

Purpose and Intent
Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan Overlay District
April 14, 2008

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Together the Conservancy and MRCA strive to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance lands of Southern California and to create an interconnected system of parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public. The programs employed to further these goals include critical planning, coordination on park construction and improvement projects, park management and operations, fire prevention, ranger services, and a variety of educational and public outreach programs.

The proposed Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan combines the services of the Conservancy and MRCA to define comprehensive policies and development standards to establish an Overlay District for specific park properties and recreation areas within the City of Malibu. The Plan further identifies specific actions necessary to implement improvements intended to enhance public access and recreation opportunities throughout the Plan area, to be carried out pursuant to the Coastal Commission public works plan process. The Plan and associated Overlay District seek to enhance access and recreation opportunities via an interconnected system of parks, open space, trails, and habitats; to improve alternative methods of transportation between parklands in the Plan area; and to identify recreational facility and program improvements for the park properties in the Plan area to better support existing recreational demand and to facilitate an increased level of accessibility for disabled visitors at all properties. Finally, the Plan and Overlay District intend to address and re-establish entitlements for the critical administrative and public outreach program uses at Ramirez Canyon Park that were previously the subject of a Coastal Development Permit issued by the Coastal Commission on February 5, 2001 (CDP 4-98-334).

The Overlay District will provide the framework for implementing programs and improvements to the parklands and trail system as described, as well as managing development, visitation and natural resources in the Plan area for a 10 year planning period. The Overlay is intended to address issues associated with growing visitation and demands for outdoor recreational opportunities in the Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu area, potential impacts to natural resources, transportation needs to facilitate public access, and balancing the needs and concerns of private residents adjacent to public recreational lands with the need to promote and enhance access opportunities in the coastal zone for all residents, and local and non-local visitors of the City of Malibu.

Goals for Implementing of the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan Overlay District

The strategic objectives of the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan are directed by the general goal of creating an interlinking network of parks, trails, and open space for diverse public use, wildlife habitat protection, and for ensuring future preservation of open space and recreational lands. The Overlay provides policies and implementation measures in concert with and as part of Malibu's certified Local Coastal Program for implementing this goal. The Overlay identifies the specific Plan components intended to preserve and link parks and open space via trail improvements and to enhance a diversity of public access and recreation opportunities with necessary support facilities. The Overlay also establishes the uses and facilities to be accommodated by park-specific projects, and provisions to ensure project implementation will be consistent with all applicable resource protection policies of the Coastal Act and

Malibu LCP.

The Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan Overlay has been developed to meet the following goals:

- Enhance public access and recreation opportunities to park facilities to the maximum extent feasible for both local and non-local visitors, and for visitors with diverse backgrounds, interests, ages, and abilities (e.g., mentally and physically challenged). Design and develop trail connections throughout the Plan area and new overnight camping opportunities, and ensure that sufficient support facilities are provided, to readily serve the existing and growing demand for public access and recreation.
- Encourage non-vehicular circulation between park areas over vehicular use within the Plan area and emphasize pedestrian circulation between park areas as a primary form of circulation.
- Preserve and protect sensitive habitats when developing park facility improvements and when establishing park uses and programs. Specific policies for protection of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) include:
 - o Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.
 - o Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation areas.
 - o Future development that may potentially affect environmentally sensitive habitat not anticipated in this Plan must be submitted to the Coastal Commission or City of Malibu, as applicable, for specific project review. A site-specific biological survey must accompany any specific project proposal or coastal development permit application, as applicable, so that a determination of potential ESHA impacts can be made.
- Preserve and protect from overuse the natural resources and processes of sensitive park areas.
- Develop recreation, park, trail and habitat restoration opportunities.
- Limit major site modifications (landform alteration, vegetation removal) to preserve natural landforms, terrain, and habitats, and allow site modifications only when such modifications can be carried out so as not to substantially alter the character, natural topography or habitat area of a project site.
- New development, such as seawalls, coastal armoring, or stream channelization that will interfere with natural processes involving water or sand movement or water quality shall not be permitted.
- Monitor the quality of visitor experience and make the appropriate management changes to prevent potential degradation of natural resources from overuse.

- Evaluate monitoring and visitor survey data and identify needs, problems, and issues that require action.
- Isolate potentially conflicting land uses by establishing and defining use areas and minimizing traffic on neighborhood roads, as feasible and consistent with the public access and recreation provisions of the LCP and Coastal Act, and as consistent with the goals and objectives of this Plan.
- Establish park uses consistent with the visitor carrying capacity of specific park areas taking into consideration available support facilities, opportunities to develop new support facilities, accessibility, protection of natural resources, public safety issues, and neighborhood compatibility.
- Develop and schedule programs and activities, and limit the time duration of special events, where permitted, to avoid potential conflicts with surrounding uses, as feasible and consistent with the public access and recreation provisions of the LCP and Coastal Act, and consistent with the goals and objectives of this Plan.