

Coalinga Parks Discussion

CITY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 4, 2021

City of Coalinga Parks

- City Maintains five (5) Parks
 - Vary from “Pocket” Parks to “Neighborhood” Parks to “Community Parks”
 - Centennial (neighborhood), Sandalwood (neighborhood), Frame (community)
 - Lynch (pocket/plot), Veterans (pocket/plot)
- CHRPD Maintains three (3) Parks
 - Varying from “Community Parks” to “Sports Complexes/Regional Parks”

Status of Parks due to COVID-19

All parks within Coalinga, both those owned by the City and those owned by CHRPD, are open.

However, the California Department of Public Health has limited Youth and Recreational Sports. These types of activities occur at CHRPD parks, not City parks.

Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

Tennis, walking, hiking – permitted in purple county tier (widespread tier)

Baseball, Softball – permitted in red county tier (substantial tier)

Basketball, Football, Soccer, Volleyball – permitted outdoors only in orange county tier (moderate tier)

Regional vs. Neighborhood Parks

- **Neighborhood Park**
- Smaller (typically 2-5 acres)
- Serves the citizens living within walking distance of the park.
- Allows for informal activity, passive recreation, and community cohesion.
- No exclusivity to ensure accessibility to the immediate neighborhood.
- Includes playground equipment, playfields, and picnic facilities.
- Larger neighborhood parks may include non-lite tennis courts, volleyball courts, and basketball courts.
- **Examples:** Centennial Park and Sandalwood Park

Regional vs. Neighborhood Parks (con't)

- **Regional Park**
- Larger (typically 5-20 acres)
- Serves a larger geographic area (1-2 mile radius or more)
- Engage families and visitors for an entire day with multiple and diverse activities and amenities throughout.
- Includes all of the improvements found in a neighborhood park, plus ball diamonds and play fields designed for competitive athletics, tennis and basketball courts, off-street parking, and shelter and restroom facilities.
- Also may include: Lighted playfields, spectator areas, and concession areas.
- **Examples:** Keck Park and Olsen Park & CRRPD Sports Complex

City Parks

- No Exclusivity
- Limited Hours
- City Parks within Subdivisions have been designated as Neighborhood Parks with the expectation that it would service the single-family homes in the direct vicinity.
- General Plan Goal is to Provide 2.5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. CDRPD Parks alone meet the City's goal.
- Park space is to be provided either by dedication in-lieu of impact fee payment or through the payment of impact fees if the development is too small to warrant a neighborhood park.

Intensifying Activity in Neighborhood Parks

- **Traffic** – Designed to serve the surrounding and immediate single/multi family dwellings
 - Walking and/or bicycling to the facility in lieu of using automobile transportation.
 - Increased vehicle trips and parking demand would affect the surrounding properties.
- **Parking** – These facilities are not designed with parking facilities to accommodate the increased traffic and vehicular demand from players and spectators. Parking will leak into the surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Noise** – Noise level may be intensified beyond that of passive recreation. Noise related activities tend to increase beyond that reasonably acceptable to the surrounding neighborhood. This could range from whistles, generators, crowd noise, and amplified music.

Intensifying Activity in Neighborhood Parks

- **Sanitation** – Neighborhood parks have limited trash receptacle capacity and do not typically have restroom facilities which pose a health and safety risk.
- **General Plan Consistency** – City Plans encourage collaboration with other entities (CHRPD/CHUSD) to provide joint use facilities more appropriate for competitive athletics. CHRPD Sports Complex has ballfields and joint use fields appropriate for soccer or football.
- **Insurance** – Added insurance costs.
- **Operation** – The City does not own or operate any Regional Parks. CHRPD is responsible for the maintenance and operation related to special events, activities, sports and recreation programs.
- **Staffing** – The City does not employ any parks and recreation staff.
- **Prior Environmental Review** – Prior CEQA review limited the potential impacts to traffic since the immediate neighborhood was expected to be the primary users of the facility. Subsequent CEQA review would be necessary to analyze the impacts of intensified activity.