



# 5

## Parks & Public Services

Quality parks, responsive public services, and reliable utility infrastructure are integral to maintaining and strengthening quality of life in Moreno Valley. Public parks, multi-use trails, and recreational and cultural programming provide spaces and occasions for neighborly interaction and healthy living. Schools, libraries, and educational programs provide spaces for learning and create opportunity for people of all ages. Public safety services like police and fire departments keep the community safe, and reliable public infrastructure underpins the City's daily activities and ensures that life can run smoothly. It is critical that investments in public services and facilities are made wisely to provide for the community's existing and future needs.

The purpose of the Parks and Public Services Element is to establish a framework to guide decision-making and investment in parks and public services that contribute to a high quality of life for local residents and an attractive climate for business. Related issues of emergency response and public safety are discussed in the Safety Element, while bicycle routes are addressed in the Circulation Element. The Healthy Community Element also covers physical activity and the Open Space and Resource Conversation Element also addresses recreational trails.

## Parks and Open Space Network

Parks and recreational facilities make a vital contribution to the quality of life in Moreno Valley. They provide recreational opportunities, foster health and wellness, and serve as important gathering places in the community. Moreno Valley residents enjoy access to a wide range of parks and recreational facilities, as shown on Map PPS-1. The Parks and Community Services Department maintains approximately 482 acres of parkland in the city, including 7 Community Parks, 24 Neighborhood Parks, 4 Specialty Parks and 15 miles of Trails/Greenways (see Table PPS-1). These facilities offer a variety of amenities from ball fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds to picnic tables, barbecues, and a demonstration garden that showcases sustainable gardening and landscaping practices. Additionally, the City maintains joint use agreements with the Moreno Valley and Val Verde School Districts for off-hour use of some school facilities, including gymnasiums and swimming pools. Residents also have access to an extensive array of regional parks and open spaces in the surrounding area, including Box Springs Mountain Reserve Park, Norton Younglove Reserve, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, and the Lake Perris State Recreation Area.



Moreno Valley boasts a network of multi-use trails within the city  
Photo credit: AllTrails

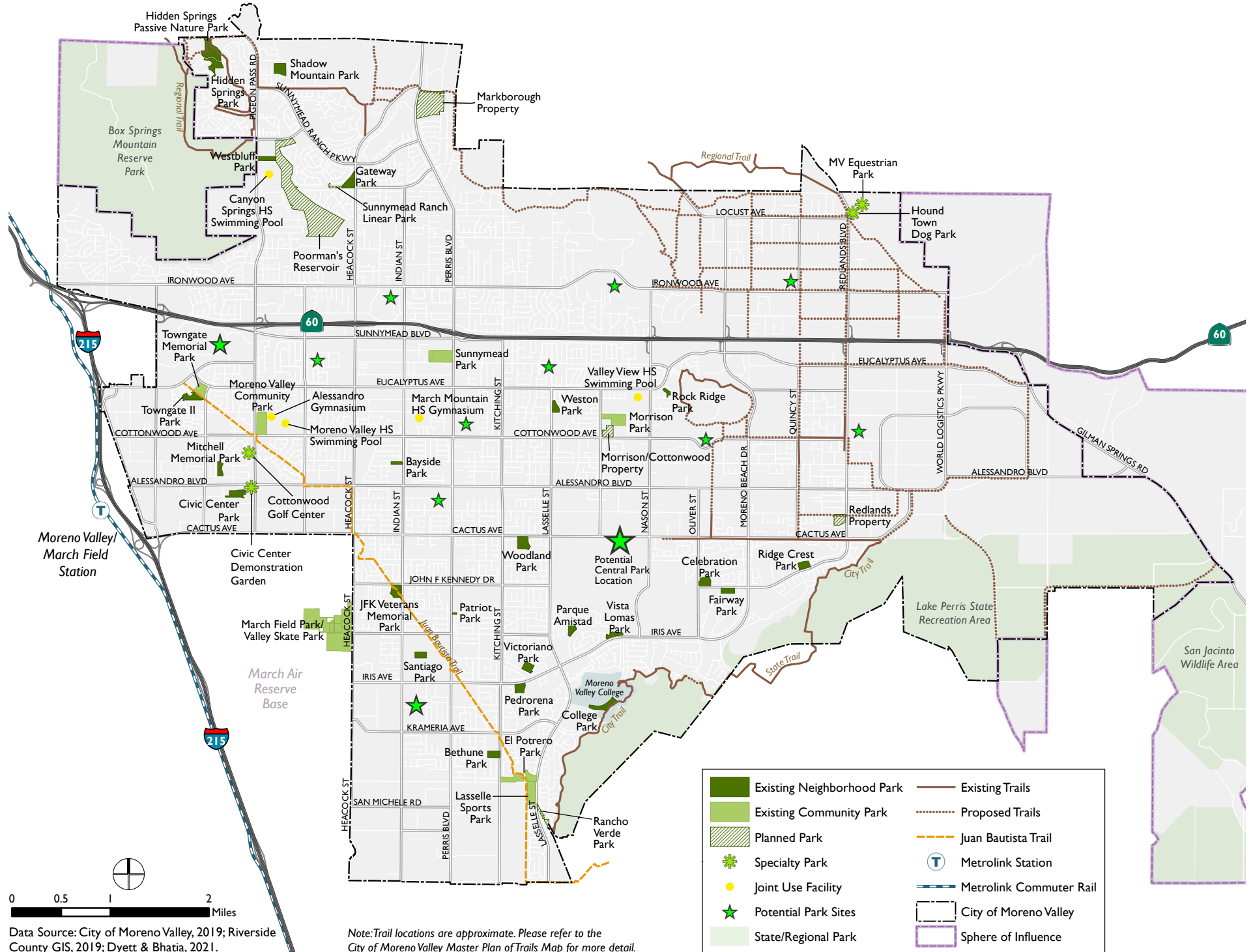
For planning purposes, parks are classified by type based on the size, use, and physical characteristics of the land. The four categories of parks defined by the City are as follows:

- ◆ *Community Parks are larger parks providing community-wide amenities, meeting needs of large sections of the community. Ideally about 20 to 50 acres in size, these parks have a three-mile radius service area, which represents a 20-minute drive, and often include community buildings, such as a cultural center or teen center, as well as specialty sports facilities. Where Community Parks are located in residential neighborhoods, they serve both the needs of the Community Park service radius and the Neighborhood Park service radius.*
- ◆ *Neighborhood Parks range from ¼ to 20 acres in size and are geared specifically for those living within a ¾-mile radius of the park, which represents a 15-minute walk. Ease of access and walking distance are critical factors in locating a Neighborhood Park. Amenities provided by a Neighborhood Park include practice sports fields, informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, and basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts. Mini Neighborhood Parks are the smallest park classification, ranging in size from ¼ to five acres in size, and are best used to meet limited or specialized recreational needs.*
- ◆ *Specialty Parks provide a single use or activity and generally possess a unique character or function such as equestrian centers, dog parks, skate parks, demonstration gardens, community buildings, aquatic centers, and sport complexes.*
- ◆ *Trails/Greenways allow for uninterrupted, safe pedestrian movement through the city and play an important role in connecting the park, recreation and open space system. There are two main categories of greenways: "Natural" greenways follow existing natural resources; "man-made" greenways result from development projects and are often located in residential subdivisions or along abandoned rail corridors, power line corridors, storm drain easements and collector parkway rights-of-way.*



From top to bottom: Moreno Valley Community Park, Rock Ridge Park (neighborhood park), Cottonwood Golf Course (specialty park), and a multi-use trail

# Map PPS-1: Existing and Planned Parks and Recreation Facilities



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Data Source: City of Moreno Valley, 2019; Riverside County GIS, 2019; Dyett & Bhatia, 2021.

Note: Trail locations are approximate. Please refer to the City of Moreno Valley Master Plan of Trails Map for more detail.

**Table PPS-1: Existing and Planned Parks and Recreation Facilities**

PARK/FACILITY NAME	ACRES	AMENITIES
<i>Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities</i>		
<b>Community Parks</b>	<b>166.25</b>	
El Potrero Park	15.00	Barbecues, four multi-use athletic fields, fitness equipment, picnic tables, playground, soccer field
Lasselle Sports Park Complex	12.75	Barbecues, lit football field, picnic tables, playground, snack bar, lit tennis court
March Field Park (Valley Skate Park)	85.32	Picnic tables, lit skate park, snack bar, lit soccer turf arena, two lit softball/baseball fields
Moreno Valley Community Park	15.58	Barbecues, picnic tables, playground, skate park, snack bar, four lit soccer fields
Morrison Park	14.01	Barbecues, picnic tables, soccer field, snack bar, four lit softball/baseball fields
Sunnymead Park	15.53	Barbecues, picnic tables, playground, snack bar, four lit softball/baseball fields
Towngate Memorial Park	8.06	Barbecues, multi-use athletic fields, picnic tables, playground, lit softball/baseball field, walking path
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	<b>155.58</b>	
Adrienne Mitchell Memorial Park	4.43	Four lit basketball courts, barbecues, horseshoes, picnic tables, playground, walking path
Bayside Park	2.04	Barbecues, lit basketball court, horseshoes, picnic tables, playground
Bethune Park	6.00	Barbecues, picnic tables, playground, snack bar, two softball/baseball fields, two lit tennis courts, water feature
Celebration Park	6.65	Barbecues, lit basketball court, picnic tables, playground, walking path, water feature
Civic Center Park	7.00	Outdoor amphitheater, benches (adjacent to Conference and Recreation Center)
College Park	18.00	Playground, soccer field
Fairway Park	5.50	Barbecues, multi-use athletic field, picnic tables, playground, volleyball court
Gateway Park	7.67	Barbecues, picnic tables, playground
Hidden Springs Park	7.00	Barbecues, multi-purpose trail/trailhead, picnic tables, playground
Hidden Springs Passive Nature Park	17.00	Picnic tables, trailhead, trail
John F. Kennedy Memorial Park	7.69	Barbecues, picnic tables, playground, lit baseball/softball field, four lit tennis courts
Parque Amistad	4.24	Barbecues, lit basketball court, lit multi-use athletic field, picnic tables, playground
Patriot Park	0.50	Picnic tables, playground, walking path
Pedrorena Park	5.50	Barbecues, lit basketball court, multi-use athletic fields, picnic tables, playground, four tennis courts
Ridge Crest Park	5.00	Barbecues, lit multi-use athletic fields, picnic tables, playground
Rock Ridge Park	1.93	Barbecues, picnic tables, playground
Santiago Park	2.84	Fitness area, multi-use field, playground, shade shelters, walking path
Shadow Mountain Park	10.00	Barbecues, picnic tables, two lit softball/baseball fields
Towngate II Park	8.91	Banquet facility, barbecues, picnic tables, playground, walking path
Victoriano Park	5.43	Barbecues, lit multi-use athletic fields, picnic tables
Vista Lomas Park	4.00	Barbecues, lit basketball court, picnic tables, playground
Westbluff Park	5.00	Barbecues, picnic tables, playground, walking path
Weston Park	4.14	Barbecues, lit multi-use athletic fields, picnic tables, playground, lit softball/baseball fields
Woodland Park	9.11	Barbecues, four lit basketball courts, pickleball court, picnic tables, playground, lit softball/baseball fields, four lit tennis courts
<b>Specialty Parks</b>	<b>61.04</b>	
Civic Center Demonstration Garden	0.21	Raised planters, instruction area, compost bins, fruit trees, vertical planters



**Table PPS-1: Existing and Planned Parks and Recreation Facilities**

<b>PARK/FACILITY NAME</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>AMENITIES</b>
Cottonwood Golf Center	15.83	Banquet facilities, golf course, pro shop
Hound Town Dog Park	1.00	Dog park
Moreno Valley Equestrian Park	44.00	Horse arenas, multi-purpose trails
<b>Trails/Greenways<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>90.86</b>	
Juan Bautista Trail	29.61	
Multi-Use/Equestrian Trails	61.25	Including: Auto Mall Trail, Cactus Corridor Trail, Cold Creek Trail, Cottonwood Trail, Covey Ranch/Day Break Trail, Eucalyptus Ave Trail, Iris Ave Trail, Quincy Channel Trails, Rancho Verde Trail, Redlands Blvd Trail, Sunnymead Ranch Trail
<b>Trail Heads/Staging Area</b>	<b>7.84</b>	
Cold Creek Trail Head	0.64	
Cottonwood Staging Area	0.40	
Rancho Verde Equestrian Staging Area	1.30	
Sunnymead Ranch Trail Head	5.50	
<b>Subtotal - Existing</b>	<b>481.57</b>	
<b>Current acres of parks/facilities per 1,000 residents (2018)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2.35</b>	
<b>Planned Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities</b>		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>194.20</b>	
College Park <sup>5</sup>	7.00	
Markborough Property	43.17	
Morrison/Cottonwood Property	8.09	
Poorman's Reservoir	125.00	
Rancho Verde Park	3.44	
Redlands Property	6.00	
Sunnymead Ranch Linear Park	1.50	
<b>Existing and Planned Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities Combined</b>		
<b>Total - Combined</b>	<b>675.77</b>	
<b>Existing and planned acres of parks/facilities per 1,000 residents<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2.68</b>	
<b>Additional Parks/Facilities Land Needed</b>		
<b>Additional Parks/Facilities</b>	<b>80.77</b>	

Notes:

1. Trails/Greenways includes multiple segments per trail
2. The 61.25 acres of Multi-Use/Equestrian Trails includes 15 miles from the Master Plan of Trails network
3. Assumes a 2018 population of 205,034 people (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)
4. Assumes a 2040 population of 252,179 people.

## PARKS SERVICE RATIOS

The City has established a park service standard of 3.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents to ensure that access to parks is adequate and commensurate with the size of the community. With 481 acres of existing and planned parkland, Moreno Valley currently has 2.35 acres per thousand residents, below the established service ratio. However, the City has identified approximately 190 acres of land for new parks, including the Markborough (43.16 acres) and Redlands (6.00 acres) properties, College Park undeveloped area (7.00 acres, dependent upon joint use agreement with Moreno Valley College), Morrison property undeveloped area (8.09 acres), and Rancho Verde Park (3.44 acres). Development of these facilities will provide new recreational open space to satisfy future demand, although with a projected population of over 252,000 in 2040, an additional 86.02 acres of parkland will be required to meet the established standard. Map PPS-1 identifies potential locations for these new facilities, adjacent to areas where new housing is envisioned. These are generalized locations only, intended to represent the approximate area



Access to parks for every resident is an important feature of a healthy city.

where new parkland may be provided in the future. Actual locations will be determined as part of a future update to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Master Plan. New residential developments will be required to dedicate land for new park facilities or pay a fee that can be used for acquisition of parkland as needed to meet the community-wide standard.

## ACCESS TO PARKS

While the amount of parkland is an essential consideration in planning for parks and recreational facilities, the quality and accessibility of these spaces is equally important. A city should have parks with a distribution and form that allows the facilities to serve as a point of focus for residential neighborhoods, easily accessible for children, families and seniors from their homes whether they choose to walk, ride, roll or take transit. As shown in Map PPS-2, all residential areas of the city are within three miles of a community park and most residential areas are within a 3/4-mile distance of a neighborhood park; however, given the large block size in the city and intervening development, only about a quarter of all residential neighborhoods are within a 5- to 10-minute walk of a park. The provision of new parks at the generalized locations shown on Map PPS-1 will help ensure easy access for future residents, and the development of a new Central Park in the Downtown Center with passive and active amenities will provide a signature facility for the community.

Park accessibility is not just a question of physical connections though; design, programming, maintenance and citizen involvement all play a role in encouraging park use. Programming a variety of activities and special events in addition to sports facilities and playgrounds brings people into parks throughout

the day and evening. Locating food concessions and other attractions near park entrances or along a main pedestrian path can make the facilities more inviting, and clear sightlines and lighting can enhance sense of safety. Integrating surround development and transit facilities and prioritizing ongoing maintenance will also help ensure that Moreno Valley's parks and recreational facilities are vibrant neighborhood focal points.

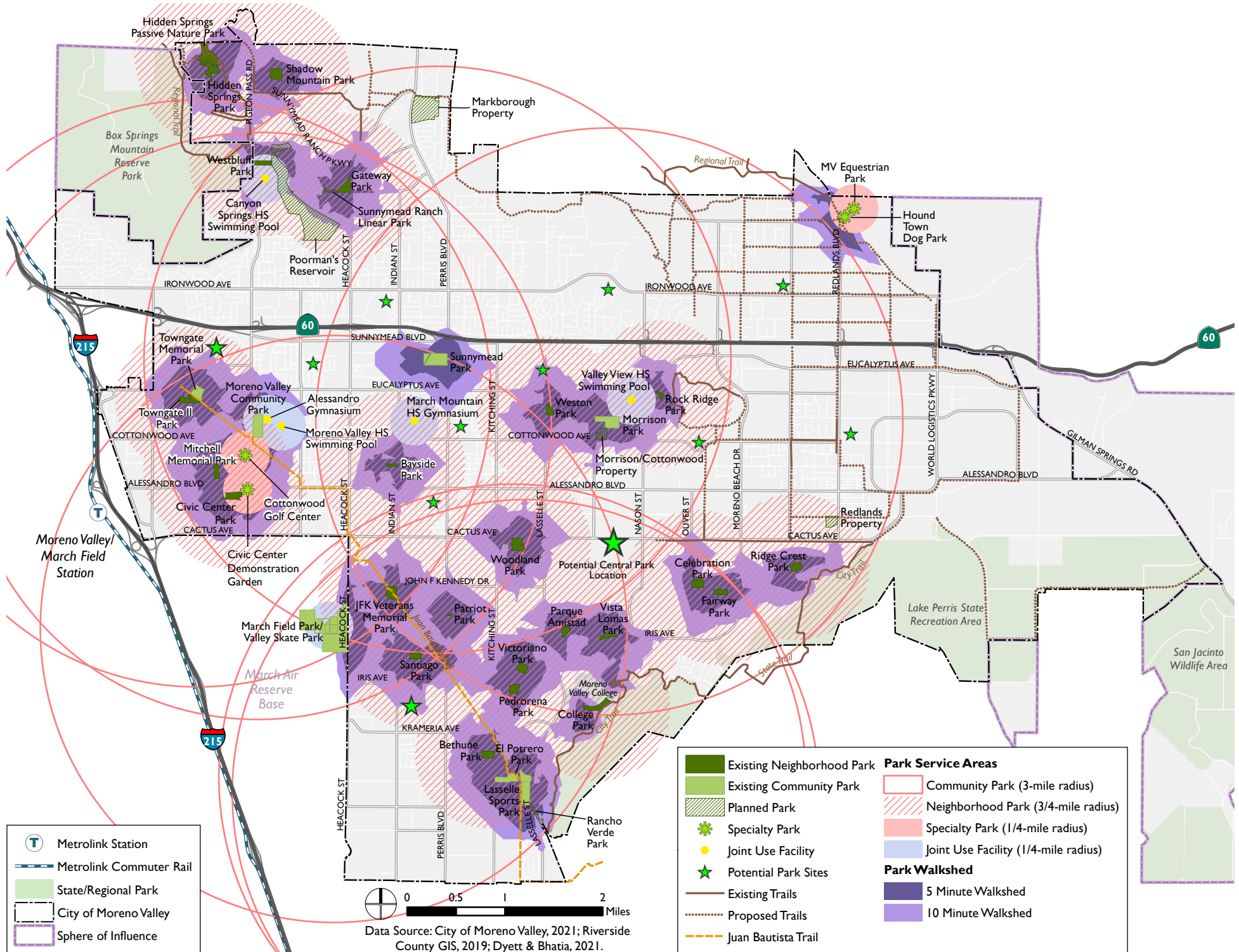
## PARKS ADMINISTRATION

The General Plan provides an overarching framework for the provision of parks and recreational facilities in the community. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Master Plan acts as Moreno Valley's primary implementing tool for parks planning, bridging the City's General Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. The Master Plan provides a detailed inventory of Moreno Valley's existing parks and recreational facilities and future needs, as well as guidelines for the development of future facilities and potential funding sources. Moreno Valley's parkland dedication ordinance operates under the umbrella of the State of California's 1975 Quimby Act, which allows cities to require that new development dedicate land or pay fees to help ensure sufficient parkland to meet the established standard of three acres per thousand residents. Additionally, the City can explore other strategies to encourage the provision of parks and recreational facilities, such as public-private partnerships or impact bonds, which shift financial



Gateway Park north of SR-60

# Map PPS-2: Park Service Areas



T Metrolink Station  
 Metrolink Commuter Rail  
 State/Regional Park  
 City of Moreno Valley  
 Sphere of Influence

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Data Source: City of Moreno Valley, 2021; Riverside County GIS, 2019; Dyett & Bhatia, 2021.

**Existing Neighborhood Park**  
**Existing Community Park**  
**Planned Park**  
**Specialty Park**  
**Joint Use Facility**  
**Potential Park Sites**  
**Existing Trails**  
**Proposed Trails**  
**Juan Bautista Trail**

**Park Service Areas**  
**Community Park (3-mile radius)**  
**Neighborhood Park (3/4-mile radius)**  
**Specialty Park (1/4-mile radius)**  
**Joint Use Facility (1/4-mile radius)**

**Park Walkshed**  
**5 Minute Walkshed**  
**10 Minute Walkshed**

burden and risk from local government to a new investor, who provides up-front capital for a project. In these arrangements, performance metrics or outcomes are agreed up front, and when they are achieved the investor received repayment with interest.

Parks maintenance and operations are funded through a Community Services District (CSD) established prior to incorporation of the City, which generates funds through an annual assessment on each residential parcel within the CSD. Up until 1998 the fees collected mostly covered the City's cost to provide park and recreation maintenance and operations with very little subsidy from the City's General Fund. However, over the last decade the City has taken on more parkland maintenance, built new park and recreation facilities and responded to community recreation needs with minimal increases in fees and charges to offset increased costs. Volunteer initiatives and sponsorship opportunities, such as those available through the "Beautify MoVal" program can help to offset operations and maintenance costs.



Residents hike on a scenic multi-use trail. The City sponsors free "Hike to the Top" hikes to promote awareness and appreciation of Moreno Valley's hiking trails. Photo credit: The Press-Enterprise

## MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM

Moreno Valley's Multiple-Use Trail System is one of the City's greatest assets. There are currently approximately 15 miles of trails constructed or improved in the city, primarily located in the northwest near Sunnymead Ranch and in the hills in the southern portion of the city bordering the Lake Perris State Recreation Area as shown on Map PPS-1. The multi-use trails accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. The system provides connections to both regional and State trail systems, as well as six equestrian staging areas.

Expansion of the system is guided by the Master Plan of Trails, which envisions a 56-mile network of City trails in the future connecting Box Springs Mountain Regional Park with the Lake Perris State Recreation area through the northern and eastern portions of the city. As a condition of project approval for new development on parcels where the Master Plan shows a trail, the City requires trail construction consistent with adopted engineering standards. The network will be completed as development occurs and funding becomes available. The City has also established Beautify MoVal, a program, which allows any private organization, business, non-profit, civic group, or individual resident to take an active role in adopting and maintaining the trail system in Moreno Valley.



Scouts adopt a trail by picking up litter. Photo credit: The Press-Enterprise

**Goal PPS-1:** Provide and maintain a comprehensive system of quality parks, multi-use trails, and recreational facilities to meet the needs of Moreno Valley's current and future population.

### POLICIES

- PPS.1-1:** Increase the acreage of parks in Moreno Valley to serve the needs of the growing population and maintain a standard of three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- PPS.1-2:** Require that proponents of new development projects contribute to the acquisition and development of adequate parks and recreational facilities within the community, either through the dedication of park land or the payment of in-lieu fees.
- PPS.1-3:** Locate new parks in the generalized locations shown on Map PPS-1 so that all residents have easy access to a park from their home. New parks should be located outside of the 65dbL noise contour (see Map N-3) and be accessible by transit.
- PPS.1-4:** Design and construct parks, public spaces and recreational facilities for flexible use, energy efficiency, adaptability over time, and ease of maintenance.



**PPS.1-5:** Use site design, landscaping, lighting, and traffic calming measures to create safe parks and open spaces integrated with adjacent developments.

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**PPS.1-6:** Prioritize the maintenance and, where feasible, improvement of parks and recreational facilities to ensure safe, attractive facilities that are responsive to community needs.

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**PPS.1-7:** Provide on-going opportunities for public involvement and input into the park planning process, including priorities for amenities, facilities, programming, and improvements.

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**PPS.1-8:** Continue to encourage existing volunteer, service club and community group efforts to maintain and improve parks, such as “Beautify MoVal.”

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**PPS.1-9:** Design and construct the multi-use trail network to connect parks, plazas, and open spaces within the community and promote access to these spaces.

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#### **ACTIONS**

**PPS.1-A:** Prioritize the creation of a Central Park facility in the Downtown Center large enough to serve as an amenity and a focal point for the whole community and a draw for visitors from the wider region.

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**PPS.1-B:** Update the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Master Plan to reflect projected community needs and continue to use the Master Plan as the

primary tool for planning specific capital improvements and parks and recreation programming in Moreno Valley. The update should incorporate priorities, phasing and funding mechanisms and should also address completion of the multi-use trail system.

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**PPS.1-C:** Explore the potential for linear parks along public and private utilities easements, including the California Aqueduct.

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**PPS.1-D:** Evaluate changes to parkland dedication requirements that will ensure the adequate provision of parkland. These changes may include updating the municipal code to extend parkland dedication requirements to residential projects of fewer than 50 units and requiring that large residential projects provide public open space and amenities on-site.

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**PPS.1-E:** Work with Moreno Valley Unified School District and Val Verde Unified School District to expand shared use of parks and recreational facilities.

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**PPS.1-F:** Periodically assess in-lieu parkland dedication fees, park improvement impact fees, and other fees and charges to ensure they are adequately providing for community need and are competitive within the region.

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**PPS.1-G:** Leverage city funds to access grants for the construction and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities from federal or state government, philanthropic organizations, or private partners.

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**PPS.1-H:** Investigate the feasibility of new park financing strategies such as impact bonds or public-private partnerships that make strategic use of public investment for community benefit.

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Cold Creek hiking trail



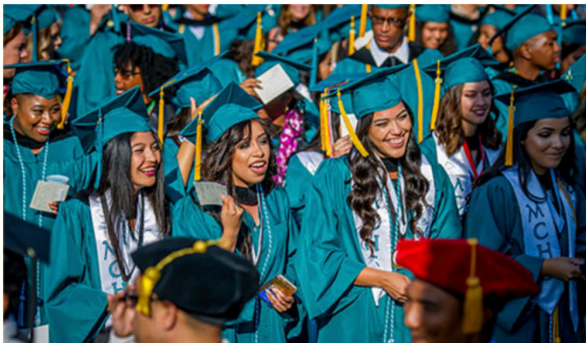
Woodland Park

## Integrated Public Facilities and Inclusive Community Services

Community facilities such as schools; libraries; and arts, cultural, and civic facilities and programs are foundational elements of thriving neighborhoods. In order to have meaningful, lasting positive impacts for users/participants and others by association, public facilities and community services should be well integrated and inclusive of the communities they serve. Public facilities, including schools, libraries, and civic facilities (including safety facilities, subsequently discussed) are shown in Map PPS-3.

### SCHOOLS

Good schools are the building blocks of a vibrant, healthy community. With good schools, a community becomes a great place to raise a family, and a good education system not only attracts new residents but also encourages young people to stay in the community as they start their own families. Good schools can drive economic development, as businesses are attracted to communities with good schools where their employees will want to raise families.



Moreno Valley College graduates in 2018.

A school can also be the center of community life, not just for families with children, but for everyone. State regulations governing the siting of new schools encourage locations within walking distance of homes and adjacent to parks, playgrounds, and sports facilities. This easy accessibility makes school sites excellent for co-locating a variety of other facilities as well, including post offices, and healthcare and social services. Some design concepts locate classrooms near or even inside senior centers and nursing homes so that children and seniors share time, spaces, and activities. Beyond mere cost savings, this concept has produced remarkable results, including lower medication levels for seniors and improved reading skills for children.

Colleges and universities, and libraries can also play an important role in the life of the community. Aside from the direct contributions they make to the local economy as large employers, post-secondary educational institutions can provide critical workforce development and training through partnerships with local businesses and community groups. In addition, schools and libraries offer numerous educational programming for preschool-aged children to adults, including English as a Second Language (ESL) and other literacy programs.

#### **CLiC, Community Learning & Internet Connectivity**

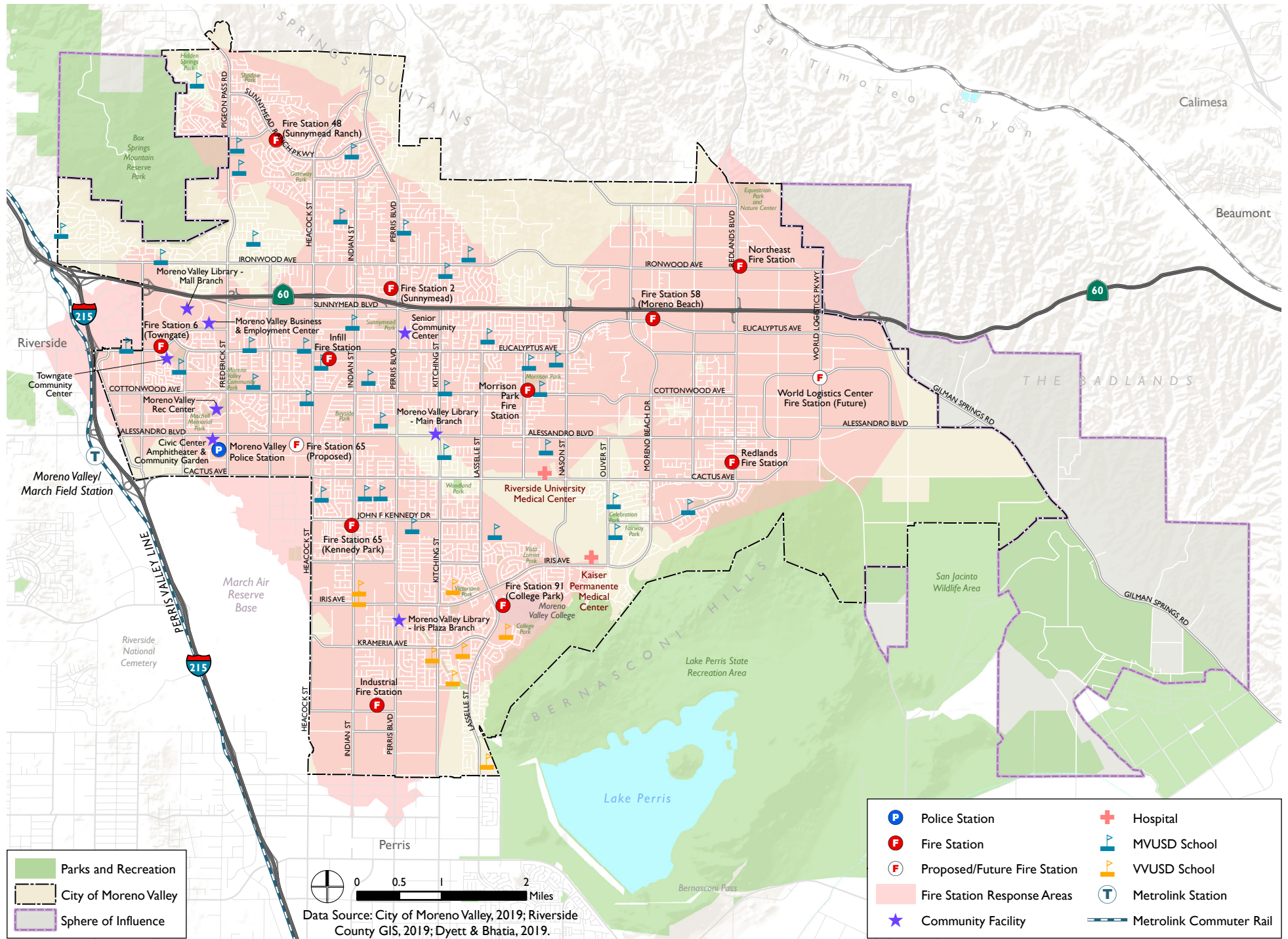
*In October 2020, the City launched CLiC, which stands for Computer Learning and Internet Connectivity, to provide free internet access using the City's WiFi hotspots, called WiFi Gardens, at various City facilities; public-use computers and mobile hotspots available at the City's three library branches; and a free, comprehensive virtual community portal filled with information to help build users' computer knowledge and skills, and links to low- or no-cost computers and internet service. The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers has awarded the City with the 2021 Innovation Award for CLiC's efforts to close the digital divide.*



Moreno Valley High School.

Publicly funded primary and secondary education in Moreno Valley is provided by the Moreno Valley Unified School District (MVUSD) and the Val Verde Unified School District (VVUSD). Additionally, there are a number of private, predominantly parochial schools that offer primary and secondary education in the community. Post-secondary education in Moreno Valley is offered at Moreno Valley College (MVC), well-known for programs in business and information technology systems; health, human, and public services; and public safety education and training. Additionally, MVC has the iMAKE Innovation Center, a facility that provides students and the broader community with access to innovation equipment and material to develop entrepreneurial skills. Another higher education opportunity in the city is California Baptist University's Division of Online and Professional Studies at the Moreno Valley Business & Employment Resource Center (BERC). With a trend towards online learning and the City's continued commitment and prioritization of education and workforce preparedness opportunities for local residents, it is foreseeable that online educational opportunities will expand in scope and popularity in the coming years. The City can continue to position itself as a leader in online learning, growing efforts and partnerships already begun at the BERC and with the CLiC Initiative (Community Learning & Internet Connectivity).

# Map PPS-3: Public Facilities



## LIBRARIES

Libraries play an important lifelong learning role in communities and the City has made important investments in them recently, most notably with the 2020 opening of the Iris Plaza Branch of the Moreno Valley Public Library system. The three public libraries (Main Branch, Mall Branch, and Iris Plaza Branch) offer a wide array of books and technological resources that are suited to serve patrons of all ages, supporting a culture of learning and civic involvement. Moreno Valley Public Library offers a host of programs for local residents, including children's story time, book club in a bag, STEM activities, reading programs, and literacy programs. Additionally, the Library partners with local organizations to host activities such as monthly performing arts programs and displays local art, all events and activities of which are free. The City's libraries will continue to be hubs of learning, workforce preparedness, and gathering for the community. As Moreno Valley grows in population, additional facilities and programs, especially those with a technological focus, will be needed.



The Moreno Valley Public Library holds a variety of programs for all age groups, many of which are geared towards literacy, social connection, and digital skill-building.

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

Moreno Valley residents have access to an array of recreational and cultural activities which are hosted across City-owned, joint-use, and partner facilities. New City-owned facilities such as the Civic Center Amphitheater increase the number of venues for arts and culture in the city, allowing for a variety of live music performances, movies in the park, and other City-sponsored events. Adjacent to the Amphitheater is the Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center with amenities including gardens, indoor basketball and volleyball courts, meeting rooms, ballroom, and more. Four other community centers also used by Moreno Valley residents include the Senior Community Center, TownGate Community Center, Cottonwood Golf Center, and March Field Park Community Center, each with their own set of amenities and programs available to the public.

Moreno Valley is conveniently located just about an hour from everything: mountains, desert, and beaches. For those who want to stay closer, there are many interesting things to do in Moreno Valley year-round. There is a weekly farmers market at the Civic Center. The Cottonwood Golf Center offers a 9-hole public golf course. Additionally, the City sponsors many popular annual events: spring events include Springtastic Egg Hunt; summer events include Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations and MoVal Movies and MoVal Rocks concert series; fall events include El Grito, Veterans' Day, and Day of the Dead; and winter events include Snow Day and the Holiday Tree Lighting. The General Plan's policies and actions are intended to enhance cultural and recreational opportunities in Moreno Valley, recognizing that these opportunities help to build strong community bonds.

**Goal PPS-2: Locate, design, and program public facilities as contributors to neighborhood quality of life.**

### POLICIES

- PPS.2-1:** Provide community centers, arts/cultural facilities, libraries, and other community-oriented facilities and programming, ensuring they respond to the diverse interests, needs, ages, and cultural backgrounds of Moreno Valley residents at reasonable costs and are distributed equitably and conveniently throughout Moreno Valley.
- PPS.2-2:** Encourage privately operated and community-based recreation opportunities, such as climbing gyms, fitness centers, yoga studios, dance schools and other hobby-oriented businesses.
- PPS.2-3:** Whenever feasible, co-locate City facilities with other public facilities (schools, post offices, hospitals/clinics) so that multiple services may be delivered from a single location.
- PPS.2-4:** Collaborate with schools to facilitate the shared use of sports and recreational facilities through continued/expanded Joint Use Agreements or other vehicles.

**PPS.2-5:** Partner with public and private entities to provide community services that support families and meet the diverse needs of community members of all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

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**ACTIONS**

**PPS.2-A:** Continue to promote community health and active living through City-sponsored initiatives, events, and activities (Healthy MoVal, Community Demonstration Garden).

**PPS.2-B:** Pursue funding from public, private, or philanthropic sources to expand community facilities and programs to better serve the needs of Moreno Valley residents.

**PPS.2-C:** Develop partnerships with businesses, community organizations, and non-profits to supplement and sponsor City programs and events.

**PPS.2-D:** Raise awareness of facilities and programs currently offered by the City and work with residents and stakeholders to identify additional facilities and programs that respond to evolving needs.

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## Public Safety

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Public safety and emergency response are top priorities in Moreno Valley. The City provides law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services to all areas of Moreno Valley. The location of public safety facilities is shown on Map PPS-3.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME PREVENTION

The Moreno Valley Police Department (MVPD) provides law enforcement services that enhance, protect, and promote the quality of life for local residents, businesses and visitors. Since incorporation, the City has maintained an annual contract with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for police protection and crime prevention services. The Sheriff's Department operates under the name of Moreno Valley Police Department and all patrol vehicles display the City's seal or logo and name. The Police Department provides a full range of protection and prevention services, including general law enforcement, traffic enforcement, investigations, and routine support services such as communications, evidence collection, analysis and preservation, training, administration, and records keeping. The Police Department also provides law enforcement services at the Riverside County Regional Medical Center and schools within Moreno Valley.

MVPD is committed to community policing and offers a variety of volunteer programs that contribute to enhanced community safety, civic engagement, and local pride. Community policing encourages interactive, collaborative partnerships between law enforcement agencies, their officers, and the community members they serve. By developing connections within the community, police are better informed and

empowered to address public safety issues, including gang activity prevention, intervention, and suppression. MVPD community-oriented volunteer programs include:

- ◆ *Citizen's Patrol Unit.* Trained neighborhood patrol units consisting of citizen volunteers patrol shopping centers, neighborhoods, or targeted areas to deter crime.
- ◆ *Station Volunteers.* These volunteers assist with various activities at the station, including filing, tracking of offenders, and putting together special events. They also assist with Neighborhood Watch presentations, work with special-interest and business groups, assist with data entry and fingerprinting.
- ◆ *Reserve Officer's Program.* For residents who have an interest in police work, this program offers three levels of Reserve Officers for various assignments.
- ◆ *Police Explorer Program.* Targeted to youth between the ages of 14½ and 21, the Explorer Program teaches responsibility, leadership skills, and discipline. The Explorers are active in various community functions and assist different units of the MVPD.



Moreno Valley police official and a young citizen  
Photo credit: Riverside Sheriff

MVPD operates out of the Moreno Valley Station located in the Civic Center Complex at Alessandro and Frederick, with satellite substations in several other parts of the city. The Department has adopted a zone policing strategy whereby officers are assigned to one of four areas of the city in order to improve response times to calls for service, help officers become more familiar with the community, and build relationships with local residents and business owners. Additionally, to fight crime and improve public safety, MVPD is increasingly making use of technology. MVPD employs a citywide camera surveillance system, one of the most advanced in the region, to remotely monitor parks and other key locations, permitting the Department to enhance public safety without adding police officers. MVPD also makes use of a computer-aided dispatch and records management system that allows rapid access to crime data, as well digital cameras and automated license plate readers in patrol cars.

Looking to the future, the City is planning an expansion of the Civic Center Complex that would include a remodeled Public Safety Building capable of accommodating an additional 420 personnel as well as a satellite police substation in the southeastern part of the city to service anticipated demand from new development. Continued investment in technology and resources will allow the Department to expand the camera system, implement advanced license reading applications, and offer video crime reporting services that allows residents to contact the Department and interact with officers in real-time. As Moreno Valley grows in the coming years, the challenge will be to remain alert and responsive to changes that influence crime prevention efforts.

Design of the built environment can also help prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime, and improve the



quality of life in urban areas. Research has shown that the most effective deterrent to criminal activity is the risk of being caught, and design of public spaces that places more eyes on the street and limits access points can create safer environments. Strategies for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) include locating windows to overlook sidewalks and parking lots, increasing pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and selectively installing fencing, landscaping, or lighting to control access. Well-maintained buildings and grounds also signal alert, active owners and can deter criminal activity.

## FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfire poses a real and present danger along the northern perimeter of the city and in the Bernasconi Hills in the south; however, outside of the urban-wildfire interface areas, the threat of an urban conflagration in Moreno Valley is relatively low and is comparable to that of other Inland Empire communities. Structural fires occur most frequently in residential development, and with a focus on promoting infill development will come additional challenges for fire protection in the community. Fire risk exists in commercial and industrial development as well, not insignificant in Moreno Valley given the billions of dollars

of inventory stored in the city. Modern fire protection equipment and systems provides valuable protection, and the Moreno Valley Municipal Code requires that all new buildings over 3,600 square feet in size and all residential homes must be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system. Applicable international Building and Fire codes must be continually enforced through a proactive inspection program to effectively mitigate risk.

*Wildfire risk and mitigation is addressed comprehensively in the Safety Element of this Plan.*

Fire and emergency medical services are provided by Moreno Valley Fire Department (MVFD), under contracts with Riverside County and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) for provision of services as part of an integrated regional fire protection system. MVFD is the primary response agency for fires, emergency medical service, hazardous materials incidents, traffic accidents, terrorist acts, catastrophic weather events, and technical rescues for the City. The Department also provides a full range of fire prevention services including public education, code enforcement, plan check and inspection services for new and existing construction, and fire investigation. Through a series of mutual and automatic aid agreements, MVFD provides fire apparatus to other jurisdictions in the region to assist in handling emergency calls for service, just as those jurisdictions provide resources to Moreno Valley.

MVFD operates out of seven fire stations, distributed throughout the city as shown on Map PPS-3. The Department has not adopted service ratios for personnel or equipment but strives to achieve National Fire Protection Association standards for the organization and deployment of fire suppression operations (NFPA 1710) and adjusts staffing and equipment levels

as needed, based on an ongoing assessment of activity in the city and calls for service. Existing facilities are located strategically where geographically possible to allow for a four-minute travel time, in accordance with NFPA 1710 standards. Map PPS-3 also shows land acquired by the City for future fire stations. Locations may be coordinated with the provision of a new police satellite facility in the future Downtown Center. Once constructed and staffed with adequate resources and personnel, these stations will ensure MVFD maintains adequate coverages to serve future need.

MVFD responds to approximately 19,000 calls for service each year, the vast majority of which are calls for emergency medical service. MVFD has prepared a Strategic Plan that outlines goals for fire prevention, operations, and management and a series of strategies for accomplishing them. The Strategic Plan guides the Department's activities and seeks to ensure the community continues to receive outstanding fire protection services.

Community education and outreach are important aspects of MVFD's mission. MVFD runs a Reserve Firefighters program designed to give on-the-job experience to individuals seeking to become career



Moreno Valley Volunteer Reserve Firefighters (above) assist MVFD in firefighting activities and the provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

firefighters while augmenting engine company personnel. The Department also has a Fire Explorer youth program, and the Office of Emergency Management provides training for City employees and residents, such as Community Emergency Response Team training, terrorism awareness training, and emergency preparedness training. These volunteer programs help connect the Fire Department to the community and play an important role for city-wide prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for natural or human-made disasters.

**Goal PPS-3: Provide for responsive police and fire services that ensure a safe and secure environment for people and property.**

**POLICIES**

- PPS.3-1:** Provide responsive, efficient, and effective police services that promote a high level of public safety.

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- PPS.3-2:** Provide fire prevention and emergency response services that minimize fire risks and protect life and property, including fire prevention, fire-related law enforcement, and public education and information programs.

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- PPS.3-3:** Locate and maintain police and fire equipment, facilities, and staffing at locations and levels that allow for effective service delivery.

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- PPS.3-4:** Maintain mutual aid agreements and communication links with the County of Riverside and other surrounding

jurisdictions that allow for supplemental aid from other police and fire personnel in the event of emergencies.

- PPS.3-5:** Monitor the pace and location of development in Moreno Valley and coordinate the timing of fire station construction or expansion to the rise of service demand in surrounding areas.

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- PPS.3-6:** Continue to require that new development make a fair share funding contribution to ensure the provision of adequate police and fire services.

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- PPS.3-7:** Continue to engage the Police and Fire Departments in the development review process to ensure that projects are designed and operated in a manner that minimizes the potential for criminal activity and fire hazards and maximizes the potential for responsive police and fire services.

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- PPS.3-8:** Apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles in the design of new development and encourage the provision of adequate public lighting; windows overlooking streets or parking lots; and paths to increase pedestrian activity within private development projects and public facilities in order to enhance public safety and reduce calls for service.

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- PPS.3-9:** Employ community-based policing strategies and encourage the establishment of neighborhood watch programs in partnerships with community groups.

**PPS.3-10:** Continue to provide community programs, volunteer opportunities, and fire safety education to residents of appropriate age.

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#### ACTIONS

**PPS.3-A:** Explore new Moreno Valley Police Department volunteer programs and initiatives that continue to strengthen community policing.

**PPS.3-B:** Explore new technology to maintain and enhance public safety.

**PPS.3-C:** Periodically review and update the Fire Department Strategic Plan as conditions warrant.

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## Utilities

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### WATER SUPPLY

Throughout Southern California, a fundamental long-term constraint on development is availability and quality of water. Water service in Moreno Valley is provided by two agencies: Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) supplies most of the city, except for a 430-acre area on the west side which is served by Box Springs Mutual Water Company (BSMWC).

EMWD supplies the majority of the water in Moreno Valley, serving a geographic area that extends from Moreno Valley to Temecula and from Mead Valley to San Jacinto and Valle Vista. Within the planning area, EMWD provides water to homes and businesses in an area that extends north of the city limits and includes most of the sphere of influence. Water supplied by EMWD is imported by the Metropolitan

Water District of Southern California (MWD) and comes principally from two sources -- Colorado River water sourced via the Colorado River Aqueduct, and water sourced from Northern California via the State Water Project. Prior to distribution as potable water, imported water received from MWD is treated at two treatment plants: Henry J. Mills (Mills) in Riverside and Robert A. Skinner (Skinner) in Winchester. EMWD is also increasing the use of recycled water for landscaping and other non-potable uses through expansion and maximization of the four regional water reclamation facilities.

BSMWC provides water service to a 430-acre area in the western part of the city that includes the Edgemont neighborhood. A private shareholder company owned by 2,300 property owners, BSMWC has provided potable water since 1920, sourced primarily from a groundwater wells located in the area. The well water is high in nitrates and to meet safe drinking water standards, BSMWC must blend its supply with imported water from MWD. Portions of the Box Springs Mutual Water Company system are undersized and deteriorated, which limits its ability to deliver adequate water flow for existing and new development. Improving the water system could cost between \$16.5 million and \$22 million, depending on whether it continued to depend on the well and blend it with imported water or switched entirely to imported water. Water system improvements are being made incrementally, but funding remains a significant challenge given that as a private company, BSMWC is not eligible to receive State grants.

MWD and EMWD have prepared Urban Water Management Plans to demonstrate sufficient supply to meet projected demand in their service areas through the year 2040 under normal, dry, and multiple dry year scenarios.



### SEWER SERVICE

Sewer service in Moreno Valley is provided by two agencies: EMWD and Edgemont Community Services District (ECSD). EMWD services most of the City, while ECSD services a 1,500-acre area on the west side of the City that includes the BSMWC water service area.

EMWD wastewater collection system includes 1,534 miles of gravity sewer, 53 lift stations, and four operational regional water reclamation facilities (RWRFs). The four RWRFs treat wastewater and produce tertiary effluent where the treated water is delivered to recycled water customers or discharged to either Temescal Creek or in percolation and evaporation storage ponds throughout EMWD's service area. In 2015, EMWD collected and treated over 45,300 acre-feet of wastewater, and recycled over 34,000 acre-feet of wastewater within its service area.



ECSD is a 2.35 square mile community services district located within the eastern portion of the City of Riverside and the western portion of the City of Moreno Valley. Its wastewater collection system is made up of approximately 17 miles of sewer pipelines, including three trunk sewer systems along Alessandro Boulevard, the I-215 and on Cottonwood Avenue. ECSD does not currently own a wastewater treatment plant. The sewage generated within ECSD's service area is currently conveyed to the City of Riverside Water Quality Control Plant by an existing connection and two metering facilities located at the Canyon Springs Shopping Center. These two metering facilities provide measurement of wastewater generated within the service area for billing purposes.

EMWD has prepared a Wastewater Collection System Master Plan that identifies collection and conveyance improvements; however, this Plan envisions new development focused in centers and corridors, including the Downtown Center, Moreno Valley Mall area, and the Alessandro, Perris and Sunnymead corridors. To accommodate this new growth pattern, it is anticipated that sewer line improvements will be required in these areas, including a new 8-inch 12-inch sewer lines to collect wastewater and a new 21-inch trunk sewer to convey the flows to the wastewater treatment plant. Other wastewater collection system improvements needed to support planned business and industrial development in the eastern part of the city have been defined and planned for as part of a separate Specific Plan process. The cost of the new sewer collection and conveyance system improvements will be paid by development as projects are proposed. It is not anticipated that redevelopment within the ECSD service area will require substantial upgrades.

## STORM DRAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Riverside County Flood Control District and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD) and the City of Moreno Valley jointly maintain the storm drain system. A portion in the east side of the City is within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone. As a result, the City has adopted the Moreno MDP, a plan administered by RCFC&WCD that provides the long-range plan to install storm drain conveyance systems on the east side of the City. In addition, the City has adopted the Sunnymead, Perris Valley, and West End Moreno MDPs, also administered by RCFC&WCD, that provides the long-range plan to install storm drain conveyance systems on the west side of the City. The City and RCFC&WCD have invested significantly in storm drain infrastructure. Several major storm drain, open channel, and retention basins identified in the Sunnymead, West End Moreno, and Moreno MDPs have already been built. Remaining improvements consist of:

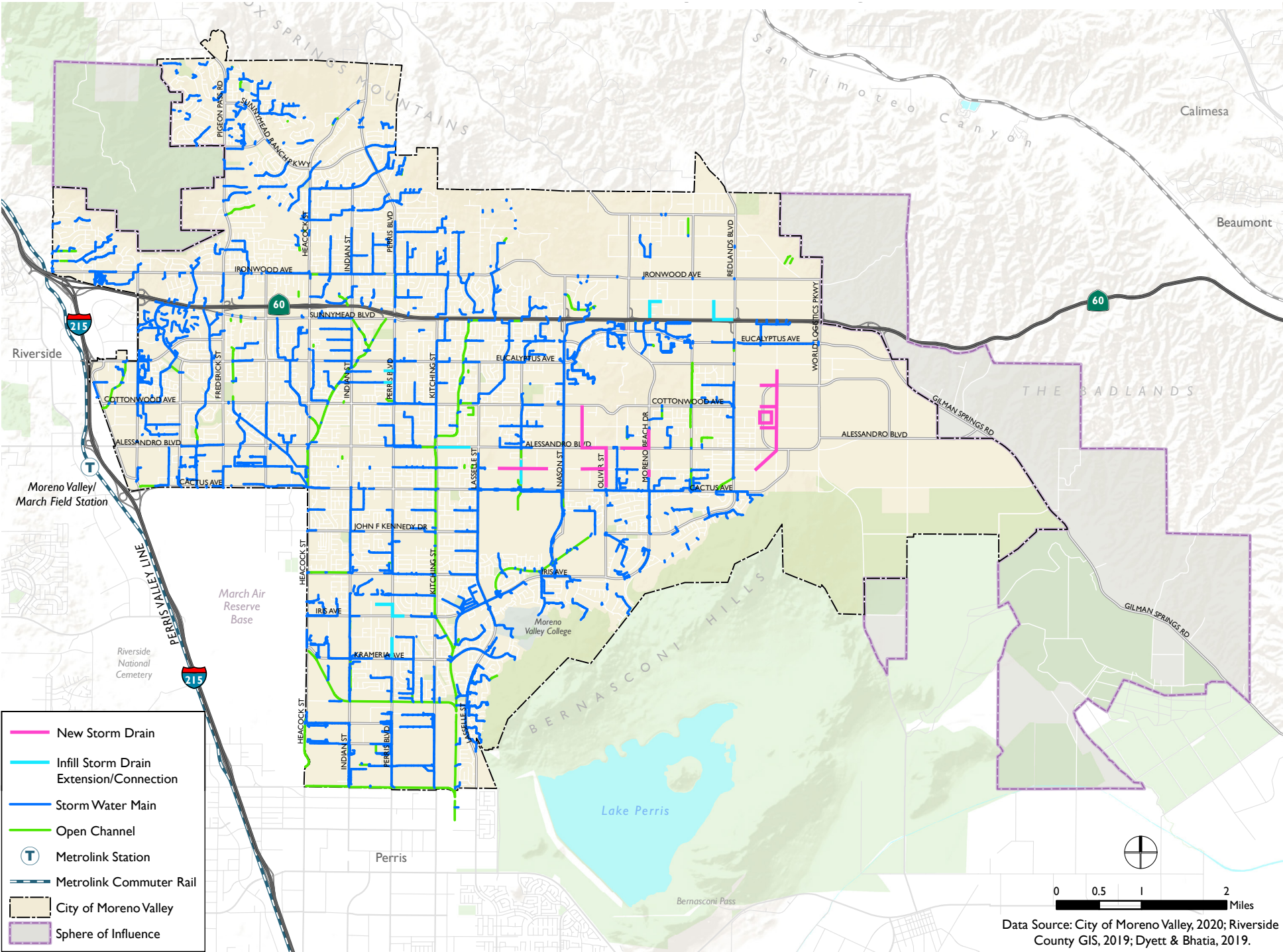
- ◆ Underground storm drains, including both reinforced concrete pipes (RCP) and reinforced concrete boxes (RCB), placed within existing or future right-of way;
- ◆ Open channel facilities, including concrete lined channels and earthen bottom channels with rock lined slopes. They serve as flow conveyors and outlets for the underground facilities, and are typically placed along existing drainage ditches, washes and where proposed construction of the channel has minimal impact on surrounding properties;
- ◆ Detention basins sized for a 100-year storm event that serve to reduce peak flow rates and to match the capacity of existing downstream facilities. Reducing peak flows results in smaller capacity

drainage facilities required to convey flows downstream; thus, saving costs and limiting the scope of downstream impacts. Detention basins will be equipped with an emergency spillway for flows exceeding the design capacity of the basin.

Existing regulations at the State and regional level have been established to regulate discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations and discharge specifications, receiving water limitations, and other provisions (i.e. monitoring and reporting, watershed management programs, control measures, and total maximum daily loads). Further, the City and RCFC&WCD have established additional local regulations for storm water runoff. Any new development or significant redevelopment are required to follow the established Low Impact Development (LID) principles and guidelines in the design of their site. New developments must not increase stormwater runoff downstream, both in rate and volume; rather they must capture it on-site for attenuation and/or recharge to control the stormwater runoff downstream. Ultimately, development is responsible for preparing a project specific drainage plan that analyzes and identifies impacts of the proposed project and any deficiencies within the existing downstream system to complement the planned improvements within the respective MDP areas.



# Map PPS-4: Existing and Proposed Storm Drain Facilities



## NATURAL GAS

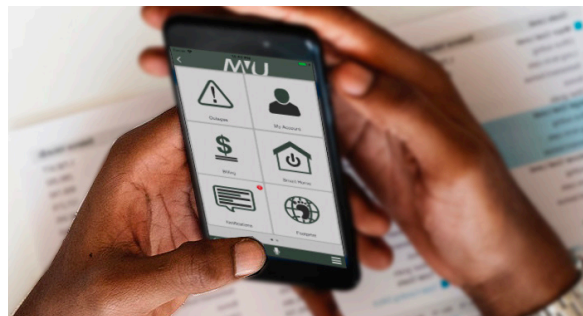
SoCalGas, the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, provides Moreno Valley with natural gas service. SoCalGas' overall service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles and more than 500 communities.

## ELECTRICITY

Southern California Edison (SCE) and the Moreno Valley Electric Utility (MVU) provide electricity to the city. SCE, a subsidiary of Edison International, serves approximately 180 cities in 11 counties across Central and Southern California. Today SCE has over 6,500 residential and business clients in a service area that covers the eastern and southern portions of the city. MVU was established in 2001 as a public power utility, first serving customers in the Promontory Park subdivision at Cactus Avenue and Moreno Beach Drive. MVU serves over 6,500 customers within its service area. MVU provides customer service, meter reading, billing, emergency response and other services to new commercial and residential developments located within its service area. MVU also provides energy for public vehicle charging stations in Moreno Valley, including public charging stations located at City Hall and the Walmart Supercenter.

In 2014, the Moreno Valley City Council formed a Utilities Commission to provide additional review for all matters pertaining to MVU. Commissioners are citizen volunteers, appointed by the City Council for three-year terms. Benefits of the publicly-owned utility are highlighted below.

- ◆ *MVU is a Public Power Utility* – Owned and operated by the community, MVU is locally controlled and managed on a not-for-profit basis. Public power utilities are public service entities and do not serve shareholders. This gives MVU the ability to tailor operations and services to the needs of the local community. Success is measured by how much money stays within the community, not by how much in dividends stockholders receive
- ◆ *Incentives for Economic Development* – MVU offers special incentives for businesses to locate within the Moreno Valley Electric Utility service area. More businesses means more jobs and a greater tax base for the City and its residents.
- ◆ *Direct Control* – Every Moreno Valley citizen is an owner with direct say on the utility operations, whether they are serviced by Moreno Valley Electric Utility or not. The City Council is the governing body for the utility, giving citizens the right to participate in the meetings and offer comments.
- ◆ *Special Services* – The City has the authority to structure its utility to provide special services to its customers. This includes the ability to provide programs such as the Energy Assistance Program designed to help income-qualified residential customers, and a full portfolio of conservation incentives for residential and commercial customers.



## COMMUNICATIONS

Utilities telecommunications, including broadband internet service, are considered common elements of contemporary life. It is necessary to ensure these services are available and adequate to meet the demands of all Moreno Valley residents and businesses. Rising demand associated with population and employment growth will necessitate additional facilities and services (e.g., 5G wireless technology).

In October 2020, the City launched the CLiC Initiative (Computer Learning & Internet Connectivity) intended to bring more residents into the digital age, including 150 WiFi hotspots that can be borrowed from the City's three library branches; creation of WiFi Garden locations (free WiFi access at various City facilities); public-use computers at libraries and the Senior Center; and a free, comprehensive virtual community portal with information to help build users' computer knowledge and skills. The CLiC portal, located on the City's website and available in both English and Spanish, provides information for free and low-cost ways of getting a computer and accessing the internet and also free resources to help users take advantage of their internet access to enhance learning, seek employment, manage their finances, do business, and have fun online.



**Goal PPS-4: Provide for utilities and infrastructure to deliver safe, reliable services for current and future residents and businesses**

**POLICIES**

**PPS.4-1:** Coordinate with utility agencies to provide for water and sewer systems capable of meeting the daily and peak demands of Moreno Valley residents and businesses, including the provision of adequate fire flows.

**PPS.4-2:** Coordinate development activity with the provision of public infrastructure and services to eliminate possible gaps in service provision.

**PPS.4-3:** Prior to the approval of any new development application, continue to require “will serve” letters from utility providers demonstrating that adequate water and septic or sewer service capacity exists or will be available to serve the proposed development in a timely manner.

**PPS.4-4:** Whenever possible, project proponents should ensure that public water, sewer, drainage and other backbone facilities needed for a project phase are constructed prior to or concurrent with initial development within that phase. It shall be the ultimate responsibility of the sponsor of a development project to assure that all necessary infrastructure improvements

(including system wide improvements) needed to support project development are available at the time that they are needed.

**PPS.4-5:** Facilitate installation of advanced technology infrastructure, including, but not limited to, infrastructure for high-speed internet access and solar energy.

**PPS.4-6:** Maintain a “dig once” policy to streamline the installation of infrastructure, minimize disruption from construction activities, and optimize coordination among responsible agencies and developers.

**ACTIONS**

**PPS.4-A:** Share information on development activity and growth projections with utility providers and coordinate with responsible agencies to ensure adequate planning of public utilities to serve the community.

**PPS.4-B:** Continue to implement comprehensive solutions to the financing of public facilities that adequately distribute costs based on the level of benefit received and the timing of development. Tools may include benefit assessment districts, Mello-Roos Community Facilities Districts, tax increment financing, and other financing mechanisms in combination with programmed capital improvements to eliminate existing public service and facility gaps, and to provide necessary facilities in advance of the impacts created by development.

**PPS.4-C:** Periodically review public facilities impact fees in accordance with State law to ensure that the charges are consistent with the costs of improvements. Utilize the service and mitigation standards contained in the Moreno Valley General Plan as the basis for determining improvement costs.

**PPS.4-D:** Implement the Transportation Electrification Roadmap to promote the use of electric vehicles in the city.

