



CITY OF GRAND TERRACE

existing parks assessment

- GRAND TERRACE FITNESS PARK
- GRIFFIN PARK
- GWENN KARGER POCKET PARK
- PICO NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- RICHARD ROLLINS COMMUNITY PARK
- SUSAN PETTA PARK
- T.J. AUSTIN PARK



APRIL 2016 | DRAFT REPORT



CITY OF GRAND TERRACE | EST 1978 CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY

Grand Terrace is a city in San Bernadino County, California, incorporated in 1978. Settlers date back to the 1800s. The City is nestled between two mountain ranges, Blue Mountain to the east, and La Loma Hills to the west. As a part of the California sun belt, the area has a rich agricultural heritage, well known for citrus (Blue Mountain brand) and honey. Today, the City is known for its safe neighborhoods and thriving businesses. Grand Terrace boasts a natural beauty and many recreational opportunities.

SCOPE OF WORK

- 1) To collect and review information on the City's existing park facilities, and provide a quantitative and qualitative evaluation thereof.
- 2) To conduct two (2) community focus groups to determine key issues, priorities and perceived community facility needs.
- 3) To prepare an existing conditions assessment report to summarize the results of the existing park review, evaluation and analysis activities.

ABOUT THE CITY:

- Population: 12,337 (2013)
- Elevation: 1,063 feet (average)
- Size: 3.502 square miles



GRAND TERRACE FITNESS PARK | EST 2013

21937 GRAND TERRACE ROAD | OPEN DAWN TO DUSK

SIZE

2.55 acres

CLASSIFICATION

Neighborhood Park

DESCRIPTION OF PARK FACILITY

Grand Terrace Fitness Park is a 2.55-acre neighborhood park adjacent to single-family residences, as well as a mobile home park to the south of the park. The City of Grand Terrace owns, maintains and operates the park, which features a tennis court, two children's play areas, two shade structures with picnic tables, a single-stall restroom building, parking, solar-powered pedestrian lighting, a fitness loop with fitness stations, accessible walkways and ample bench seating throughout.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Grand Terrace Fitness Park is a relatively new addition to the City's parks. It is well maintained and is in good condition overall. The drought-adapted plant palette and fitness-focussed plan of the park is well-suited for the needs of the community.

The plant material appears healthy and suggests that the irrigation is well-programmed for drought conditions and the plant selection, in general. A few plants exhibit stress. Other plaques identified plants that need to be replaced. Thus, diligent monitoring of irrigation and plant health is recommended for continued success of plantings.

There is a distinct lack of tree plantings to provide natural shade for the fitness loop and play areas. A large open space to the northwest of the park, currently covered with mulch provides opportunity for future phased, and additional fitness elements.

OPPORTUNITIES

- More natural shade
- Additional fitness elements
-
-



EXISTING SITE AMENITIES:

- Two (2) children play areas (2 to 5 years old; 5 to 12 years old), rubberized surfacing; Accessible
- Two (2) shade shelters with two (2) picnic tables each, solar-powered lighting; Accessible
- Concrete walkways; Accessible
- Fitness loop, decomposed granite
- Fitness stations (5)
- One (1) tennis court
- One (1) restroom; Accessible
- On-site parking (2 spaces); One (1) accessible parking space
- One (1) bike rack
- Solar-powered security lighting
- Two (2) seatwall planters
- Bench seating (10)
- Drinking fountains (1)
- Trash receptacles (2)
- Drought-adapted landscaping
- Interpretive signage
- Automatic irrigation system



GRIFFIN PARK

22954 MERLE COURT

SIZE

1.7 acres

CLASSIFICATION

Greenbelt Park

DESCRIPTION OF PARK FACILITY

Griffin Park is a 1.7-acre, undeveloped greenbelt-style park located in a neighborhood at the northeastern corner of the City of Grand Terrace, immediately south of Merle Court. The park runs in a north-south direction, and measures approximately 260 yards in length, or 0.15 mile. The north and south ends of the greenbelt terminate at neighborhood streets, Merle Court and Paradise Street, respectively. The City of Grand Terrace owns and maintains the park which consists of mostly flat, open turf scattered with mature trees, and other opportunistic vegetation at the park edges. The park also contains a few citrus trees. A concrete V-channel trench runs the entire length of the west edge of the park to accommodate run-off during a stormwater event from the higher grade at the east of the site. The park sits above a Santa Ana Valley 9-foot diameter, high-pressure water pipeline. No recreational amenities are currently present in the park. Street parking is available.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Griffin Park offers a large open turf area that can be used for open space recreational activities, dog walking, or relaxation. Surrounding mountains and hillsides provide good views from within the park. Slopes within the site show no evidence of erosion, are vegetated, and are generally in good condition. A few trees along the northern edge provide some shade for park visitors. However, there are no amenities encouraging a long-term visit to the site. The site is also not currently ADA accessible.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improvements to the existing irrigation system to increase efficiency of overall water usage
-
-



EXISTING SITE AMENITIES:

- Automatic irrigation system
- Open turf
- Shade trees



GWENN KARGER PARK | EST 2008

SIZE

5,500 square feet

CLASSIFICATION

Pocket Park

DESCRIPTION OF PARK FACILITY

Gwenn Karger Park is a 5,500 square foot pocket park located on the northwest corner of DeBerry Street and Mount Vernon Avenue. Single-family residences surround the park to the west and north. A busy thoroughfare, Mount Vernon Avenue separates the park from more single-family residences to the east. Terrace Hills Middle School is across the street. The City of Grand Terrace owns, maintains and operates the park, which features three murals honoring the City's heritage of both the citrus and honey trades, made of tiles individually painted by children from the community. A time capsule was placed in the park to be opened on the City's 50th anniversary, November 2028. The park contains a rose garden, several benches under shade trees, and security cameras and lighting. The focal point of the park is a bronze sculpture commissioned by the City in 2007, "Red-Tailed Hawk Soaring Over Blue Mountain," by artist Patrick Jewitt, a San Bernadino resident. A small mounded turf area provides for open play. Street parking is available.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Gwenn Karger park is well maintained pocket park and is in good condition overall. Ample shade is provided at bench seating areas.

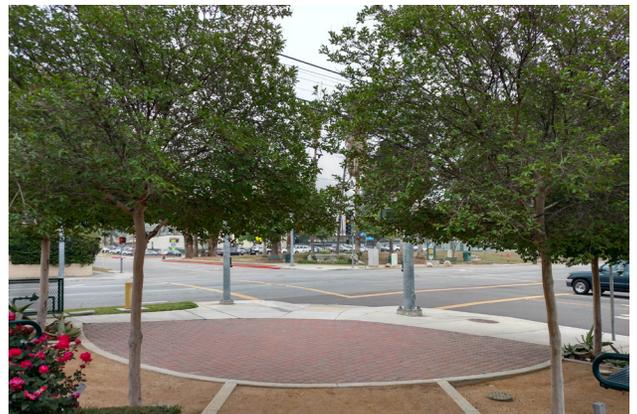
OPPORTUNITIES

- Some plantings around the perimeter are in need of replacement an/or rejuvenation
- Some tree uplights appear to be inoperable
-



EXISTING SITE AMENITIES:

- 6-foot tall bronze sculpture, "Red-Tailed Hawk Soaring Over Blue Mountain," on black granite base
- Decorated tile murals (3)
- Time capsule (1)
- Decomposed granite path with paver nodes at entry & interior seating; Accessible
- Shade trees
- Turf mound
- Rose garden
- Bench seating (6)
- Trash receptacles (2)
- Security lighting
- 24-hour recorded video surveillance
- Automatic irrigation system



PICO PARK | EST 1994

21950 PICO STREET | OPEN 7AM TO DUSK

SIZE

4 acres

CLASSIFICATION

Neighborhood Park

DESCRIPTION OF PARK FACILITY

Pico Park is a 4-acre neighborhood park located directly east of Grand Terrace High School. Single-family residences surround the south and east side of the park. Commercial property is to the north side of the park but without direct access. The City of Grand Terrace owns, maintains and operates the park which is well used, consisting of two baseball fields, two basketball courts, one shade structure with picnic tables and barbecues, a children's play area, a combined concession & restroom building, gated on-site parking, pedestrian lighting, accessible walkways and ample bench seating throughout.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Pico Park is well maintained and is in good condition overall. Recent improvements have been completed, such as an accessible path to the far baseball field. An allée of trees at the parking entrance have recently been removed to improve lighting and visibility within the parking lot.

Drainage to one drinking fountain, located at the basketball courts, appears clogged.

The City Council has expressed a desire to rename Pico Park to Veteran's Freedom Park after the "Freedom Wall" donated to the City by the Grand Terrace Foundation.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improvements to far field include: bleacher seating; players' amenities in dugout such as bat racks; repair or replace damaged benches; standard trash receptacle
- Shade shelter and other amenities such as picnic tables and benches need repainting, repair, and/or to be replaced
- A few trees may require removal of root barriers due to improper installation within the interior of the tree well. Other trees have caused damage to paving by root intrusion and uplift. Shrubs are past maturation, and need to be replaced



EXISTING SITE AMENITIES:

- Two (2) baseball fields (1 Tee-ball) with Little League fencing, lighted; One (1) lighted scoreboard; Bleacher seating; Hourly rental rates
- Two (2) basketball courts, lighted; concrete surface, painted striping
- One (1) shade shelter with six (6) picnic tables and two (2) barbecues, lighted; Hourly rental rates; Accessible
- One (1) children play area (2 to 12 years old), rubberized surfacing; Accessible
- One (1) building, combined concession & restroom; Accessible
- On-site parking lot with accessible parking area
- Sculpture; 3-D letters spelling FREEDOM measuring approximately 4' H x 15' W x 2' D
- One (1) bike rack
- Accessible concrete walkways
- Security lighting
- Single picnic tables (7)
- Bench seating
- Monument signage
- Drinking fountains (3)
- Trash receptacles (8)
- Mature trees
- 24-hour recorded video surveillance
- Automatic irrigation system



RICHARD ROLLINS PARK | EST 1994

22745 DE BERRY STREET | OPEN 6AM TO 10PM

SIZE

12 acres

CLASSIFICATION

Community Park

DESCRIPTION OF PARK FACILITY

Richard Rollins Park is a 12-acre community park located directly east of Terrace Hills Middle School. A steep slope separates the single-family residences to the east. A lesser slope allows access to the park by private gates from several homes at the south. De Berry Street, directly north of the park, separates the remaining homes from the park but features two crosswalks for pedestrian access. The City of Grand Terrace owns, maintains and operates the park which is populated with mature trees in key areas, and consists of entry signage, a gated parking area with several accessible parking areas, one stand-alone restroom facility, a separate restroom area combined with a concession stand for weekend events, two children play areas, four separate shade shelters with picnic tables, barbecues, two with lighting and electrical outlets, a small accessible concrete loop path, and several multipurpose fields where there is minimal tree coverage.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Richard Rollins Park is a popular destination for the surrounding community for people of all ages. Overall, the park appears to be well maintained and in good condition.

The hillsides are in good condition but minor erosion was present after recent rains and may need to be addressed before progressing. Embedded boulders are leaching onto adjacent sidewalks causing discoloration. A larger pedestrian loop may be accommodated around the far fields.

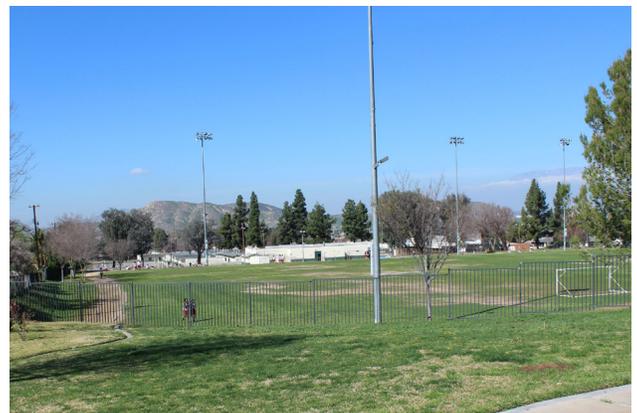
OPPORTUNITIES

- Shade shelter and other amenities such as picnic tables and benches need repainting, repair, and/or to be replaced
- New paint is needed in the parking area, especially at fire curb
-



EXISTING SITE AMENITIES:

- Three (3) multipurpose fields, lighted; Hourly rental rates
- Four (4) shade shelters each with four (4) picnic tables and one (1) barbecue, lighted; Two of the shelters have electrical outlets; Hourly rental rates; Accessible
- One (1) children play area (0 to 4 years old), engineered wood fiber surfacing; Accessible
- One (1) children play area (5 to 12 years old), engineered wood fiber surfacing; Accessible
- One (1) restroom building; Accessible
- One (1) building, combined concession & restroom; Accessible; Open only for events
- On-site parking lot with accessible parking area
- Accessible concrete walkways
- Security Lighting
- Bench seating
- Monument signage
- Drinking fountains (2)
- Trash receptacles (7)
- Mature trees in parking lot, and around play areas
- 24-hour recorded video surveillance
- Automatic irrigation system



SUSAN PETTA PARK | EST 2010

22627 GRAND TERRACE ROAD | OPEN 8AM TO 5PM

SIZE

2.60 acres

CLASSIFICATION

Neighborhood Park

DESCRIPTION OF PARK FACILITY

Susan Petta Park is a 2.6-acre neighborhood park located directly adjacent to the Blue Mountain Senior Villas community center on Grand Terrace Road, just east of Mount Vernon Avenue. The City of Grand Terrace owns, maintains and operates the park which is well populated with mature trees and ornamental vegetation. At the entrance, the park features a meditative, drought-conscious water feature surrounded by a decorative circular concrete seatwall with mosaic tiles. The park also offers a community garden for residents, as well as chess tables, and art sculptures. Pedestrian lighting, accessible walkways and ample bench seating are present throughout the park. Parking is limited to availability at the senior center where a parking pass is required. Street parking is not available. A bus stop is available immediately outside the park.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Susan Petta Park is well maintained and is in good condition overall.

In general, the plant selection offers a rich sensory experience (visual and olfactory), and appears lush and healthy.

Much of the bench seating along the pathways is shaded.

One drinking fountain was observed leaking and in need of repair.

OPPORTUNITIES

- A few trees appear stressed, and several of the shrubs, especially the agaves, are mature and may need to be replaced
- Several seating areas need shading: at the water feature, at the labyrinth, and at the chess tables
- The plant palette, overall, is considered medium to high water use including several open turf areas, and may need to be reassessed for current municipal water use standards



EXISTING SITE AMENITIES:

- One (1) drought-conscious water feature with surrounding bench seating
- One (1) community garden; 32 plots (28" D x 48" W x 48"L)
- Dedication plaques in planting beds, or at bench seating; children's painted tiles
- One (1) trellis
- One (1) flagpole
- Art sculptures: honey pots (2); abstract (1)
- Accessible concrete walkways
- Security lighting
- Two (2) chess tables with fixed chair seating (2)
- Bench seating (8)
- Drinking fountains (2)
- Trash receptacles (4)
- Mature trees
- 24-hour recorded video surveillance
- Automatic irrigation system



T.J. AUSTIN PARK

22760 RAVEN WAY

SIZE

1.5 acres

CLASSIFICATION

Greenbelt Park

DESCRIPTION OF PARK FACILITY

T.J. Austin Park is a 1.5-acre, partially developed greenbelt-style park nestled in a neighborhood on the eastern edge of the City of Grand Terrace, east of Oriole Avenue. The park runs in a north-south direction, and spans the length of three neighborhood blocks, crossing two streets, Raven Way and Robin Way. The park features an accessible path which measures approximately 225 yards in length, or just over 0.1 mile. The north and south ends of the greenbelt terminate at undeveloped land which sits above a Santa Ana Valley 9-foot diameter, high-pressure water pipeline. The City of Grand Terrace owns and maintains the park which consists of mostly flat, open turf areas scattered with mature trees, and other opportunistic vegetation at the park edges, abutting fencing separating residents from the park. The park offers one accessible children play area which includes one play structure and a 2-bay swing set (4 swings). Street parking is available.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

T.J. Austin Park provides a paved path through the length of the park and one children play area, but otherwise is made up of a majority of undeveloped turf area. Views of the surrounding landscape are noteworthy. However, there are no amenities such as drinking fountains or areas for picnic tables. Shade along the pathway and at the play area are practically non-existent.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Existing benches need repainting, repair, and/or to be replaced
- The number of trash receptacles is inadequate
- Improvements to the existing irrigation system to increase efficiency of overall water usage



EXISTING SITE AMENITIES:

- One (1) children play area (2 to 12 years old), engineered wood fiber surfacing; Accessible
- One (1) two-bay swing set; (4 swings)
- Open turf areas
- Accessible path/trail
- Bench seating (4)
- Trash receptacle (1)
- Automatic irrigation system



