4.10 RECREATION

Based on the findings of the IS, the proposed West Gateway project would result in less than significant impacts on recreation facilities with the application of mitigation measures. The analysis in the following sections focuses on the existing conditions in the study area, the analysis methodology, thresholds of significance, the potential impacts of the West Gateway project related to recreation facilities, and mitigation as needed.

4.10.1 EXISTING SETTING RELATED TO RECREATION

The City of Long Beach operates 92 recreational facilities within its parks and recreation network. The City's open space resources include both land and water areas consisting of approximately 11,600 acres (surface area) for fish and wildlife habitat including bays, rivers, creeks, channels and canals, lagoons, lakes, ponds and wetlands.

The parks and recreation facilities in the City encompass approximately 1,413 acres of land. The City's recreational resources include parks, community centers, golf courses, bike and equestrian trails, special use recreation resources and coastal amenities which include beaches, a boardwalk, an esplanade, piers, fishing platforms, boat launches, a rowing center, a sailing center, harbors and marinas. Table 4.10-1 provides the type recreational resources and the acres in the City of Long Beach. Figure 4.10-1 depicts the locations of the City's Parks.

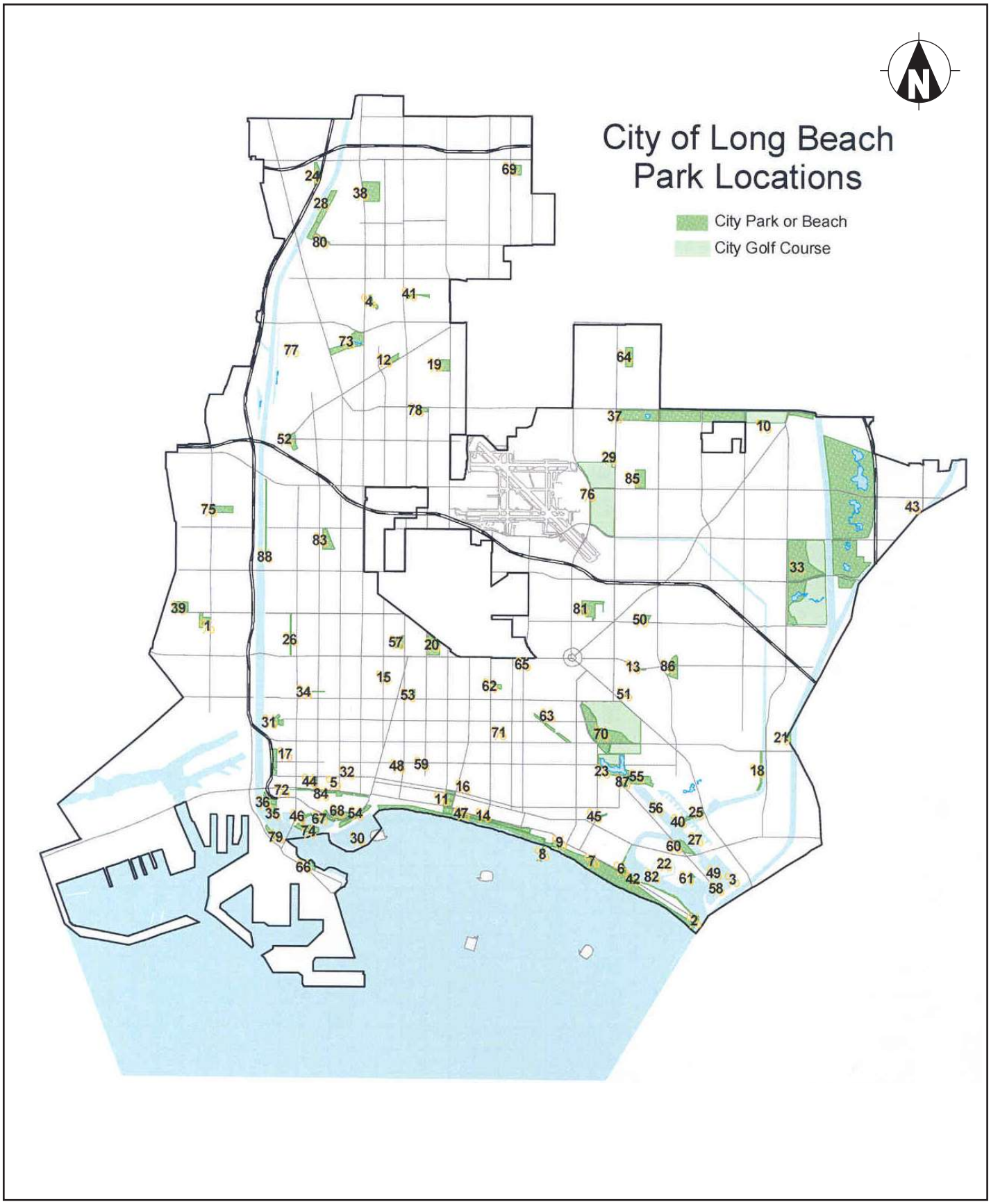
TABLE 4.10-1
CITY OF LONG BEACH RECREATION/OPEN SPACE ACREAGE

Recreational Resources	Acreage
City Parks	1,413
Beaches	247
Golf Courses	568
Ranchos – Historic sites preserved in the City.	12
Water Recreation (Alamitos Bay and Downtown Marina surface areas)	373
TOTAL	**2,613**

Source: City of Long Beach, *Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan,* October 2002.

In 1971 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommended a national standard of 10.0 acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents in a community. In 1983 the NRPA recommended that each jurisdiction develop and adopt their own local standard for open space per capita since no single standard was applicable to all jurisdictions and situations.

The City's Parks, Recreation and Marine Department compared the City of Long Beach with other major American cities similar to Long Beach and found that on average these City's parkland ratio was 7.2 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. With the adoption of the Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan the City established an open space standard of 8.0 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. According to the Open Space and Recreation Element, the City's 2000 population reached 461,522; with the adopted standard the City should have a total of 3,692 acres of recreation open space.



Source: City of Long Beach Open Space and Recreation Element (October, 2002).

Figure 4.10-1

City of Long Beach Park Locations

The City of Long Beach has an additional 359 acres of open space recreation areas in public school campuses; however, at this time the City does not include the public school campuses in recreation acreage totals. The school campuses are not included in this total due to access and security issues.

The closest park to the project site would be Cesar E. Chavez Park located immediately west of the project site. This Park consists of approximately 23 acres and offers a community center, basketball court, playground, and weight room.

4.10.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE RELATED TO RECREATION

Impacts to recreational resources would be considered significant and adverse if the proposed project:

- Results in the increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility(s) would occur or be accelerated.

- Require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

4.10.3 METHODOLOGY RELATED TO RECREATION

Impacts to recreation resources were evaluated by analyzing the proposed project's consistency with the City's Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan. In addition,

4.10.4 IMPACTS RELATED TO RECREATION

As shown above in Table 4.10-1 the City has 2,613 acres of recreation open space. According to the City of Long Beach Open Space and Recreation Element, the City's population in 2002 was 461,522; therefore, the City is providing approximately 5.6 acres of recreation open space per 1,000 residents. Currently the City is not meeting its service ratio goal of 8.0 acres per 1,000 residents. Based on the 2002 Open Space and Recreation Element, the City needs 1,080 acres of recreation open space over what currently exists.

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the development of up to 853 residential units consisting of apartments and condominiums and up to 15,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail uses resulting in an increase in the demand for parks and recreational facilities in the City. The proposed project will include a detailed landscaping plan; however, the project does not include public recreation open space areas. Parcels 9, 10 and 11 will include private community rooms and community pools. Although this would not alleviate the City's existing parkland deficiencies, it would provide on-site recreational amenities for residents. It is anticipated that future residents would seek other recreational opportunities off-site as well. Cesar E. Chavez Park located immediately west of the project site consists of approximately 23 acres and offers a community center, basketball court, playground, and weight room and would most likely be utilized by future residents of the proposed project. In addition, there are other

numerous Parks located in the project area, as well as the City, that future residents may utilize; however, the increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks could result in substantial physical deterioration of these existing facilities due to overuse or could require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. Given the increase in population density as discussed in Section 4.7, the need and demand for public park and recreation facilities is expected to increase accordingly. This would be considered a significant adverse impact since there are very few opportunities to expand the existing recreational facilities servicing the area.

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the loss of parkland or open space. However, as stated above the City is currently experiencing a City-wide deficiency in recreation open space. The City of Long Beach requires the dedication of parkland or payment of a fee in lieu of parkland dedication in accordance with the City's Municipal Code Chapter 18.18. Since the proposed project does not include any park sites, the applicant(s) must pay the in lieu fee. Payment of this fee would ensure that impact to parks and open space would be less than significant.

4.10.5 MITIGATION MEASURES RELATED TO RECREATION

With payment of the required City in-lieu fees, implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant adverse impact related to recreation open space. Therefore, the potential impacts of the proposed project would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

4.10.6 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION RELATED TO RECREATION

The potential impacts of the proposed West Gateway project on recreation open space would be below a level of significance. However, given the overall shortage of recreation open space in Downtown Long Beach, the project would contribute to a cumulative impact on recreational facilities by creating more demand for them in the Downtown Area where there is already a known shortage. Refer to Section 8.0 (Cumulative Impacts) for a more detailed discussion.