Section Four

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Section Four provides summaries and analyses of the various community input methods that were used to establish needs and recommendations for this Master Plan. From community visioning workshops, to sports and community group questionnaires, to a citywide telephone survey, the views of Pasadena residents were included throughout the development of this Plan.

The needs analysis component of the Master Plan represents both qualitative and quantitative information about the ways Pasadena residents use the City's green spaces and establishes priorities for future green space needs.

*At the conclusion of this Section, a comprehensive **Facility and Program Needs Summary** is provided that lists needs identified by each of the community input methods (see list below). This summary establishes the primary basis for the facility and program recommendations in **Section 5**.*

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Section Four Highlights

The following seven community input methods were used to inform this Master Plan:

Community Inputs

- Community Workshops #1 and #2 – Framing the Community Vision
- Sports User Groups Workshop (Community Workshop #3)
- Citywide Telephone Survey
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Community Organization Questionnaires
- Sports Organization Questionnaires
- Community Workshop #4 -Needs Summary and Prioritization

4.0 Introduction

The purpose of the needs analysis is to identify the current recreation program and facility needs within the community, to identify which are met and which are unmet, and to suggest the relative priority of each identified need. Needs have been identified and prioritized by engaging in a series of community inputs and other analysis tools. The process involves gathering both qualitative inputs (e.g. workshops, questionnaires, stakeholder interviews) and quantitative inputs (e.g. telephone survey, demand analysis). Each need identification tool and each bit of information gathered is a piece of the puzzle leading to a deeper, more thorough understanding of the community. All of the pieces, taken together, complete an overall picture of green space and recreation needs specific to Pasadena.

The following methods and processes were utilized to conduct the needs analysis and will be addressed in this section:

- ***Community Inputs:*** Information gathered from Pasadena residents and stakeholders through a variety of methods, including a series of four workshops, community organization questionnaires, stakeholder interviews, sports organization questionnaires and the Citywide Telephone Survey.
- ***Citywide Telephone Survey:*** The Citywide survey provides current, statistically valid information specific to Pasadena that provides detailed information of the types of recreation facilities and programs most often utilized by Pasadena residents. A total of 450 randomly selected, geographically distributed telephone interviews were completed with adult household heads living in the City of Pasadena.
- ***Recreation Demand and Needs Analysis:*** Quantitative evaluation of Pasadena facility needs based on the statistically valid Citywide Telephone Survey, facility inventory, relevant demographics, and sports organization questionnaires.
- ***Service Area Analysis:*** Evaluation of where parkland is located and how it is distributed throughout Pasadena and its relationship to housing and population density.
- ***Acreage Analysis:*** Evaluation of parkland acreage needs in Pasadena based on the Nexus Study standards, identified recreation needs, and available supply.
- ***Program Distribution Analysis:*** Understanding program needs and supply and how these influence facility needs.

At the conclusion of this section, a comprehensive Facility and Program Needs Summary is provided that lists needs identified by each of the methods and processes listed above. This summary establishes the primary basis for the facility and program recommendations in ***Section 5***.

4.1 Community Inputs

What are Pasadena Residents Saying About Recreation?

Pasadena community input ranged from lively evening workshop discussions to one-on-one telephone interviews with 450 residents. The community input portion of the Needs Analysis provided a number of opportunities to obtain perspective from residents, users of facilities and programs, and providers of facilities and programs. Within this section, community feedback has been organized into seven separate inputs:

- Community Workshops #1 and #2 – Framing the Community Vision
- Sports User Groups Workshop (Community Workshop #3)
- Citywide Telephone Survey
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Community Organization Questionnaires
- Sports Organization Questionnaires
- Community Workshop #4 - Needs Summary and Prioritization

The information received from each of these sources has been included in the overall prioritization of needs and recommendations. A brief summary of each community input is provided below, for complete details, see Appendix E-M.

Community Workshops #1 and #2 – Framing the Community Vision

The Master Plan process included several visioning activities that served to establish the community's concept of the role of green space in Pasadena so that park and recreation decisions can best reflect the City's unique needs. Two workshops were held to actively engage participants and provide an opportunity to reflect on the type of park and open space network desired in the City.

The first visioning workshop was held on Saturday, November 13, 2004. The purpose of Workshop #1 was to lay the foundation for the creation of a Working Vision Statement by identifying the most important community attributes that contribute to why Pasadena is a great place to live, work, and play. 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 support important community characteristics. See Appendix D for additional information.

Core Principles

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

Vision 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 communitycommunity with an emphasis on ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

On Saturday, January 29, 2005 the City of Pasadena hosted the second of two community-visioning workshops. Eighty participants in the second workshop provided information reflective of their community vision and the role that parks, open space, recreation and community services will play in that vision. See Appendix E for additional information.

These important ideas, concepts, and themes assisted in identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats inherent in the City's recreation network and were translated into both "Core Green Space Principles" and a working vision statement (see sidebar) to guide the development of recommendations in this Master Plan. The Green Space Principles and vision statement also provide the organization and format to the Green Space & Recreation Element of the General Plan which provides objectives and policies for the City.

Sports User Groups Workshop

On December 7, 2004, representatives of sports user groups in Pasadena were invited to discuss park issues relating to sports and active use of park facilities. Representatives from sports groups were asked to participate because of their extensive familiarity with athletic facilities and with the organizations that tend to use them. Twenty-seven attendees participated in the evening's workshop discussions about existing sports fields, needs and opportunities. See Appendix F for additional information.

Citywide Telephone Survey

A total of 450 interviews were completed with adult household heads living in the City of Pasadena (See Appendix G). These respondents were contacted through the use of a random digit dial sample. The random digit dial sample was compiled by identifying telephone prefixes known to be active in the City of Pasadena. With these prefixes, the final four digits for a list of phone numbers were randomly generated. This sample methodology compensates for the incidence of unlisted telephone numbers.

These 19-minute interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers during February and March 2005.

Answers to the survey questions provide interesting information, including:

- The most frequently stated "best feature of living in Pasadena" was "small town atmosphere", the next largest response was "feeling part of a community."

- Nearly half of Pasadena households reported being a frequent user of park and recreation facilities, using recreation facilities at least 3 times a month.
- Two community parks, Victory Park and Brookside Park, were reported as the most often used facilities in the past year.
- Of program types tested, the largest share reported participation in: Lessons or Classes in Music, Drama, Arts, or Crafts (23%), and programs in Parenting, Child Care, or Before and After School Care (21%).
- Of the 26 activities tested in the survey, the largest share of the population reported participation during the last year in: Walking/Jogging/Running (76%), Use of Trails or Open Space (67%), Attendance at Special Community Recreation Events (64%), and Picnicking/Barbequing (58%).
- Just over one-quarter of households reported desiring no new facilities. Of those listing facilities, the two facility types most often reported as most desired to be added were: Bicycling or Jogging Paths (9%), and Swimming Pool for Recreation or Lessons (7%).
- Three of every ten households stated they desire no new recreation programs. Of programs desired, the new programs most often reported by residents included Music Instruction or Classes (6%), Outdoor Concerts (5%), Arts or Crafts Instruction or Classes, Swim Activities, Lessons or Facilities (each garnering 4% of responses), Camps for School-Age Children During School Recess or Vacation Periods and More/Better Parks (each receiving 3% of responses.)

A key element of the survey is raw information that generates participation rates in each of 26 recreational activities. These participation rates are analyzed in Section 4.2, Recreation Demand Analysis, where facility demand is calculated in relationship to the population served.

Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews provided assessments of key issues, perceptions and opinions in the Pasadena community through one-on-one interviews and round table discussions involving twenty-three identified stakeholders, including Commission members, representatives of community groups and representatives of large institutions. ***See Appendix I***.

Community Organization Questionnaires

Pasadena community service providers and civic groups were asked to participate in the identification of recreational needs of Pasadena residents. A total of 99 surveys were distributed to community service organizations and 12 were returned. Although this does not represent a complete picture of the image of Pasadena from the point of view of community organizations, it does provide helpful information on how the Pasadena recreation and park situation is viewed. ***See Appendix J*** for detailed survey responses.

Sports Organization Questionnaires

To supplement the information regarding participation in organized sports obtained from the telephone survey, a questionnaire was designed and distributed to the sports organizations that use City facilities. Detailed information was requested for each division in the group regarding the number of players, the size of facility required and the time and place of all games and practices. Twenty-eight sports organizations responded. Information was received from youth and adult softball, baseball, football, soccer, and basketball organizations, as well as other sports groups that represent activities not included in the demand and needs analysis. The summary of the sports organization questionnaires can be found in ***Appendix K***.

This information is used to better define peak day demand and convert that to number of facilities required to meet the needs of this segment of the recreation market. Information regarding which of the facilities are currently being used by the sports groups provides input to the inventory of sports facilities regarding usage for adult sports, youth sports and practices. This community input is described in ***Section 4.2***, Recreation Demand Analysis, as quantitative responses from the sports organization questionnaires are used as input to help develop an accurate picture of demand for various recreation facilities.

Workshop #4 – Needs Summary and Prioritization

On June 9, 2005 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. Information from each of the community inputs described in this Section was provided to participants in an effort to obtain their idea of the priority of community needs for recreation facilities and programs.

The full description of responses from Workshop 4 can be found in ***Appendix L***.

All community inputs are integral to the recommendations within the Master Plan. In ***Section 4.6***, each of the community inputs above is included in an overall summary of recreation facility and program needs and how these needs translate to key issues

which are then incorporated into recreation facility and program recommendations.

4.2 Recreation Demand Analysis

How Can We Quantify Facility Needs?

This section summarizes the evaluation of demand for recreation and park facilities and programs by the residents of Pasadena. A key element in the park and recreation planning strategy is an understanding of the nature of demand for parks and recreation facilities and programs. Without this understanding, policy can only be based on general standards, such as population ratios (acres per thousand population) or service area (distance to park facility). Such standards are useful but the demand analysis guarantees that the needs assessment reflects Pasadena specifically. The full Demand Analysis and data tables are found in ***Appendix M***.

The National Recreation and Park Association in their 1983 update to the publication Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines states: "Park and recreation services are community services. Ideally, the national standards should stand the test in communities of all sizes. However, the reality often makes it difficult or inadvisable to apply national standards without question to specific locales. The uniqueness of every community, due to differing geographical, cultural, climatic, and socioeconomic characteristics, makes it imperative that every community develop its own standards for recreation, parks and open space."

The information used to calculate community demand for recreation facilities comes from three sources:

Citywide Telephone Survey

Population Projections

Sports Organization Questionnaires

The citywide telephone survey provides a statistically valid basis for determining how the residents of Pasadena participate in recreation activities. The participation rates in recreation activities from the survey constitute a quantitative basis for the demand analysis that is used in calculating the current need for facilities. The nature of growth and population change establishes trends in demand for recreation and leisure services. This, together with the survey results describing participation rates for various demographic groups, is the basis for a quantitative projection of future facility need.

In terms of sports facilities, it should be noted that the analysis pertains to participation in sports games on game fields, for which quantitative inventory is possible. This information is obtained in part from the Sports Organization Questionnaire. Participation in sports practices and

evaluation of practice field demand is not included, in part because practices often occur on informal, non-regulation facilities. Further, it is assumed that practices can occur on game fields during non-peak portions of the season. Based on the responses received from the Sports Organization Questionnaire there appears to be a need for additional practice fields in some sports. These needs are reflected in the Needs Summary Matrix (Section 4.6) and are further discussed in ***Section 5, Recommendations***.

The sports organization questionnaire obtained information regarding the number of players and teams in each league or sports organization, age ranges of the players, what seasons they play, if they travel outside Pasadena to play, if they participate in tournaments, ratings of field/facility maintenance and scheduling, projections of growth, and facilities they have the greatest need for both now and in the future. Detailed information was requested for each division in the sport regarding the number of players, the size of facility required and the time and place of all games and practices.

This information was used as a supplement to the telephone survey results and as a means to better define peak day demand (number of participants who will be involved in a given activity on the busiest day of the year) and is then converted to the number of facilities required to meet the needs of this segment of the recreation market. Information regarding which of the existing facilities are currently being used by the sports groups provides an understanding of the inventory of sports facilities regarding usage for adult sports, youth sports and practices.

The impact of non-resident / non-employee use of City facilities is an important consideration in assessing facility needs and is used to adjust the needs analysis when non-resident demand is included. The percentage of resident participation ranges from 95% (youth baseball leagues) to 37% (adult softball). In order to more fully explore the impact of the non-resident demand, the analysis indicates two levels of facility needs – from residents only and also when the non-resident demand is considered.

TABLE 4.2-1: RECREATION DEMAND ANALYSIS

Activity	Peak Day Demand (Participants)	Turnovers Per Day	Design Standard for Facility	Number of Facilities Demanded 2005*	City and School Facilities Available	Total Surplus / Deficit (-) 2005 estimate for Pasadena residents (and including non-residents)	Total Surplus / Deficit (-) 2025 estimate for Pasadena residents (and including non-residents)
Softball:							
Organized Youth	386	4x	26 players/ field	4.6 fields	12	7.4 (5.8) fields **	6.8 (5.0) fields **
Organized Adult	114	2.2x	30 players/ field	2.2 fields	1	-1.2 (-4.8) fields ***	-1.4 (-5.6) fields ***
Baseball:							
Organized Youth	784	5x	26 players/ field	7.5 fields	9	1.5 (1.1) fields	0.5 (0.0) fields
Football:							
Organized Youth							
Regulation	500	5.1x	54 players/ field	2.3 fields	3	0.7 (0.3) fields	0.4 (-0.1) fields
Flag	342	6.3x	23 players/ field	3.0 fields	6	3.0 (2.4) fields	2.7 (1.9) fields
Organized Adult (Flag)	85	2x	16 players/ field	3.3 fields	4	0.7 (-2.7) fields	0.2 (-3.5) fields
Soccer:							
Organized Youth	3,463	8x	26 players/ field	20.8 fields	20	-0.8 (-3.5) fields	-8.9 (-12.6) fields
Organized Adult	1,286	5x	40 players/ field	8.0 fields	9	1.0 (-1.7) fields	-0.1 (-3.1) fields
Playground Use	8,103	4x	105 persons / hour	19.3 areas	26	6.7 areas	4.2 areas
Swimming (Public Pool)							
Recreational	3,133	2x	20 sq.ft. / swimmer	6.4 pools *****	7.4	1.0 pools	-2.2 pools
Tennis Courts	986	8x	3 persons / court	41.1 courts	39	-2.1 courts	-7.5 courts
Indoor Basketball:							
Organized Youth	643	9x	18 players / court	4.0 courts			
Organized Adult	88	4x	9 players / court	2.4 courts			
Combined Courts****				6.4 courts	8.0	1.6 (-1.1) courts	0.8 (-2.3) courts
Equestrian Trail Riding	353	5x	7 horses / mile	10.1 miles	20.0	9.9 miles	8.6 miles
Skate Boarding	627	8x	40 persons / facility	2.0 facilities	1.0	-1.0 facilities	-1.2 facilities

*Demand for ball fields includes a 20% adjustment to allow for resting fields which are used for practices and games.
** Total demand, including non-Pasadena residents/employees is shown in parentheses
*** Demand for Adult softball is being met at undersized Youth facilities
**** Basketball courts are used by adults and youths and are combined in the analysis
***** One pool = 25 meters x 20 yards
Source: Coman Consulting, Inc., based on data from the California State Department of Parks and Recreation and the Pasadena Recreation Needs Assessment Survey, March 2005.

Results of the Demand and Needs Analysis are summarized along with other needs identification tools in ***Section 4.6***

4.3 Service Area Analysis

Where Are the People and Where Are the Parks?

In addition to providing appropriate quantities and types of recreation facilities, the City strives to provide them in useful and appropriate locations. Generally, this is taken to mean that most residences should be within 1/2 mile, a convenient walkable distance for most people, of a Neighborhood Park or other park that may satisfy common recreation needs. This 1/2 mile radius around parks and recreational facilities is defined in the Master Plan as a "service area". In essence, the existing recreation facilities are providing a nearby location for residents to utilize for active or passive recreation. This service area emphasis is important in a community in which families, neighborhoods, and active living are central issues, and is supported by the General Plan goals and policies within the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element.

One-half mile is a 10 – 20 minute walk for most people. It is generally considered a significant threshold in distance, beyond which some segments of the population will tend to decline walking opportunities. Hence, for most of Pasadena, 1/2 mile will be the service area distance goal. However, for more densely populated areas in which a variety of walking abilities, age groups, and urban settings exists, a smaller service area radius of 1/4 miles may be considered. This is reflective of the Trust for Public Land's suggestions that parks in dense areas be no more than a 10-minute walk away and that such distances will increase access for those with walking abilities different from the idealized healthy adult.

For the City of Pasadena, two such regions exist: the Central District and the Northwest area. Proximity to parks and open spaces in these areas is a greater challenge due to density and development patterns. In the case of the Central District, an influx of urban housing into a historically commercial area presents challenges in the provision of green spaces. Urban housing is typically provided at a much higher density and in a less open configuration than typical suburban development. The Northwest area of Pasadena has the highest density of population outside of the Central District and the highest concentration of children in the City (***Exhibit 4.4-1***). A more dense population and a higher concentration of youth have ramifications for a service area analysis. In the Northwest, the fact that there may be facilities within a 1/2 mile radius may not be adequate to meet the demand.

Proximity to parks is more than a convenience issue. It helps to establish an excellent city park system by providing improved air quality, circulation, social, community identity, and community health benefits. Proximity to parkland is also one of the elements identified as predicting levels of physical activity in the community, and a survey of US adults finds that people with access to neighborhood parks were nearly twice as likely to be physically active as those without access to parks.

To analyze the extent to which the distribution of existing Pasadena facilities is consistent with this notion, a service area radius map is provided (see ***Exhibit 4.3-1***, Neighborhood Parks Service Area Analysis). Circular service area radii are generated with the facility location as the central radius point. Geographical or other physical obstructions should be considered in analysis of actual service area, so service area shapes are not necessarily full circles but may be truncated to reflect a major barrier such as an arterial roadway. When areas zoned for residential use fall outside graphic service area designations, it can be said that the area may be underserved by existing facilities.

Service area analysis demonstrates that there are several significant residential areas outside of the established 1/2 mile service radius from a developed neighborhood recreation facility, including:

Gap 1: A north-south corridor between the 210 Freeway and California Blvd generally around El Molino Avenue. Residents in this area tend to be in the older age groups, with density of children being fairly low. The development pattern is a mix of multi-family and single-family housing.

Gap 2: Area north of Del Mar Blvd. around Sierra Madre Blvd. Residents in this area tend to be in the older age groups and the development pattern is predominantly medium density residential.

Gap 3: Area around John Marshall Junior High School. Population density in this area varies from low to moderate. This is an area of primarily single-family homes with a fairly low population density for both school age children and for seniors.

Gap 4: Area around Pasadena City College. Population density in this area varies from low to moderate.

Gap 5: Area around John Muir High School. An Altadena park exists nearby and is available for use by Pasadena residents.

Gap 6: Area near Linda Vista Avenue and Lida Street. Topography is a barrier between this neighborhood and Brookside Park.

Gap 7: Area in the San Rafael hills near La Loma Road and Avenue 64. Topography is a barrier between this neighborhood and Lower Arroyo Park.

Gaps in service can be addressed by adding a new facility, expanding existing facilities, or by making available an existing facility, such as a school, not previously available for recreation.

Based on the results of the Facility Demand Analysis in ***Section 4.2***, public schools are a critical component in the overall recreation facility palette for the City. To best provide the facilities needed by Pasadena residents, increasing the joint use of school facilities for community recreation facilities is one of the key recommendations of the Master Plan.

As ***Exhibit 4.3-1*** shows, within each of the seven "gap areas", there are public school campuses. Joint use agreements with the PUSD can help to fill the "gaps" in these areas. However, simply having "coverage" of residential areas does not provide the entire picture of service area analysis. The other important issue is park capacity.

Due to a lack of available parkland in adjacent neighborhoods, and because of population density, several existing parks serve a higher number of residents in providing daily neighborhood park opportunities. Some of the most impacted parks include Villa Parke, Grant Park, Jefferson Park, La Pintoresca Park, and Robinson Park.

This issue is closely related to the two special areas mentioned earlier in this section, the Central District and Northwest Pasadena. For these areas, joint use of facilities is especially important, as is the careful planning of the type of facilities made available. The City has begun work on two locations which could act as "pilot" projects in the provision of joint use of facilities. One "pilot" project involves Madison School on Ashtabula Street, just north of Orange Grove Boulevard and east of Los Robles Avenue. At Madison School, the City is currently collaborating with the Pasadena Unified School District to pursue joint use improvements that would serve area community and student needs. In addition, the City has also pursued arrangements at McKinley School on South Oak Knoll Avenue just south of Del Mar Boulevard which could serve as a neighborhood park area for residents of the Central District. These are just two potential projects which illustrate how service area analysis could be effectively used in the evaluation and development of recommendations for facility improvements, acquisition, or joint use.

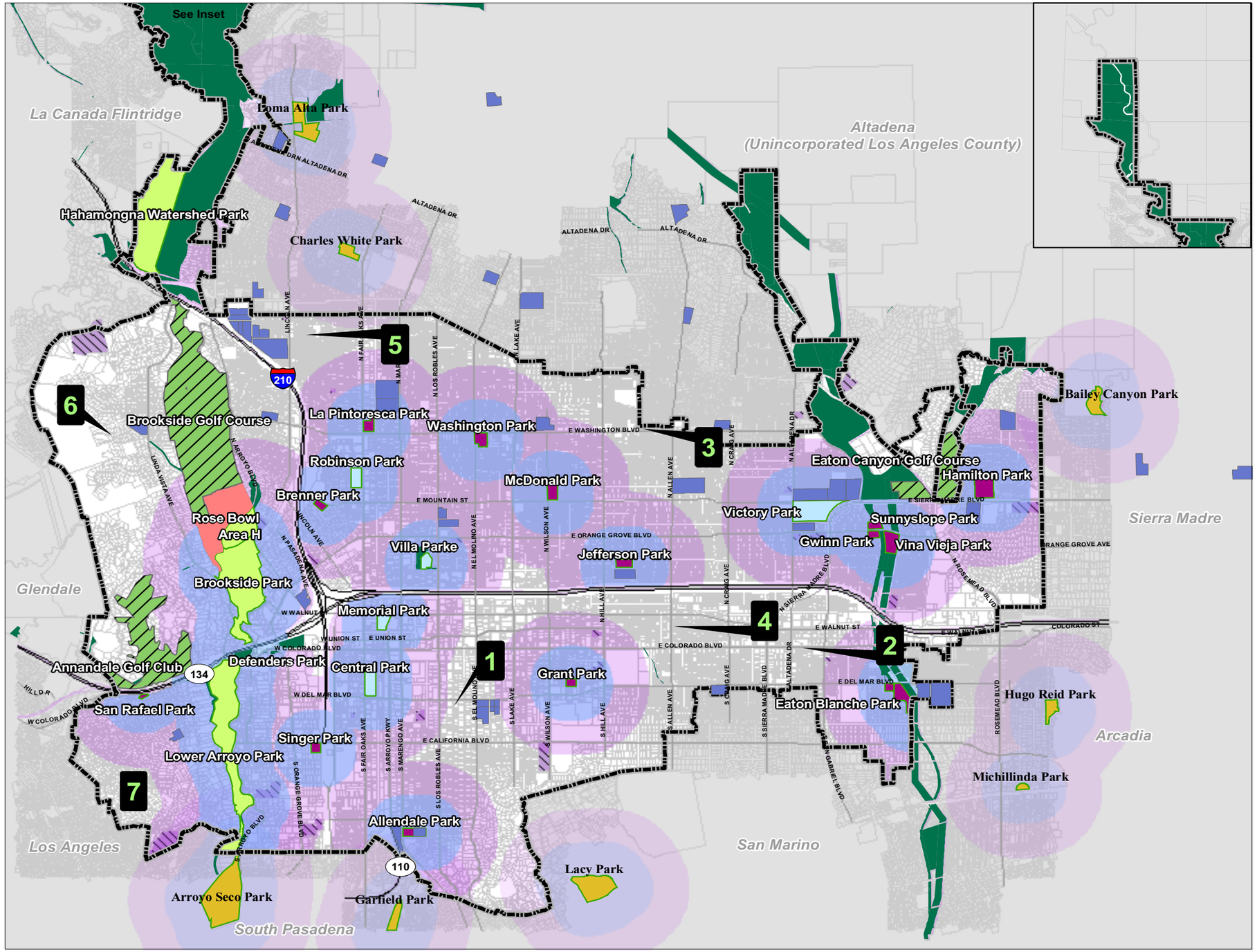

Exhibit 4.3-1: Green Space Gaps

This map depicts both 1/4 mile and 1/2 mile radii or "walkable service areas" around Pasadena's Neighborhood and Community Parks. As described in Section 4.3 (Service Area Analysis), 1/2 mile represents a 10-20 minute walk for many people. 1/4 mile represents an appropriate distance for those residents with limited walking abilities. Barriers to walkability, such as the 210 and 134 freeways, are included in this map as obstacles which most people would not cross in order to access a Neighborhood or Community Park. Other barriers might exist within individual neighborhoods, but they are not included for the purpose of this citywide analysis.

While this map does not attempt to explain all aspects of the City's green space coverage and deficiencies, it does provide a starting point for identifying which portions of the City are in immediate need of access to parkland.

Descriptions of the seven "gap" areas depicted on this map can be found on ***page 11*** *in this Section.*

Legend

- Golf Course
- Citywide Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Rose Bowl
- Park Outside City
- OS (Open Space)
- 1/2 Mile Buffers
- 1/4 Mile Buffers
- Public Schools
- Private Schools
- City Boundary

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Miles

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4.4 Program Distribution Analysis

Are Programs Offered in Appropriate Locations?

In addition to providing appropriate quantities and types of recreation programs and related services appropriate for and of interest to various target populations (i.e. children, youth, adults, seniors, persons with special needs, and families), the City strives to provide these activities at locations, hours and costs that maximize a resident's ability to participate. City recreation programs also consider the availability of and access to recreation programs provided by other public and private organizations, to prevent duplication and promote a coordinated network offering diverse recreational opportunities throughout Pasadena.

An analysis of the distribution of recreation programs in Pasadena takes into consideration where programs are delivered relative to where residents live and attend school (for children and youth), and, for adults, where they live and work. This would include identification of neighborhoods with large concentrations of any particular target group (i.e. children under age 5, seniors, etc.) to assure that age-appropriate programs are delivered at nearby sites. Analysis of public transit routes are also key, to assure that residents interested in recreational opportunities beyond walking distance of their homes, schools or workplaces have ready, affordable public transportation. Consideration of other key neighborhood demographics (for example, primary language spoken in the home and median household income) promote the design and implementation of recreation programs that are linguistically and financially accessible to the local community.

The following reviews key population and recreation program distribution information for priority City recreation programs, populations and neighborhoods, identifies underserved populations or unmet needs, and suggested priorities for program expansion or modification.

Northwest Pasadena

The 2000 Census reports that the highest concentration of children in Pasadena reside in Northwest Pasadena (see ***Exhibit 4.4-1***). Further, overall housing density and average household size are larger while median household income is less per capita than in most other areas of Pasadena. This is a culturally diverse neighborhood, where a large percentage of households report either limited English literacy or that a language other than English is spoken at home (primarily Spanish). Accordingly, Northwest Pasadena requires more recreation programs serving children, youth and families than other City areas. Affordability and culturally diverse recreation personnel, including persons with Spanish language fluency, are key to effectively address the broad recreation needs and interests of the Northwest Pasadena community. City or City-sponsored recreation programs are particularly important here, in partnership with other public and private non-profit organizations (schools, churches, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, YWCA, etc.) that can offer quality recreation opportunities at affordable rates.

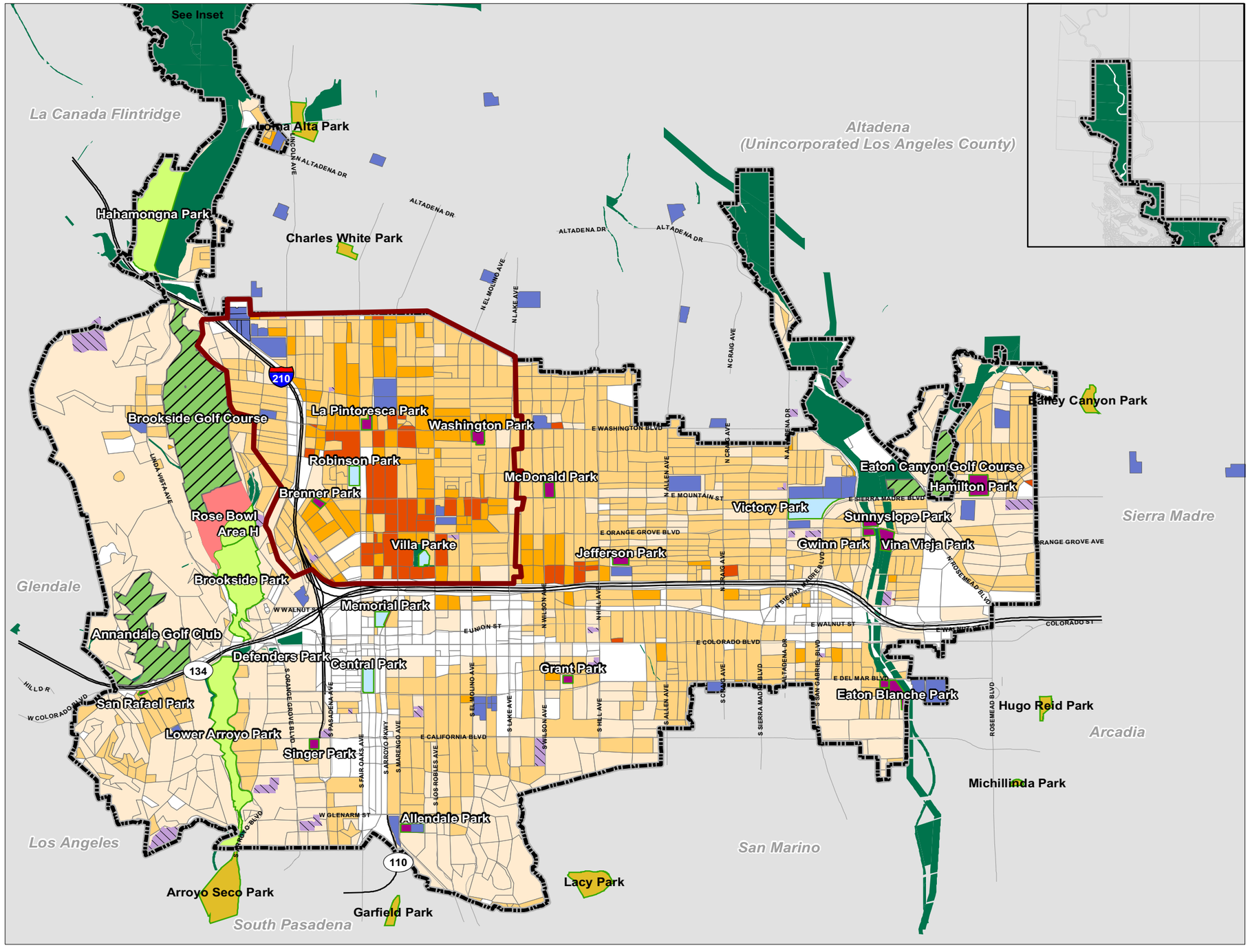

Exhibit 4.4-1: Density of Children in Pasadena (Population Age 18 & Under in Year 2000)

This map depicts the population density of Pasadena residents under the age of 18, according to US Census Bureau data from the year 2000. Darker shades of orange represent higher concentrations of children on a particular block.

Based on this analysis, one sees that the highest density of individuals under age 18 is concentrated in Northwest Pasadena (shown on the map by a red boundary). For this reason, Northwest Pasadena represents an area of particular interest with respect to recreation facilities planning.

For detailed descriptions of the program and facility needs in Northwest Pasadena, see ***page 14*** *and* ***page 23****.*

Legend

- Golf Course
- Citywide Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Rose Bowl
- Park Outside City
- OS
- Public Schools
- Private Schools
- City Boundary

Pop. Under 18 / Sq. Mile

- 0 or No Data
- 13-1,000
- 1,001 - 5,000
- 5,001 - 10,000
- Over 10,000
- NW Boundary

N
W E
S

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2
Miles

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Due to a shortage of public elementary school sites in Northwest Pasadena and school choice options offered by the local School District as well as the availability of many private schools, many children who reside in Northwest neighborhoods attend schools in other Pasadena locations. Accordingly, recreation programs for school-age children are needed not only in Northwest locations but also at or near the schools they attend, and must include appropriate transportation options (such as "late bus" programs) so that children can participate in such after-school programs at their schools.

The majority of City recreation programs serving preschool-age children are offered at two Northwest Pasadena locations (Villa Parke Community Center and Robinson Park), followed by Victory Park, in East Pasadena. While other providers offer recreation programs serving young children and their parents in Northwest, there appears to be a significant unmet need for more parent-infant, toddler and preschool-age recreation programs in this neighborhood, at a range of hours convenient both to at-home parents with young children as well as early evenings and Saturdays for working parents, at affordable rates. Staffing should be culturally diverse and include personnel with Spanish language skills.

City recreation programs serving school-age children are delivered at 14 school sites, of which four (Washington, Cleveland, Jackson, and Madison Elementary) are located in Northwest Pasadena, and several others are attended by a significant number of children who reside in Northwest Pasadena, but travel to out-of-neighborhood school locations by bus or parent-provided transportation. City recreation programs for school-age children are also delivered at 5 parks/community centers in Northwest Pasadena (Robinson, La Pintoresca, Washington, Villa Parke and Jackie Robinson Center), along with 9 other park locations citywide (Victory, Brookside, Hahamongna, Grant, Hamilton, Eaton, Blanche, Jefferson and Allendale). Many of these locations are immediately adjacent to public schools (for example, Victory Park is adjacent to Norma Coombs Elementary and Pasadena High School), so access for after school hours is excellent. On-site programs for middle school and high schools students are offered at several parks and community centers, but this is also an area of unmet need. Promising new models such as Mustangs on the Move (at Muir High School) and Pasadena LEARNs (at Blair High School) should be expanded and replicated on other middle school and high school campuses. Demand for job training and internships by high school youth continues to grow, as do organized seasonal sports opportunities for teens who are not competing on school teams or at a club level but are interested in playing soccer, baseball, football, basketball, lacrosse and other team activities. Promoting opportunities for children and youth to experience a wide range of recreation options (rather than specialize in a single sport, performing art or related recreational activity at a young age) continues to be a key City role.

Consistent with the park facilities analysis, as the need for additional park and recreation facilities in Northwest Pasadena is addressed and more public recreation space becomes available, additional programs should prioritize activities for young children and their parents, and school-age children and youth, offered in or adjacent to this area. Activities should

be culturally diverse, affordable, offered at schedules convenient to working families, and respond to local interests.

Seniors – Recreation Programs, Population Profile and Needs

According to the 2000 Census, 12% of Pasadena residents are age 65 and over. While many seniors enjoy a high quality of life and live independently, others face financial, health, mobility, social isolation and other challenges that can impact their participation in positive recreation programs. Older adults generally reside throughout the City, but there are several neighborhoods with higher housing density and a greater concentration of seniors. For example the Villa Corridor in Northwest Pasadena – going west from Lake Avenue (including Pilgrim Towers and Villa Gardens) – and the adjacent neighborhood includes high density housing units and a significant number of low- to moderate-income senior households. While some senior recreation services may be available at one's residence (whether provided by a family member, caregiver or an amenity of one's residential facility), many older adults actively seek affordable recreation opportunities to socialize, exercise, seek nutrition, enjoy community participation, learn a new skill, celebrate a holiday, or for many other reasons. Of particular concern for City recreation is the need for affordable, accessible recreation programs for high risk seniors – those of limited income, living independently and without immediate family, with health concerns or mobility limitations.

The Pasadena Senior Center is the primary provider of a broad range of services dedicated to persons age 50 and over. While its location in Old Pasadena at Holly and Fair Oaks makes it readily accessible by public transit, this location is not within walking distance of any of the neighborhoods with the highest number of senior residents. Senior services offered at Robinson Park, Jackie Robinson Community Center, Victory Park and Villa Parke Center are within walking distance of neighborhoods with significant numbers of senior residents. Services to Pasadena are also provided by other non-profit organizations, distributed citywide (for example, ranging from the Armenian Social Services available in Northwest to Senior Care Network services in Southwest to Center for Aging Resources CAPS program in East Pasadena). Offering programs such as Farmers Market at both Northwest and Southeast Pasadena locations (Villa Parke and Victory Park) increases access for seniors to healthy foods at reasonable prices, and also promotes walking (and obesity prevention) for nearby residents.

Given the growth in persons ages 50 to 55 identified in the 2000 Census, future recreation program planning must look to expanding opportunities for this group. Private recreation programs (including travel, sports, arts, and music activities) continue to grow, but a key City focus will be to assure that such opportunities are accessible and affordable to local older adults.

Adults – Citywide Sports Leagues and Special Events

City recreation programs for adults include a wide range of sports leagues (softball, soccer, basketball, flag football) and special events (concerts, performances, art shows, etc.), in partnership with many local providers. Such activities are delivered at recreation venues through the community, promoting access as well as preventing overuse of any one recreation facility or disparate impact on any one neighborhood. Most adults have access to public or private transportation, so distribution of events citywide is not as critical an issue for adults as it is for children and youth.

Special Needs – Adaptive Recreation

The City's Adaptive Recreation program offers a wide range of recreation programs for persons with disabilities, from ongoing socialization, arts, and exercise to special events and celebrations. Co-sponsorship and collaboration with local public and private non-profit organizations, including Special Olympics, Ability First, MACH One and others, is key to continuing to offer a network of diverse recreation programs serving the needs of persons with disabilities. Participants in these programs reside throughout the City, so offering recreation programs at various sites citywide is an appropriate strategy, provided the locations are fully accessible. Many adult participants live in group settings, so continued coordination in the event planning (including effective transportation planning) is critical to the ongoing success of such programs.

Future Recreation Programs Funding

As new recreation programs are designed and implemented to address needs identified through the current Master Plan process, the planning process must continue to analyze where to offer such programs in consideration of neighborhood need and population (e.g. age, ability to pay, etc.). Further, as new population data becomes available (at a minimum with each new Census), the distribution of programs relative to the local population profile should be reviewed and evaluated.

4.5 Acreage Analysis

How Much Green Space is Right for Pasadena?

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element of the General Plan establishes the following goal for acreage of parkland and open space:

> *Policy 6.3 – Adequate Developed Parkland:*
>
> *Acquire or otherwise make available local parkland and open spaces in sufficient quantity to meet the communitiy demand identified in the Green Space, Recreation & Parks Master Plan.*

This policy raises several questions: What is a "sufficient quantity" of parkland and open space for Pasadena? What community needs identification tools should be used to analyze acreage needs? Are there specific areas in Pasadena where the issue of acreage quantity deserves localized analysis on a neighborhood level? The following discussion addresses these questions, examining the issue of parkland acreage from four standpoints: 1) overall Citywide acreage as established in the Park and Recreation Impact Fee Nexus Study, 2) localized parkland acreage needs of the Central District based on the population characteristics of the neighborhood, 3) localized parkland acreage needs of Northwest Pasadena based on the population characteristics of the area, and 4) open space.

Citywide Parkland Acreage

In general, a parkland acreage legal standard is the ratio upon which development fees and/or dedications can be based. Establishment of a standard creates an obligation to fund improvements that achieve the standard throughout the City. State law that gives the City its authority to require fees or dedicate property to offset new development has an impact on recreation facilities. Establishment of a standard does not necessarily limit the City in the acceptance of negotiated fees or property as conditions of approval for future development.

The Park and Recreation Impact Fee Nexus Study (2004) established a rationale and legal standard for determining park and recreation impact fees for residential development using existing park and open space acreage ratios. The existing ratio for developed parkland at the time was 2.17 acres per 1,000 residents. The ratio for open space was 1.49 acres per 1,000 residents. (Note: The Nexus Study did not include Pasadena golf courses, schools, and parkland and open space outside City boundaries.) Therefore, 2.17 acres of parkland is taken as the current acreage ratio. "Public parkland" refers to publicly owned areas used by the community for recreation. Generally the ratio does not refer to facilities that are primarily natural open space, trail alignments, landscaped street rights-of-way. Generally, it does include all elements contained within public property zoned as Open Space such as playgrounds, landscaped areas, structures or buildings, and smaller parking areas.

The Nexus study determined that by 2024 an additional 44.5 acres of parkland and 30.5 acres of open space will be needed to accommodate estimated population growth. Given the built-out condition of the city, it is very unlikely that even a fraction this amount of acreage could be converted to parkland. A more likely scenario is that small urban open space areas might be created that could provide some of the desired amenities.

Some of the identification tools point toward a current shortage of parkland acreage:

- Service area analysis (Section 4.3) indicates that potentially four additional neighborhood recreation facilities are currently needed in residential areas of Pasadena not considered within reasonable walking distance of a park or recreation facility.
- Through the Master Plan process, several community inputs suggested that many residents want increased park and open space in Pasadena, especially in the Central District.

Demand and needs analysis (Section 4.2) indicates that there are current (2005) needs for two specific elements: adult softball and tennis courts. However, the adult softball deficit can be accommodated in existing parkland (see recommendations of ***Section 5***) and the tennis court deficit is believed to be already met by private and/or non-City facilities, so deficit figures for these two items do not by themselves contribute to needs for additional parkland.

Acreage analysis shows that availability of more local parkland is needed to reach the City's acreage standard, currently and in the future. The following are possible parkland addition strategies that could be considered as part of the City's efforts to meet recreation needs (a specific strategy for which is described in the recommendations section):

- Joint use of school sites could contribute partially toward acreage credit for parkland
- Purchase of privately-owned parcels for parkland
- Joint use of property owned by other public agencies
- Parkland developed by private entities as conditions of approval on projects
- Development of existing unused city owned property for park uses
- Creative use of air space including over freeways and flood control channels
- Use of rooftop areas for gardens and other outdoor space.

Parkland in the Central District

The Central District Specific Plan recommends several objectives to provide open space for the unique needs of the residents and workers of the district. The residential developments in the Central District are denser than other parts of the City, but there are fewer children. Large, traditional neighborhood parks are not only more difficult to establish in the Central District due to high land costs, but may not meet the need of many of the district's residents and employees. The open space objectives for the Central District include:

Central Park Playground

Additional public parkland – The specific plan supports the acquisition of additional park space, particularly in the northwest quadrant of the district (Walnut Housing sub-area) using a variety of means, including coordination with PUSD and private property-owners and institutions, such as Fuller Theological Seminary.

Civic Plazas – Associated with the City's major civic institutions, such as City Hall, the Central Library and the Civic Auditorium, these plazas are an important part of community life.

Paseo Colorado Plaza

Urban Open Spaces – As discussed in Section 2, a variety of public gardens, plazas, courtyards, and pedestrian passages are found in the Central District and the specific plan provides incentives to encourage new private developments to include these in their plans.

Green streetscapes – The Specific Plan promotes the use of streets and alleys as an integral part of the open space network of the Central District. The streets and alleys should promote social and recreational activity, especially walking. Accordingly, ample street trees, street furniture and other improvements are proposed to encourage pedestrian use.

Parkland in Northwest Pasadena

The northwest area of Pasadena has the highest density of population outside of the Central District and the highest concentration of children in the City ***(see Exhibit 4.4-1***). In addition, per capita income is less than other areas of the City. Although the service area analysis indicates that there are no large gaps in northwest Pasadena, these existing parks may not be adequate to meet the demand.

Robinson Park

Open Space Acreage

Appreciation of open space, and need for more open space, was a recurring theme observed through many of the community input tools. Quantification of natural open space needs is elusive, however, since the City has no open space acreage goal (other than existing ratios) and because many acres of natural open space exist just outside City boundaries. However, the Nexus Study estimates that 30.5 acres of new open space is required in 2025 to maintain current open space acreage ratios and accommodate future growth. This is in addition to new parkland.

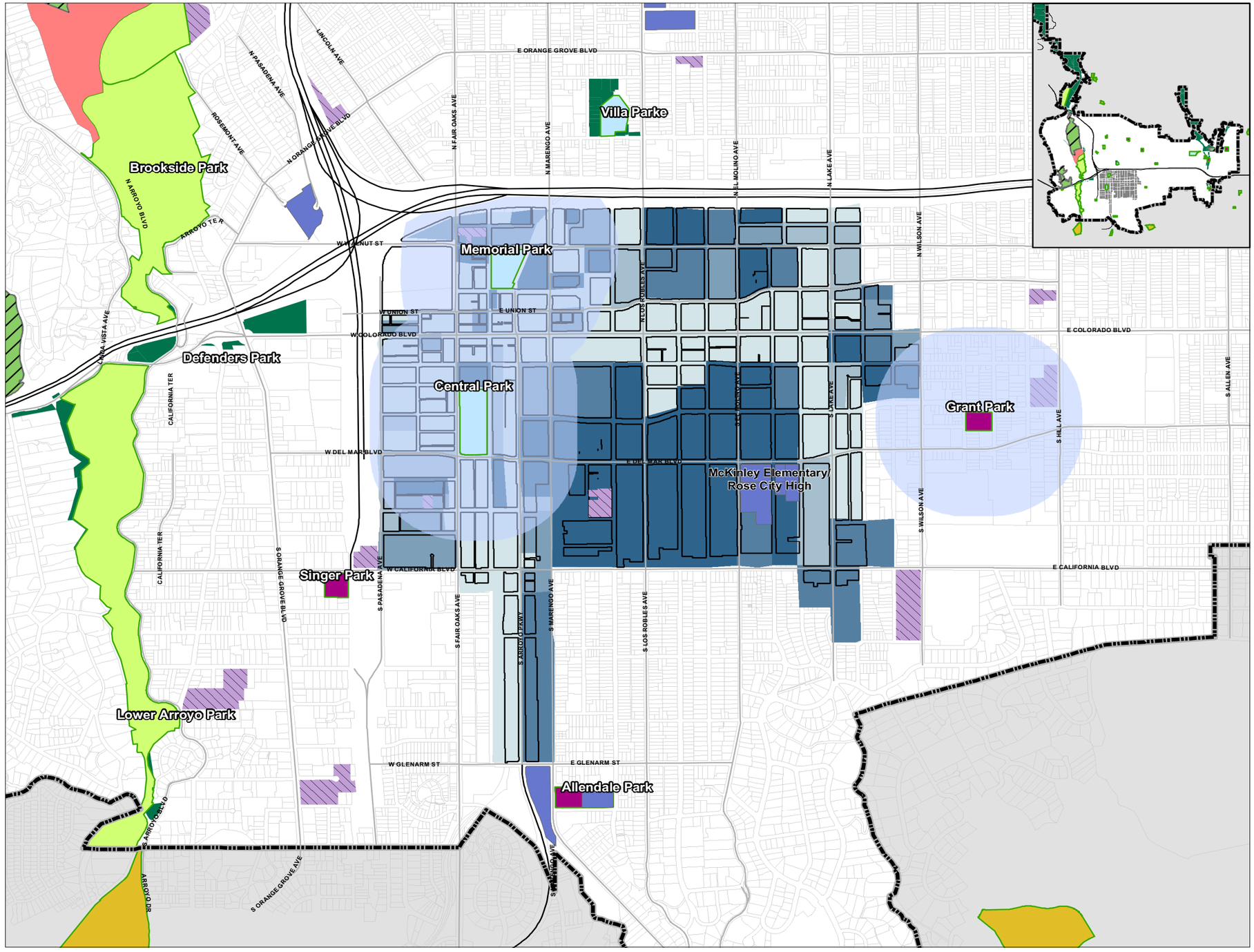
Natural open space is taken to mean areas that are primarily natural or native in terms of vegetation and topography (see also the ***Glossary in Appendix N***).

Lower Arroyo

Exhibit 4.5-1: Central District Population Density

This map illustrates the total population density in the Central District per the 2000 Census. The predominant housing type throughout the area is multifamily (apartments and condominiums), thereby resulting in higher density of residents in the Central District than in other areas of the Clty. Furthermore, this housing is highly concentrated in the southeast section of the District, outside of the 1/4 mile, or 10-minute walk, range of area parks that is recommended for densely populated areas.

*A detailed discussion of the Central District's unique green space needs is on pages **10** and **21**.*



Legend

- Golf Course
- Citywide Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Rose Bowl
- Park Outside City
- OS (Open Space)
- Public Schools
- Private Schools
- 1/4 Mile Buffers
- City Boundary
- Central District Blocks

Population Density

- 0 or No Data
- 13-1,000
- 1,001-5,000
- 5,001 - 10,000
- Over 10,000

N
W E
S

0 0.25 0.5 0.75
Miles

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4.6 Facility and Program Needs Summary and Prioritization

What are the Priority Needs for Facility and Program Improvements?

Table 4.6-1, Summary of Identified Facility and Program Needs combines results from the needs assessment tools described in the previous sections. The identified program needs are grouped according to the key issues identified throughout the Master Plan process.

Key Issue #1: Natural Open Space		
Issue	***Identified Need***	***Input Source***
Trails and Connectivity	Increased linkages between local trails and to regional trails	Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization Acreage Analysis
Protection of Existing Open Space	Protect and preserve open space and the historical and cultural aspects of parks	Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization
Acquisition of Existing Open Space	Additional open space	Workshops #1 and #2: Community Visioning Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization Stakeholder Interviews

Key Issue #2: Developed Parkland		
Issue	***Identified Need***	***Input Source***
Access to Facilities	Additional accessible playgrounds	Community Organization Questionnaires
	Improved public transportation with respect to facility access	Workshops #1 and #2 Community Visioning Community Organization Questionnaires Program Distribution Analysis
	Increased safety and security at parks	Workshops #1 and #2 Community Visioning Community Organization Questionnaires
Passive vs. Active use of Facilities	Not enough opportunities for informal use of sports fields	Workshops #1 & #2 Community Visioning

Key Issue #3: Recreation Facility Use and Distribution		
Issue	***Identified Need***	***Input Source***
Green Space Quantity	Additional urban open spaces/ parks are needed in Pasadena	Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization Community Organization Questionnaires Acreage Analysis
	Continue to address impacts of population pressures, growth in Pasadena	Workshops #1 and #2 Community Visioning Stakeholder Interviews Community Organization Questionnaires
Green Space Distribution	Additional recreation facilities / green spaces are needed in the Central District	Workshops #1 and #2 Community Visioning (response to growth) Community Organization Questionnaires Acreage Analysis
	Additional green spaces/ parks are needed in Northwest Pasadena	Service Area Analysis
	Additional recreation facilities / green spaces are needed near John Marshall Junior High School	Service Area Analysis
	Additional recreation facilities are needed near Sierra Madre Blvd. north of Del Mar Blvd.	Service Area Analysis
	Additional recreation facilities/ green spaces are needed near John Muir High School	Service Area Analysis
	Additional recreation facilities/ green spaces are needed near Pasadena City College	Service Area Analysis
	Additional recreation facilities/ green spaces are needed near Linda Vista Avenue and Lida Street	Service Area Analysis
	Additional recreation facilities/ green spaces are needed near La Loma Road and Avenue 64	Service Area Analysis

Key Issue #3: Recreation Facility Use and Distribution		
Issue	***Identified Need***	***Input Source***
Joint Use of Facilities with Pasadena Unified School District	On-site programming would benefit from increased cooperation and joint use of school facilities	Program Distribution Analysis
	School sites represent an opportunity to address service area gaps and neighborhood identity	Service Area Analysis

Key Issue #4: Recreation Program Types and Distribution		
Issue	***Identified Need***	***Input Source***
Specific Program and Service Needs Additional various	"Indoor programs" such as vocational and educational programs, arts programs at schools, music instruction, arts or crafts instruction, and volunteer center	Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization Citywide Telephone Survey Community Organization Questionnaires
	Increased environmental education and events	Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization
Filling the "Gaps" in Service Provision	Additional programs for parent-infant, toddler, and pre-school children in Northwest Pasadena, and continue to evaluate changing service gaps in geography and population groups throughout Pasadena	Program Distribution Analysis

Key Issue #5:Organizational Structure and Ongoing Community Participation		
Issue	***Identified Need***	***Input Source***
Ongoing Community Dialogue	Increased linkages between local trails and to regional trails	Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization Acreage Analysis
City Organization	Streamlined processing and improved collaboration with service providers to become a connected delivery system	Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization
Acquisition of Existing Open Space	Additional open space	Workshops #1 and #2: Community Visioning Workshop #4: Community Needs Prioritization Stakeholder Interviews