north end of the Indio Hills along faults and sensitive wildlife habitat with dramatic views in all directions. The trail is also accessible to cyclists and equestrians.

PARK PLANNING

Cathedral City Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2005)

In 2005, the City adopted the Cathedral City Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Year 2005 in order to provide specific recommendations to serve as guidance to the city’s parks and recreational resources management. The Plan also includes a priority listing of the suggested actions and possible funding options for the recommendations. Data that was used as basis for the recommendations is included in the Plan, these data consists of population analysis, existing park and recreational resources inventory and usage, population and distance to recreational resources formulas based on nationally and locally established parks and recreation standards, and an analysis of public input.

Quimby Act

The Quimby Act (Government Code Section 66477), a section within the Subdivision Map Act, allows local governments to adopt an ordinance to require the dedication of land or payment of fees for park and recreational purposes. However, before such a condition can be validly attached to the approval of a map, the following criteria must be met:

- The ordinance must be in effect for a period of thirty days before filing tentative or parcel map
- The ordinance must include definitive standards for determining the proportion of the subdivision to be dedicated or the amount of the fee to be paid. The dedication or payment shall not exceed a proportionate amount necessary to provide three acres of park per 1,000 subdivision residents.
- The land or fees are to be used only for the purpose of developing new or rehabilitating existing park or recreational facilities to serve the subdivision.
- The city must have a general plan or specific plan containing policies and standards for park and recreational facilities in accordance with definite principles and standards.
- The city shall develop a schedule specifying how, when and where it will use the land or fees to develop park and recreational facilities.
- Only the payment of fees may be required for subdivisions containing fifty parcels or fewer.

Based on the City’s current population of 54,791 persons (CA Department of Finance, 2018) and the Quimby Act recommendation of three acres per thousand population, the City needs 164.37 acres of parkland to serve its current population; it currently has only 28 acres. With a maximum potential General Plan buildout population of 159,998, the City could need approximately 472.59 acres of parkland to meet this standard in the future. This number is very conservative in light of the substantial number of second homes in the City. The long-term permanent population at City buildout will be closer to 140,000 and require approximately 420 acres of parkland.

Other Park Development Standards

The 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the General Plan establish parkland standard, which are also sometimes modified in project Specific Plans and individual development agreements, serving as general and project-specific guidance projects. Please see Table PR-1, above.

PARK AND RECREATION FUNDING SOURCES

In 2003, the Parks and Recreation Department was removed from City financial support due to budget constraints. The City continues to maintain a five-member citizen-based Parks and Community Events Commission to assess the community's recreational services and facilities, and to advise the City Council regarding funding, recreational programming, parks facilities and usage, and related issues.

To assist with the operations and maintenance of the existing parks, several Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance Districts (LLD's) were formed to provide electrical power to street lights, landscape irrigation, and maintenance of parkways. Currently, there are eleven LLD's; assessments range from \$11.29 to \$275.18 per household annually. The City provides financial assistance for programs at the Cathedral City Senior Center and Boys and Girls Club.

Although assuring adequate funding for the acquisition of parkland can be challenging for many cities, there are statewide programs to help, as described below.

- *Park In-Lieu Fees* - stem from the Quimby Act. They provide for dedication of land for parks, or where a subdivision is small, a fee in-lieu of dedicating land. The limitations of this type of financing are that infill projects are exempt, and the fee applies primarily to parkland and land improvements in new neighborhoods.
- *Development Impact Fees* - apply only to new development and may only be assessed for new capital costs related to the new development where a defined beneficiary relationship to cost can be established. Within these limitations, park facility fees may be established for all land uses under the premise that residents, workers, shoppers, and tourists use City parks.
- *Development Agreements* - are contracts between the City and a developer that outline in detail the responsibilities of each party, resulting in a commitment to the developer of vested rights to subdivide and develop. With development agreements, the developer is assured the right to develop in exchange for negotiated exactions, which can include parks or park fees.
 - Mello Roos Districts
 - Benefit Assessment Districts
 - General Obligation Bonds

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Currently, Cathedral City's parkland acreage lacks approximately 69 acres to meet the recommended Quimby Act standard of three acres per 1,000 residents. The City will strive to adopt park acreage standards, identify appropriate locations for future parks and related open space, evaluate funding options, and continue to develop parks and recreational facilities that best meet the needs of the community. It will continue to develop a complete



network of bikeways and pedestrian pathways. The network should be linked to important activity nodes within the community to decrease the dependence on vehicles and promote physical activity.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Goal 1: A City-wide system of parks, open space and other recreational amenities and programs that at a minimum satisfy Quimby Act standards.

Goal 2: An active transportation system that accommodates pedestrians, bicyclists and others and connects them to City and regional parks, recreation opportunities and open space.

Goal 3: A wide offering of facilities and programs supporting and encouraging physical activity, social interaction, and enhanced social cohesion in the community parks, recreation and open space areas.

Policy 1: Ensure that the city has a diverse and equitably distributed system of parks, playgrounds, and open space that adequately serve current and future needs of residents. Ensure that parks, playgrounds, and open spaces are well maintained and safe for families, children, and seniors, and maximize the use of existing resources to serve current and future needs of residents.

Program 1.A: Maintain and, where appropriate, upgrade existing facilities and diversify activities programming.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 1.B: Periodically conduct a needs assessment for recreation programs and services with local residents.

Responsible Parties: City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Every five years

Program 1.C: Maintain and where possible expand use of joint-use agreements with the Palm Springs Unified School District to use school properties for public use during non-school hours.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 1.D: Update the 2005 Cathedral City Parks and Recreation Master Plan to include an updated facilities and program analysis, and five to ten-year master plan for future park and open space lands and recreation programs.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Every ten years

Program 1.E: Concurrent with the update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, evaluate the distribution of existing and planned park and recreation lands, and the distribution of under-served or otherwise disadvantaged neighborhoods, and ensure that the need of all sectors of the community are well served.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Every ten years

Program 1.F: Upon completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update the City shall adopt population-based parkland acreage standards for all sizes and types of parks and recreation areas.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development, City Council.

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 1.G: Investigate the broad range of sources of purchase financing and operating revenue, including Development Impact Fees, Mello Roos special districts, public/private ventures, state and federal grant opportunities, developer fees and inter-agency joint use agreements to supplement revenues collected for parks and recreation projects.

Responsible Agency: Parks and Recreation Division; City Council; Planning Commission

Schedule: Immediate; Continuous

Policy 2: Promote the City's Active Transportation Plan (ATP) as an integral part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, supporting the expansion of pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit access to City parks, recreation areas and open space lands.

Program 2.A: Improve and expand pedestrian and bicycle access and connections to regional parks and open space by implementing the City ATP, including the striping and/or construction of new and improved sidewalks and multi-class bikeways.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.B: Implement the General Plan Circulation and Mobility Element, the ATP and other components of the City's transportation plan that address safe pedestrian, bicycle and ADA access to transit connections and facilities, especially those located between residential neighborhoods and parks and open space.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.C: Develop and explore programs that encourage bicycle commuting or testing innovative facility designs to accommodate bicycles, scooters and LSEVs.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Community Development, Public Works

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 2.D: Enhance accessibility throughout the planning of park areas and facilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and include increased wheelchair accessibility and other requirements needed for the elderly and disabled.

Responsible Agency: Community Development, Public Works Department

Schedule: Ongoing

Policy 3: Improve the quality of the built and natural environment in the city to support a thriving community and to enhance human and environmental health, especially for low-income and disadvantaged populations and all members of the community.

Program 3.A: Adopt design and planning guidelines that enhance safety in parks, playgrounds, streets, and public places.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.B: Require new development, redevelopment, and public works projects to incorporate these guidelines when developing streets, parks, playgrounds, and other public places.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.C: Encourage or require the provision of recreation space in private development.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Community Development, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 3.D: Recreation space and amenities should be required and provided in large developments, especially in areas of high population and building density.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Policy 4: Promote bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation rider safety.

Program 4.A: Regularly review and, as necessary, update the Active Transportation Plan to ensure a comprehensive and convenient bicycle and pedestrian transportation network.

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 4.B: Identify and program physical improvements, such as crosswalks, sidewalk improvements, signs, and traffic signalization, that would make bicycle and pedestrian travel safer to parks and recreational facilities

Responsible Parties: City Council, City Engineer/Public Works, Community Development, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 4.C: Provide children with safe and appealing opportunities for walking and bicycling to school in order to decrease rush hour traffic and fossil fuel consumption, encourage exercise and healthy living habits, and reduce the risk of injury.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Community Development, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing

Program 4.D: Collaborate with CVAG, Coachella Valley jurisdictions, and other relevant agencies to support the completion of all planned CV Link segments and expansion of community connector links, particularly those in Cathedral City and neighboring communities.

Responsible Parties: City Council, Community Development, Environmental Conservation Manager

Schedule: Immediate; Ongoing