

5.6 RECREATION

Recreational facilities are considered public services to communities. Reduction in recreational facilities or increases in demand for additional recreational facilities could result in impacts to established communities. This section of the Draft EIR evaluates the impacts that the proposed changes to the recreational facilities at the 109th Street Recreation Center would have on the environment.

5.6.1 Environmental Setting

The City and County of Los Angeles operate a wide variety of open and recreational spaces.

- The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks maintains over 15,710 acres of parkland with 59 swimming pools, 390 neighborhood and regional parks, 9 lakes, 176 recreation centers, 372 children's play areas, 13 golf courses, 287 tennis courts, 9 dog parks, 7 skate parks, 7 museums, 24 child care facilities, 30 senior centers, 2 beaches, and an urban forest with one million trees.
- The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation maintains 65,528 acres of recreational land with 31 swimming pools; 94 local, community, or regional parks; 14 lakes or lagoons; 12 fishing lakes; 6 natural areas; 4 arboreta or botanic gardens; 9 wildlife and wildflower sanctuaries; 52 riding and hiking trails; 158 playgrounds; 132 tennis courts; 144 ball fields; 49 basketball courts; and 19 golf courses.

The project site is at the 109th Street Recreation Center and is operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. The 109th Street Recreation Center is developed with an outdoor swimming pool, a bathhouse, a children’s playground, passive park space, a community center with an indoor basketball court/auditorium and an indoor gymnasium, an outdoor gymnasium, an outdoor basketball court, a lighted baseball diamond, a lighted turf field for football and soccer; and two lighted tennis courts. The 109th Street Recreation Center is open year-round; however, the pool and bathhouse are open seasonally, from June to September.

Not including the project site, there are four public pools within a two-mile radius of the site that are operated either by the City or county (see Table 5.6-1). These pools open seasonally, generally from May to September.



**Table 5.6-1
Public Pools Within Two Miles of the Project Site**

Pool Name	Distance from Project Site	Operated By	Maximum Capacity of Pool
Green Meadows Pool	1.75 miles northwest	City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks	250
Ted Watkins Memorial Park	0.5 miles north	County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation	502
Col. Leon H. Washington Park	1.5 miles north	County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation	182
George W. Carver Park	0.75 miles south	County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation	182

Source: City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Citywide Aquatics. <http://www.laparks.org/dos/aquatic/aquatic.htm>, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, <http://www.lacountyarks.org/>, Pools of the City of Los Angeles Conditions Report, and phone correspondence with Tony Martinez, Recreation Services Manager, Aquatics.

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Applicable Regulations

City of Los Angeles General Plan

The project site is within the Southeast Los Angeles Community Plan area. The Southeast Los Angeles Community Plan includes policies for the plan area related to recreation and parks facilities and the use of open space in the plan area.

Goal 4 Adequate Recreation and Park Facilities which meet the needs of the residents in the plan area.

Objective 4-1 To conserve, maintain and better utilize existing recreation and park facilities which promote the recreational needs of the community.

Policy 4-1.2 Increase accessibility to park land.

5.6.2 Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project:

R-1 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.

R-2 Includes recreational facilities or requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Based on a response on the notice of preparation from the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, both of these thresholds of significance will be addressed in the following analysis. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

5.6.3 Environmental Impacts

IMPACT 5.6-1: THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD TEMPORARILY INCREASE THE USE OF NEARBY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. [THRESHOLD R-1]

Impact Analysis: Project implementation would require the closure of the 109th Street aquatic facility during the 2010 summer season. Existing pool patrons are likely to frequent other pools during the season, especially those close to the project site as listed in Table 5.6-1. As a result, the project development would increase the use of existing pools in the surrounding area. However, this increase would be temporary, and the levels of use of nearby aquatic facilities would resume as normal. Impacts on nearby recreation facilities would be short-term in nature and considered less than significant.

IMPACT 5.6-2: THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF USEABLE PARK SPACE. [THRESHOLD R-2]

Impact Analysis: The proposed project entails the replacement of the antiquated 5,400-square-foot pool, 3,480-square-foot bathhouse, and 3,962-square-foot deck with a 4,050-square-foot pool/splash pad (3,375-square-foot pool and 675-square-foot splash pad), 2,543-square-foot bathhouse, and 5,400-square-foot deck at the 109th Street Recreation Center. In addition, the project proposes a new parking lot and

handicap-accessible path. See Figure 3-3, *Aerial Photograph*, which outlines the proposed project site within the existing park site.

Although the proposed project would result in a decrease of approximately 849 square feet of aquatic space, the pool's water filtration system would be enhanced to meet current-day health requirements and accordingly increase the capacity of the aquatic facility to accommodate 497 occupants. This would be an increase of 227 occupants from the current capacity of 270 occupants. Additionally, the proposed aquatic facility would be designed to be family-friendly with a splash pool to be used by toddlers in the northern portion of the aquatic facility and with a unisex changing area to allow for parental supervision of minors of the opposite gender. The main pool would also be designed to encourage lap swimming and to host competitive meets and events; the pool would have seven lanes, and the shallow end of the pool would start from 3.5 feet with a gradual increase in depth to 12 feet. Therefore, while there would be a reduction in useable aquatic space, the proposed redesign of the pool would nevertheless increase the capacity and enhance park facilities.

Development of the proposed project would also reduce the amount of passive recreational open space by approximately 0.4 acre. This is due to the creation of the six-stall parking lot and wheelchair-accessible path leading from the lot to the swimming pool on what is currently passive grass space. These areas do not include any portions of the park that are designated field space or any part of the existing pool and bathhouse. The passive open space that would be converted for other park uses is relatively small, and contains grass and no trees that could provide shade. All existing marked playfields and courts at the 109th Street Recreation Center would remain in place.

The reduction in aquatic and passive park space would not be substantial or result in an increase in demand for park space in the project area. Furthermore, the loss of the aquatic and passive park space would be for the benefit of improved uses at the park. For example, the proposed on-site parking could be used by all park patrons and all proposed improvements would be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As the proposed project would improve accessibility of the facilities to park patrons and would not substantially increase the overall use of the park, impacts associated with the reduction of useable park space would be negligible and considered less than significant.



5.6.4 Cumulative Impacts

Demand placed on parks is typically due to an increase in population resulting from residential development and/or actions that generate additional population. As the proposed project is associated with improvements to an existing recreational facility and no residential uses are proposed as a part of the proposed project, the project would not have an effect on the population of the area or a consequent increased demand on parks. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than considerable contribution to cumulative impacts on recreational facilities.

5.6.5 Existing Regulations and Standard Conditions

- Southeast Los Angeles Community Plan, Recreation and Parks Facilities, Goal 4.

5.6.6 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Without mitigation, the following impacts would be **less than significant**:

- Impact 5.6-1 The proposed project would reduce the amount of useable recreational space.

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- Impact 5.6-2 During construction of the proposed project, a temporary increase in the use of nearby recreational facilities would result.

5.6.7 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts are identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

5.6.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation

No significant impacts are identified, and no significant unavoidable impacts relating to recreation remains.