

5.16. Recreation

RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a) Would the project 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

5.16.1. Setting

There are a total of 33 parks, including one community center, managed by the City of Goleta (City of Goleta, 2025). Three parks, and one open space preserve are located within approximately one mile of the Project:

- Ellwood Mesa Open Space & Sperling Preserve, 7729 Hollister Avenue, 550 feet south
- Goleta Butterfly Grove, 7801 Hollister Avenue, 0.6 mile south
- Winchester Park, Calle Real & Bradford Dr, 0.3 mile northeast
- Winchester II Park, Calle Real & Jenna Dr, 0.3 mile north

In addition to these, there are two parks within Goleta’s city limits that are not managed by the City:

- Girsh Park, Phelps Road behind the Camino Real Marketplace, 1.3 miles southeast.
- Goleta Beach Park, southern terminus of Sandpit Road, 3.7 miles southeast.

The closest residents live approximately 50 feet southeast of the Project at the Mariposa at Ellwood Shores elder care facility, as well as residents living in the single-family residential neighborhood 320 feet due west of the site, just beyond the Project-adjacent SCE substation and Las Amas Road. In general, each residential area in the City of Goleta contains a neighborhood or mini “pocket” park, located within 0.33 to 0.5 mile, to ensure that almost all residents live within close proximity to green spaces (City of Goleta, 2006). According to Figure 3-2 *Park And Recreation Plan Map* in the General Plan, the Project area is not in a location that is within an existing or planned future park, recreation, or open space location (City of Goleta, 2009).

5.16.2. Regulatory Background

This section includes a description of the recreation regulatory framework. There are no federal or State regulations associated with recreation that are relevant to the proposed Project.

City of Goleta General Plan Open Space Element. The objective of the city’s public facilities and services policies is to maintain a high quality of life and livability in the City of Goleta. The following policies in the General Plan Open Space Element generally relate to the proposed Project (City of Goleta, 2006):

Policy OS 6: Public Park System Plan [GP]

Objective: To develop a well-maintained, interconnected system of multi-functional parks, recreation facilities and public open spaces that will meet the needs of existing and future residents and employees and that are attractive, safe, and accessible to all segments of the city’s population, and supportive of established neighborhoods.

OS 6.3 Mini or “Pocket” Parks. [GP] A mini park is characterized by a relatively small size and specialized facilities that serve a small local area and/or specific segment of the population, such as children or senior citizens. The following standards shall apply to mini or pocket parks:

- a. The typical service area shall be a radius of 0.33 mile.
- b. The typical size shall be 1 acre or less.
- c. Mini parks should be located in close proximity to housing and/or other activity centers in the immediate neighborhood to provide accessibility and visibility.
- d. Typical facilities provided in mini parks may include children’s play areas and equipment, exercise and fitness areas, outdoor seating and picnic areas, and plazas.

OS 6.4 Neighborhood Parks. [GP] Neighborhood parks provide the nearby residential neighborhood with active recreational activities for a variety of age groups. The following standards shall apply to neighborhood parks:

- a. The typical service area radius shall be 0.5 mile.
- b. The typical size shall be less than 10 acres.
- c. Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood population through safe pedestrian and bicycle access. Neighborhood parks do not generally require onsite parking, although a limited amount of parking may be provided.

5.16.3. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Thresholds of Significance

A significant impact on recreation would be expected to occur if the proposed Project resulted in any of the impacts in the CEQA Appendix G checklist. There are no additional thresholds defined in the County of Santa Barbara’s Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2021), which has been adopted by the City of Goleta (adopted by Resolution 08-40).

Impact Analysis

(a) Would the project 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?

NO IMPACT. The proposed Project does not include development of new residential or commercial developments that would increase population and increase the demand for parks. The Project would use the site for a BESS to supply stored energy to the Southern California Edison (SCE) grid. Construction would take place over an 8-month period and would require only a small workforce on any given day. While some workers may use nearby park facilities during Project construction, increased use would be minimal and temporary and would not contribute substantially to the physical deterioration of existing facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

(b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

NO IMPACT. The proposed Project does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction of new or expanded parks or recreational facilities that could create an adverse physical effect on the environment. There would be no impact.

5.16.3.1. Impact Conclusions and Mitigation Measures

There would be no impacts and thus, no mitigation measures are recommended.