

The Beckoning Board by Laurie Meinke

Beaches, Parks and Recreation Element

Beaches, parks, open space, recreation facilities, special events and programs are at the core of San Clemente's quality of life and provide a respite from the built environment. They create a sense of community by providing a social and physical network and by promoting recreation, social interaction and enrichment [link to Glossary]. San Clemente's active and passive parks, recreational facilities and programs reflect our local culture and unique history, and benefit residents and local businesses by promoting health, safety and wellness and by fostering community interaction and pride. Our recreation facilities help define our neighborhoods and serve as gathering spaces for celebration, sport, and relaxation.

PRIMARY GOAL:

Create and maintain safe, well-designed and high quality parks and recreation facilities and programs that meet a wide range of local recreational, fitness and enrichment needs, and that promote community health and well-being.

ADDITIONAL GOAL:

Establish a network of parks, beaches and other recreational facilities that are both beautiful and functional; that reflect high standards of design and aesthetic quality.

GOAL AND POLICY SECTIONS:

- 1. Recreational Programming
- 2. Park Planning, Acquisition and Development

- 3. Beaches
- 4. Open Space and Trails
- 5. Golf Course
- 6. Health and Wellness
- 7. Beaches, Parks and Recreation Economics and Financing

- Master Plan for City Facilities [http://san-clemente.org/sc/standard.aspx?pageid=23]
- Beach Trail Guide [http://san-clemente.org/sc/Inf/Forms/maps/Download/2370Beach%20TrailGuide2009.pdf]
- San Clemente Trails Map
 [http://san-clemente.org/sc/Inf/Forms/maps/Download/2365%20San%20Clemente%20Trails%20Map.pdf]

Recreational Programming

Parks and recreational facilities enable a wide variety of programs to be offered to improve residents' physical and mental well-being. Whether on land or in water, the recreational programming options are vast and reflect the community's environmental qualities, culture and shared values. To be able to continuously offer the highest quality recreational programs, it is essential to receive patron feedback, recognize trends and analyze park user data on a regular basis.

GOAL:

Offer a wide range of creative, safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for persons of all ages, abilities and financial status to enrich the lives of all San Clemente residents.

- BPR-1.01. *Programming.* We program our parks and other recreation facilities for efficient and creative uses, consistent with the type of facility, user groups served and community needs, and with the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan [staff to provide link when developed].
- BPR-1.02. *Users.* We provide indoor and outdoor programs and facilities appropriate for a range of income levels, ages and abilities.
- BPR-1.03. *Tracking Needs and Interests.* We track City recreation programs in terms of participation, customer satisfaction, and changing needs to identify recreational programming priorities needs, and interests.

- BPR-1.04. *Partnerships.* When appropriate, we partner with non-profit organizations, businesses and agencies to provide high quality, comprehensive recreational and educational programming, and affordable special events for residents.
- BPR-1.05. *Safety.* We design and maintain park and recreation facilities to provide a safe experience.
- BPR-1.06. *Underserved Youths and Adults*. We promote low-cost or free, safe and fun recreational program for underserved youths and adults as part of our local crime prevention efforts.
- BPR-1.07. *Historic Sites.* We celebrate historic sites with recreational learning opportunities in parks and recreation facilities.
- BPR-1.08. *Natural Environment*. We protect our natural environment, including marine resources and open spaces, consistent with the City's HEAL resolution. [http://sanclemente.org/sc/Meetings/PRCom/Packets/Download/OldPackets/03-13-12/3-13-12%207b.pdf] Where possible, we utilize them as recreational learning opportunities and contemplative spaces, in conjunction with our environmental goals.
- BPR-1.09. *Street Closures/Public Spaces.* We support temporary, and where safe and appropriate, long-term street closures to create or expand public spaces and to accommodate street fairs, farmers' markets, art shows and other special community events.
- BPR-1.10. *Schools.* We promote providing recreational opportunities in conjunction with our local schools.
- BPR-1.11. **Neighborhood/Commercial Area Enhancement.** We consider using recreational programming as a tool for enhancing the vitality of neighborhoods and commercial areas.

- HEAL Resolution [http://san-clemente.org/sc/Meetings/PRCom/Packets/Download/OldPackets/03-13-12/3-13-12%207b.pdf]
- Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan [staff to provide link]

Park and Recreation Planning, Acquisition, and Development

Beaches, parks and recreation facilities can provide space for organized sports, passive recreation, educational programs, special events and gatherings with family and friends. They can also serve as weekday and weekend destinations. A comprehensive system should

complement new and existing development and meet local recreational needs. To do so, land and facilities may need to be acquired, planned, and developed. Like most cities, the City of San Clemente must adapt to changing park and recreation demands. To that end, and in addition to this Element's goals and policies, the San Clemente Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan [staff to provide link when developed] identifies priorities for park expansion, acquisition, development and funding.

San Clemente's parks system includes neighborhood parks (generally less than 10 acres in size), community parks (generally 10 acres in size or larger), and special use parks (the San Clemente Community Center and Ole Hanson Beach Club) that can be of any size, but that have facilities to meet specific recreation needs.

These elements are at the core of San Clemente's quality of life and provide places for recreation, relaxation, and rest. Local parks and recreation facilities reflect the City's interest in and commitment to a healthy lifestyle. Totaling over 197 acres, the beaches and park system provides both passive and active recreational areas and includes 176.60 acres at 21 parks and beach accesses, 20 acres of sand beaches, and 13.3 miles (21.99 acres) of hiking trails.

GOAL:

Provide and maintain parks and recreation facilities with adequate spaces and amenities to meet the recreational and relaxation needs of existing and future residents.

- BPR-2.01. *Parkland and Beaches Standard.* We apply a standard of at least five acres of improved parkland and beaches per 1,000 residents and seek to meet residents' needs in underserved areas.
- BPR-2.02. *Evaluation of User Needs.* We evaluate user feedback, track facility use, and utilize projections to understand park and recreation facility needs and plan for future acquisition and development.
- BPR-2.03. *Beach and Park Maintenance.* We maintain beach and park facilities in good condition and strive to meet Council-adopted community standards.
- BPR-2.04. *Master Plan.* We focus parkland acquisition and development efforts in accordance with the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan and with the Master Plan for City Facilities.
- BPR-2.05. *Master Plan Maintenance.* We maintain and update the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan at least every 10 years to strategically plan for future park and recreation needs.

- BPR-2.06. *Parkland Acquisitions.* We require parkland acquisitions to be beneficial to the community. In acquiring parkland, the City considers short-term land and construction costs and long-term operations and maintenance costs.
- BPR-2.07. *Planning for Local Context.* We plan park features and facilities that meet the recreational preferences of residents and the land uses the park is intended to serve. We consider the impacts of such facilities on surrounding uses.
- BPR-2.08. *Future Park Sites.* When selecting specific park sites or designing park facilities, we identify park type and future user needs.
- BPR-2.09. *Joint Use Agreements.* We maintain and improve joint-use recreational space agreements with public agencies and seek new opportunities for joint recreational uses.
- BPR-2.10. *Universal Access.* We seek to provide, where feasible, inclusive recreation facilities that meet or exceed accepted standards for Universal Access [link to Glossary].
- BPR-2.11. *Structured and Unstructured Recreation Opportunities.* We plan, acquire and develop recreational facilities to provide a balanced range of structured and unstructured recreation opportunities.

- Master Plan for City Facilities [http://san-clemente.org/sc/standard.aspx?pageid=23]
- Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan [staff to provide link when developed]
- Park and Recreation Facilities webpage [http://san-clemente.org/sc/standard.aspx?pageid=148]
- Park and Recreation Facilities Maps and Descriptions [http://sanclemente.org/sc/rec/parks/maps/parksmap.aspx]
- Coastal Animal Services Authority [http://san-clemente.org/sc/standard.aspx?pageid=536]

Beaches

San Clemente's beaches are a major reason why people choose to visit, reside, and invest here and are a key reason for the City's high quality of life. The City of San Clemente enjoys over 4.5 miles of coastline and local beaches that are highly valued by residents and visitors. San Clemente's beaches vary by width of sand, onsite or adjacent amenities, and surf breaks, creating opportunities for a wide range of beach activities from passive recreation to active athletic competitions. San Clemente's beaches have a local, regional and international draw, attracting visitors from around the world. Beaches are also a critical natural resource that significantly influences local culture, recreation, and economic development.

For additional policies related to the protection of beach resources and beach access, please refer to the Coastal Element [link to CE Homepage].

GOALS:

Provide safe, high-quality beaches that protect natural resources, support and encourage recreational activities, promote economic development and contribute to San Clemente's culture and character.

Protect and create spaces and places to enjoy a memorable beach experience on and off the sand.

- BPR-3.01. *Resource Conservation.* We maintain our beach resources to conserve natural, recreational, and economic resources. (See Coastal Element) [link to CE Homepage]
- BPR-3.02. **Beach Planning.** We monitor beach use and quality to help ensure adequate staffing, facility and environmental maintenance, and sand replenishment planning.
- BPR-3.03. *Pier Maintenance.* We regularly monitor the pier and its structures for safety and cleanliness and provide adequate funding and staff support for its maintenance.
- BPR-3.04. *Balance.* We enhance beach areas that are appropriate for recreational development, without destroying natural resources or beauty.
- BPR-3.05. *Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity.* We encourage connectivity by developing and maintaining pedestrian and bicycle trails, where appropriate, along our coastline, including designated railroad crossings for pedestrians.
- BPR-3.06. *Pier Bowl and North Beach.* We enhance the Pier Bowl and North Beach areas to function as recreational, cultural and economic hubs. We also maximize accessibility for residents, visitors and commuters, including train passengers, to create easy and natural transitions between the beach, beach trail and local businesses or cultural attractions.
- BPR-3.07. *Marine Safety.* We provide an appropriate level of Marine Safety personnel and facilities for the protection of beach users. (See Safety Element Flooding and Marine Hazards section) [link to section]
- BPR-3.08. *Relocation of Railroad Right-of-Way.* We support the potential relocation of the railroad right-of-way away from the beach to the vicinity of the Interstate 5 freeway.
- BPR-3.09. *Public Outreach and Participation.* We encourage public participation in protecting our beaches through educational outreach programs.
- BPR-3.10. **Sand Nourishment.** When environmental effects on natural resources and surf are minimized, we support sand nourishment programs and other measures to enhance the use, appearance and safety of our beaches.

BPR-3.11. *Sand Monitoring.* We support efforts to monitor sand movement, research the impacts of coastal erosion and implement methods of mitigating further coastal damage to San Clemente's beaches environment.

LINKS TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

- Coastal Element [link to CE Homepage]
- Figure C-1, Coastal Access Map [link to figure]

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- City of San Clemente Coastal Camera [http://san-clemente.org/cameras/hqcamera.aspx]
- City of San Clemente Beach Report [http://san-clemente.org/sc/inf/Weather/Beach/BeachReport.aspx]
- Beach Trail Map [http://www.san-clemente.org/sc/Inf/Forms/maps/Download/2370Beach%20TrailGuide2009.pdf]
- Neighborhood Beach Watch [http://san-clemente.org/sc/standard.aspx?pageid=617]
- Beaches, Parks and Recreation Parks Master Plan [staff to provide link when developed]
- Local Coastal Program [staff to provide link when available]
- CAC/City Council adopted policy re: Coastal Facilities [staff to provide link]

Open Space and Trails

San Clemente's natural environment includes many beautiful open spaces with opportunities for a multi-use trails system for residents and visitors. The local network of public, private, City, and State Park trails provide safe walking, hiking, equestrian and cycling experiences. Trails are designed to provide public access to beaches, canyons, and ridgelines, and to provide spectacular views of the coast and open spaces adjacent to the City. Trail linkages enhance pedestrian and cyclist connectivity to these special areas and to other points of interest outside of San Clemente's City limits.

GOAL:

Provide a safe, environmentally sustainable and attractive open space and trails network, including walking, bicycling, hiking and equestrian trails, that connects key open space areas and recreational amenities.

- BPR-4.01. *Open Space Preservation.* We encourage and support the preservation of open space within and adjacent to the City.
- BPR-4.02. *Trails and Staging Areas.* We support the development, maintenance and enhancement of local trails and staging areas using best sustainable practices.

- BPR-4.03. *Partnerships and Funding.* We seek strategic partnerships and funding assistance opportunities with public agencies and volunteer organizations to reduce City costs to maintain open space and trail facilities.
- BPR-4.04. *Trail Connections.* We collaborate with other public agencies and private parties to establish connections between trails.
- BPR-4.05. *Public Information.* We publicize our trails system, including the Beach Trail, to encourage public use and appreciation, including the use of bicycle trails for general transportation and commuter use.
- BPR-4.06. *Education*. We design and use some public trails for educational and interpretive purposes.
- BPR-4.07. *Master Plan*. We maintain and update the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan [staff to provide link when developed] to strategically plan new trails and related facilities.
- BPR-4.08. *Standards.* We maintain multi-purpose trails to Council-adopted community standards.
- BPR-4.09. *Measure V Initiative*. We require voter approval of City Council actions related to changing an Open Space land use designation to a Non-Open Space designation, according to Ordinance 1475 ("Measure V" Voter Initiative), adopted by the City Council in September 2007 (accessed by link below)

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan [staff to provide link]
- Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan [staff to provide link when developed]
- Beach Trail Map
- San Clemente Trails Map
- Measure V

Golf Course

Golf has been a part of San Clemente's recreational makeup since the town was created. The City's Municipal Golf Course was built by renowned Golf Course Architect, William "Billy" Bell on land donated by the City founder Ole Hanson. Due to its affiliation with Billy Bell and its association with the Ole Hanson/Spanish Village the property is listed as a San Clemente Historic Resource. The Course originally consisted of nine holes, known as the "Ocean Nine", on its opening day in 1930. The area that is now the back nine, known as the "Inland Nine: was laid out in 1956, making it the challenging 18-hole course it is today. Municipally owned and operated since its inception, the San Clemente Golf Club is aptly known as the "Pride of the Pacific". The course boasts sweeping ocean views and is an important historic and recreation

element in the City. Now irrigated with reclaimed water and several landscape conversions projects, the City works to provide a water efficient, yet beautiful golf course. The Course is remarkably successful with over 95,000 rounds per year making it one of the busiest courses in the nation.

In addition to the Municipal Golf Course, the City is home to three privately owned and operated golf courses. Together, these four courses are a tremendous recreational open space amenity and add to the overall community quality of life.

GOAL:

Maintain a high quality municipal golf experience and its rich history for residents and visitors.

POLICIES:

- BPR-5.01. *Maintenance Funding.* We maintain our course with an enterprise fund to ensure the golf course supports itself without cost to the General Fund.
- BPR-5.02. *Best Practices.* We monitor and use best golf course management and design practices to ensure viable grounds conditions, a healthy landscape and net fiscal benefits.
- BPR-5.03. *Clubhouse Facilities.* We provide quality Clubhouse facilities to serve the golf and residential community.
- BPR-5.04. **Shorecliffs Golf Course.** Land uses in the Shorecliffs Golf Course property shall be consistent with Forster Ranch Specific Plan policies to provide and maintain open space and recreational amenities. We will require any development submittal to enhance the entrance, parking and clubhouse facilities and the Course design to promote the ongoing successful operations of the Shorecliffs Golf Course.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- San Clemente Golf Club [http://www.sanclementegc.com/]
- Talega Golf Club [http:///www.talegagolfclub.com]
- Shorecliffs Golf Club [http://www.shorecliffsgolfclub.com]
- Bella Collina Towne & Golf Club [http://www.bellacollinagolf.com]

Health and Wellness

Since its founding, San Clemente has been dedicated to active, healthy living in a beautiful, seaside community. Its clean air and water, ideal climate and coastal setting draw those who seek a healthy lifestyle, outdoor sports and beaches where, as Ole Hanson put it, people can get "a healthy joy out of life." The City is committed to helping citizens preserve and enhance their health and supports positive health choices. Health and Wellness policies and programs promote access to healthy living options, such as fresh, locally grown food, easy access to parks, beaches, trails and open space, and well-designed public spaces that promote physical activity.

We promote and celebrate health and wellness through positive, community-building events, neighborhood outreach and public education.

- **GOAL 1:** Be a community that has readily accessible high-quality, fresh foods and affordable health services.
- **GOAL 2:** Be a community where residents can easily choose to engage in healthy activities and lifestyles and where health and wellness considerations help guide City decision-making.
- **GOAL 3:** Be a community that supports sustainable, health-supporting land uses and activities, such as farmers' markets, food cooperatives and residential vegetable gardens.

- BPR-6.01. *Access to Healthy Foods (Standards)*. We promote access to healthy food choices through flexible development standards that allow small-scale, neighborhood-oriented grocery stores in residential zones, where appropriate.
- BPR-6.02. Access to Healthy Foods (Schools, Public Facilities and City Events). We encourage the availability of healthy food choices in local schools, public buildings, facilities and parks and at City-sponsored events.
- BPR-6.03. **Smoking.** Smoking shall not be allowed in City-owned or operated buildings, parks, beaches or other facilities, except in areas specifically designated for this purpose.
- BPR-6.04. *Interconnected Neighborhoods.* Neighborhoods should be interconnected with safe, well-designed and maintained walking and biking trails, sidewalks, consistent with the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan [staff to provide link].
- BPR-6.05. *Bike Parking*. We encourage the provision of safe, secure, convenient and aesthetically pleasing bike parking to promote alternative forms of transportation wherever public parking is required.
- BPR-6.06. *Compact Neighborhoods.* We support compact, neighborhood-serving development that provides healthy foods or essential services within walking or biking distance from residential neighborhoods, schools and parks.
- BPR-6.07. *Trails.* We encourage use of public trails and work with civic organizations, community groups, youth groups, homeowner associations, regional and state agencies and non-profit organizations to improve, expand and maintain the trail network.
- BPR-6.08. **Social Interaction/Community Participation.** We encourage enhanced social interaction, community participation in special events, youth sports and outdoor activities by developing and maintaining public facilities and spaces that promote health and wellness.
- BPR-6.09. *Streetscape Amenities.* We encourage and support local, private investment in streetscape amenities (examples include: benches, street trees, decorative sidewalks)

- that enhance safety, walkability, neighborhood appeal, and help commercial neighborhoods stay clean, safe and attractive.
- BPR-6.10. *Urban Forest/Trees.* We support best practices in the planting and maintenance of trees in the public realm to improve air quality and reduce "heat island" effects due to reflected heat from hardscape and urban uses.
- BPR-6.11. *Children/Young Adults.* We seek to provide positive, safe and supportive community environments for the healthy development for children and young adults.
- BPR-6.12. *Community Gardens*. We support efforts to develop community gardens on Cityowned, public utility-owned and on privately-owned properties suitable for that purpose.
- BPR-6.13. *Edible Gardens*. We support planting edible gardens and fruit trees on public and private property, and we support property owner and Homeowner Association efforts to modify CC&Rs, where appropriate, to allow residents to plant edible gardens in their front yards.
- BPR-6.14. *Pet-Friendly Facilities.* The City recognizes the important role pets play in community health and wellness and will continue to support "pet-friendly" facilities such as a dog park and access for dogs in neighborhood parks.

LINKS TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

- Land Use Element Implementation Measures [link to section]
- Mobility and Complete Streets Element, Non-Automotive System [link to section]
- Mobility and Complete Streets Element, Implementation Measures [link to section]
- Urban Design Element, Public Spaces [link to section]
- Urban Design Element, Urban Forests [link to section]

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan [staff to provide link]
- Master Plan for City Facilities
- Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan [staff to provide link]
- Memorial Care
- Orange County Health Care Agency
- Center for Disease Prevention and Control
- Designing Healthy Communities
- Robert Woods Johnson Foundation
- <u>California Endowment</u>

- Strategic Growth Council Health in All Policies
- Coastal Animal Services Authority (C.A.S.A.)

Beaches, Parks and Recreation Economics and Financing

The cost of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining beaches, parks and recreation facilities and programs can be substantial. The City's resources need to be allocated and used efficiently to respond to recreational needs and to maximize the value of public funds. Strategic partnerships and grant funding opportunities can help defray City costs to provide a comprehensive beaches, parks and recreation system. Quimby Act [http://www.calsj.org/TheQuimbyAct.htm] fees (park in-lieu fees) are required of developers to provide land, improvements or funds to meet the City standard of providing at least five acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

GOAL:

Provide beaches, parks and recreation facilities that are financed, acquired, developed, operated, and maintained to meet community needs and standards, in balance with the City's fiscal resources.

- BPR-7.01. *Funding Support.* We aggressively pursue Federal, State, County, private foundation and endowment support to assist in the acquisition, development, programming, operations, and maintenance of beaches, park and recreation facilities.
- BPR-7.02. *City Fiscal Resources.* We improve the efficiency of our facilities and programs and ensure we have adequate fiscal resources for operations, maintenance and replacement before investing in new facilities.
- BPR-7.03. *Operations and Maintenance Costs.* We develop park facilities that are realistic in terms of operations and maintenance costs needed to maintain their quality and safety.
- BPR-7.04. *Community Support.* We encourage neighborhood groups, organizations, and businesses to become active supporters of our beaches and parks facilities and programs through contributions of goods, services, labor and money.
- BPR-7.05. **Private Facilities.** We encourage the development of private recreational facilities, where appropriate, that provide services or facilities that are not provided by the City.
- BPR-7.06. *Revenue Generation.* We encourage beaches and parks programs that generate revenues that can help achieve the City's Beaches, Parks and Recreation goals.
- BPR-7.07. *Park In-Lieu Fees.* We will periodically update the park in-lieu fee required for new development to establish appropriate rates.

- Master Plan for City Facilities [http://san-clemente.org/sc/standard.aspx?pageid=23]
- Beaches, Parks and Recreation Master Plan [staff to provide link when developed]
- Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) [http://san-clemente.org/sc/download.aspx?pageid=368]
- Quimby Act [http://www.calsj.org/TheQuimbyAct.htm]
- Park and Recreation Facilities Maps and Descriptions [http://sanclemente.org/sc/rec/parks/maps/parksmap.aspx]

Implementation Measures

General Plan Implementation Measures are contained in the Strategic Implementation Program (SIP). The SIP contains Implementation Measures for one-time projects that end with a specific goal, and ongoing projects that requires routine activity with no specified end date. The SIP is updated by the City Council with the City budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to ensure the effective implementation of the Centennial General Plan. This coordination ensures that the General Plan remains a dynamic, up to date, responsive guide to public decision making and expenditures.

Click <u>here</u> to access Implementation Measures for this element in the latest Strategic Implementation Program.