



Introduction to Recreation and Resources

Lake Forest's recreational amenities and natural resources form an important part of its unique character and quality of life. In our community, these resources include the City's parks and trails, natural open space areas, scenic vistas, and cultural, and biological, resources. It is important to understand, document, and appreciate these resources so that these valuable pieces of the community can be preserved and protected for future generations. Additionally, through the reduction of solid waste, Lake Forest can reduce impacts to local landfills and support a more sustainable future. The City also supports local and regional efforts to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and expand multimodal transportation options which can help create a healthier environment for Lake Forest residents.

Organization of Element

The Recreation and Resources Element will address each of the topics below as they relate to Lake Forest. The goals and policies of this element are organized around the following topics:

- *Parks and Recreation*
- *Regional and Local Open Space*
- *Cultural Resources*
- *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions*
- *Biological Resources*
- *Solid Waste Management and Recycling*

Contents:

- + Parks and Recreation
- + Regional and Local Open Space
- + Cultural Resources
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GOAL RR-1 PARKS AND RECREATION

A community with high-quality parks and recreational amenities.

RR-1 Policies

- RR-1.1 **Recreation Types.** Provide residents a wide variety of public and private recreational lands, facilities, trails, and recreational amenities to foster a comprehensive system for residents that is usable for a diverse community.
- RR-1.2 **Proximity.** Maintain a public park and trail system that is accessible to all parts of the City.
- RR-1.3 **Acreage Requirements.** Maintain the City adopted standard for park space acreage at 5.0 acres for every 1,000 residents; require all new development projects to satisfy this standard.
- RR-1.4 **Design and Maintenance.** Promote implementation of established design, construction, and facility maintenance standards to ensure that existing and future City amenities are of high quality in regard to safety, utility, environmental stewardship, and aesthetic quality.
- RR-1.5 **Innovative Design.** Maintain and update design standards for City parks and trails based on proven best practices and innovations in public safety, active transportation, and recreation planning.
- RR-1.6 **Maximized Use.** Maximize the utilization of existing parks, recreational facilities, and open space within Lake Forest, without degrading the quality of the facility, as financially feasible.
- RR-1.7 **Trail System.** Promote park and open space connectivity by expanding the integrated system of trails within Lake Forest to connect local bikeways, equestrian trails, and hiking trails to regional trails, open space areas, residential neighborhoods, employment centers, and mixed-use activity centers.
- RR-1.8 **Funding.** Continue to pursue funding from established sources and explore non-traditional funding options and innovative partnerships to bolster and support the development, improvement, and maintenance of City parks and recreational amenities.
- RR-1.9 **Landscaping.** Protect local and regional resources by fortifying new parks and recreational development with sustainable drought-tolerant landscaping.
- RR-1.10 **Accessibility.** Require that any park construction and any new development on existing park facilities meet the accessibility standards defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and playground safety requirements (Senate Bill 2733).
- RR-1.11 **Public Input.** Promote a high level of public outreach regarding park and recreation opportunities and facility design in Lake Forest.
- RR-1.12 **Maintenance Costs.** Explore ways to reduce maintenance costs at City park and recreation facilities.

RR-1 Actions

- RR-1a Pursue available resources to fund facilities and parkland maintenance, acquisition, and/or development such as General Fund, private donations, gifts and endowments, special districts, and federal and state grants.

- RR-1b Continue the City’s systematic completion of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance upgrades for City parks and recreation facilities.
- RR-1c Promote volunteer opportunities through various City media, including the City’s website, social media, and printed publications.
- RR-1d Periodically review and update the park in-lieu fee ordinance as-necessary to better reflect current costs and needs to address park demand generated by infill development.
- RR-1e Periodically review and update the fees charged for facility rentals, recreation programs, and other activities to ensure that they are appropriate and equitable.

GOAL RR-2 REGIONAL AND LOCAL OPEN SPACE

A community that protects and manages natural open space areas to allow for scenic beauty and community enjoyment.

RR-2 Policies

- RR-2.1 **Open Space Boundaries.** Maintain the amount of existing open space within the City of Lake Forest by carefully considering the impact of new development in established open space areas.
- RR-2.2 **Regional Partners.** Coordinate with regional partners to maintain and preserve open space areas under overlapping jurisdiction or within nearby communities to protect all local and regional opportunities for recreation available to Lake Forest residents.
- RR-2.3 **Scenic Resources.** Protect Lake Forest’s scenic resources, including scenic corridors along roads and views of the hillsides, prominent ridgelines, canyons, and other significant natural features, to the extent practical.
- RR-2.4 **Education.** Work with state, federal, and community partners to develop educational and other materials that promote the preservation and conservation of Lake Forest’s natural resources.

RR-2 Actions

- RR-2a Prepare and distribute in electronic and hard-copy format resource guides regarding public access to regional and local open space.
- RR-2b Periodically coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to share plans regarding open space protection and access.

GOAL RR-3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

A community that values its history and preserves its cultural features to bolster community identity and protect sensitive resources.

RR-3 Policies

- RR-3.1 **Preservation.** Protect areas of important historic, archaeological, and paleontologic resources.
- RR-3.2 **County of Orange Coordination.** Coordinate with the County of Orange to preserve local historic resources, conserve historical assets within the City, and allow for local community events to occur at these special locations.
- RR-3.3 **Development.** Ensure that human remains are treated with sensitivity and dignity, and ensure compliance with the provisions of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.
- RR-3.4 **Tribal Consultation.** Consult with Native American tribes that may be impacted by proposed development, as necessary, and in accordance with state, local, and tribal intergovernmental consultation requirements.

RR-3 Actions

- RR-3a City staff shall require applicants for future proposed ground disturbing projects to provide a technical cultural resources assessment consisting of a record search, survey, background context and project specific recommendations performed by a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of the Interior Standards and certified by the County of Orange. If resources are known or reasonably anticipated the recommendations shall provide a detailed mitigation plan which shall require monitoring during grading and other earthmoving activities in undisturbed sediments, provide a treatment plan for potential resources that includes data to be collected, requires professional identification, other special studies as appropriate, requires curation at an accredited museum such as the John D. Cooper Center operated by the County of Orange for artifacts meeting significance criteria, requires a comprehensive final mitigation compliance report including a catalog of specimens with museum numbers and an appendix containing a letter from the museum stating that they are in possession of the materials.
- RR-3b Require all new development, infrastructure, and other ground-disturbing projects to comply with the following conditions in the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources or human remains:
- If construction or grading activities result in the discovery of significant historic or prehistoric archaeological artifacts or unique paleontological resources, all work within 100 feet of the discovery shall cease, the Director of Community Development shall be notified, the resources shall be examined by a qualified archaeologist, paleontologist, or historian for appropriate protection and preservation measures; and work may only resume when appropriate protections are in place and have been approved by the Community Development Director; and
 - If human remains are discovered during any ground disturbing activity, work shall stop until the Director of Community Development and the Orange County Coroner have been contacted. If the human remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission and the most likely descendants shall be consulted; and work may only resume when appropriate measures have been taken and approved by the Community Development Director.

- RR-3c City staff shall require applicants for future proposed projects with intact extant building(s) more than 45 years old to provide a historic resource technical study evaluating the significance and data potential of the resource. If significance criteria are met, detailed mitigation recommendations are required as part of the technical study. All work will be performed by a qualified architectural historian meeting Secretary of the Interior Standards.
- RR-3d Require all development, infrastructure, and other ground-disturbing projects to comply with the following conditions in the event of an inadvertent discovery of a paleontological resource:
- If construction or grading activities result in the discovery of significant prehistoric archaeological artifacts or unique paleontological resources, all work within 100 feet of the discovery shall cease, the Director of Community Development shall be notified, the resources shall be examined by a qualified archaeologist, paleontologist, or historian for appropriate protection and preservation measures; and work may only resume when appropriate protections are in place and have been approved by the Director of Community Development.

GOAL RR-4 AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

A community with optimal air quality for its residents.

RR-4 Policies

- RR-4.1 **Regional Standards.** Coordinate planning efforts with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the California Air Resource Board (CARB) to meet local and regional air quality standards and ensure attainment of established goals.
- RR-4.2 **Land Use Planning.** Utilize land-use planning techniques to reduce traffic congestion and promote alternative modes of transportation for the community.
- RR-4.3 **Development.** Encourage and incentivize the development of mixed-use residential opportunities and live-work environments within the City to lessen the impacts of traffic congestion on local air quality.
- RR-4.4 **Active Transportation.** Improve active transportation options within the City by connecting local bikeways and trails to City bus stops and public transportation centers.
- RR-4.5 **Public Transit.** Coordinate with the OCTA and actively pursue the improvement and expansion of public transit for Lake Forest residents.
- RR-4.6 **Sensitive Receptors.** Insulate sensitive receptors from areas of heightened air quality pollution, including highways, by utilizing land use planning to buffer and protect residential areas.
- RR-4.7 **Mitigation.** Require the implementation of relevant mitigation measures for all future development upon identification of potential air quality impacts.

RR-4.8 **Local Reduction Targets.** The City of Lake Forest establishes the following per capita GHG reduction targets, in order to meet the requirements established by the state under AB 32 and SB 32, consistent with the CARB's 2017 Scoping Plan:

- 3.99 MT CO₂e per capita by 2030
- 2.66 MT CO₂e per capita by 2040; and
- 1.33 MT CO₂e per capita by 2050.

RR-4.9 **GHG Reduction.** Consider and adopt new policies and programs that will help to provide energy efficient alternatives to fossil fuel use and reduce consumption in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

RR-4.10 **Carbon Reduction.** Expand the number of parks and trees in Lake Forest to provide a larger carbon sink or area containing natural sources that retain more carbon than what those sources emit.

RR-4.11 **Public Engagement.** Promote regional air quality programs in order to inform the public on regional air quality concerns and encourage the engagement of all Lake Forest residents in future planning decisions related to air quality.

RR-4 Actions

RR-4a Review all new industrial and commercial development projects for potential air quality impacts to residences and other sensitive receptors. Ensure that mitigation measures and best management practices are implemented to reduce significant emissions of criteria pollutants.

RR-4b Review development, infrastructure, and planning projects for consistency with SCAQMD requirements during the CEQA review process. Require project applicants to prepare air quality analyses to address SCAQMD and General Plan requirements, which include analysis and identification of:

1. Air pollutant emissions associated with the project during construction, project operation, and cumulative conditions.
2. Potential exposure of sensitive receptors to toxic air contaminants.
3. Significant air quality impacts associated with the project for construction, project operation, and cumulative conditions.
4. Mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts to less than significant or the maximum extent feasible where impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant.

RR-4c Work with Orange County and the South Coast Air Quality Management District to implement programs aimed at improving regional air quality.

RR-4d Continue to review development projects to ensure that all new public and private development complies with the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24 standards as well as the energy efficiency standards established by the Lake Forest Municipal Code.

RR-4e Monitor GHG emissions generated by the community over time for consistency with the established GHG reduction targets, and update the City's community GHG Inventory every five years. In the event that the City determines that ongoing efforts to reduce GHG emissions are not on track to meet the City's adopted GHG reduction targets, the City shall establish and adopt new and/or revised GHG reductions measures that will effectively meet the established GHG reduction targets.

- RR-4f Explore the feasibility of providing the necessary facilities and infrastructure to facilitate the use of City-owned low or zero-emission vehicles such as electric vehicle charging facilities and conveniently located alternative fueling stations.
- RR-4g Evaluate and consider multi-modal transportation benefits to all City employees, such as free or low-cost monthly transit passes. Encourage employer participation in similar programs. Encourage new transit/shuttle services and use.
- RR-4h Evaluate and consider the feasibility of allowing private bicycle rental companies to operate in Lake Forest.
- RR-4i Encourage community car-sharing and carpooling.
- RR-4j Support the establishment and expansion of a regional network of electric vehicle charging stations and encourage the expanded use of electric vehicles.
- RR-4k Establish standards and requirements for electric vehicle parking, including the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, in new development projects.
- RR-4l Periodically review and update the City's Green Building Program to reflect best practices, such as encouraging the use of cement substitutes and recycled building materials for new construction.
- RR-4m Update the City's Green Building Program to promote the reduction of urban heat islands through vegetation management and cool surfaces. Encourage multi-family residential and non-residential development to increase the use of higher-albedo materials for surfaces including roofs, parking areas, driveways, roads, and sidewalks. Encourage developments with parking lot areas to shade these areas with vegetation or solar panels when appropriate. Support various programs to plant and maintain trees, which can also contribute to a reduction of urban heat islands.
- RR-4n Future development projects implemented under the General Plan will be required to demonstrate consistency with SCAQMD construction emission thresholds. Where emissions from individual projects exceed SCAQMD thresholds, the following actions shall be incorporated as necessary to minimize impacts. These measures do not exclude the use of other, equally effective mitigation measures.
- Require all off-road diesel equipment greater than 50 horsepower (hp) used for this Project to meet USEPA Tier 4 final off-road emission standards or equivalent. Such equipment shall be outfitted with Best Available Control Technology (BACT) devices including a California Air Resources Board Certified Level 3 Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) or equivalent. This DPF will reduce diesel particulate matter and NOx emissions during construction activities.
 - Require a minimum of 50 percent of construction debris be diverted for recycling.
 - Require building materials to contain a minimum 10 percent recycled content.
 - Require materials such as paints, primers, sealants, coatings, and glues to have a low volatile organic compound concentration compared to conventional products. If low VOC materials are not available, architectural coating phasing should be extended sufficiently to reduce the daily emissions of VOCs.
- RR-4o Future development projects implemented under the General Plan will be required to demonstrate consistency with SCAQMD's operational emission thresholds. For projects where operational emissions exceed regulatory thresholds, the following measures may be used to reduce impacts. Note the following measures are not all inclusive and developers have the

option to add or substitute measures that are equally or more appropriate for the scope of their project.

- Develop a project specific TDM program for residents and/or employees that provides opportunities for carpool/vanpools.
- Provide onsite solar/renewable energy in excess of regulatory requirements.
- Require that owners/tenants of non-residential or multi-family residential developments use architectural coatings that are 10 grams per liter or less when repainting/repairing properties.
- Require dripless irrigation and irrigation sensor units that prevent watering during rain storms.
- Ensure all parking areas are wired for capability of future EV charging and include EV charging stations that exceed regulatory requirements.

GOAL RR-5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A community that harmoniously coexists with existing plant and animal life.

RR-5 Policies

- RR-5.1 **City Programs.** Promote City programs that focus on habitat protection and biological conservation.
- RR-5.2 **Regional Coordination.** Coordinate with county, state, and federal agencies and local non-profits to protect and preserve biologic resources in Lake Forest.
- RR-5.3 **Sensitive Communities.** Protect and conserve Lake Forest’s biological resources, with a special focus on sensitive, rare, or endangered plant and wildlife species in accordance with state and federal resource agency requirements.
- RR-5.4 **Habitat Conservation.** Support habitat conservation efforts to set aside and preserve suitable habitats, with priority given to habitats for rare and endangered species in Lake Forest in accordance with state and federal resource agency requirements.
- RR-5.5 **Native Species.** Encourage the use of native vegetation where possible.
- RR-5.6 **Wildlife Corridors.** Participate in the planning of drainage channels, ridgelines, and other areas that provide potential wildlife linkages between open space areas in the community and the vicinity.
- RR-5.7 **Development.** Require that all new development identify potential impacts to existing biological resources and provide mitigation measures as necessary pursuant to CEQA in order to protect these resources from negative externalities.
- RR-5.8 **Local Coordination.** Coordinate with private and public organizations within the region to implement strategies and programs that protect and preserve biological resources within Lake Forest.
- RR-5.9 **Human Interaction.** In areas where residents and sensitive biological resources interact, establish protective policies and/or implement design features to protect and insulate biological resources from human impacts.

- RR-5.10 **Urban Forest.** Build upon existing streetscapes and develop an urban forest along the City’s major corridors to provide avian habitat, sequester carbon monoxide emissions, foster pedestrian activity, and provide shade. The City’s “urban forest” refers to all public- and privately-owned trees, vegetation, and landscaping throughout Lake Forest which provide a range of benefits to the community, including reduced energy use, cooling along streets and sidewalks, improved air and water quality, diversification of wildlife habitat, and increased health and well-being.
- RR-5.11 **Education and Appreciation.** With community partners, support a range of educational programs that cultivate an appreciation of Lake Forest’s natural environment and biological resources.

RR-5 Actions

- RR-5a Maintain a buffer area between natural (not manmade) waterways and urban development to protect water quality and riparian areas.
- RR-5b Require new development, as well as infrastructure projects, long-range planning projects, and other projects, to comply with the requirements of the Orange County Central-Coastal Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) to ensure that potentially significant impacts to special-status species and sensitive resources are adequately addressed.
- RR-5c Require new development which has the potential to result in water quality impacts to the City’s creeks and the local groundwater basin to implement all feasible mitigation measures to reduce impacts.
- RR-5d Publicize volunteer-based programs that organize community creek restoration and/or clean-up events and provide public education regarding the benefits of city and regional water resources.

GOAL RR-6 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING

A community that minimizes the generation and disposal of waste to landfills through recycling and participation in waste diversion programs.

RR-6 Policies

- RR-6.1 **Compliance with State Legislation.** Continue to comply with all State regulations regarding waste diversion, source reduction, recycling, and composting.
- RR-6.2 **Compliance with Regional Plans.** Reduce the per capita generation of solid waste in Lake Forest in concert with the County of Orange source reduction and recycling plans for reducing solid waste.
- RR-6.3 **Waste Service Performance Collection Facilities.** Support efforts of the solid waste service provider to maintain adequate residential, commercial, and industrial solid waste and mixed recycling collection service levels and solid waste facilities in accordance with state law, and periodically review waste collection performance to verify adequacy of service.
- RR-6.4 **Landfill Capacity.** Continue to coordinate with the County of Orange to ensure adequate landfill capacity in the region.

- RR-6.5 **Municipal Waste.** Increase the City’s role in the source reduction and recycling components of waste management through recycling programs at City facilities to reduce the quantity of City-generated waste.
- RR-6.6 **Fees and Funding.** Work with the solid waste service provider to periodically review collection, recycling, and disposal fees to achieve state and federal mandates, meet community expectations, and reflect cost efficiencies or increases for service delivery.
- RR-6.7 **Hazardous Waste.** Promote the proper disposal of hazardous waste—including paint, tires, medications, medical sharps, infectious waste, asbestos waste, construction waste, and electronic waste; encourage materials to be recycled or disposed of in a manner that is safe for the environment, residents, and visitors to Lake Forest.
- RR-6.8 **Organic Waste.** Explore opportunities to collect and compost organic matter, including grass clippings, landscaping, Christmas trees, composting and mulch, and other sources of organic waste; when feasible distribute for use in parks, medians, and other municipal areas
- RR-6.9 **Public Education.** Promote citywide educational programs to inform citizens of the benefits of recycling and appropriate recycling options and locations.

RR-6 Actions

- RR-6a Regularly monitor the level of service provided by waste and recycling collection contractors to ensure that service levels meet the terms of the contract.
- RR-6b Include standard language in requests for services and in City agreements requiring contractors to use best management practices to maximize diversion of waste from the landfill in order to meet the City’s specified diversion rates.
- RR-6c Encourage recycling, reuse, and appropriate disposal of hazardous materials, including the following:
- Increased participation in single family and multifamily residential curbside recycling programs;
 - Increased participation in commercial and industrial recycling programs for paper, cardboard, and plastics;
 - Reduce yard and landscaping waste through methods such as composting, grass recycling, and using resource efficient landscaping techniques; and
- RR-6d Encourage local businesses to provide electronic waste (e-waste) drop-off services and encourage residents and businesses to properly dispose of, or recycle, e-waste.