

4.12 RECREATION

This section of the EIR describes the current recreational uses on the UCI campus, including recreational facilities and programs, and off-campus recreational uses in the campus vicinity. The analysis section addresses whether implementation of the 2007 LRDP would lead to a physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities due to an increased use of those facilities associated with the 2007 LRDP. It also discusses the recreational facilities that would be constructed under the 2007 LRDP and whether the development of those facilities would result in an adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.12.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The UCI campus provides extensive access to a broad range of recreational facilities, activities, and services that reflect the varied recreational and leisure needs of students, faculty, and staff. Recreational facilities include existing outdoor playing fields, running tracks, courts (i.e., tennis and basketball), swimming pools, and turf areas. Indoor facilities for multi-purpose sports and fitness training, gymnastics, dance and other cultural activities are also provided. Such areas and facilities include Aldrich Park, the Anteater Recreation Center (ARC), and the Crawford Athletics Complex.

Off-campus recreational opportunities are also available, including the numerous City, County, and State parks and private health clubs located in the vicinity of the campus, as well as throughout the City of Irvine and Orange County. On- and off-campus recreational opportunities are discussed in greater detail in the following sections.

4.12.1.1 ON-CAMPUS RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Recreational Facilities

There are two major recreational facilities located on campus: the Crawford Athletics Complex, located on the West Campus and the ARC, located on the East Campus. The Crawford Athletics Complex is home to the University intercollegiate athletic teams.

The Crawford Athletics Complex is UCI's original athletic center. This facility, located on a 45-acre site, serves Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education Programs. The Complex consists of several facilities: Bren Events Center, Crawford Gym, Track and Field Stadium, Tennis Complex, Sports Fields, 25-meter swimming/diving pool, and the Anteater Ballpark. Other recreational facilities such as basketball courts, tennis courts, and play fields can be found throughout the campus, primarily in residential areas.

The ARC is a 50-acre site dedicated primarily to Fitness and Wellness, Intramural Sports, and Physical Education Programs. This facility offers indoor courts for basketball, volleyball, and racquetball, a state-of-the-art fitness center with free weights, resistance machines, and cardio-vascular equipment, an aquatics plaza, rock climbing wall, outdoor tennis and basketball courts, an outdoor hockey rink, outdoor playing fields, and running tracks.

UCI also retains an integrated system of open space corridors consisting of Aldrich Park a 16-acre park located in the center of the Academic Core, greenbelts, buffer zones, and habitat corridors. These linkages provide a passive open space network which is primarily used for non-consumptive activities such as wildlife observation, walking, and biking.

Recreational Programs

UCI provides a variety of recreational programs for students, faculty, and staff, as well as the community, which in some cases uses the campus's recreational facilities, and in other cases, provides alternate means for recreational opportunities. Several of these recreational programs are listed below:

- **Aquatics.** Aquatics programs serve UCI students and the community with a variety of offerings at the aquatics plaza located at the ARC, such as recreational lap swimming, masters swimming, swim classes, water aerobics, and scuba classes.
- **Intramural Sports.** UCI offers a wide range of intramural sports including basketball, flag football, volleyball, softball, tennis, soccer, bowling, and water polo.
- **Outback Adventures.** This campus recreational program offers outings such as sailing, kayaking, and rock climbing to UCI students, faculty, and staff.
- **Recreational Classes.** A variety of classes are offered to UCI students, faculty, and staff, for a wide range of disciplines including aquatics, dance and rhythm, fitness, yoga, martial arts, mind and body, safety, sports, and wellness.
- **Sports Clubs.** UCI Sports Clubs differs from other athletic programs on campus by providing a refuge for certain sports that are not governed by the NCAA, and unlike the Intramural program, involves competition with other schools.
- **Weightrooms and Wellness.** The fitness center, located in the ARC, has a complete line of free weights, resistance machines, and cardio-vascular equipment. Personal training and weight training and group exercise classes are also offered.

The UCI Campus Recreation Department is responsible for the operation of recreational programming at the various facilities throughout the campus. The department manages the various programs through principal program directors in recreational classes, intramurals, operations, and aquatics. This department hires instructors for all of the recreation classes offered on campus, such as martial arts, yoga, aerobics, and dance. The Recreation Department determines what types and how many classes are offered on the UCI campus.

Facilities Usage

UCI's recreational facilities are used by students, faculty, staff, and members of the community. Students are not required to pay for use of UCI recreational facilities because it is included in their fees. However, faculty, staff, and members of the community are required to purchase recreation cards from the campus. Students use the campus recreational facilities the most during the fall, winter, and spring quarters. The busiest times of the year at recreational facilities are at the beginnings of each quarter. The least active times of the year are at the end of the quarter, when finals become a priority for students.

From July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, approximately 22,207 memberships to the ARC were provided free of charge or purchased. As shown in Table 4.12-1, 20,156 of these memberships were issued to students.

Table 4.12-1. Current ARC Memberships

	2005-2006 Population	2005-2006 ARC Memberships
Students	23,155	20,156
Faculty/Staff	4,826	1,028
Family	***	686
Alumni	***	323
Affiliates	***	74
Total	***	22,207

4.12.1.2 OFF-CAMPUS RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are several city and county parks in the vicinity of the UCI campus, including a regional park, two community parks, and several neighborhoods parks. William R. Mason Regional Park is managed by Orange County. Located less than one-half mile north of the Main Campus, this 345-acre park offers picnic areas, softball back stop, large turf areas, hiking and bicycling trails, two sand volleyball courts, a physical fitness parcourse, three tot lot playgrounds, amphitheater, and 9-acre lake. Mason Park also offers a 123-acre wilderness/natural area.

The City of Irvine manages community and neighborhood parks within the city. Turtle Rock Community Park, a 25-acre park located less than one mile east of campus, offers play areas, tennis courts, a volleyball court, a ball diamond, picnic areas, barbeques, and an amphitheater. University Community Park is another City of Irvine facility. This 16-acre park is located less than one mile northeast of campus and offers play areas, two soccer fields, tennis courts, a basketball court, volleyball courts, a ball diamond, and a disc golf course. Three neighborhood parks are located within one mile of the UCI campus. These parks offer play areas, picnic areas, and a par fitness course.

The City of Newport Beach also manages parks within its city limits. Bonita Creek Park is located just west of SR-73 within one mile of UCI. This park offers softball fields, a multi-use field, basketball court, playground, picnic tables, and a Community Center Building with meeting rooms.

Both the Cities of Irvine and Newport Beach follow a service standard of five acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. These cities also provide additional recreational opportunities in the form of public beaches and nature parks.

4.12.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The following regulatory framework discussion focuses on state and local regulations because there are no relevant recreation related federal laws.

4.12.2.1 STATE

The Quimby Act (Government Code Section 66477)

The Quimby Act (Government Code Section 66477) was established by the California legislature in 1975 to provide parks for the growing communities of the state. The Quimby Act authorizes cities to adopt ordinances addressing park land and/or fees for residential subdivisions for the purpose of providing and

preserving open space and recreational facilities and improvements in developing areas. The Quimby Act also specifies acceptable uses and expenditures of such funds such as allowing developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay direct fees for park improvements. The Quimby Act does not apply to UCI as this regulation is only applicable to private land in local jurisdictions.

4.12.2.2 LOCAL

As a state entity, UCI is not subject to municipal policies such as the Cities of Irvine and Newport Beach General Plans. However, because some UCI students, faculty, and staff may use recreational facilities within these cities, these policies may be relevant to the analysis of impacts resulting from implementation of the 2007 LRDP. The policies relevant to this analysis are presented in the following sections.

City of Irvine General Plan

The overall goal of the Parks and Recreation Element of the City of Irvine General Plan is to "provide park and recreation opportunities at a level that maximizes available funds and enables residents of all ages to utilize their leisure time in a rewarding, relaxing, and creative manner." As discussed in this element, the City provides two types of recreational accommodations for residents and visitors. These include community parks and neighborhood parks. The Recreation Element identifies the following recreation objectives for the City.

- Provide for a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities and park facilities, in either public or private ownership, to accommodate a variety of types and sizes of functions.
- Require developers of residential land to dedicate land or fees for parks, consistent with the Quimby Act, Subdivision Map Act, Irvine Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances, and General Plan standards.
- Locate park and recreation facilities for safe and easy access by their intended users.
- Ensure that Irvine's park system is developed, maintained, and rehabilitated in a manner that is cost-effective and consistent with the community's needs and ability to pay.

City of Newport Beach General Plan

The primary purpose of the Recreation Element of the City of Newport Beach General Plan is to ensure that the balance between the provision of sufficient parks and recreation facilities are appropriate for the residential and business population of Newport Beach.

As discussed in this element, the City provides eight types of recreational accommodations for residents and visitors: community parks, mini parks, neighborhood parks, view parks, greenbelts, open spaces, public beaches, and school yards. The Element identifies recreation goals for the City, some of which are listed below.

- To provide adequate park and recreation facilities that meet the recreational needs of existing and new residents of the community.
- To maintain and preserve existing parks and recreation facilities.
- To provide accessible parks and recreation facilities to persons with disabilities.
- To provide a variety of seasonal and year-round recreational programs designed to meet the needs of all residents, including children, seniors, and persons with special needs.

4.12.3 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

4.12.3.1 ISSUE 1 – DETERIORATION OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Recreation Issue 1 Summary

Would implementation of the 2007 LRDP increase the use of existing recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Impact: While implementation of the 2007 LRDP would increase the campus population and the use of on-campus recreational facilities, good management and active maintenance would minimize deterioration of facilities. Significant increase in use of off-campus facilities is not expected.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Significance Before Mitigation: Less than significant.

Significance After Mitigation: Not applicable.

Standards of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, implementation of the 2007 LRDP may have a significant adverse impact on recreation if it would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

Impact Analysis

As identified in Section 3.3, Project Description, UCI's 2005 on-campus population (students, academic faculty and researchers, and staff employees) is estimated at 32,423 individuals based on the 2005 regular academic year. The 2007 LRDP would accommodate an increase in population to approximately 55,750 by the year 2025. The proposed increase in student enrollment and the campus population could result in a related increase in the demand for the on-campus and off-campus recreational facilities.

Assuming that the projected increase in campus population resulting from the implementation of the 2007 LRDP would be directly proportionate to the increase in demand for on-campus recreational facilities, the demand for recreational facilities could increase by approximately 72 percent. This increase in demand would result in increased use of UCI recreational facilities, which could result in accelerated deterioration if use of the facilities is not properly managed and sufficient maintenance is not provided. The ARC is the recreation center available for use by the general UCI population. Construction was completed on Phase I of this building in 2003; therefore, it is relatively new and in good condition. It is assumed that the same level of good management and active maintenance of campus facilities that has occurred on the campus in the past, would be provided throughout the implementation of the 2007 LRDP; therefore, substantial deterioration of on-campus recreational facilities is not anticipated.

Use of off-campus public recreational facilities in the surrounding neighborhoods by UCI students, faculty, and staff that live on campus could also increase with implementation of the 2007 LRDP due to the increase in population of these members of the campus community. However, this situation is expected to be limited based on the multitude of recreational opportunities provided on campus. Also, the 2007 LRDP accommodates significant expansion of on-campus indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. In addition, the UCI campus provides significant recreation opportunities for non-UCI residents in the

area, which balances the demand that UCI may place on nearby public recreational facilities. Thus, implementation of the 2007 LRDP is not anticipated to result in a significant increase in demand for use of off-campus public recreational facilities.

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the 2007 LRDP is anticipated to have a less than significant impact related to the use and resulting physical deterioration of parks and other recreational facilities; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

4.12.3.2 ISSUE 2 – CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Recreation Issue 2 Summary

Would implementation of the 2007 LRDP involve the construction of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Impact: Implementation of the 2007 LRDP would include construction and expansion of recreational facilities that may have an adverse physical effect on the environment (Rec-2).

Mitigation: Applicable mitigation measures in other sections of this EIR.

Significance Before Mitigation: Significant.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant.

Standards of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, implementation of the 2007 LRDP may have a significant adverse impact on recreation if it would involve the construction of recreational facilities or require the expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Impact Analysis

The 2007 LRDP accommodates an approximately 67,000-square foot expansion of the ARC and expansion of the ARC playfields. The construction of future recreational projects would have the potential to cause additional secondary environmental effects. Any future recreational projects under the 2007 LRDP would require review pursuant to CEQA prior to approval. Physical impacts that would be associated with the construction of these projects are addressed in other sections of this EIR. As discussed in these other sections, the majority of environmental impacts associated with the development of these recreational facilities (e.g., air quality, water quality, and noise) are anticipated to be less than significant or would be mitigated to below a level of significance. Because on-campus recreational facilities would be built to accommodate campus population growth, are directly served by the campus shuttle system, and are located on a primary intra-campus bike/pedestrian trail, they are not considered to be substantial vehicle traffic generators and it is not anticipated that they would substantially contribute to significant and unavoidable traffic impacts.

As discussed above, because UCI offers its students, faculty, and staff numerous recreational opportunities, there would be no requirement to construct or expand off-campus recreational facilities.

Impact Rec-2 Implementation of the 2007 LRDP would include construction and expansion of recreational facilities that may have an adverse physical effect on the environment. This is a *significant* impact.

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of applicable mitigation measures in other sections of this EIR including Aes-1A, Aes-2A, Aes-3B, Air-2A, Air-2B, Bio-1A, Bio-2A, Bio-2B, Bio-3A, Bio-3B, Bio-3C, Bio-3D, Bio-4A, Cul-1A, Cul-1B, Cul-2A, Cul-4A, Haz-6A, Hyd-1A, Hyd-2A, Hyd-2B, Lan-2A, Noi-2A, and Noi-4A would reduce impacts related to construction of new recreational facilities to a level below significance.

4.12.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

Recreation Cumulative Issue Summary

Would implementation of the 2007 LRDP have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a cumulative physical impact to recreational facilities considering past, present, and probable future projects?

<u>Cumulative Impact</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>LRDP Contribution</u>
<i>Deterioration of Parks and Recreational Facilities:</i> Future development would increase the amount of recreational facilities in the local area through in-lieu fees or through the donation of parkland.	Less than significant.	N/A
<i>Construction of New Recreational Facilities:</i> Future development of recreational facilities could result in significant unavoidable impacts.	Less than significant.	N/A

4.12.4.1 DETERIORATION OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The geographic context for the analysis of cumulative recreational impacts is the City of Irvine because future UCI population housing related growth is expected to occur in this area. The cumulative projects include those that may occur as part of future development in accordance with the various jurisdictional General Plans. Deterioration of parks and recreational facilities within the region as a result of regional population growth would be repaired and replaced with funding from various sources. As future residential developments are approved in the local off-campus community, in-lieu fees for parks or donation of parkland (pursuant to the Quimby Act) would be required as part of the individual projects. In addition, deterioration due to implementation of the 2007 LRDP is expected to be limited based on the multitude of recreational opportunities provided on campus. Also, the 2007 LRDP accommodates significant expansion of on-campus indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and the UCI campus provides significant recreation opportunities for non-UCI residents in the area, which balances the demand that UCI may place on nearby public recreational facilities. Therefore, this cumulative impact would be considered less than significant.

4.12.4.2 CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The geographic context for the analysis of cumulative recreational impacts is the City of Irvine because future UCI population housing related growth is expected to occur in this area. It is anticipated that in order to accommodate future cumulative demand for park and recreational facilities, additional park and

recreational facilities would be developed and constructed on-campus and throughout the region. The development of these new parkland facilities would result from new housing development and could result in significant cumulative physical effects on the environment. It is reasonable to expect that all of these facilities would comply with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines and any project-specific impacts identified with the development of these facilities would be mitigated. However, there is the potential for these and other future recreational projects in Irvine to result in significant unavoidable impacts during construction and operation, such as air quality, noise and traffic/transportation. Therefore, a significant cumulative impact to the physical environment would occur with future development within the City of Irvine.

However, because UCI would accommodate all on-campus recreational demand, and provide significant recreation opportunities for non-UCI residents, with on-campus facilities, implementation of the 2007 LRDP would not contribute to these impacts. As discussed in the previous portions of this section, UCI provides substantial recreational opportunities on the campus for faculty, students, staff, and the community which reduces the overall need for off-campus recreational facilities. Further, any physical impacts to the environment have been evaluated in this EIR and all significant impacts resulting from such construction would be mitigated to reduce impacts. As a result, the adverse physical impacts resulting from construction and operation of additional recreational facilities to serve cumulative regional demand would be less than significant.

4.12.5 CEQA CHECKLIST ITEMS ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED IN INITIAL STUDY

The 2007 LRDP Initial Study indicated that all checklist items under the Recreation category should be evaluated in the EIR.

4.12.6 REFERENCES

City of Irvine. 1999. City of Irvine General Plan Parks and Recreation Element. March, 1999.

City of Irvine. n.d. Parks, Areas, and Facilities web site. Available at www.cityofirvine.org/depts/cs/commyparks/default.asp. Last accessed on March 2, 2007.

City of Newport Beach. 2006. City of Newport Beach Recreation Element. July 25, 2006.

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