

The City of Pasadena

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element

Updated November 5, 2007

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element provides the community's vision for natural open space, developed parkland, urban open spaces, and recreation facilities and programs. Together with the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan, the Element provides the background data, recommendations and implementation programs for using, maintaining and expanding additional parks and natural open spaces, recreation facilities and programs and the community's needs and desires for open space, parks and recreation.

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element is an optional Element of the General Plan and will work in conjunction with the Open Space and Conservation Elements to guide the preservation and expansion of Pasadena's existing green spaces, ensure that opportunities for both active and passive uses of parks and open space are available throughout the City, and that these opportunities are responsive to the community's needs.

I. COMMUNITY VISION

A critical issue addressed through the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan (hereafter called the Master Plan) is to define the role of parks and open space in the daily lives of Pasadena residents. Put simply, “What are Parks and Open Spaces for?” To some, parkland is an active sports field; others have images of natural green spaces where one can walk, rest, and enjoy nature; still others may envision parks as places for community gatherings and events. Indeed, green spaces are used for all of these purposes. A key outcome of the Element and Master Plan is to establish how Pasadena residents want these uses balanced and prioritized throughout the city both now and into the future.

Regardless of how they are used, our parks and open spaces create a sense of community and enhance quality of life for all Pasadena residents, promoting this sense of community both in neighborhoods and across demographic groups. Parks and open spaces can assist in the growth and development of people, families and community and, perhaps most importantly offer a vital respite from urban stress and allow recreational outlets for all ages.

An excellent park and recreation system grows out of and evolves from community identity and community vision. The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Master Plan process included several visioning activities that served to clarify the community vision so that parks and recreation decisions can best reflect Pasadena. An overall community vision statement was developed as a result of the visioning activities that guide both documents:

To create, maintain, protect, and restore an interrelated system of parks, trails, and natural open spaces. To provide recreational opportunities which sustain a vibrant and healthy community with an emphasis on ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

To achieve this community vision, the balance of uses of the City’s green spaces must be addressed. To better answer the question, “What are Parks and Open Spaces for?” a series of “Core Principles” have been developed out of the visioning process. These Principles are guiding principles for planning, implementation, and maintenance of green spaces throughout the City. They represent the common threads found throughout the issues identified by the community and provide a basis for the objectives and policies of the Element and Master Plan. Inherent in these principles is an underlying goal that Pasadena must continue to treasure and preserve, and work to expand, its parks and open spaces. The park and recreation system must be accessible to all Pasadenans, and should offer something for every Pasadenan.

Core Principles

NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- Pasadena will be a City that actively protects its natural open spaces and critical habitats.
- Pasadena's natural environment shall be thoughtfully preserved as an ongoing investment in the health, safety, and beauty of the City for the benefit of both present and future generations.

DEVELOPED PARKLAND

- All Pasadena neighborhoods shall have access to park, open spaces and recreation facilities that serve their unique needs.
- All Pasadena residents shall live within reasonable walking distance from a park, open space, or recreation facility.
- Pasadena will be a City that actively creates new green spaces by promoting creative partnerships with local and regional agencies, as well as private institutions in order to provide access to and development of both traditional and non-traditional parks, cultural and recreational opportunities, and open spaces.

RECREATION FACILITY USE AND DISTRIBUTION

- The City's parks and open spaces shall maintain a balance between active and passive uses (including casual, informal, or individual leisure activities), both citywide and within individual parks, to meet the recreation demands of residents.
- Pasadena residents, PUSD students, and people that work in Pasadena shall have priority in the use and programming of parks and open spaces.

RECREATION PROGRAM TYPES AND DISTRIBUTION

- Recreation programming shall be responsive to community needs and will promote a healthy and active lifestyle for residents.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & AND ONGOING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Planning for Pasadena's open spaces, parks, and recreation facilities will be an ongoing and inclusive community process.

II. OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Objectives provide general guidance for Commissions and City Departments while policies are more specific directives related to green space and recreation planning and development. Through implementation of all the following objectives, the City will actively promote community input and involvement.

The following objectives and policies are organized around the aforementioned five Key Issues and nine Core Principles. These Principles are also used to organize the recommendations and implementation actions listed in the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

KEY ISSUE #1: NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Core Principles Addressed:

- *Pasadena will be a City that actively protects its natural open spaces and critical habitats.*
- *Pasadena's natural environment shall be thoughtfully preserved as an ongoing investment in the health, safety, and beauty of the City for the benefit of both present and future generations.*

OBJECTIVE 1 – STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Encourage and promote the stewardship of Pasadena's natural environment, including water conservation, clean air, natural open space protection, and recycling. (Land Use Element (LUE¹) Policy 9.5)

Policy 1.1 – Identify Open Space Areas: Identify critical open space areas and regularly monitor and inventory natural resources within these areas, such as water resources, plant and wildlife habitat, geology.

Policy 1.2 – Protect Open Spaces: Protect natural open areas, watersheds, and environmentally sensitive areas such as Hahamongna, Eaton Canyon, riparian areas, and other open spaces.

Policy 1.3 – Restore Historic Native Plant Communities: Restore, enhance and re-establish the historical native plant communities within identified critical open space areas to better support native wildlife habitat.

¹ LUE = Land Use Element. Portions of Policies marked with this acronym are taken directly from or are related directly to the Land Use Element of the Pasadena General Plan.

Policy 1.4 – Encourage Use of Native Plants: Encourage the use of native plants and landscaping materials in parks and open spaces in order to protect and enhance the local environment.

Policy 1.5 – Protect Wildlife Habitat: Restore, protect and enhance wildlife habitat within critical open space areas and any wildlife corridors and/or linkages.

Policy 1.6 – Protect and Enhance Urban Forest: Continue to protect the City’s legacy of a lush and varied urban forest. Continue to plant street trees as per the City’s Master Street Tree Plan and continue to maintain and protect the urban forest as a vital local resource.

Policy 1.7 – Water Conservation: Encourage the use of drought-tolerant plants and regionally appropriate landscaping in parks and open spaces in order to conserve water. Utilize creative means of maintenance and watering of fields and recreation areas.

Policy 1.8 – Water Resources: Conserve and protect water resources in parks and open spaces; maximize the quality and quantity of groundwater recharge to minimize the dependence on imported water.

Policy 1.9 – Provide Recycling Options: Ensure that adequate waste disposal and recycling options are available in public parks and open spaces.

OBJECTIVE 2 – PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ARROYO SECO AND ADJACENT OPEN SPACE AREAS: Recognize the importance to Pasadena of the history, cultural resources, and unique character of the Arroyo Seco, and conserve and enhance these assets.

Policy 2.1 – Arroyo Seco Planning: Fully implement all master plans and design guidelines for the Arroyo. This includes the Lower Arroyo Master Plan, the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan, and the Central Arroyo Master Plan. (LUE Policy 9.2)

Policy 2.2 – Balance of Interests in the Lower Arroyo Seco: Improve the aesthetics and preserve the historical elements and unique natural character of the Lower Arroyo. Manage and maintain the area to balance the natural habitat, recreational needs and public health and safety.

Policy 2.3 – Balance Recreation with Environmental Protection: Implement the Arroyo Seco Master Plans by balancing recreational opportunities with protection and restoration of the ecosystem, while recognizing the important existing water resources and flood management functions of the area.

Policy 2.4 – Promote multi-faceted use of the Arroyo: Through implementation of the Arroyo Seco Master Plans, continue to maintain and enhance the area as a prime resource for quality of life of Pasadena residents.

OBJECTIVE 3 – PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF EATON CANYON, EATON WASH, AND ADJACENT OPEN SPACE AREAS: Recognize the importance to Pasadena of the history, cultural resources, and unique character of Eaton Canyon and Eaton Wash, and conserve and enhance these assets.

Policy 3.1 – Eaton Canyon: Continue protection of Eaton Canyon as an open space and recreation area, and as a nature center. Explore master planning opportunities in the existing OS (Open Space) zoned area associated with the civil defense site and flood control areas. (LUE Policy 9.3)

Policy 3.2 – Eaton Wash: Pursue improvements to Eaton Wash and a proposed north/south trail element that would link Pasadena to natural open space to the north.

OBJECTIVE 4: NATURAL OPEN SPACE AND PASSIVE RECREATION PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITION: Use traditional and creative strategies to preserve and acquire open spaces order to enhance the quality of life of all Pasadenans.

Policy 4.1 – Creative Use of Urban Space: Explore creative options to increase the acquisition and preservation of open spaces (e.g. conservation easements, utility rights-of-way)

Policy 4.2 – Degraded Open Spaces – Seek opportunities to reclaim and restore degraded natural open spaces.

Policy 4.3 – Creative partnerships: Continue to foster alliances with and stewardship by neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations, educational entities, conservancy's, governmental agencies and others to identify, create, maintain and enhance an open space environment for current and future generations.

Policy 4.4 – Hillside Projects: In recognition of the special character of the hillsides throughout the City, the City shall continue strict protections through city grading and hillside ordinances.

Policy 4.5 – Open Space Zoning: Provide adequate land resources with the City's OS (Open Space) zone to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the present and future residents in the region. Ensure careful planning within the City's OS zones.

Policy 4.56 – Funding for Acquisition and Preservation: Actively pursue funding for preservation of existing natural open space and acquisition of new open space on an ongoing basis. Prioritize preservation in those areas identified as being rich in natural resources and contributors to Pasadena’s natural habitats.

OBJECTIVE 5: TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE CONNECTIVITY: Acknowledge and enhance Pasadena’s important relationship with the Angeles National Forest and other regional trail systems.

Policy 5.1 – Open Space Corridors: Develop open space corridors, easement and acquisition programs and trails. This is especially relevant for hillside areas and ridgelines. (from LUE Policy 9.1)

Policy 5.2 – Trails for Bicyclists and Pedestrians: Review the OS (Open Space) zoned areas and city rights-of-way for opportunities to develop bike path and/or walking path connectivity.

KEY ISSUE #2: DEVELOPED PARKLAND

Core Principles Addressed:

- *Pasadena's parks and open spaces shall maintain a balance between active and passive uses (including casual, informal, or individual leisure activities), both citywide and within individual parks, to meet the recreation and open space demands of residents.*
- *Pasadena residents, PUSD students, and people that work in Pasadena shall have priority in the use and programming of parks and open spaces.*
- *Pasadena will be a City that actively creates new green spaces by promoting creative partnerships with local and regional agencies, as well as private institutions in order to provide access to and development of both traditional and non-traditional parks, cultural and recreational opportunities, and open spaces.*

OBJECTIVE 6: DEVELOPED PARKLAND PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITION: Preserve and acquire spaces for neighborhood parks and other types of urban open spaces in under-served areas of the City in order to enhance the quality of life of all Pasadenans by using traditional and creative strategies.

Policy 6.1 – Establish an Integrated Recreation, Park, and Open Space System: Provide recreation facilities that offer a wide range of experiences that contribute to an integrated park system that serves specific neighborhood needs in specific areas.

Policy 6.2 – Neighborhood Parks: Preserve, enhance and acquire parks in residential areas, with emphasis on planning for and locating parks within walking distance of multifamily housing. (LUE Policy 17.1)

Policy 6.3 – Adequate Developed Parkland: Acquire or otherwise make available local parkland and open spaces in sufficient quantity to meet the community demand for facilities and programs identified in the Master Plan.

Policy 6.4 – Urban Parks and Open Spaces: Encourage and require, through creative means, the incorporation of physically and visually accessible urban open spaces, including parks, courtyards, water features, gardens, passageways and plazas, into public improvements and private projects as elements that contribute to active lifestyles and family experiences. (LUE Policy 2.3)

Policy 6.5 – Creative Use of Urban Space: Explore creative options to increase the acquisition and preservation of park lands (e.g. freeway air space, rooftop gardens, and urban plazas and paseos.)

Policy 6.7 – Degraded Urban Open Space – Seek opportunities to reclaim and restore degraded urban open spaces for potential use as parks or other green space types.

Policy 6.8 – Pocket Parks: Identify and acquire land for the establishment of small urban green spaces (pocket parks) in strategic locations within the City. The spaces may be available for all types of uses, depending on the unique qualities of the space, the neighborhood location, and the desires of surrounding residents.

Policy 6.9 – Effective Maintenance: Continue to improve maintenance of parkland and recreation facilities throughout Pasadena. This includes adequate “rest periods” for facilities and careful programming. Continue to seek resources for increased funding of park maintenance.

Policy 6.10 – Passive Recreation: Ensure that parks and open spaces have adequate space for passive recreation and leisure activities (i.e. walking, pushing strollers, sitting on benches, picnics, etc.)

Policy 6.11 – Central and Memorial Park: Continue and complete efforts to enhance Central and Memorial Park and develop a comprehensive plan for the use and maintenance of these important Central District facilities. (LUE Policy 2.2)

Policy 6.12 – Specific Plans: Implement the open space and parkland goals adopted through each of the City’s seven Specific Plans.

OBJECTIVE 7 – PROVIDE ACCESS TO PARKS: New projects should be planned so that neighborhood recreational needs of its future citizens are largely met onsite or nearby and so that future facilities are integrated with, provide support for, and enhance the effectiveness of the overall recreation system in Pasadena. Growth and expansion in a particular area should be accompanied by commensurate growth and expansion in recreation facility, programming capacity, and natural open space capacity.

Policy 7.1 – Urban Open Space Amenities: Encourage the incorporation of publicly accessible urban open spaces, including parks, courtyards, boulevards, water features, gardens, passageways and plazas, into public improvements and private projects. (LUE Policy 2.3)

Policy 7.2 – Access to Open Spaces Within Projects: Projects should be connected to the public realm through vistas, physical access, and/or sightlines. Provide an adequate total quantity and equitable distribution of public or publicly accessible open spaces throughout the City. (LUE Policy 9.4)

Policy 7.3 – Small Residential Projects (single family and duplex development): Continue the City’s lot coverage and floor area ratio requirements that provide adequate open space on each residential lot in the City.

Policy 7.4 – Larger Residential Projects (City of Gardens and Mixed-Use projects): Continue to promote the City of Gardens concept and ordinance to provide creative, usable, and attractive open spaces in the City’s Multi-family zoned areas.

Policy 7.5 – Neighborhood Centers: In order to provide a focus and center of activity for neighborhoods, encourage the use of public open spaces or recreation facilities such as pocket parks, community centers, public schools, community gardens, or “tot lots” as neighborhood centers. (LUE Policy 1.7)

KEY ISSUE #3: RECREATION FACILITY USES AND DISTRIBUTION

Core Principles Addressed:

- *All Pasadena neighborhoods shall have access to parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities that serve their unique needs.*
- *All Pasadena residents shall live within reasonable walking distance of a park, open space, or recreation facility.*

OBJECTIVE 8 – NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DISTRIBUTION AND PLANNING: Preserve, enhance, and acquire parks in residential areas, within reasonable walking distance of all neighborhoods.

Policy 8.1 – Service Area Radius: Provide neighborhood park facilities or other green space area within reasonable walking distance of the majority of residential areas. The City’s goal is to have a neighborhood park or facility within a ½ mile walk from anywhere in the City, taking into consideration natural and manmade barriers such as the I-210 Freeway and Eaton Wash.

Policy 8.2 – Identify “gaps” in Service Areas: Residential areas where there are gaps in parks, open space, or recreation services will be identified and creative means will be sought to fill these gaps (i.e. public school sites, regional parks in other jurisdictions, etc.)

Policy 8.3 – Ensure Neighborhood Parks have Adequate Facilities, Service, and Size: Through the community needs assessment and the Master Plan, neighborhood parks will be evaluated to determine if the parks are offering the facilities and services necessary in their specific location and neighborhood.

Policy 8.4 – Encourage Resident Participation in Neighborhood Parks: Instill a sense of ownership in neighborhood parks by providing surrounding residents an opportunity to participate in the process of park planning, maintenance, development, and enhancement as opportunities arise.

Policy 8.5 – Recreation Needs: Provide sports fields, recreation facilities, walking, jogging and hiking areas, and recreations programs in quantities and types that generally address the demands of Pasadena residents and those who work in Pasadena.

Policy 8.6 – Multi-Use Fields and Facilities: Continue to promote participation in a wide range of sports and recreation programs by utilizing fields and facilities for multiple-uses.

OBJECTIVE 9 – JOINT USE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT: Promote the shared use of public and private recreational land and facilities for community recreational uses, and/or as neighborhood recreation centers or community centers of focus.

Policy 9.1 – Employ Joint Use to Meet Community Needs: Based on the findings of the community needs assessment performed through the Master Plan, explore how public school facilities or private facilities could be utilized in a shared manner to meet specific community needs for open space, recreation programs, or developed facilities such as sports fields.

Policy 9.2 – Enhance School District Facilities to Benefit Students and the Community: The City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Unified School District should explore mechanisms to fund enhancements to School District property for students and the community at large.

Policy 9.3 – Encourage Public Schools as Neighborhood Parks: Promote the shared use of public school recreational land and facilities for City recreational uses and/or as community centers on weekends and periods when school is not in session. (LUE Policy 17.2)

Policy 9.4 – Employ Joint Use to Fill Service Gaps: Explore specific facilities owned by the School District or private parties to fill gaps identified in the Recreation & Park Master Plan. Schools or private facilities may provide sports fields, indoor facilities, or program facilities.

OBJECTIVE 10 – PARK AND GREEN SPACE DESIGN: Park and open space projects should be planned so that recreational facilities reinforce the historic nature of Pasadena’s parks as well as Pasadena’s character, heritage, and neighborhoods.

Policy 10.1 – Pasadena’s Character and Heritage: Appropriate elements that reflect Pasadena’s character and heritage should be incorporated into the design and appearance of parks and green spaces.

Policy 10.2 – Appropriate Neighborhood Scale: Improvements within parks or recreation facilities should be scaled to their location and should relate to the neighborhood they are placed in.

Policy 10.3 – Quality: Pasadena’s green spaces should have a quality appearance that instills pride in the surrounding neighborhood and the City at large.

OBJECTIVE 11 – BALANCE SPECIAL EVENTS WITH LOCAL RECREATION NEEDS: It is important to balance the recreational and open space needs of and capacity for Pasadena residents with the status of many of the City’s parks as popular venues for local and regional events such as music festivals, seasonal celebrations, and cultural activities, many of which also serve as key promotional activities for the City’s regional and national image.

Policy 11.1 – Protect Local Recreation Needs at Special Event Facilities: Through careful planning, continue to promote special events while providing access to recreational activities at City facilities. Provide adequate land resources to hold large special events while not unreasonably displacing recreational areas.

Policy 11.2 – Community Identity: Continue to promote special events and celebrations that reinforce Pasadena’s community identity and provide incentives for organizers to use Pasadena’s facilities.

OBJECTIVE 12 – IMPROVE ACCESS TO PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES: The interface between all modes of travel (i.e. public transit, walking, bicycling) and recreation facilities is key in promoting the Citywide mobility policy that Pasadena will be a City where people can circulate without cars.

Policy 12.1 – Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity: Parks and open spaces should be planned to be accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists through public sidewalks and bike routes.

Policy 12.2 – Pedestrian and Bicycle Amenities: Benches, drinking fountains, and bicycle racks should be available at all park and recreation facilities. Buses routed to parks and open space areas should be equipped with bike racks.

Policy 12.3 – Transit Connections: The ARTS bus program shall continue to plan routes to provide access to key recreation and park facilities throughout the City. This is especially true to connect senior living facilities with recreation facilities.

KEY ISSUE #4: RECREATION PROGRAM TYPES AND DISTRIBUTION

Core Principle Addressed:

- *Recreation programming shall be responsive to community needs and will promote a healthy and active lifestyle for Pasadena residents.*

OBJECTIVE 13 – DEVELOP RECREATION PROGRAMMING TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES: Recognizing that the availability and design of public recreation facilities and of recreation programs can affect the health and welfare of families and the community, the City of Pasadena is committed to a policy that promotes the quality of life for our children, youth, and families.

Policy 13.1 – Cultural Awareness: One of Pasadena’s primary strengths as a community is the array of cultures present. Programs and special events shall be promoted that advance cultural awareness in the City and provide an opportunity to instill pride in participants.

Policy 13.2 – Environmental Education Programs and Facilities: Provide opportunities for environmental education programs (e.g. flora and fauna, watershed processes, water quality) for youth and families.

Policy 13.3 – Activities and Programs for Seniors: Provide recreation options through citywide facilities to enhance the quality of life of senior residents.

Policy 13.4 – Accessibility to Recreation Programs and Services: The City will continue to provide options for residents to access community centers and other facilities, including local transit such as the ARTS bus program.

Policy 13.5 – Youth After School Activities: Continue to sponsor and improve after school activities and programs for youth. Coordinate services with the Pasadena Unified School District to maximize the participation and potential of these programs.

Policy 13.6 – The Arts: The Arts will be integrated into park design and programs shall continue to provide opportunities for residents to learn and experience music, art, acting, singing, and other forms of artistic expression.

OBJECTIVE 14 – RECREATION PROGRAMMING FOR HEALTH AND FITNESS: Recreation programs in Pasadena shall provide a range of activities to promote health and fitness among all Pasadenans.

Policy 14.1 – Fitness Awareness: Programs and information shall be available at community centers and throughout City facilities to encourage healthy lifestyles and fitness.

Policy 14.2 – Sports and Athletics for Youth and Adults: Continue to provide a wide range of outdoor and indoor activities for Pasadena residents.

Policy 14.3 – Nutrition: Programs and information shall be available at community centers and City facilities to encourage nutrition and healthy eating habits.

Policy 14.4 – Active Living: Design and location of public facilities, especially parks and pedestrian routes, should reflect the vision that active living and walkability are important aspects of Pasadena.

OBJECTIVE 15 – COORDINATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RECREATION PROGRAMS: Programs and services provided by the City should respond to the needs of residents.

Policy 15.1 – Community Service Distribution: Promote the location of public and private community service facilities and programs throughout the City, as a function of population distribution and need. Ensure that changing population needs are being met. (LUE Policy 14.3)

Policy 15.2 – Community Service Connectivity: Increase access to and linkages among community service facilities and programs. (LUE Policy 14.4)

Policy 15.3 – Community Centers: Continue to provide high quality programs and services at the City’s community centers.

Policy 15.4 – Community Gardens: Community gardens are areas where residents can plant and grow fruit and vegetables or they can be ornamental gardens that can be a source of pride and beauty in a neighborhood. Promote both of these “types” of community gardens as an open space alternative because of the community-building they create and the valuable resource they provide.

Policy 15.5 – Human Services & Recreation Department as “clearinghouse: The City’s Human Services & Recreation Department shall continue to provide information to the public on the many services and facilities available in the City. Clearly, there are certain facilities and services that are provided by private or non-profit groups and the Department shall continue to direct residents to these services as applicable.

Policy 15.6 – Information Dissemination: Provide clear, understandable information through printed and electronic means to educate Pasadena residents of the many programs and services available and to encourage increased involvement in available recreation facilities and programs.

OBJECTIVE 16 – MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT: Proximity to natural amenities and recreation options provide unique value to Pasadena’s character and desirability as a place to live, visit, or conduct business..

Policy 16.1 – Tourism: Enhance and promote the inherent value of careful stewardship of Pasadena’s natural open spaces and parks.

Policy 16.2 – Adult Sports Leagues and Programs: Continue a commitment to providing recreation program options to adults who live and/or work in Pasadena.

KEY ISSUE #5: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & ONGOING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Core Principle Addressed:

- *Planning for Pasadena's open spaces, parks, and recreation facilities will be an ongoing and inclusive community process.*

OBJECTIVE 17 – FACILITATE ONGOING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE TO ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS' OPEN SPACE, PARKLAND, AND RECREATION NEEDS ARE MET

Policy 17.1 – Community Input and Feedback: Provide methods for community members to offer ongoing information on their experiences with recreation and parks management, programs, and facilities. Surveys, questionnaires, website forms, and targeted outreach methods will provide feedback on areas in need of improvement and areas where goals are being met.

Policy 17.2 –Master Plan: The Master Plan shall be regularly updated and used in the decision-making process to provide an opportunity for the community to voice its concerns, suggestions, and priorities for parks and open space throughout the City.

Policy 17.3 – Specific Facility Plans: A palette of amenities will be established and updated which identifies the standard and optional facilities for each park type. Modifications to this palette for individual parks can be done with community participation and review by Commissions and the City Council.

OBJECTIVE 18 – CITY ORGANIZATION: Open space, parks and recreational areas shall be managed and maintained by the City in an effective and efficient manner. The City shall respond to the concerns of the community regarding these areas.

Policy 18.1 – City Organizational Structure: Evaluate and continually monitor the City's organizational structure in order to provide the most effective and efficient management of open space, parks and recreation facilities and programs. Establish Department standards to strengthen the consistency in which programs and facility uses are determined, developed, and delivered.

Policy 18.2 – The administration of Recreational and Interpretive Programs are the primary responsibility of the Human Services & Recreation Department

Policy 18.3 – Adequate Resource Allocation: Provide the resources (personnel and funding) necessary for the appropriate level of maintenance required

for the success of all parks, recreational facilities, and natural open space areas.

III. BACKGROUND

A. DEFINITIONS

Green Space - In Pasadena, the term Green Space has been used since the 1994 General Plan as an umbrella category to encompass all natural and developed open spaces in the City.

1. **Natural Open Space** - Undeveloped land that has been maintained in a relatively undisturbed state. This category includes wild and planned open space areas.
 - a. **Wild Open Space** – Open space left wild. Completely undeveloped and used for wildlife habitat and conservation. An example is the 1,000 acres of city-owned open space north of Hahamongna Watershed Park.
 - b. **Modified Open Space** – Open space that has been altered or artfully restored to make it more accessible for human use. Alterations can include walking paths or hiking trails. May also provide wildlife habitat and be used for conservation. The Lower Arroyo Seco is an example of a planned open space.
 - c. **Undeveloped Lands** – The City of Pasadena is largely built out, but a few significant areas of non-city owned undeveloped open space remain. Each of these areas may have the potential for use as an open space or recreational area.

Eaton Wash Recreational Corridor – Los Angeles County owns and maintains hundreds of acres in the eastern area of the city. These lands are part of the county’s flood control system and are primarily made up of channels, basins and associated uses. There are several sites ranging from two to ten acres within those areas that have the potential to be developed for recreational uses. This type of use is consistent with the County’s goals and objectives, provided that the use does not interfere with flood control activity. These sites are linked by the linear flood control channels that bisect the eastern portion of the city. The access roads along the system of channels could possibly be used as recreational trails. Similar access roads adjacent to county flood control channels are now used as trails in the Arroyo Seco. Four existing city parks (Eaton Sunnyslope, Floyd O. Gwinn, Viña-Vieja, and Eaton Blanche) are located immediately adjacent to the flood control channel and would be part of this recreational corridor. Some sections of the

channel have large stands of mature trees including Coast Live Oaks. These areas have significant aesthetic, as well as recreational appeal. See Exhibit 1.3-1 in the Master Plan for details on master plans prepared for the Eaton Canyon area in 1932 and 1967 and Exhibit 5.2-1 for a diagram of the current potential improvements.

Southern California Edison Transmission Line Property – Several Edison high voltage transmission lines bisect the eastern side of the City. The land on which these lines are situated is owned in fee by Edison and it is zoned as open space (OS). These areas have open space and recreation potential as evidenced by the lease of three acres by the city and its subsequent development as Viña Vieja Park. In addition to the new ice rinks planned in this area, this property also has potential as a location for multi-use trails and a north-south connection through this portion of Pasadena.

Hillside Open Space – Several large undeveloped areas of open space exist in the hillside and canyon areas on the eastern and western edges of the city. These areas are privately owned and some have entitlements for development. These areas have limited potential as active recreational areas, but they may have a high value from an aesthetic standpoint if they are maintained in an undeveloped condition. In the Arroyo Seco, some of these hillside areas are part of the canyon banks that give the Arroyo Seco its unique character. In some sections of the Arroyo, these properties prevent access to the public areas of the Arroyo.

Caltrans 710 Freeway Corridor – A large parcel located along the proposed freeway corridor just north of California Street is owned by Caltrans. This parcel could have potential for temporary recreational usage.

Areas within existing parks – Portions of the Hahamongna Watershed Park (known as Devil's Gate Basin) are currently undeveloped. Future improvement plans include the addition of two soccer fields and other park amenities. There is a 2½ acre expansion area planned for Robinson Park which will include a full size football field and a new parking lot.

2. **Developed Open Space** – These include all city parks, urban open spaces, and non city-owned open spaces that are intended primarily for human use. This category includes playgrounds, sports fields, picnic areas, courtyards, golf courses, and joint-use school facilities.

- a. **Parks**

Parks can be classified by type based primarily on their size, function and character. The Pasadena Municipal Code (Section 4.17.040) contains three park classifications: Neighborhood, Community and Citywide parks. For the purposes of this Master Plan, three additional classifications are discussed in order to accurately describe all the recreational facilities in the City; these are Urban Open Spaces, Special Facilities, and Joint Use Public School Facilities.

Park classifications are useful in a number of ways. They can help define a set of characteristics to serve as a guide when parks are constructed or renovated. They can also restrict incompatible activities by limiting those activities to certain types of parks.

The City of Pasadena’s existing park system is large and complex; it is over 100 years old and park development did not follow an organized set of predetermined guidelines. As a result of this organic growth, there is not currently a clear distinction between all park types. With this in mind, the following brief descriptions of Pasadena’s park classification categories, both the existing three from the City’s Municipal Code (Section 4.17.040), as well as the three new classifications proposed as part of this Master Plan are provided:

Citywide Parks – Citywide Parks afford contact with the natural and/or historic environment and possess a unique character or function not found in Neighborhood or Community Parks. They contain facilities that are used by residents throughout the city for activities that cannot be accommodated in other parks (PMC Section 4.17.040). But like Community Parks, Citywide Parks can be expected to draw users on a regional basis. Typically, a Citywide Park would include large natural open space areas. These areas may contain amenities such as trails and vista points. In addition to recreational opportunities, natural open space areas typically contain important visual features that contribute to the recreational experience.

Pasadena's citywide parks are Brookside Park, Hahamongna Watershed Park, and Lower Arroyo Park.

Community Parks – Community Parks provide a broad range of both passive and active recreational opportunities, but their primary purpose is to provide active recreational opportunities for use by both residents and visitors from the surrounding region. If a Community Park is located within a residential area it can also serve a neighborhood park function and, therefore, is included in the service area analysis for Neighborhood Parks.

Recreation centers are important features in some community parks. These are large buildings that contain features such as gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, and offices for recreation staff. Other facilities often found at Community Parks include lighted multi-purpose sports fields, amphitheatres, group picnic areas and swimming pools. Some or all of these amenities may be present in a Community Park. Large special events such as concerts and festivals might also be held in Community Parks. It is to be expected that such events and uses will attract participants from outside the City.

Pasadena's Community Parks are Central Park, Memorial Park, Robinson Park, Victory Parke and Villa Parke.

Neighborhood Parks – Neighborhood Parks are defined more by function than by size. Some neighborhood parks are actually larger than community parks. Neighborhood Parks, however, are intended to serve City residents who live in close proximity to them. Ideally, everyone in the City would live within walking distance (one-half mile) of a Neighborhood Park. This is defined as the “service radius” or “service area” of a neighborhood park.

The features of neighborhood parks include playgrounds, multi-purpose open turf areas, picnic tables and/or picnic shelters, walking paths, attractive landscaping, small parking areas and recreation features such as basketball courts. Multi-purpose open turf areas can be used for a variety of field sports, as opposed to a dedicated football or baseball field. However, some neighborhood parks contain multipurpose fields that have facilities specific to a particular sport such as a

skinned infield or backstops. Neighborhood Parks usually contain restrooms, but that is not always the case; smaller Neighborhood Parks with minimal facilities may not have enough regular visitors to justify the expense of constructing and maintaining a restroom.

Pasadena's neighborhood parks are: Allendale, Brenner, Defender's, Eaton Blanche, Eaton Sunnyslope, Grant, Gwinn, Hamilton, Jefferson, La Pintoresca, McDonald, San Rafael, Singer, Viña Vieja, and Washington Parks.

b. Urban Open Space

Pasadena has a large variety of public outdoor open spaces that cannot be classified as parks but these spaces do fulfill many of the same functions as public parks. These urban open spaces and special facilities can be either city-owned or privately-owned. Public plazas, paseos, golf courses and the grounds of museums and historic sites are all examples of this type of open space. Another good example of this form of land use is a community garden. These are public spaces that can contain passive features such as paths, benches and landscaping or could include plots for residents to grow fruits and vegetables. A pocket park (also known as a vest pocket or mini-park) is typically much the same as a community garden, except the emphasis would tend to be less on horticulture and more on site amenities such as picnic facilities and small playgrounds.

Due to the scarcity of large parcels of land, there will be few opportunities to develop new community or neighborhood parks in Pasadena. But there will be opportunities to create small public open spaces throughout the city, in the context of both public and private development.

Facilities in this category include City owned and operated facilities as well as those which are not owned and/or operated by the City but do provide a public benefit. This category is very broad and it encompasses a wide variety of facilities.

Some examples of urban open spaces and special facilities within the City include:

- City Hall Courtyard – includes gardens, fountain and benches
- Centennial Square – large paved area in front of City Hall which is used for concerts and festivals

- La Casita del Arroyo – a recreational facility that houses community gatherings; it is located within the Lower Arroyo Seco
- Gamble House – Greene and Greene house on the western edge of the Arroyo Seco with extensive landscaping
- Wrigley Mansion and Gardens – home to the Tournament of Roses includes gardens with hundreds of varieties of roses, camellias and annuals
- Norton Simon Museum – site of original Carmelita gardens in the 1870s, now home to nearly 2 acres of lush landscaping with trees, meandering pond, and sculptures
- Tournament Park – located on the south portion of the Caltech campus, this neighborhood park includes play equipment, barbeque and picnic facilities
- Brookside Golf courses – two 18-hole public golf courses in the Central Arroyo Seco
- Eaton Canyon Golf Course – nine hole public golf course in Eaton Canyon
- Annandale Golf Club – private 18-hole golf course in the Linda Vista/Annandale canyons
- South Lake Pocket Park – A small greenbelt located on the west side of Lake Avenue south of California Blvd. This area contains trees, shrubs, a small turf area and benches.
- Arlington Mediterranean Garden – vacant lot transformed into water-saving demonstration garden

c. Special Facilities

Non-public facilities play a large role in meeting the recreational needs of the residents of Pasadena. The network of private facilities within the city is made up of businesses, churches, clubs, organizations and schools and the array of programs and facilities they provide is substantial. More than 1,000 non-profit organizations offer an enormous range of services and programs. More than 22 private school facilities are located in Pasadena. Three large colleges with recreational facilities are also within the City limits: Pasadena City College, the California Institute of Technology and the Fuller Theological Seminary.

This Plan does not include a detailed inventory of this system. Because the City neither controls, maintains, nor programs private facilities, these important recreation resources are not credited toward satisfaction of the City's acreage goals for public parks. However, since they do fill a

recreation role, their influence on the availability of recreation is important to recognize. In particular, the influence of private facilities is discussed in Chapter Four with relation to the identified community program and facility needs. A component of the Master Plan is to review how existing public/private partnerships may be working in the provision of facilities and programs. Recommendations within Section 5 of the Master Plan include an analysis of how private facilities could assist in meeting the identified needs for specific types of recreation facilities.

d. Joint Use Public School Facilities

In almost every Pasadena neighborhood, school facilities play an important role in family life and routine. The distribution of school facilities throughout the City suggests that these facilities could also play an important role in neighborhood green space and recreation programming, especially in areas not currently served conveniently by City park facilities. If a school, through joint improvement and use, becomes effective as a recreation facility, then it could become part of the inventory of City facilities as a neighborhood park.

There are 30 campuses in the Pasadena Unified School District, of which 22 are in Pasadena. In a built-out community like Pasadena, joint use of public school and parks facilities is critical to promoting physical activity and accommodating demand for recreation opportunities citywide. When school activities are not scheduled, the grassy areas, sports fields, courts, and children's play areas can potentially be used informally in much the same manner as neighborhood parks. However, this use is dependent on whether the campus is fenced and gated during non-school hours and on the goodwill of a particular school's administration to allow informal use. In some cases, individual sports groups and/or leagues have arranged, either through the City or independently with the schools, to schedule games and practices at school sites.

Prior to the mid-1970's recreation programs on school sites and in parks were conducted by a single recreation department, which was part of the local School District. Every elementary, middle and high school in the District (which extended beyond Pasadena to include Altadena, Sierra Madre, La Cañada-Flintridge and Temple City) had dedicated recreation staff who planned and conducted a wide range of sports, drama, dance, cultural arts and related activities. In many sites activities were offered not only after school but during the school lunch hours, evenings and

weekends. Recreation programs extended beyond schools to local parks and designated church facilities. In 1974, facing significant budget reductions, the School District laid off all recreation personnel and eliminated school recreation programs during non-school hours. The City then hired a small number of recreation staff who formed a new City recreation division, and service delivery shifted to the recreation and community center system. A few years later, City recreation expanded to re-establish after school recreation playground programs at 4 public schools and, over the next decades, expanded to serve 16 elementary and middle school locations. City youth sports programs have also grown, providing school playground and parks opportunities to participate in basketball, flag football, volleyball, soccer, tennis, cheer and other sports teams. While not funded to a level that supports extended evening and weekend hours nor such a comprehensive recreation services as prior to 1974, in 2006 City staff, sports contractors and local community organizations offer a wide range of recreation opportunities that rely on the availability of both parks and public schools as service delivery locations.

Since 1993 a detailed Joint Use Agreement between the City and the Pasadena Unified School District has been in place which describes general responsibilities and benefits of each party regarding the use of both City and District facilities. The Agreement and State law allow the School District and the City to cooperate with each other for the purposes of improving facilities and for organizing, promoting and conducting recreation and education programs for children and adults, without any rental or field use cost (only actual out-of-pocket expenses, if any, are charged).

In 2006, there are 22 local public school properties where City recreation programs are delivered (listed on Table 2.4-2); these and other school facilities are also used by various other sports organizations. The City provides free after school recreation playground programs for children until approximately 5:30pm at all District elementary schools in Pasadena, where children can choose from a variety of activities in a safe, supervised, fun environment. The School District also makes use of various City parks, fields and other recreation facilities; for example, several District middle and high schools use City fields and facilities to conduct school sports activities, including practices or games by school soccer, football, baseball, and softball teams.

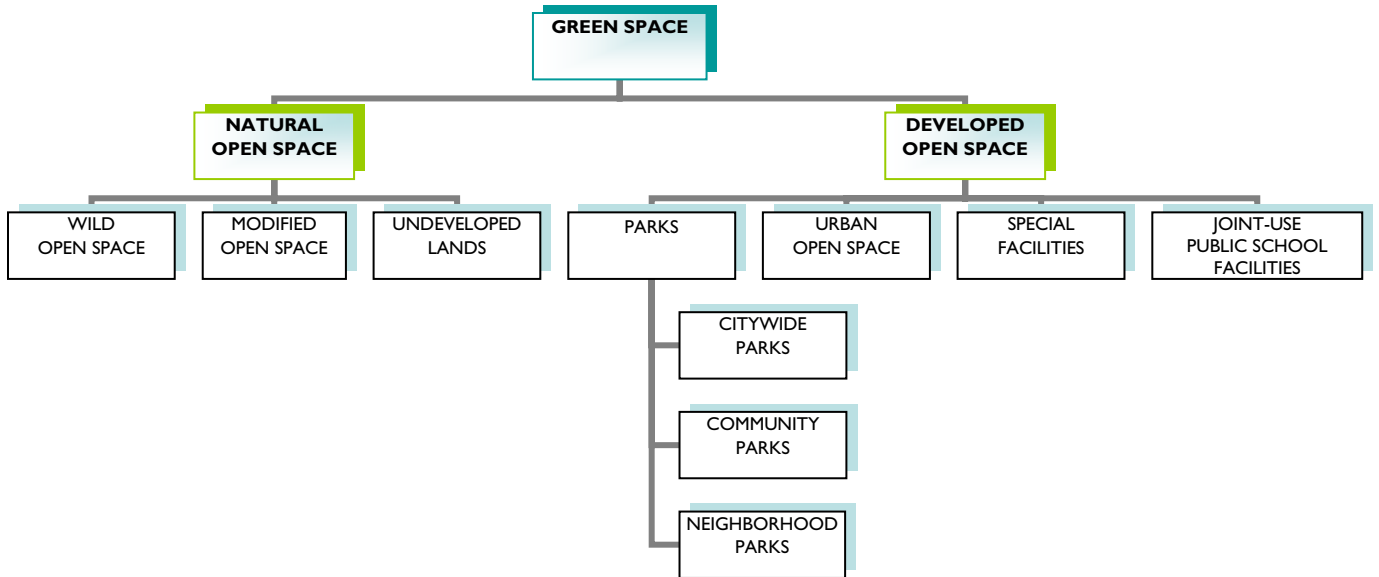
To date, the City–School District Joint Use Agreement has primarily been utilized to conduct organized sports activities or scheduled recreation events. The City has provided financial support for the improvement or expansion of School District fields, all of which are used by organized sports. A few schools have been reported as unofficially used by neighborhoods or communities for casual, informal recreation during non-school hours, but no Pasadena public schools have been officially designated for informal recreation and thus opened for public use to picnic, play, walk or otherwise enjoy drop-in recreation during after school and weekend hours. However, a pilot program at Madison Elementary School opened the school playground and grass field for informal recreation during non-school hours. In this project, the City and District are partnering to add playground equipment, picnic tables, trash cans and related items to better accommodate weekend informal recreation use. The City will assume responsibility to open and close the gates to allow daytime access during after school, holiday and weekend hours, and will remove weekend trash as well as include the site for patrol by the City Park Security personnel. Following implementation of this pilot project, the City and School District have identified additional schools to potentially offer similar casual recreation use during non-school hours.

Note that there is overlap between these categories and some of Pasadena’s green spaces may fall into more than one of the categories. For example, Lower Arroyo Park includes walking trails that deem it appropriate as “Planned Open Space”, but it is also a dedicated “Citywide Park.”

Open Space or OS is also a category used in Pasadena’s Zoning Code and in the General Plan Land Use diagram. OS is included within Green Space. In the General Plan diagram, OS is defined as follows:

This category is for a variety of active and passive public recreational facilities and for City-owned open space facilities. This includes natural open spaces and areas, which have been designated as environmentally and ecologically significant. This category also applies to land, which is publicly owned, though in some instances public access may be restricted. Most importantly, this designation only applies to lands owned by the City.

Pasadena's Green Space Categories



B. OVERVIEW OF STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Master Plan serve as guiding policy documents for the preservation of existing green space as well as the future stewardship of both passive and active recreation areas. California law requires that every City and County prepare a comprehensive and internally consistent General Plan (§65300.5). The seven required Elements of the General Plan are Land Use, Mobility, Housing, Open Space, Noise, Safety, and Conservation.

Along with the seven mandatory General Plan Elements, the State of California also encourages the adoption of optional Elements when appropriate to a particular City or County. Pasadena's Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element is one of the optional Elements that comprise the General Plan.

In recognition of the importance of properly identifying recreational opportunities and the needs of Pasadena residents, the City has chosen to prepare the optional Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element in addition to the required Open Space and Conservation Elements. This will result in mutually reinforcing policies that will guide the preservation of Pasadena's existing green spaces, while ensuring that opportunities for both active and passive uses of parks and open space are available throughout the City, and that these opportunities are responsive to the community's needs.

The City will update the Open Space and Conservation Elements beginning in Fiscal Year 2007. If any inconsistencies are found between the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and these elements, amendments to the Green Space, Parks and Recreation Element may be proposed concurrently with the adoption of the Open Space and Conservation Elements.

C. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

The foundation for the objectives and policies within the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element comes from a number of sources including the City's General Plan, the 2004 Land Use Element Update, extensive studies of the Arroyo Seco, the 2004 Park and Recreation Fee Nexus Study; and individual city park master plans. In addition, substantial community feedback in the form of visioning workshops, user group workshops, and community surveys led to the development of the goals and vision of the Element. Finally, the Element is accompanied by a comprehensive, citywide Master Plan that serves as the primary implementation guide for the vision, goals, and policies expressed herein.



The City of Pasadena General Plan

In 1994, the Comprehensive General Plan Revision Program was a directed response to growth management issues that came to the forefront during much of the 1980s. The revision program was designed to provide a unified vision for the future of the City. It is a vision that was shaped and driven by community values and reflects the input of Pasadena residents.

The extensive community outreach conducted during the 1994 Revision Program led to the creation of seven guiding principles that serve as the overall framework for each General Plan Element. The seven guiding principles of the City's General Plan are as follows:

1. *Growth Will Be Targeted to Serve Community Needs and Enhance the Quality of Life.*
2. *Change Will Be Harmonized to Preserve Pasadena's Historic Character and Environment.*
3. *Economic Vitality Will Be Promoted To Provide Jobs, Services, Revenues And Opportunities.*
4. *Pasadena Will Be Promoted as a Healthy Family Community.*
5. *Pasadena Will Be A City Where People Can Circulate Without Cars.*
6. *Pasadena Will Be Promoted as a Cultural, Scientific, Corporate, Entertainment and Educational Center for the Region.*
7. *Community Participation Will Be A Permanent Part Of Achieving A Greater City.*

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element is the latest in a series of recent updates of Pasadena's Comprehensive General Plan. Other newly adopted Elements include Land Use (2004), Mobility (2004), Safety (2002), Noise (2002), and Housing (2002). Following the adoption of the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element, Open Space and Conservation will be the last state-mandated topics requiring an update. The City of Pasadena also plans to update two elective elements: Economic Development & Employment and Art & Culture.

Comprehensive General Plans in the State of California are required to be internally consistent. Accordingly, the objectives and policies expressed within the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element must support and be informed by the other Elements within Pasadena's General Plan.

General purpose statements that describe the five most recently updated Elements are as follows:

LAND USE / To protect residential neighborhoods, to direct density and development into specific areas, and to create mixed-use urban environments oriented to transit and pedestrian activity.

MOBILITY / Pasadena will be a city where people can circulate without cars.

SAFETY / To improve the safety of the community, and in the process make it more sustainable and prosperous.

NOISE / To minimize exposure of residents, workers, and visitors to excessive noise levels, while maximizing the Land Use Element's objectives to encourage mixed-use development in the Central District and other Specific Plan areas as well as to promote economic vitality.

HOUSING / To conserve and improve existing affordable housing, provide adequate housing sites, assist in the development of affordable housing, remove government and other constraints to housing development, and promote equal housing opportunities to all segments of Pasadena's population.

The GREEN SPACE, RECREATION AND PARKS ELEMENT adds to this list the following vision or statement:

To create, maintain, protect, and restore an interrelated system of parks, trails, and natural open spaces. To provide recreational opportunities which sustain a vibrant and healthy community with an emphasis on ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

Because green space, recreation and park policies touch on so many aspects of the General Plan, the community vision within the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element is broad in scope, allowing the

objectives and policies expressed herein to complement the efforts of other Elements. For example, the Element will help to support the directed development patterns prescribed in the Land Use Element because they provide a means to preserve valuable green space and parks. In addition, this Element will promote opportunities for integrated bike and pedestrian trail networks to reinforce the vision of the Mobility Element for increased non-motorized circulation throughout Pasadena. These and other examples throughout this document demonstrate the close relationship that must exist between the visions of individual Elements of the General Plan, as they reflect the overall goals of the City.

Most importantly, the vision statement and associated Core Principles address the question: What are Parks and Green Spaces For in Pasadena? The answers to this question provide direction toward the balancing of uses within and between the City's parks and open spaces.

The Land Use Element of the General Plan

The State of California's Office of Planning and Research stated the following in describing the purpose of the Open Space Element: "Along with the housing element, the open-space element has the most detailed statutory intent and, next to land use, is the broadest in scope." Indeed, the present Pasadena Green Space & Recreation Element tiers off of the recently updated Land Use Element by incorporating the objectives and policies prioritized by the community.

The Land Use Element contains policies to provide safe and well-designed public spaces, preserve the City's heritage, ensure the accessibility of human services, and foster stewardship of the natural environment. Specifically, the Land Use Element has three major objectives that will be further detailed throughout the Green Space Element:

- Objective 2, Open Space
 - policies regarding neighborhood parks, urban parks, and urban open spaces;
- Objective 9, Open Space Preservation and Acquisition
 - polices related to the Arroyo Seco, Eaton Canyon, open space corridors, and stewardship of the environment and;
- Objective 17, Recreation, with policies related to accessibility
 - equal distribution of facilities, and meeting the community's needs.

Many of the goals of the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element are directly related to the goals and polices expressed in these three objectives of the Land Use Element. All of the objectives and policies of

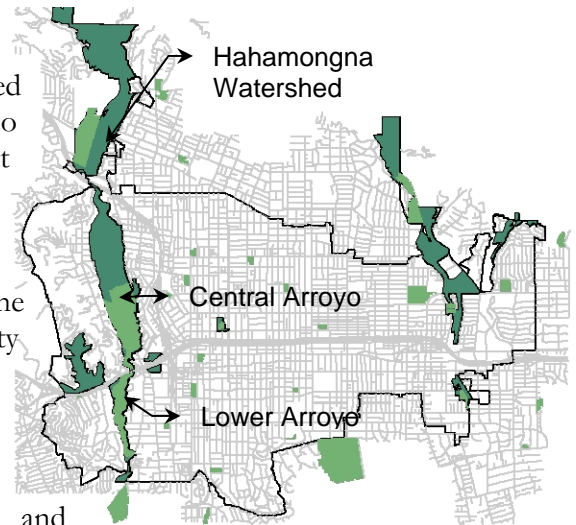
this Element are organized around the Seven Guiding Principles of the General Plan.

D. OTHER PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The Arroyo Seco Master Plans

The Arroyo Seco Master Plans are comprised of a set of four separate planning documents that portray a community vision for one of the region's most valued resources, the Arroyo Seco. The creation of the Arroyo Seco Master Plans is the result of a broad-based community effort that included a long list of stakeholders.

The Arroyo Seco is on the west side of the City of Pasadena and serves as a major tributary to the Los Angeles River. The importance of the Arroyo Seco as a valued resource to the City as a whole prompted the need for the Arroyo Seco Master Plans. The Arroyo provides not only opportunities for recreation but also a rich ecosystem within the Pasadena city limits. The Plans address development of recreational, educational and interpretive opportunities and protection and restoration of the ecosystem, while recognizing the important existing water supply and flood control functions of the area.



The four planning documents that make up the Arroyo Seco Master Plans are as follows:

- Design Guidelines for the Arroyo Seco
- Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan (HWP)
- Lower Arroyo Master Plan (LAMP)
- Central Arroyo Master Plan (CAMP)

To date, all of the Arroyo Seco Master Plans have been adopted by the Pasadena City Council, the most recent of which was the Central Arroyo Master Plan, approved on September 26, 2005. The Design Guidelines for the Arroyo Seco were adopted on April 14, 2003 and the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan and the Lower Arroyo Master Plan were adopted on September 29, 2003.

Taken together, these plans provide a detailed implementation schedule for preservation and enhancements throughout the Arroyo. The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element acknowledges these important planning efforts and incorporates them into the overall policies and objectives of the City. The Master Plan will provide the basis through which the implementation of the Arroyo plans will be carried out and prioritized within the overall context of City parks and recreation planning. The level of detail provided in the series of Arroyo Seco plans provides an example of how specific facilities will be planned and enhanced following the adoption of the citywide Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan.



Specific Park Master Plans

Within the context of a citywide Master Plan, specific park plans can be prioritized and planned collectively. The benefit of having a Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Master Plan created at the same time is that policies and objectives can be jointly prioritized for implementation.

There are currently 10 parks and/or recreational facilities in the City of Pasadena that have up-to-date master plans and/or facility plans. They include:

- Brookside Park
- Brookside/Rose Bowl - Area H
- Central Arroyo
- Central Park
- Hahamongna Watershed Park
- Lower Arroyo Park
- Memorial Park
- Robinson Park
- Viña Vieja Park
- Washington Park

The City also has a number of master plans that are now considered out-of-date by Parks and Natural Resources staff. These plans are superseded by the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan. These park master plans include:

- Eaton Blanche Park
- Hamilton Park
- Jefferson Park
- McDonald Park
- Victory Park
- Villa-Parke Center

The up-to-date master plans that are currently observed are deemed to meet the needs of the community. Conversely, the out-of-date plans are not currently meeting community needs. The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Master Plan will provide a citywide understanding of the facilities and resources necessary to meet the needs of residents, and to direct these resources to the parks and facilities where they will be the most useful and necessary. Following completion of the Master Plan, information from the Plan may be used to revisit existing facility master plans for potential update or modification, including those that are currently considered up-to-date.

Park and Recreation Impact Fee Nexus Study

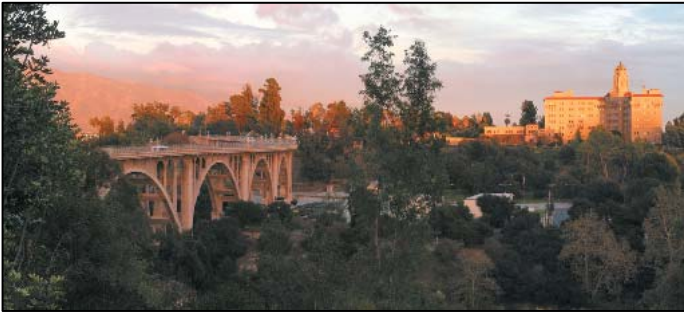
Pasadena's Residential Impact Fee was established in 1988 with the adoption of Ordinance #6252, which was created to provide funds to mitigate the impact of new residential development (subdivisions, single family dwellings, and multifamily dwellings) on City parks and park facilities.

In 2004, the City contracted with Brion & Associates to prepare an updated study to evaluate the nexus between residential development within the City and the fee charged to developers to pay for recreation and parks. The primary purpose for the study was to establish an impact fee per residential unit based on current and projected development patterns as well as the City's growth rates and population projections.

The Nexus Study was based on the principles of AB1600 and California Government Code 66000 which establish a uniform process for formulating, adopting, imposing, collecting, accounting for, and protesting fees. The Nexus Study developed a framework that provides a rationale for a fee that allows the City to capture both land and development costs, as well as the costs of new recreational facilities. Based on this study, the City Council adjusted the fee. The proposed park and recreation fee will be used to enhance existing or fund new park and recreation facilities that will serve new and existing developments in the City of Pasadena. These fees are required to ensure that adequate public facilities will be available commensurate with the timing of new development. The fee amount will be periodically reviewed to ensure that it is aligned with the cost of funding facilities.

E. COMMUNITY CONTEXT

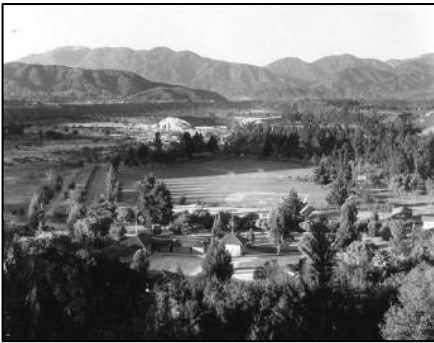
As a historic, built-out city, the need for careful preservation and enhancement of Pasadena's green space resources to accommodate the needs of present and future residents is critical. Pasadena is a city of approximately 133,936 residents² who have long regarded green space as an integral part of daily life and culture. Since the City's founding in 1874, individuals from around the United States have come to Pasadena



to settle or to vacation, drawn particularly by the area's abundant natural resources and scenic beauty, most notably provided by the San Gabriel Mountains.

Pasadena grew as a residential locale thoroughly distinct from Los Angeles, its neighbor to the south. Residents in the late 1800s perceived Pasadena as a natural, garden-like setting that did not require formal park planning. By the turn of the 20th century, however, changing development patterns led residents to rethink that stance. Consequently, city government acquired its first green space for Central and Memorial Parks in 1902. In 1903, the City's first park regulating ordinance (#539) was passed. Later, in the 1920s, Pasadena created a citywide recreation program that emphasized after-school playground activities.

As the City has evolved, recreation and green spaces have also evolved to meet changing needs and expectations. Pasadena has a unique and varied inventory of green spaces, including regionally significant open spaces, such as the Arroyo Seco and Eaton Canyon, which include hiking, biking, and equestrian trail networks. As of 2005, Pasadena has 23 dedicated city parks totaling 635 acres of parkland as well as an abundant urban forest of more than 50,000 street trees. Further, the City offers an extensive palette of recreation programs and services available to residents year round.



Each of these components is important to maintaining a high quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Pasadena. Some of the most popular recreation activities in Pasadena do not even have a specific facility. Walking, jogging, and bike riding are activities that a large number of Pasadenans enjoy right from their front doors. Green Space is found in the City's parkways, along its sidewalks, throughout its hillsides and through mountain vistas.

² P1. Total Population. Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data. Pasadena City, California." [American FactFinder](#). 2000. Bureau of the Census. 28 November 2005..

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PASADENA COMMUNITY

Pasadena is a unique city known for its cultural amenities, diverse housing options, architectural heritage, traditional neighborhoods, special events, educational and scientific institutions, thriving central district, and vibrant economic base. It is truly a city on the world stage but with close-knit neighborhoods and smaller scale community experiences. There are myriad opportunities as a Pasadena citizen to participate in community life by volunteering and interacting with neighbors. A wide variety of public and private agencies, groups, non-profit organizations, businesses, and institutions support community interaction and education.

Pasadena has received national recognition for its efforts pertaining to quality of life planning and its Quality of Life Index report (available online through the City's website). A charter city of the California Healthy Cities and Communities program, Pasadena has focused on identifying and prioritizing quality of life issues, of which park and open space planning is an important part. A mature city that, in part, has evolved along the lines of traditional urban neighborhood patterns, Pasadena is fortunate to have elements of all six (6) of the key indicators for a livable community as identified by the Local Government Commission³. These six indicators are as follows:

1. Mixed-use development brings housing, commercial, retail, civic and office development into closer proximity placing more destinations within reach of a short walk, bike ride or transit trip.
2. Compact development makes more efficient use of land, preserves open space, lowers infrastructure costs, supports neighborhood retail and transit services, and brings destinations closer together.
3. Slow, interconnected traffic-calmed streets ensure safe, convenient pedestrian and bicycle circulation without impeding vehicle circulation.
4. Pedestrian-scale design balances automobile circulation and focuses on making environments that are comfortable, pleasant and pedestrian-oriented.
5. Transit-oriented and transit-adjacent development places higher intensity development within close proximity to transit stops making transit a more viable alternative to the automobile and increasing ridership for the transit system. Increases in ridership generate revenue to fund higher levels of transit service.
6. Mix of housing types provides housing choices and equitable access to services for people of all income levels and life cycles.

³ "Neighborhood-Scale Planning Tools to Create Active, Livable Communities." Local Government Commission.
http://www.lgc.org/freepub/PDF/Land_Use/fact_sheets/neighborhood_planning.pdf

COMMUNITY TRENDS/DEMOGRAPHICS

Understanding the demographic context of the City creates a valuable perspective for current open space, park and recreation facility and program recommendations and, moreover, for anticipating open space, park and recreation facility and program needs in the future. Demographic characteristics such as age, number of children, ethnicity, culture, and income have been demonstrated in past research to have a relationship to recreation patterns and needs. For those reasons, an overview of historical change and emerging directions of the resident population of Pasadena are important considerations as the community plans for and moves forward to its preferred future.

Full demographic reports are provided in the Appendix of the Master Plan. Some key findings include:

- The population of Pasadena grew 1.8% from 1990 to 2000. One in four households (27.1%) in 2000 were families with children under 18 years of age, up 2.5% from 1990. However, the fastest growing household type in the City during that decade was one-person households (up 8.8%).
- Density of the overall population and specifically children 18 years of age and younger is concentrated within northwest Pasadena (see Exhibit 4.4-1 of the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan for a detailed graphic).
- The median age in Pasadena is 34 years, an increase from 33 in 1990.
- Educational attainment is a high priority for Pasadena residents, with 41.3% of residents holding a Bachelor or graduate/professional degree in 2000 as compared to 36.3% in 1990.
- There are approximately 110,000 jobs within the City that support a vital business community.

Pasadena's location and status as a primarily "built-out" community limits the potential for citywide growth. In addition, Pasadena's demographic profile over the next 20 years is anticipated to be characterized by an aging population and continuing ethnic diversity, trends evident throughout Los Angeles County as well. The historical trend of a modestly declining household size, evidenced between 1990 and 2005, and similar projections through the year 2025, indicate a minimal but continuing reduction in household size in the future.

EXISTING GREEN SPACE INVENTORY

NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Natural Open Space is a significant defining feature of Pasadena and the natural open spaces are highly valued by the community. Pasadena has 502 acres of open space (OS) zoned natural open space land. Much of this is in the Arroyo Seco area and the Eaton Wash area.

In addition there are also privately-owned areas that are not zoned as open space, but are valued as natural open space by residents. These are areas that often have development rights associated with them such as vacant hillside properties or vacant lots within existing neighborhoods.

Several different native habitats comprise the natural open spaces. These include Chaparral, Riparian Woodlands, Coastal Sage Scrub and California Native Grasslands. These areas provide suitable habitats for a variety of native animal species such as deer, smaller mammals and birds.

PARKS

The City of Pasadena owns and/or controls approximately 635 gross acres of public parkland in twenty-three sites, ranging in size from less than an acre (San Rafael Park) to more than 290 acres (Hahamongna Watershed Park). Each park has a role in fulfilling recreation needs of the neighborhood and/or the community in an integrated, balanced manner. City parks offer a variety of elements, including natural open space areas, community centers, swimming pools, lawn bowling greens, stages and amphitheaters, large trees, sports courts and fields, passive areas, community gardens, children's play areas, trails for hiking and horses, areas for kids, disc golf course, rose gardens, picnic areas, horseshoes, and even a casting pond and an archery range. In addition, Pasadena is located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and the Angeles National Forest, which offer an extensive network of trails and additional recreational opportunities. (See Exhibit 2.2-1 of the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan for a detailed map of Pasadena Park locations.)

Although the inventory focuses on City owned and operated green spaces, public schools provide vital and important recreational opportunities throughout the City. The Public School system provides sports fields and courts, open spaces, and recreation area throughout Pasadena neighborhoods. While the City and the Pasadena Unified School District cooperate and share the use of some facilities through a joint use agreement, the potential exists for continued cooperation and sharing of resources to meet the recreational needs of students and the

broader community. Similar opportunities for joint use with Pasadena City College are also important to address local recreation.

In addition to public sector opportunities, the City has a rich history of private institutions that provide recreational opportunities for local residents. These include private schools from the elementary school level to world-renown institutions such as the California Institute of Technology. Private athletic, recreation and social clubs also provide numerous opportunities for Pasadena residents in many facets of recreation and athletics.

Historic, built-out cities like Pasadena must look to opportunities for creative use of recreational resources and green spaces that exist within the City limits. With little undeveloped land and a growing population, it is important to continue to search for creative and efficient ways to meet the green space and recreation needs of the Pasadena population. Therefore, while city-owned green spaces are the focus of much of this planning effort, joint use and sharing of resources with public schools and private institutions is a crucial component of recreation planning for Pasadena's future.

PROGRAMS

Recreation and community service programs provide a variety of benefits to individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities. Determining the most important needs and planning programs and activities that effectively address those needs is essential to a delivery system that benefits the Pasadena community. The City of Pasadena provides recreational and community service programs that target unmet needs, underserved populations, and service gaps, operating in coordination with the wide range of activities provided by other private and public organizations. Cooperation with other local providers prevents duplication of effort and promotes effective, efficient use of available community service and recreation resources.

The City's Human Services and Recreation Department is the primary City provider of recreation and community services activities. The Department provides activities that can be grouped into nine service areas, categorized by target populations served: pre-school aged youth, elementary aged youth, middle school youth, high school young adults, adults, seniors, Adaptive Recreation, events, and family/household. Types of programs offered include special interest, the arts, sports, consumer assistance services, special or seasonal events, physical fitness, activities during non-school hours, and social activities.

Currently the City recreation and community service programs include a total of 156 different programs or activities, offered at City and school locations throughout the Pasadena community. The following is a brief summary of programs and services provided by target population category.

Pre-School

18 months – 5 years

Programs for this age group include Tiny Tot Tap, ballet, tennis, swim lessons, karate, sports and fitness, soccer, basketball, and gymnastics.

Elementary School Age Youth Programs

5 - 12 years

There are approximately 26 types of programs or classes as well as various youth sports programs available throughout the year. Classes include dance, cultural dance, art, self defense or martial arts, gymnastics, drill team, tennis, boxing, mentoring and homework assistance, and out of school programs. Seasonal programs include flag football, soccer, cheerleading, basketball, and day camps.

Middle School Youth Programs

12 - 15 years

Program offerings for this age group include aquatics, youth sports, computer instruction, self-defense, a weight-training program, dance, boxing, model car club, and music lessons. Tutoring and SAT are also available for this age group. Drop-in teen after-school programs are also available.

High School – Young Adult Activities

16 – 18 years

Activities for this age group include GED, SAT, tutoring, computer lab, a weight-training program, aquatics, open basketball, Teen Club, and youth employment.

Adult Activities

18 + years

Special interest classes for adults include computer instruction, yoga, tai chi and tai chi sword, ballet, aerobics, weight training, conversational Spanish, English as a second language, art, dog obedience training, and self defense. Sports programs include 3 on 3 basketball, basketball, soccer leagues, 5 on 5 flag football, softball, tennis, and aquatics. Community services include consumer assistance, social service linkage and referrals, volunteer service, and immigration assistance.

Senior Services

Age 55 and above

The Pasadena Senior Center is the primary location providing senior services, located in a City park and operated by a non-profit organization by contract with the City. Additional senior programs are provided at several City community and recreation centers on a year round basis. Special interest classes include dance, crafts, sewing, excursions, fitness, computer education, sports leagues, lawn bowling, special events, language arts, and citizenship classes. Social group activities such as bridge club and drop in table games (e.g. billiards) are also provided. Assistance programs include a lunch program (hosted by

the YWCA), outreach, income tax assistance, health and wellness screening and education, housing assistance, counseling and advocacy, legal services, homebound senior services, food and transportation voucher distribution and volunteer opportunities.

Adaptive Recreation

All ages

Recreation for residents with disabilities includes drama, arts and crafts, music, recreation excursions, event planning, and special holiday events. The City co-sponsors a therapeutic horseback-riding program for youth, Friday night socials, and wheel chair basketball.

Events

All ages

A wide variety of special events are held throughout the year, ranging from neighborhood based to community wide activities. These include seasonal and holiday events, primarily with youth, family or adult focus and are specifically listed in the program and services inventory.

Family/Household Activities

All Ages

Family activities include Family Fun Days, summer family swim, family art class, parent and me programs, and special holiday events. Many center and park programs coordinate activity schedules so that family members of various ages and interests can participate in different activities in one location at one time (e.g. children's dance, youth sports and after school tutoring programs offered at the same time and location as adult aerobics, ESL classes and computer training).

A detailed inventory of information on programs provided by location is listed in the appendix of the Recreation & Parks Master Plan.

IV. COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE, RECREATION AND PARK NEEDS

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

Significant community input is an objective of the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element of the General Plan, as well as Pasadena planning efforts overall. From lively evening workshop discussions to one-on-one telephone interviews with 450 residents, community input has provided important insights into the actual patterns of resident activity in the City's green spaces as well as their ideas regarding the future needs of these critical local resources. Nine separate community input opportunities were offered (not including public hearings) to discuss and provide suggestions for the drafting of both the Element and the Master Plan. Descriptions of each community outreach effort are included below. Detailed results can be found in Section 4 of the Master Plan.



Citywide Telephone Survey

A total of 450 randomly selected, geographically distributed telephone interviews were completed with adult household heads living in the City of Pasadena. The subject areas of inquiry included:

- One feature respondents liked best about living in Pasadena
- One change respondents would like to make in Pasadena
- Frequency of recreation facility usage
- Park used most often in the last year
- Recreation program most often used in the last year
- Participation rates for 26 listed recreational activities
- One facility respondent wants most
- One program, class, or activity respondent wants most
- Demographic characteristics of respondents

The full survey report can be found in the Appendix. Results of the survey are summarized together with other tools in Section 4.6 of the Master Plan.

Workshop #1 – Visioning

The purpose of Workshop #1 was to lay the foundation for the creation of a Working Vision Statement (which was then completed in Workshop #2) by identifying the most important community attributes that contribute to why Pasadena is a great place to live, work, and play. The 65 workshop participants also listed trends, issues and/or



opportunities that may be impacting those attributes, and the ways in which parks, recreation and community services can mitigate issues or enhance opportunities in support of the community attributes.

Workshop #2 – Visioning

Eighty participants in the second workshop provided information reflective of their community vision and the role parks, open space, recreation and community services will play in that vision. The topics discussed during this session included:



- Identification of what should be preserved as a part of the Master Plan process.
- Recommendations as to what should be created as a part of the Master Plan process.
- Common themes that translate to needs.
- The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) to achieve the Element and Master Plan recommendations.

Workshop #3 - Sports User Groups

All local sports organizations that had requested use of City park facilities over the past two years were invited to participate in a workshop to discuss park facility issues related to active use for organized sports. Twenty-seven representatives of sports user groups in Pasadena participated in this workshop. Local sports user groups were selected for a specific workshop because of their extensive familiarity with athletic facilities and groups that request to use them, as well as their knowledge about and experience in local trends in organized sports.

Workshop #4 – Needs Summary and Prioritization

Approximately thirty-seven representatives of the community participated in workshop activities involving the prioritization of recreation program and facility needs that were identified through earlier data collection, community surveys, interviews, and workshops.

Workshop Participant Questionnaires

Those that attended the continuum of four workshops were invited to complete written questionnaires that posed six questions. Forty-three questionnaires were returned. The questionnaire addressed the following:

- What do you value most about the Pasadena Parks and Recreation Services, Open Space, and Facilities, and Why?
- What changes would you like to see?
- What opportunities exist to accomplish those changes?
- Please list any programs or services you would like to see added and how they support the community?
- Please list any facilities you would like to see added and how this would support the community?
- Is there anything else you would like to add?



Community Organization Questionnaires

Pasadena community service providers and civic groups were requested to participate in the identification of recreational community service needs of Pasadena residents. A total of 99 questionnaires were distributed and 12 were completed and returned. Questions included:

- What would you say the Pasadena community does best for its families, adults, youth, seniors, business and visitors?
- What change or improvement would you identify as the highest priority to meet the current recreation and community service needs of Pasadena residents?
- What are the most important issues or challenges facing the Pasadena community during the next ten years?
- Describe the characteristics or qualities that you feel are most important to support or strengthen in the future of Pasadena?
- If you were to name one program needed for Pasadena residents, what would that program be and why?
- If you were to name one facility needed for Pasadena residents, what would that program be and why?
- Would you like to give any other thoughts or comments that you feel are important to include in the Pasadena Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Master Plan?

Stakeholder Interviews

A series of one on one interviews and round table discussions involving stakeholders were conducted to provide an assessment of key issues, perceptions and opinions in the Pasadena community with relation to green space, parks or recreation. A total of 23 individuals were interviewed. The information derived from the interviews is included in

the overall public input process that identifies the needs of the community related to parks, recreation, and community services.

Interviewees were selected by staff based on their interest in parks and recreation in the community. They were also selected on the basis of their insight and/or knowledge about the community related to parks, recreation and community services.

FACILITY AND PROGRAM DEMAND ANALYSIS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A key element in any planning strategy is an understanding of the nature of demand for parks and recreation facilities. Without this understanding, policies can only be based on general standards of supply and demand, such as population ratios (acres per thousand population) or service area (distance to park facilities). Such standards may be useful guides but the demand analysis guarantees that the needs assessment reflects the character of Pasadena. The citywide telephone survey and an extensive survey of sports organizations provided a quantitative basis for determining how the residents of Pasadena participate in recreation activities. These quantitative methods are utilized along with each of the community outreach efforts outlined above to develop a comprehensive picture of facility and program demand, which is key to the development of recommendations for the types of facilities desired by Pasadena residents.

Please see the Appendix for the full Demand and Needs Analysis report, including a detailed description of the methodology utilized and calculations.