

## 5. Environmental Analysis

### 5.6 RECREATION

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluates the potential for implementation of the proposed project to impact public parks and recreational facilities.

#### 5.6.1 Environmental Setting

##### 5.6.1.1 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

###### State

###### *Quimby Act of 1975*

The Quimby Act of 1975 (California Government Code Section 66477) requires the dedication of land and/or fees for public park and recreational purposes as a condition of approval for a tentative map or parcel map. The Quimby Act establishes procedures that can be used by local jurisdictions to provide neighborhood and community parks and recreational facilities and services for new residential subdivisions. It allows cities and counties to require up to five acres of park for every 1,000 residents.

###### *California Public Park Preservation Act*

The primary instrument for protecting and preserving parkland is California's Public Park Preservation Act of 1971. Under the Public Resources Code, cities and counties may not acquire any real property that is in use as a public park for any nonpark use unless compensation, land, or both are provided to replace the parkland acquired. This ensures no net loss of parkland and facilities.

###### Local

###### *City of Riverside General Plan Park and Recreation Element (November 2012)*

The General Plan sets forth a standard of two acres of community park and one acre of neighborhood park per one thousand residents. Neighborhood parks are encouraged to be within a one-half-mile radius of every residence and community parks within a two-mile radius.

Some objectives of the Parks and Recreation Element are as follows:

- **Objective PR-1:** Provide a diverse range of park and recreational facilities that are responsive to the needs of Riverside residents.
  - **Policy PR-1.1.** Implement the policies of the City of Riverside Park and Recreation Master Plan. Revise the neighborhood/community park ratio standard to two acres of community park and one acre of neighborhood park per one thousand residents.
  - **Policy PR-1.2.** Distribute recreational facilities equally throughout Riverside's neighborhoods.
  - **Policy PR-1.3.** Encourage private development of recreation facilities that complement and supplement the public recreational system.

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- **Policy PR-1.5.** Locate parks adjacent to compatible use areas, such as residential uses, greenbelts, bicycle corridors, schools, and natural waterways to minimize the negative impacts of adjacent land uses.
- **Objective PR-2:** Increase access to existing and future parks and expand pedestrian linkages between park and recreational facilities throughout Riverside.
  - **Policy PR-2.1.** Integrate public transportation routes when locating regional reserve parks, community parks and community centers.
  - **Policy PR-2.3.** Improve and create more connections and increase the safety of the bicycling, equestrian and pedestrian trail system within the City.

#### *Parks Master Plan Vision 2030: Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Community Services*

The Riverside Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Community Services Master Plan serves as a guide and implementation tool for the management and development of parks and recreational facilities and programs for the City of Riverside. The Master Plan was adopted on February 4, 2020, and is part of the defined strategy to continue to address the primary actions and policies set forth in the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan. The Master Plan is based on demographics and community input, and the needs and recommendations presented in the 2020 plan would be re-evaluated every 5 to 10 years to assess for any significant modifications that may influence the local community's recreation needs.

#### *Riverside Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (2003)*

The 2003 Master Plan reviewed in detail the vital role of parks and recreation for the City of Riverside, its park history, and identified key areas of needed improvements.

### 5.6.1.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### **City of Riverside**

The City's General Plan Parks and Recreation Element categorizes parks into four broad categories—pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and special-use parks—as described here.

- **Pocket Parks.** These parks are miscellaneous urban open spaces and include historical sites or other small developed green spaces in neighborhoods. A pocket park's shape may vary considerably, and its size is typically less than two acres. Pocket parks may include special historical or recreational features but are typically too small for the more intensively programmed features found in neighborhood parks. Landscape features of a pocket park vary and can contain tot lots or be passive park areas.
- **Neighborhood Parks.** These parks satisfy non-programmed recreational and open space needs at locations within convenient walking distance (one-half mile) of the population they serve, estimated at 3,000 to 5,000 residents. These parks typically encompass approximately 10 acres of land.

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- Community Parks.** Community parks are intended to meet the recreational and open space needs of the larger community, as well as those of the adjacent neighborhoods. Most of a community park's service population of 20,000 to 30,000 people should live within one mile of the park. These parks typically are 20 to 30 acres in size and provide all of the facilities included in a neighborhood park, plus facilities for more structured activities, such as swimming pools, lighted athletic complexes, community centers, restrooms, parking, and group picnic areas. Since they provide similar facilities to neighborhood parks, community parks serve as neighborhood parks for nearby residents.
- Special-Use Parks.** These sites are generally dedicated to a specialized use or a group of related uses that serve the entire city. Major sports complexes, golf courses, and hobbyist parks are examples. These parks can also have joint-use management structures between the City and another entity, whereby the other entity owns the property and the City maintains it in exchange for use of the facility. Sports organizations, universities, and colleges are examples of non-City entities.

Lincoln Park is classified as a neighborhood park by the General Plan, and there are three neighborhood parks and two community parks within a mile distance from the project site as described in Table 5.6-1, *Surrounding Park Amenities*.

**Table 5.6-1 Surrounding Park Amenities**

Park Name (classification)	Address	Acreage	Distance	Amenities
Lincoln Park (neighborhood)	4261 Park Avenue	3.26	--	Basketball half-court (4), community center, playground (1), fitness station (3), community garden, Memorial Plaza
Dario Vasquez Park (neighborhood)	2400 14th Street	1.36	0.4 miles	Basketball full court (1), picnic area (1), playground (1)
North Park (neighborhood)	3172 Mission Inn Avenue	1.23	0.6 miles	Plaza
Newman Park (neighborhood)	3780 14th Street	0.42	0.7 miles	n/a
Bobby Bonds Park (community)	2060 University Avenue	13.67	0.7 miles	Basketball full court (1), youth baseball field (1), childcare center, community center, adult football field (1), playground (1), public pool
Bordwell Park (community)	2008 MLK Boulevard	22.76	0.8 miles	Basketball full court (1), adult baseball field (1), youth baseball field (1), childcare center, community center, fitness station (4), playground (2), picnic area (4)

### Project Site (Lincoln Park)

Table 5.6-2 and Figure 5.6-1, *Existing Lincoln Park Space Types*, show the existing space types at Lincoln Park. As shown, Lincoln Park currently provides approximately 2.46 acres (or 75 percent) of greenspace, 0.51 acres of hardscape, and 0.29 acres of playground areas totaling 3.26 acres.

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**Table 5.6-2 Existing Lincoln Park Space Types**

Space Type		Park Area (SF)	Total Acre
Greenspace	Lawn	102,431	2.46
	Grove	4,883	
Hardscape	Walking Paths and Sidewalks	20,263	0.51
	Buildings	1,866	
Playground Area	Basketball Court	4,061	0.29
	Horseshoe Field	937	
	Kinder Play/Jungle Gym	7,285	
	Outdoor Fitness	445	
<b>Total</b>		<b>142,171</b>	<b>3.26</b>

The following recreational amenities are included in Lincoln Park and Figure 5.6-2, *Existing Lincoln Park Amenities*, shows locations and images of the existing amenities.

- Community center
- Two barbeque grills
- Three outdoor fitness equipment areas (one on 12th Street, one on 13th Street, and one adjacent to the kinder play/jungle gym area)
- One kinder play area (two large jungle gyms, two swing sets, one spiral slide, and two sea horse spring toys)
- 12 benches
- Four half-court basketball courts
- One baseball/kickball field
- Five picnic tables
- Two water fountains
- One horseshoe (ring toss) field

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Figure 5.6-1 - Existing Lincoln Park Space Types



- Garden
- Buildings
- Exterior Walking Path
- Grove
- Horseshoe Field
- Interior Walking Path
- Basketball Court
- Jungle Gym Area
- Park Boundary
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment

0 120  
Scale (Feet)



Source: PlaceWorks, 2022

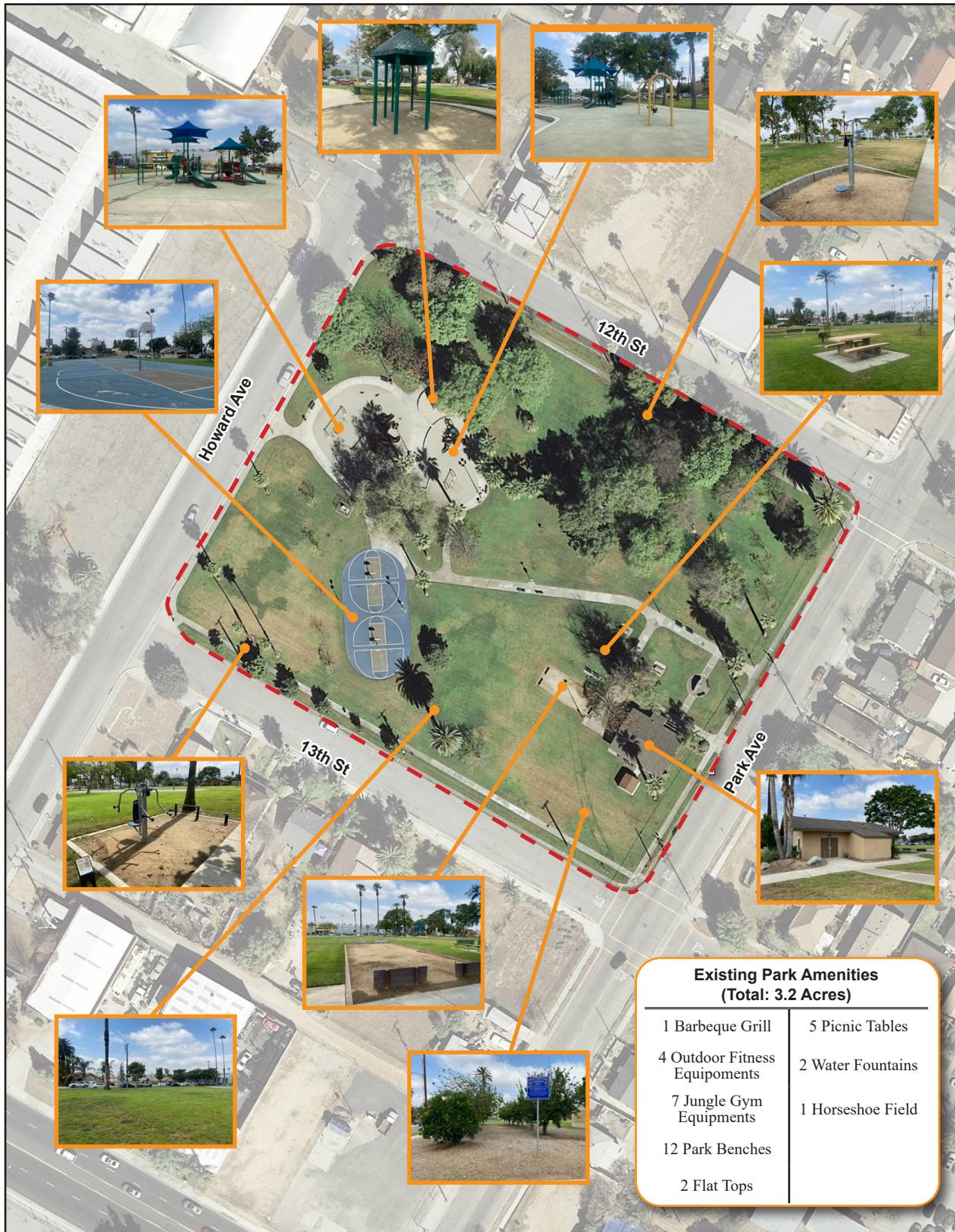
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Figure 5.6-2 - Existing Lincoln Park Amenities



Existing Park Amenities (Total: 3.2 Acres)	
1 Barbeque Grill	5 Picnic Tables
4 Outdoor Fitness Equipoments	2 Water Fountains
7 Jungle Gym Equipments	1 Horseshoe Field
12 Park Benches	
2 Flat Tops	

--- Park Boundary

0 120  
Scale (Feet)



Source: PlaceWorks, 2022

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### *Existing Park Use*

According to the first visit to Lincoln Park made by PlaceWorks staff on May 3, 2022, from 10 am to 11 am to capture the uses of the park during school hours, 13 adult park users were observed. The majority of the park users (seven people) were seen sitting at park benches and picnic tables eating or socializing, three people were walking or dog-walking using the trail, and three were using the exercise equipment around the park during their walk.

A second visit to the park was made on May 12, 2022, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, to capture the uses of the park after school hours. During an hour period, a total of 34 park users were observed, including 7 children, 8 young adults, and 19 adults. The most activated spaces were the basketball courts and jungle gyms by the youth and young adults with adult supervision. The baseball/kickball field and greenspace were used to practice batting or play baseball, and the outdoor fitness equipment, trails, and benches were also used throughout the park by the users.

### 5.6.2 Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (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.

### 5.6.3 Plans, Programs, and Policies

There are no existing plans, programs, and policies applicable to the proposed project.

### 5.6.4 Environmental Impacts

#### 5.6.4.1 IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following impact analysis addresses the thresholds of significance; the applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

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**Impact 5.6-1: The proposed project under all three options would not 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. [Threshold R-1]**

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Implementation of Option 1 and Option 3 of the proposed project would not require joint use of the adjacent Lincoln Park. Therefore, the use of Lincoln Park by the residents would not be impacted. The proposed neighborhood school would provide playfields and hardcourts that could be used by the community during after-school hours in accordance with the Civic Center Act and Board policies. Increased

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demands on parks and recreation facilities are generated by growth-inducing impacts that increase population in the area. Option 1 and Option 3 of the proposed project would serve the existing eastside neighborhood and would not create additional park users. Although the residents south of 14th Street can no longer use Park Avenue to access Lincoln Park under Options 1 and 3, alternative routes, such as Howard Avenue and Victoria Avenue would be available, and no substantial deterioration would occur due to street vacation.

Implementation of Option 2 of the proposed project would require the demolition of the existing lawn area and kickball/baseball field, four basketball courts with nighttime lighting, a portion of horseshoe field, outdoor fitness equipment, and trails and sidewalks totaling approximately 0.78 acres (24 percent) of the 3.26-acre Lincoln Park to build grass play fields with nighttime lighting for joint use. As shown in Table 5.6-3, *Proposed Joint-Use Amenities*, the joint-use space would include approximately 1.65 acre of greenspace, 0.72 acres of playground area that includes basketball courts (four full courts), blacktop area, and pergola area, and 0.11 acres of walking paths, for a total of 2.48 acres. These joint-use amenities would be fenced and access would be restricted during school operating hours. The joint-use park operating hours are currently proposed from 4:30 pm to 10:00 pm. In addition to the joint-use play area, the elementary school’s parking lot and a restroom would be available for shared use by the public during park operating hours. The assumptions made for this CEQA analysis are based on discussion with the City of Riverside Parks and Recreation Department; however, these are assumptions, and the actual terms and conditions have not been fully developed or agreed upon. If Option 2 is selected as the preferred project by the District, the District will be required to enter into a joint-use agreement with the City of Riverside, specifying the terms of the joint use.

**Table 5.6-3 Proposed Joint-Use Amenities**

Space Type		Joint Spaces Area (SF)	Total sf	Total Acreage
Greenspace	Lawn and Landscape	28,478.8	72,044.71	1.65
	Grass Playfields	43,565.91		
Hardscapes	Walking paths	5,002.59	5,002.59	0.11
Playground Areas	Basketball Court	18,900.19	31,166.41	0.72
	Blacktop	11,296.3		
	Pergola	969.92		
<b>Total</b>			<b>108,213.71</b>	<b>2.48</b>

Except for the 0.78 acre of the joint-use space, the remaining 2.48 acres of the existing Lincoln Park would continue to be open to the public even during school operating hours. The remaining amenities would include lawn areas, community center, four outdoor fitness equipment areas, kinder play/jungle gym area, benches and barbecue grills, and trails/walkways. Figure 5.6-3, *Joint-Use Park Impact Area*, shows the area to be impacted by Option 2 implementation.

Figure 5.6-3 - Joint-Use Park Impact Area



- - - Project Boundary
  - - - Joint-Use Park Boundary (2.48 acres)
  - - - Lincoln Park Area of Impact (0.78 acres)
- Source: Nearmap, 2021

0 275  
Scale (Feet)



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Although the proposed project under Option 2 would demolish some of the existing amenities at Lincoln Park and restrict access for approximately 0.78 acres or 24 percent of the existing park, as described in Section 5.6.1.2, *Existing Conditions*, under the heading *Existing Park Use*, the existing park is being used for passive recreation by about 13 park users per hour during school operating hours; therefore, those uses could still be accommodated by the remaining 2.48 acres of park space and amenities. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed project would result in increased use of other neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the area to cause substantial physical deterioration.

During non-school operating hours, the joint-use space would increase the available recreational space to 4.96 acres (2.48 acres of fenced joint-use space and 2.48 acres of remaining Lincoln Park). The number of lighted basketball courts would increase from four halfcourts to four full basketball courts and the lighted grass playing fields would be added. The grass playing fields would not be configured to any specific sports programs and would not be painted with any lines. However, for design purposes and CEQA analysis, it was assumed that one large soccer field (approximately 80 yards x 45 yards) and one small soccer field (approximately 35 yards x 25 yards) could be accommodated within the grass playing fields, which could hold up to three AYSO games or six teams simultaneously with six players per team. The grass playing fields could also be used to play baseball or kickball and the joint-use space would also provide a trail/walking paths and a small playground. Therefore, Option 2 would create additional recreational facilities within the Eastside Neighborhood during non-school operating hours compared to the existing conditions and would not result in increased use of other local or regional recreational facilities in the area such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. Impacts would be less than significant.

***Level of Significance Before Mitigation:*** Less-than-significant impact.

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**Impact 5.6-2: The proposed project includes recreational facilities; however, it would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. [Threshold R-2]**

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The project site boundaries for Options 1 and 3 currently provide grass play fields and hardcourts for Lincoln High School. Under Option 1, the proposed project would include grass play fields, hardcourts, and kinder play fields, which would be available for public use per the Civic Center Act during non-school operating hours. Option 3 would provide grass play fields, kinder play fields, hardcourts for the elementary school, and grass playfields and hardcourts for the high school. Therefore, under Options 1 and 3, the existing grass play fields and hardcourts at Lincoln High School would be replaced and would not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities elsewhere that could result in an adverse physical effect on the environment. Environmental impacts from the development of these recreational facilities have been addressed throughout the Draft EIR and would not result in additional adverse physical impacts.

Under Option 2, the proposed project would result in the demolition of approximately 0.78 acres of the existing Lincoln Park, which include a passive lawn area, kickball/baseball field, outdoor fitness equipment, a portion of horseshoe field, four half-court basketball courts, and trail/walking path. However, Option 2 would provide fenced joint-use recreational facilities that include lighted grass play fields that could accommodate up to three AYSO games, lighted four full-size basketball courts, a trail/walking path, and a

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hardtop playground for use by the public during non-school operating hours. Therefore, Option 2 would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities elsewhere that could result in an adverse physical effect on the environment. Environmental impacts from the development of recreational facilities under Option 2 have been addressed throughout the Draft EIR and would not result in additional adverse physical impacts.

***Level of Significance Before Mitigation:*** Less-than-significant impact.

#### 5.6.5 Cumulative Impacts

The area considered for cumulative impacts for recreation is the Eastside Neighborhood. Cumulative projects in Table 4-1, *Development Projects for Cumulative Analysis*, include two residential development and one Metrorail Station expansion project in Eastside Neighborhood. Increases in park usage for existing recreation facilities and demand for new recreational facilities are typically generated by population growth in the area. Therefore, the two residential development projects in Eastside Neighborhood would result in increased demand for recreational facilities. Residential projects in the City of Riverside would be required to pay the Local Park Development Fee, which would contribute to providing funding for the acquisition and/or development of new parks and the expansion and/or improvement of existing parks. The proposed project is not a growth-inducing project that would increase demands for recreational facilities. And under Options 1 and 3 of the proposed project, would not impact the existing park supplies in the Eastside Neighborhood. Therefore, when combined with the cumulative projects, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts related to recreation facilities. And although Option 2 would restrict access to a portion of the existing park during school operating hours when the park users are minimal, additional recreational space would be provided during non-school operating hours to ensure that impacts are reduced to a less-than-significant level. The proposed project would not result in an individually significant impact and would not contribute to an adverse cumulative impact.

#### 5.6.6 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

The following impacts would be less than significant: Impacts 5.6-1 and 5.6-2.

#### 5.6.7 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

#### 5.6.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation

Not applicable.

#### 5.6.9 References

Esri. 2022, April. American Community Survey Key Population & Household Facts. (Appendix A).

Riverside, City of. 2012, November (amended). Riverside General Plan 2025, Parks and Recreation Element.

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- . 2019, November 13. Lincoln Park Conceptual Renovation Plan. (Appendix B).
- . 2020, February 4 (adopted). Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Community Services Master Plan.

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