



SAN LUIS REY BONSALL COMMUNITY PARK FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Background

In 2004, the County began work on the 9-mile San Luis Rey River Park Master Plan. The master plan established goals for the protection of the waterway and surrounding biodiversity while identifying opportunities for recreation. Outreach, data collection, and environmental studies led to the development of a plan that allows for the preservation of open space as well as identifying opportunities for public amenities, such as parks. While the master plan sets aside 95% of the San Luis Rey River Park for passive open space uses, it also includes two active recreation nodes (Bonsall and Rio Prado) on either end to meet the active recreation needs of the community. These are critical to meet the needs of Bonsall residents and their diverse recreational interests and as well as providing health enhancing opportunities. The location for Bonsall Community Park was selected because it sits in a more densely populated part of Bonsall and, with its previous use as a golf course, it can be built on environmentally disturbed land, minimizing its environmental impact. It is adjacent to Bonsall Elementary School, Bonsall Community Center, Highway 76 and several populated subdivisions. Development of the park will implement progress towards the County's goal of providing 3 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents.

Bonsall Community Park will be the first public park with active recreation opportunities in this area. Bonsall currently has a no park amenities and has been identified as deficient in parkland. The park features a mix of amenities designed to meet the needs of residents of all ages, abilities, and interests. The design concept plan for the 63-acre property was selected by a majority of Bonsall residents that participated in the community meetings and project surveys, and was approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on Sept. 15, 2021 (Item #3). Construction is anticipated to begin in Fall 2024 with an opening date in Winter 2025.

The design includes multi-use trails, shaded playgrounds, multi-use fields, two baseball/softball fields (200' foul lines), one baseball field (300' foul lines), basketball courts, tennis/pickleball courts, open lawn spaces, a bike skills park, a skate park, outdoor exercise equipment and trails, a 2-acre dog park, restrooms, and a park office.

General Questions

- 1. When did the County acquire the Bonsall Community Park (formerly SLR Downs) site?**
The County acquired the 63-acre Bonsall Community Park site in 2015 as part of the greater San Luis Rey River Park (SLRRP) Master Plan. This parcel is located at Camino Del Rey and West Lilac Road, across from Bonsall Elementary School and Bonsall Community Center. Bonsall Community Park will be located approximately 6.5 miles from the future Rio Prado Park site, another park within the SLRRP Master Plan.



2. What is the timeline for Bonsall Community Park?

Bonsall Community Park is currently in the final engineering/design review phase.

- The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) received funds to start the project in Fiscal Year 2019/20.
- Public Outreach was conducted in 2019-2020.
- Environmental surveys and studies were completed in 2021.
- In 2022, Parks and Recreation secured additional funding to integrate phasing into the final design.
- Throughout 2023 construction plans are being reviewed by DPR, the County's Planning and Development Services and Public Works Departments.
- After all reviews are complete, DPR anticipates going out to bid in 2024.

3. What outreach has happened for Bonsall Community Park?

- A public meeting for Bonsall Community Park and Rio Prado Park was held on April 29, 2019, to gather input on park design and desired amenities for each park site. 131 people attended the meeting in person. An online survey was posted for those who could not attend and shared on the DPR website and social media sites for 2 weeks after the meeting. DPR received 672 completed surveys during this period.
- A second public meeting for Bonsall Community Park was held on Oct. 3, 2019, to collect feedback on a 2 proposed concept plans. 70 people attended the meeting in person at the Bonsall Community Center, across the street from the park site. An online survey was posted for those who could not attend this meeting and was shared via the DPR website and social media sites for 2 weeks after the meeting. DPR received 582 completed surveys during this period.
- Of the concepts presented, concept A was slightly more active, with more park amenities. And concept B was slightly more passive, with more open space. The results of the survey showed the community preference was close, with a favor for a more active concept. We also asked survey takers to select which amenities they prefer most. There were many selections for all amenities, with multi-use trails, multi-use sport fields, and playground being the top 3.
- We used the results from this survey, comments received from the public and the Bonsall CSG, analyzed the current amenities in Bonsall compared to national standards, and studied which amenities would work best on the land. This is how the final plan was developed for the park.
- A third public meeting was hosted on Nov. 5, 2020, to present the final concept plan, and to answer questions. [Click here](#) to view the pre-recorded public meeting #3.

In addition to the public design meetings, representatives from the County have attended several Community Sponsor/Planning Group meetings with both the Bonsall CSG and the Fallbrook CPG. The County has also attended Bonsall Unified School District Meetings, Community Service Area (CSA) 81 meetings, Rancho Monserrate HOA meetings, an SL Rey HOA meeting, a meeting with Vista Palomar Riders (a local equestrian group), and met with representatives of the State and Federal Wildlife Agencies to provide updates and receive input. All forms of feedback are documented by the project team.



4. How were these meetings publicized?

These meetings were publicized by mailed flyers to residents and businesses within 1.5 mile radius of the park as well as through the DPR website and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). Meeting flyers and information were also shared with the Bonsall CSG, Fallbrook CPG, neighboring HOAs, local youth sports groups, and Bonsall Unified School District.

5. Will there be another public meeting?

DPR will reach back out to the community when the construction timeline is finalized, following the final reviews by DPR and County departments.

6. How can I stay informed?

If you would like to be included on the distribution list, please send an email to the Park Project Manager. DPR will also continue to work with Community Sponsor/Planning Groups and will post event announcements on the DPR website and social media accounts. To learn more about this project, and other DPR development projects, visit sdparks.org > Plans > Development Projects. The Park Project Manager for Bonsall Community Park is Jen Sabo Spencer, jen.spencer@sdcounty.ca.gov, (858) 776-8399.

Traffic/Safety Questions

7. Will the park be available for student drop off and pick up at Bonsall Elementary School?

DPR is in close communication with the Bonsall Unified School District. Currently, all parking in the park is intended for park purposes only and Bonsall Elementary School does not allow students to walk into school. Every child must be dropped off on campus.

8. What will be done for fire safety?

North County Fire Protection District and San Diego County Fire have both reviewed the plans for conformance and have provided feedback on the plans. Their comments have been integrated into the final design. They agree this park will reduce the wildland threat compared to its existing status and provide a great staging area for emergency equipment, apparatuses, and a landing zone for helicopter(s) in the event of an emergency. Safety is a top priority for DPR and parks are crucial amenities during evacuation events. DPR has a long history of providing safe evacuation locations for residents and livestock on park properties.

9. I live adjacent to Bonsall Community Park – how will you keep visitors from entering my property?

DPR will place signage to direct visitors to parking lots and staging areas. Designated areas will be marked. Internal parking will be sufficient for park users so that street parking will not be necessary.

10. What security will each site have?



Park Rangers will patrol each area during day-time hours, seven days a week. There will be a park office on site where staff will be stationed when they are not on foot, managing the property. In addition, Bonsall Community Park will have two live-on hosts to help patrol the park after hours and provide a 24-hour presence. DPR also partners with local law enforcement to report and mitigate safety concerns. We encourage all park users to flag issues in/around the area by calling park staff, the Sheriff's Office, or 911. Info will be included in park kiosk signage.

11. How will the live-on hosts help?

DPR live-on volunteer hosts hold many responsibilities, including assisting with general park maintenance and after hour support, should any incidents occur after dark. Live-on volunteers live onsite at the park in a designated area designed for an RV or large trailer. Volunteers in these roles are required to perform a certain number of hours per week. They are screened through a process similar to hiring of county employees.

12. What will be done about potential homeless encampments?

DPR Park Rangers will patrol this area regularly. If an encampment is located on DPR park land, the occupants are informed that unpermitted camping is prohibited. DPR staff then coordinate with homeless resource organizations to offer resources to the occupants. After services are offered, DPR staff post a notice to vacate. If the occupants do not cooperate, DPR coordinates with local law enforcement and other County officials to facilitate safe relocation.

Trail Questions

13. When will the trails open?

Trails within the park site will be constructed at the same time as the park. Trails outside of Bonsall Community Park are still in the planning phase, as part of the larger trail plan for the SLRRP.

14. What user groups will be able to use the perimeter trails vs the internal park walkways?

The soft surface perimeter trail will be open to all users, including the equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, kids, families, and those wanting to enjoy and learn more about nature and local wildlife. The 10-20 foot width with ample shoulder space ensures there is space for everyone. The internal, hardscape walkways are intended for pedestrians and bikers only. Motorized vehicles will not be permitted on any trail or walkway, except for park maintenance vehicles.

15. Will e-bikes be allowed on trails?

Yes: the State of California passed AB 1096, which now defines Class 1 and 2 e-bikes as bicycles and are allowed on trails. These classes of e-bikes have electric assistance with a Motor Powered Speed Limit (MPSL) of 20 MPH. E-bikes are popular with older adults and with people with limited endurance or who struggle to ride a bike uphill. The electric assistance gives them the boost they need to access trails they might not otherwise be able to enjoy. All trail users must follow DPR trail safety rules and use the

trails in a way that respects and prioritizes the safety of all trail users.

16. What material will the trails be?

The perimeter trail will be decomposed granite or compacted native ground. The internal walkways will be concrete.

17. Will there be loop trails?

There will also be numerous internal trails and walkways, making many different loops possible within the park.

18. How will equestrians access the trails?

DPR is planning several access points which will include staging areas for equestrians distributed throughout the larger SLRRP. These are still in the planning phase, but DPR anticipates two equestrian staging areas will be integrated into the overall river park, one in the western portion of SLRRP and another in the eastern portion of SLRRP. The perimeter trail at Bonsall Community Park will connect to these future equestrian staging areas and will still be accessible for equestrians once the park is constructed.

Parking/Staging Areas

19. How many parking stalls will be included?

There will be approximately 440 standard parking stalls and 16 ADA parking stalls within the park. There will also be 3 pull through stalls and stalls dedicated for electrical vehicle charging. The parking lot is sized based on the active/passive mix of uses, proposed amenities and size of the park. It will provide ample parking for park visitors to eliminate a need to park in adjacent neighborhoods.

20. How many vehicle access points will the park have?

Park visitors entering the park will be able to enter and exit the park via two access points – one at the intersection of Camino Del Rey and Calle de las Brisas and the other along Lilac Road. There will be vehicle gates at both access points to lock during afterhours. The park will be open from sunrise to sunset. A third vehicle access point along the northern edge of the park, along Lilac Road, will be utilized by park maintenance vehicles only.

21. Will there be intersection improvements at Camino Del Rey and Calle de las Brisas?

Yes, we will be making improvements to add a left turn lane into the park as well as adding new pedestrian crosswalks. These roadway improvements will be done in conjunction with the park construction.

22. Will new sidewalks be constructed on Camino Del Rey?

A new decomposed granite path along Camino Del Rey will be constructed to the southwest of the new park entrance/exit that will mirror the existing path to the northeast of this access point.



Environmental Questions

23. Will the projects comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?

Yes. The project is within the San Luis Rey River Park Master Plan Core Study Area. The project will comply with all applicable mitigation measures identified in the Board of Supervisors adopted 2021 Addendum to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

24. What biological resources are anticipated in the open-space preserve area?

The San Luis Rey River Park contains riparian and upland habitats that supports or has a potential to support a wide variety of species, including the least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher and arroyo toad. Environmental surveys will take place to determine if any of these species are present.

Environmental surveys occurred throughout the location proposed for the Bonsall Community Park, as well as nearby land. As part of the survey efforts, protocol surveys for least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and arroyo toad occurred. While least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher were documented with the riparian habitat nearby the project site, these species were not observed within the proposed project footprint. Arroyo toad was not documented in the nearby riparian habitat nor the project footprint during surveys.

25. Are these projects part of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)?

Bonsall Community Park is within the Draft North County MSCP. For more information on the Draft North County MSCP visit sdparks.org > Plans > Multiple Species Conservation Program > North County. To connect with someone, email mscp@sdcounty.ca.gov.

26. How is building this park supporting the reduction of Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?

By building a park within a community, residents have a reason to stay and play local – versus driving far distances to enjoy the same amenities at other parks. This will help meet goals associated with the reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions generated from activities within the unincorporated County.

27. Have you studied the potential traffic impact of the park?

The County completed a traffic impact analysis report that was reviewed by the Department of Public Works. Recommendations to minimize any potential traffic impacts from the park were incorporated into the final design plan.

Facility Questions

28. What amenities will be built in Bonsall Community Park?

The amenities included in the final design plan for Bonsall Community Park reflect input received during public meetings, community planning sessions, outreach



surveys – based on what is feasible following thorough site analysis. Top priorities for the community that are on track for construction include: Multi-use trails, fitness stations, a dog park, picnic areas, a play area, multi-use sports fields, multi-use courts, skate features, and a bicycle course.

29. Will there be restrooms?

Yes. There will be two restrooms, including ADA stalls, which will be maintained by park staff.

30. What are the park hours?

The park will be open from sunrise until sunset, seven days a week. The gates will be locked at all other times.

31. What maintenance will be done at the site before the park opens?

DPR staff is providing general park maintenance which includes mowing, tree/shrub maintenance, storm water management and erosion control, protection of natural and cultural resources, debris removal, graffiti abatement, and enforcement of all DPR codes and policies.

32. Will there be a disc golf course?

While not feasible at this location given the current design plan, we are looking to include disc golf at the neighboring Rio Prado Park site.

33. Will there be rugby fields?

Currently there are no plans to incorporate rugby fields at any SLR parks. Rugby was not one of the top amenities requested in public meetings, community planning sessions or outreach surveys. DPR fields will be multi- use, so if new activities are proposed by the community, they could potentially be accommodated within County and DPR policy.

34. Will the park have lighting?

After-hours lighting is being provided for security purposes only. The park will be closed after sunset.

35. Will there be a splash pad or aquatic feature?

There are no plans to incorporate a splash pad or aquatic feature into Bonsall Community Park. This was not listed as a top amenity requested by the community during the public outreach process.

36. Will shade be provided?

Yes, shade structures will be added throughout the park. Materials will be durable and designed to match the character of the park and the greater Bonsall community. Existing mature trees along with newly planting trees will provide additional shade throughout the park.