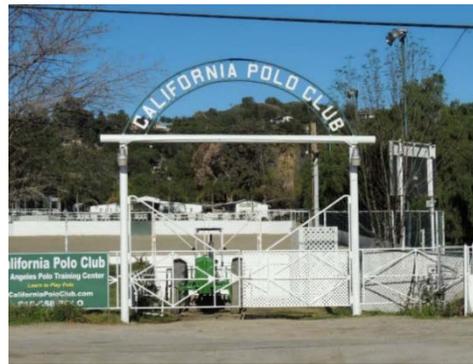


## LOS ANGELES CITYWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT

### *Guidelines for Evaluating Private Recreation Facilities*



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Department of City Planning  
Office of Historic Resources

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## PREFACE

The Guidelines for Evaluating Private Recreation Facilities are a component of Los Angeles' Citywide Historic Context. Refer to [HistoricPlacesLA.org](http://HistoricPlacesLA.org) for properties identified through SurveyLA and other surveys.

## EVALUATION GUIDELINES

Private recreation facilities include privately-owned country clubs, tennis clubs, golf clubs, and equestrian-related centers (polo and riding clubs). Almost all of the associated properties identified for SurveyLA under this theme are country clubs, which offer members a variety of recreational sporting activities such as golf, tennis, and swimming, as well as clubhouse facilities for dining and entertainment. Property features for private recreation facilities include designed landscapes as well as buildings and structures. Most, if not all, are associated with noted landscape designers and architects.

Private recreation facilities are not visible from the public-right-of-way and interior access is open to members only. SurveyLA field surveyors did not enter the properties; therefore, contributing and non-contributing features could not be identified and integrity could not be assessed. Without sufficient information to inform evaluations, no property assessments for significance were completed as part of SurveyLA.<sup>1</sup>

While no narrative historic context has been developed, the eligibility standards below provide general guidelines for property evaluations. On a case-by-case basis, intensive field work and research is required to assess the significance and integrity of private recreation facilities under the evaluation criteria below, one or more of which may apply.<sup>2</sup> While recreation facilities are generally evaluated as historic districts, in some cases, landscapes and buildings (e.g. clubhouses) may be evaluated for individual significance (for example, if the facility as a whole lacks integrity and/or does not meet the eligibility standards under Criterion A).



*Bel Air Bay Club, SurveyLA*

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<sup>1</sup> Properties identified for SurveyLA were assigned a California Historical Resource Status Code of QQQ, meaning more research is needed before an evaluation can be made.

<sup>2</sup> Intensive-level research may be required, for example, for completion of a nomination for designation of a property or as part of the environmental review process for a development project.

**SurveyLA Citywide Historic Context Statement**  
Guidelines for Evaluating Private Recreation Facilities

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Criteria A/1/1: Properties are significant under Criterion A/1/1 in the areas of Social History, Recreation, and/or Community Planning and Development. Some properties may also be significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage, particularly as it relates to discriminatory membership practices.

Criteria B/2/2: Private recreation facilities may be associated with significant individuals. To evaluate these properties see the “Guidelines for Evaluating Properties Associated with Significant Persons.”

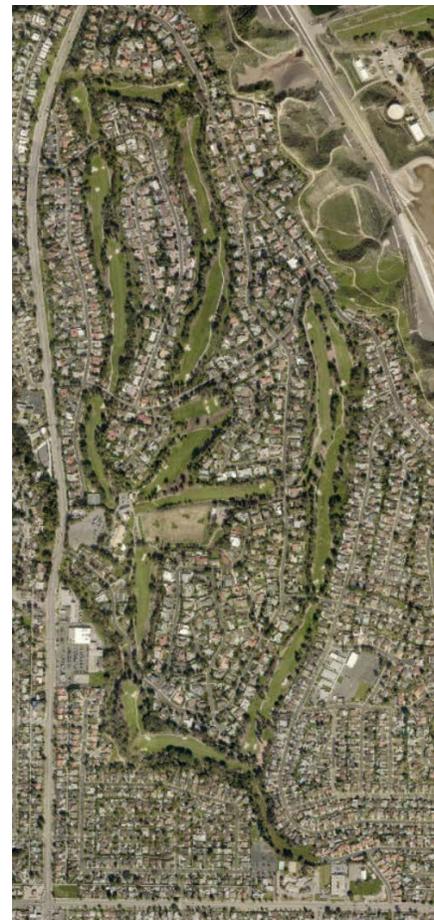
Criteria C/3/3: Properties are significant under Criterion C/3/3 in the areas of Landscape Architecture and/or Architecture:

- *Landscape Architecture:* Some recreation facilities may be significant under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture and may be with work of significant landscape designers. Golf courses, in particular, were often the work of notable course designers.
- *Architecture:* Some recreation facilities may be significant in the area of Architecture as excellent examples of architectural styles of their period and may be the work of noted architects.

**Evaluation Considerations:**

Private recreation facilities may have overlap with other citywide historic contexts and themes as follows:

- Municipal (public) golf courses, swimming pools, and equestrian facilities are discussed in the “Government Infrastructure and Services” sub-context under the theme of “Municipal Parks, Recreation, and Leisure.” They are often features within larger park facilities evaluated as historic districts.
- See the “Jewish History Context” for information on the Brentwood Country Club and Hillcrest Country Club.



*Knollwood Country Club, SurveyLA*

## ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

**Summary Statement of Significance:** A private recreation facility may be significant in one or more areas of significance including: Recreation, Social History, Community Planning and Development, Landscape Architecture, Architecture, and/or Ethnic Heritage. Significant examples played an important role in the history of recreation and leisure in Los Angeles. Many were tied to the planning of affluent suburban residential communities, particularly those established in the 1920s. Significant individuals in community planning, as well as important landscapes designers and architects, may be associated with the facilities. The clubs also evidence historical issues relating to civil rights and discriminatory membership practices. While recreation facilities are generally evaluated as historic districts, some features may be evaluated for individual significance.

**Period of Significance:** 1910s - 1980

**Period of Significance Justification:** The 1910s is the date associated with the earliest extant country club in Los Angeles; 1980 is the end date for SurveyLA. Most identified facilities were established from the 1920s to the 1950s.

**Geographic Location:** In suburban, upscale neighborhoods in the west Los Angeles area and the San Fernando Valley including: Westwood, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Cheviot Hills, Woodland Hills, Tarzana, Studio City, Toluca Lake

**Area(s) of Significance:** Recreation, Social History, Community Planning and Development, Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Ethnic Heritage

**Criteria:** NR: A/B/C                      CR: 1/2/3                      Local: 1/2/3

**Associated Property Types:** Institutional/Recreation  
Country Club, Polo Club, Equestrian Center, Tennis Club, Golf Club, Swimming Club

**Property Type Description:** A members-only private recreation facility located in an upscale residential suburban neighborhood with substantial grounds for one or more sporting activities and a clubhouse for dining and entertainment. The majority are country clubs with a range of activities in one location, and a focus on golf. Most have buildings, structures, and landscapes features associated with notable designers.

**Property Type Significance:** See Summary Statement of Significance above.

**Eligibility Standards:**

- A private recreation facility that played a significant role in the history of recreation and leisure in Los Angeles

**Character Defining/Associative Features**

- For districts, as a whole, retains most of the essential character-defining features from the period of significance
- May be a significant example of landscape design and the work of a master landscape designer
- May include one or more excellent examples of architectural styles of the day and be the work of significant architects/designers
- May have significant associations with ethnic and cultural history, especially as it relates to discriminatory membership practices
- May be associated with significant persons in the development of a community
- For the National Register, a property must possess exceptional importance if less than 50 years of age

**Integrity Considerations:**

- The district as whole retains sufficient integrity to convey significance
- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Feeling, Materials, Setting, and Association
- Retains a significant number of character-defining features, such that the visual, spatial, and contextual relationships of the property may be understood
- Examples of original vegetation may be replaced
- In cases where the facility as a whole does not retain integrity, features may be individually evaluated for significance
- A useful reference for evaluating the significance and integrity of golf courses and other associated designed landscapes is "Evaluating a Designed Landscape for the National Register of Historic Places." [https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb18/nrb18\\_5.htm](https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb18/nrb18_5.htm)