Section Five

RECOMMENDATIONS

Section Five presents recommendations with respect to existing parks, unimproved parkland, and joint use opportunities. Recommendations address the recreation needs identified in the Needs Assessment section and are the result of analyses of existing inventory and demand, community input, and consideration of established goals and policies.

Funding, design, and implementation of recommendations will be determined as a result of the capital improvement project budget process conducted by the City each year, as well as the prioritization of master plans such as the Central Arroyo Master Plan and Washington Park Master Plan.

The recommendations are grouped into five categories consistent with the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and with Section 4.6 of the Needs Analysis portion of this master plan:

5.1 Natural Open Space

5.2 Developed Parkland

5.3 Recreation Facility Use and Distribution

5.4 Recreation Program Types and Distribution

5.5 Organizational Structure and Ongoing Community Participation

Under each of these categories, the primary issues raised through the Master Plan process are listed along with the associated identified needs and recommendations.

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KEY ISSUE #1: NATURAL OPEN SPACE

5.1 Natural Open Space

For purposes of this section of the Master Plan, Open Space is differentiated from developed parkland. Trails within open spaces can be considered facilities (Section 5.3), but for the purposes of this Plan, recommendations for trails have been added to the Open Space section. While most of the Open Space within the City is zoned OS (Open Space) and is included in our dedicated park system, there are also privately-owned areas that are zoned for Open Space within the City. In addition, there are a number of areas that are not zoned as Open Space, but are thought of as Open Space by nearby residents. These are areas that often have development rights associated with them such as vacant hillside properties or vacant lots within existing neighborhoods. In urban areas such as Pasadena, the preservation of these areas is often viewed as important in maintaining quality of life for residents. Assistance will be provided to neighborhoods that seek to purchase these spaces.

5.1.1 Trails and Connectivity

Pasadena is at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and the Angeles National Forest, each of which have myriad hiking, walking, and biking opportunities. In addition, biking, walking, and jogging on Pasadena's streets and sidewalks constitutes an extremely popular recreation pursuit among City residents. The area around the Rose Bowl is generally viewed and used as an "outdoor gym" by hundreds of residents each day. Maintaining the existing network of trails and planning to improve and connect the trail systems throughout the City are key issues for many residents of Pasadena. This is the primary reason the City is developing a Pedestrian Master Plan for City streets and rights-of-way. This Master Plan is closely linked to the work of the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Need: **Increased linkages between local trails and regional trails**

Based on quantitative and qualitative needs identification tools walking, jogging, and hiking have been identified as important activities in Pasadena. While many walking and jogging opportunities exist throughout the City's streets and sidewalks, additional trail options and connections can help to create a "network" that provides linkages to trails in the San Gabriel Mountains, for example, as well as through Pasadena neighborhoods that have existing barriers such as major streets or the I-210 Freeway.

Recommendations:

- Complete and implement the Pedestrian Master Plan that will enhance non-motorized transportation throughout Pasadena.
- Implement planned improvements for the recently-acquired 30-acre parcel in the Hahamongna Watershed area, including trailhead and interpretive elements.

- Implement Arroyo Seco Master Plan improvements, including trail elements.

- Pursue improvements related to Eaton Canyon (see Section 5.3) and a proposed north/south trail element that would link Pasadena to natural open space to the north and neighboring communities to the south.

- In the eastern portion of Pasadena, there is an opportunity to work with other communities and San Gabriel Rivers & Mountains Conservancy to increase trail connectivity both east -west from the Arroyo to Eaton Canyon, and north-south - ultimately to Whittier Narrows and the ocean. Property owned by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and Southern California Edison runs through the City of Pasadena in a swath of property zoned Open Space (OS). This property is located adjacent to several existing parks and contains important utilities. While not necessarily suitable for active recreation, it appears to be an excellent opportunity to create a path system. Connections to existing parks, proposed parks, the YMCA, the equestrian facility, and large natural open space to the north make this a significant opportunity. Existing open space in these areas should be preserved to enhance the trail experience.

5.1.2 Protection of Existing Open Space

The City has 502 acres of Open Space land. Much of this property is in the Arroyo Seco area, Eaton Wash area, or in other existing City parks. Some of the property is made up of golf courses or other active recreation areas. Additional property is privately-owned but retains the Open Space zoning designation. This is a finite resource within the City and steps should be taken to recognize it as such.

Need: Protect and preserve open space and the historical and cultural aspects of parks

The need to protect existing open spaces was raised through several of the community outreach methods. With the Arroyo Seco Master Plans, the City has taken an important step toward careful planning of some of the most important open spaces in the City. The Arroyo Seco Master Plans limit the types of uses and prescribe the types of facilities that are allowed in the Arroyo Seco. Outside of the Arroyo and other Master Planned areas, the City must take steps to preserve other existing open space areas carefully.

KEY ISSUE #1: NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Recommendations:

- Plan for Open Space Zoning Districts. In a City with limited resources or opportunities to obtain new open spaces, it is important to carefully plan for the uses that are placed in areas zoned Open Space. These areas will retain their Open Space zoning.
- Update or create Master Plans for Citywide Parks. The Master Planning process is an important step toward the protection of existing open space areas and any attendant historical or cultural amenities.
- Implement existing Master Plans for Arroyo Seco areas that include historical and cultural evaluation, preservation, and enhancement.

5.1.3 Acquisition of New Open Space

Appreciation of open space, and need for more, was a recurring theme observed in 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. The Nexus Study estimated that 30.5 acres of new open space are required to maintain the current open space acreage ratio and accommodate future growth. This is in addition to new parkland.

The City has recently acquired a 30-acre parcel of Metropolitan Water District property within the Hahamongna Watershed Area that currently consists of Forest Service buildings, a fire station, and an equestrian facility. This property represents an exciting opportunity to meet several recreation facility and program needs, including additional open space, environmental education, and trails adjacent to larger recreational and open space areas. Master planning of this specific site is a process separate from this Plan. This exciting opportunity represents the type of cooperation and coordination necessary to obtain new open spaces for the City.

Need: **Additional open space**

Recommendations:

- Implement planned improvements for the recently-acquired 30-acre parcel in the Hahamongna Watershed area, including trailhead and interpretive elements (Metropolitan Water District Property).
- Pursue leases and enhancement of Los Angeles County Flood Control property in eastern Pasadena.

- Similar to the MWD parcel detailed above, the City should explore partnerships with agencies such as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and other groups to identify and pursue acquisition of property in the City's hillside areas that could be retained as Open Space.

KEY ISSUE #2: DEVELOPED PARKLAND

5.2 Developed Parkland

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element of the General Plan is organized around the concept of park usage, and the question: What are parks for? In Pasadena, parks have many users and sometimes conflicting uses. The vision statement from the Element answers this question– To create an interrelated system of parks, trails, open spaces, recreation opportunities, and community services to sustain a vibrant and healthy community. This Master Plan seeks to establish how Pasadena residents want parks uses balanced and prioritized.

5.2.1 Access to Facilities

The importance of access to facilities arose out of a number of the community outreach methods and analysis tools. In this context, "access" means a number of things, from reliable and safe public transportation, to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines regarding access to facilities, to access to specific types of facilities in particular areas of the City.

Need: Additional accessible playgrounds

Existing City policy includes provisions to upgrade existing play equipment and to incorporate accessible components of new play equipment to increase usability and equal access for everyone. Input from community service providers included the comment that not all existing equipment has yet been upgraded.

Recommendations:

- Continue to implement existing City policy for upgrading play equipment for increased accessibility.
- Continue to implement existing City policy for incorporation of accessible components in new facilities.

Need: Improved public transportation with respect to facility access

Several needs analysis tools revealed a need for improved access to recreation facilities and to sites with programs offered by the City.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate ARTS bus routes with recreation facility locations.
- Implement Pasadena Trails Master Plan
- Provide recreation facilities in under-served areas (see ***Section 4.3 Service Area Analysis***)

Need: **Increased safety and security at parks**

Community members stated in Workshop #4 and the Community Organization Questionnaires that some parks have graffiti and other criminal activity, making these parks unsafe for family activities.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen the Graffiti Abatement Program to include regular interaction with members of the Police Department, Public Works Department, Human Services & Recreation Department, and the public.
- Establish regular communication between the Police Department, Public Works, and Human Services Departments, and the public regarding park policing issues.
- Expand the positive programs in all parks, such as the Park Safety Specialist program.
- Work with neighborhoods to provide neighborhood ownership and investment in parks.
- Propose that the "Neighborhood Night-out" programs be held in neighborhood parks.

5.2.2 Passive vs. Active Use of Facilities

Because of the many demands on the City's green spaces, the issue of "what are parks for" takes on special meaning. Many of the City's green spaces are programmed to the greatest extent possible to accommodate the many users of these facilities. Partially as a response to this, many of the community inputs, including the survey, underscored the importance of passive uses of the City's resources. Walking, picnicking, and simple leisure activities were identified as very important to residents.

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element of the City's General Plan includes a Core Principle that addresses this issue:

> *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.*

Recognition of these important uses of city parks and green spaces indicates the need to consider these informal uses with the same level of importance as active sports-related uses.

Need: **Increased opportunities for informal use of sports fields**

Recommendations:

- Establish a policy allowing for passive use of fields and limits on permitting of fields for organized sports.
- Pursue additional recreational facilities to meet identified sports field deficits and relieve pressure on field use.

5.2.3 Non-Resident Use of Facilities

Throughout the Master Plan community input process, non-resident use of facilities was mentioned by Pasadena residents as an issue negatively affecting access to recreation facilities. There are two separate aspects of this issue: 1) special events held in Pasadena that temporarily impede free access to facilities by Pasadena residents, and 2) non-resident participation in leagues and activities that take place at Pasadena facilities.

Need: **Address impacts of large special events in terms of resident access to and damage of recreation facilities**

Special events held in Pasadena are well attended by residents and visitors alike. These events contribute to City identity, the richness of community experience, and economic vitality. Some events affect City recreation facilities and may temporarily limit access to facilities by Pasadena residents. Policy 11.1 of the Element establishes the intent of a balance between special events and local recreation needs:

> *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.*

Again, the Core Principle at issue here is that "Pasadena residents, PUSD students, and people that work in Pasadena shall have priority in the use and programming of parks and open spaces". The City Council has recently reviewed and approved a Large Events Policy that responds to this principle while acknowledging the importance and value of hosting special events in the City.

Recommendation:

- Continue to adhere to Pasadena's Large Events Policy as periodically updated (adopted December 2005). (See Attachment B in Appendix.)

Need: **Address impacts of non-resident use of organized sports facilities**

Because Pasadena has more recreation facilities than some adjacent jurisdictions, the number of non-residents participating in Pasadena via sports organizations may exceed the number of Pasadena residents recreating elsewhere. A question arises: Should the City provide quantities of recreation elements that address needs strictly for Pasadena residents, or should the number of recreation elements reflect all users? One of the Core Principles of the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element is the following:

> *Pasadena residents, PUSD students, and people that work in Pasadena shall have priority in the use and programming of parks and open spaces.*

It is with this in mind that the following recommendations are made.

Recommendations:

- Continue policy of accommodating only those ongoing organized sporting events, excluding tournaments with at least 60% participation by Pasadena residents or those who work in Pasadena.
- Pursue additional recreational facilities to meet identified sports field deficits.
- Explore initiating a surcharge for non-residents/non-employees to use some Pasadena facilities.
- Work with adjacent communities to build additional facilities and parks in those communities. Offer technical assistance as needed.

  Recommendations of this Master Plan are predominantly based on satisfying identified quantity needs of all users (see Recreation Demand and Needs Analysis), which should reduce impacts of non-resident participation. However, the recommendation is to adhere to the Core Principle listed above and prioritize residents, PUSD students, and employees in sports programming.

KEY ISSUE #2: DEVELOPED PARKLAND

5.2.4 Park and Recreation Amenities Provided by Park Type

Neighborhood Parks have a similar function throughout the city and the typical features found within these parks are generally consistent. Likewise, the pattern of use at these parks is well established. Major alterations and/or additions to existing Neighborhood Parks would not normally be contemplated. Existing facilities might be replaced or upgraded, but it would be unusual to add significant new features that would alter the character of the park. Therefore, it is not necessary to create formal master plans for neighborhood parks. If an unusual circumstance arose that made such an alteration desirable, the planning of the modification would be undertaken with community participation and formal review by the appropriate commissions and the City Council.

Community and Citywide Parks have a wider diversity of possible uses and a larger pool of users. Park planning for these types of parks can be simplified by using a more standard template of park features and a menu of optional features that are unique to each park.

Rather than developing specific master plans or specific park standards for each park facility, parks should be able to grow and evolve within a recommended "palette" of amenities that can change over time and can be based on the function of each individual park.

Need: **Plan for parks and facilities based on park type and function.**

Recommendations:

- Implement existing park and facility master plans such as the Arroyo Seco Master Plans.
- Utilize a standard palette of amenities for planning park improvements. (***See Page 11*** of this Section)
- Ensure that amenities within Neighborhood Parks are responsive to specific location and function of the park.
- Community involvement will be an important part of the planning for parks and park facilities.

Neighborhood Park Standards

Ideally, all Neighborhood Parks shall contain the following amenities:

- ***Play Equipment*** *– Separate structures for 3 to 5 year olds and 5 to 12 year olds will be required. Swings are also highly desirable. All structures shall be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. Playground surfacing shall be engineered wood fiber. A small sand play area is also acceptable, but not required.*
- ***Drinking Fountain(s)****- ADA compliant*
- ***Picnic tables, barbeques, benches and waste containers***
- ***Open turf areas*** *for casual play*
- ***Trees***
- ***Security Lighting***
- *ADA compliant* ***concrete walkways*** *that connect all of the amenities in the park. A loop walk around the park shall also be provided, if feasible.*

In addition, a Neighborhood Park may include the following additional amenities based upon neighborhood preference:

- ***Half court basketball courts***
- ***Tennis courts***
- ***Skateboard play area***
- ***Zero depth water play area***
- ***A handball, volleyball or tether ball court***
- *One or more* ***multi-purpose fields*** *(typically unlighted, but could be lighted under certain circumstances)*
- ***Picnic shelter***
- ***Restroom building***
- ***Lighted parking lot***

Community Park Standards

A Community Park functions as a Neighborhood Park for the residents who live in close proximity to the park. Therefore it should comply with the Neighborhood Park standards listed above. In addition a Community Park might also contain:

- ***Recreation/Community center***
- ***Swimming pool***
- ***Lighted sports fields***
- ***Large group picnic areas***

KEY ISSUE #3: RECREATION FACILITY USE & DISTRIBUTION

5.3 Recreation Facility Use & Distribution

Recreation facilities are physical spaces established for people to engage in positive leisure activities, including both active and passive play, by individuals or groups, in organized or casual, self-directed leisure pursuit. Recreation facilities may have structures (such as play equipment, sports fields, courts, or picnic shelters) or may consist primarily of land in a relatively natural state for users to walk, picnic or otherwise use in a recreational manner.

The following series of recommendations addresses core issues in the use and management of parks, such as how green spaces are distributed throughout the City, what types of fields or facilities are needed, how more green space can be obtained, and how existing and new green space can be optimized and maintained over time. Much of the community outreach portion of the Master Plan focused on identifying community demand for certain types of facilities. The recommendations in this section detail how the demand can be met, and suggest creative options the City can use to meet the recreation facility needs of the community.

5.3.1 Green Space Quantity

Many objectives and policies from the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and the Land Use Element make it clear that providing appropriate quantities of green space is an important Pasadena issue. Once again, this is in reference to green space for both active and passive uses. A Core Principle established through the process is as follows:

> *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.*

This principle was evaluated primarily through the service area analysis, acreage analysis, and through the community demand expressed for specific types of facilities. Identified needs below are taken directly from Table 4.6-1.

Need: **Additional urban open spaces/parks**

The findings in this plan indicate that access to additional urban open space and parkland will be needed in Pasadena by ultimate build-out. This need is a result of both growth and identified deficits for certain recreation facilities. It is recommended that the following measures be considered to alleviate this need:

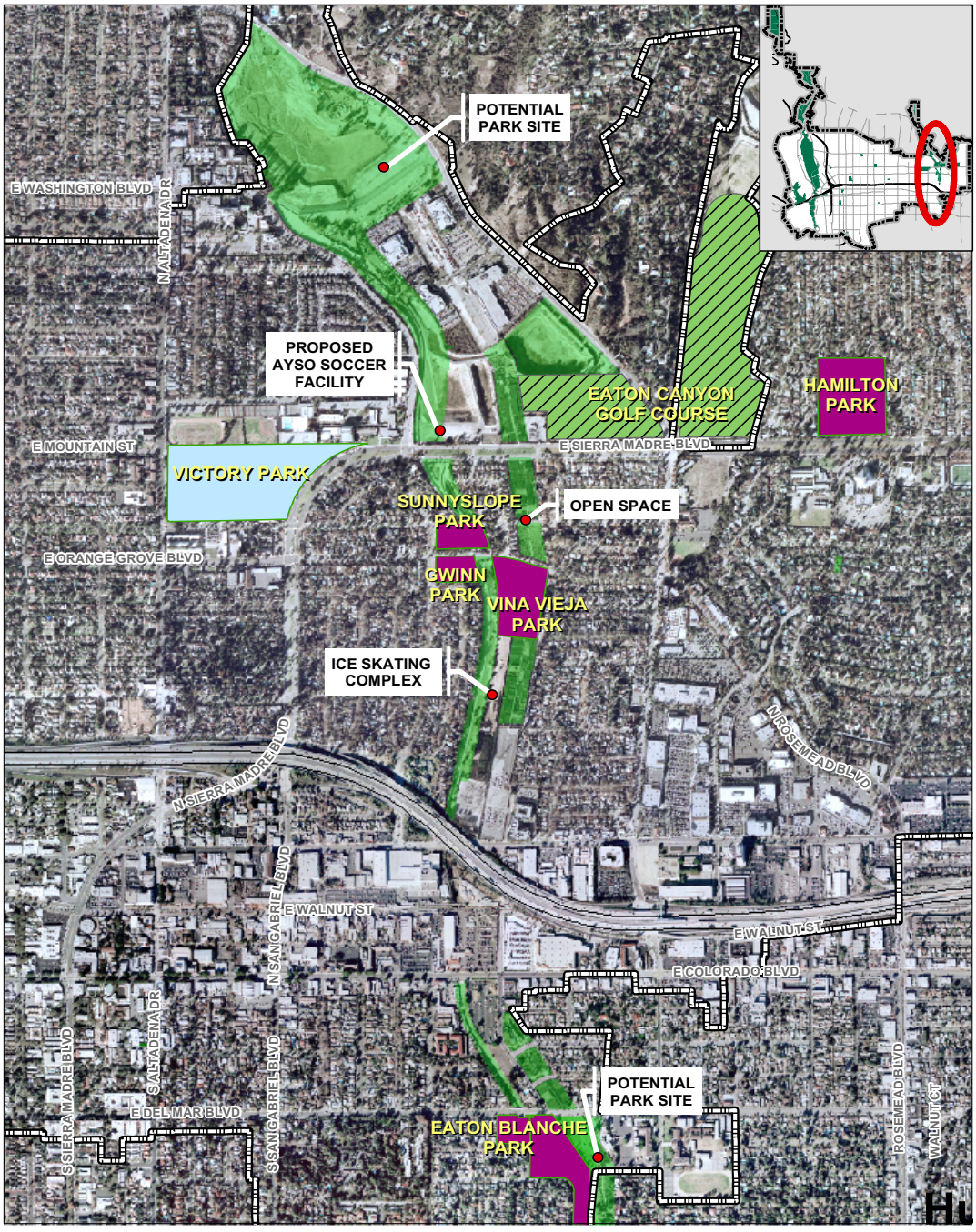
Recommendations:

- Acquire or otherwise make available additional parkland, particularly in the seven identified gap areas.
- Acquire properties adjacent to existing parks as they become available.
- Pursue acquiring land identified in the Sensitive Lands Survey if it becomes available.
- Encourage the development of publicly accessible urban open space areas throughout the city, both public and privately owned.
- Pursue joint use agreements with the School District that would allow various schools to function as Neighborhood Parks.
- Pursue improvements at the recently acquired 30-acre parcel in the Hahamongna Wash area for recreational and educational purposes.
- Pursue trail and park improvements within and adjacent to the Los Angeles County Flood Control Basin and Southern California Edison Property in eastern Pasadena. These potential improvements can become an interconnected series of recreational amenities that will tie into existing park facilities and form a recreational corridor. (***See Exhibit 5.3-1***)

Need: **Continue to address impacts of population pressures and growth**

Each needs analysis tool of Section 4 has a forward-looking aspect, accounting for both current conditions and future change. Accordingly, the issue of growth is already integrated into other issues and their associated needs and the related recommendations are not repeated here.

Exhibit 5.3-1: Potential Eaton Wash Recreation Corridor Improvements



5.3.2 Green Space Distribution

The Service Area Analysis is Section 4 discusses the "coverage" that is provided by the current network of City parks. In order to meet General Plan goals, to strengthen neighborhoods, and to promote active living, it is recommended that additional parkland be developed in service area gaps.

Need: Additional Green Spaces/Parks Are Needed in the Central District

Parkland in the growing Central District has long been a topic of discussion. The Central District Specific Plan suggests that additional parkland be considered, particularly in the northwest quadrant of the district.

Recommendations:

- Acquire or otherwise make available additional parkland in the Central District.
- Pursue enhancements at McKinley School that would enable the school to function more effectively as a neighborhood recreation facility during non-school hours.
- Continue to implement the Central District Specific Plan, which calls for incorporation of social gathering places such as plazas and other pedestrian oriented areas and usable open spaces in large developments and institutional campuses.
- Explore creative use of freeway air space. For example use the Seattle's Freeway Park and Phoenix' Hance Park as models. See photos at right.
- Expand the use of rooftops for gardens and other open spaces. Look at Chicago and Boston for innovative models.

Chicago's Millennium Park & Rooftop Terrace

Seattle's Freeway Park

Need: Additional Green Spaces/Parks Are Needed in Northwest Pasadena

The Northwest Area of Pasadena has the highest density of population outside of the Central District and the highest density of children in the City. This has clear ramifications for the need for additional facilities in this area despite the green space "coverage" shown on service area maps in Section 4.

Hance Park (Phoenix, AZ)

KEY ISSUE #3: RECREATION FACILITY USE & DISTRIBUTION

Recommendations:

- Pursue joint use agreements with the School District that would allow schools to function more effectively as neighborhood parks. The City's pilot project at Madison Elementary is an example of this. Use of school facilities are generally credited toward acreage standards at a 50% rate since they are not usually available during school hours.

- Expand or modify existing facilities to better serve specific neighborhood populations and pursue joint use of John Muir High School and Cleveland Elementary.

Both of the recommendations above should specifically address identified recreation programming needs for the area including additional parent-infant, toddler, pre-school, and school-age programming.

Need: **Additional Green Spaces/Parks Are Needed Near John Marshall Junior High School**

Population density tends to be low for both school age children and for seniors.

Recommendations:

- Pursue joint use agreements with the School District that would allow John Marshall Junior High School (6.9 acres of existing recreation space) to function more effectively as a neighborhood park.

Need: **Additional Green Spaces/Parks Are Needed Near Sierra Madre Boulevard north of Del Mar Boulevard**

Recommendations:

- Pursue joint use agreements with the School District that would allow Hamilton Elementary (2.6 acres of existing recreation space) to function more effectively as a neighborhood park.

Need: **Additional Green Spaces/Parks Are Needed near John Muir High School**

An Altadena facility, Charles White Park, exists nearby and is available for use by Pasadena residents. Therefore, recommendations to address this service gap with a new Pasadena facility would have low priority.

Need: **Additional Green Spaces/Parks Are Needed Near Pasadena City College**

Population density in this area varies from low to moderate.

Recommendation:

- Pursue joint use agreements with the School District that would allow Hamilton Elementary to function more effectively as a neighborhood park.

Need: **Additional Green Spaces/Parks Are Needed Near Linda Vista Avenue and Lida Street**

Recommendation:

- Pursue joint use agreements with the School District that would allow the Linda Vista Elementary campus to function more effectively as a neighborhood park.

Need: **Additional Green Spaces/Parks Are Needed Near La Loma Road and Avenue 64**

Recommendation:

- Pursue joint use agreements with the School District that would allow the San Rafael Elementary campus to function more effectively as a neighborhood park.

5.3.3 Joint Use of Facilities with Pasadena Unified School District

With respect to provision of neighborhood park area, green space, and sports fields, many cities are looking more toward cooperative joint use of school campuses. This is especially true in built-out cities such as Pasadena where there is little opportunity for annexation of new land for open space purposes. To implement a true joint use of facilities, cities often help with implementation of field improvement projects and maintenance in exchange for field use at schools. The result is that facilities (both school and City facilities) are better able to meet the needs of City residents in an efficient way. Fields and amenities can be built without expensive land acquisition costs. It is anticipated that public school facilities could play a significant recreation role in providing fields for sports as well as neighborhood park amenities specific to the neighborhood. Consideration of school facilities as recreation opportunities is described by one of the Core Principles:

Pasadena will be a City that actively creates new green space by promoting creative partnerships with the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) and other agencies and private institutions to provide access to and development of non-traditional parks, cultural and recreational opportunities, and open spaces.

KEY ISSUE #3: RECREATION FACILITY USE & DISTRIBUTION

The joint-use agreement between the City and PUSD has been in place since 1993 and contains general language regarding the sharing of resources and priority of the use of both school space and City parkland. While the agreement provides the framework necessary to establish joint-use, each individual facility, school and/or neighborhood has a unique set of circumstances and needs. Some schools may not be appropriate for sports field programming and may be better suited to simply act as neighborhood open space. In addition, a host of issues for each facility must be specifically evaluated by both the City and PUSD. These issues may include: liability, safety, maintenance, facility policing, access, and hours of operation. Joint-use will only be successful throughout the City if each issue is carefully reviewed and agreed upon by both parties for each facility.

The Pasadena Unified School District and the City have entered into a formal agreement to allow Madison Elementary School to function as a neighborhood recreation facility during non-school hours. Based on the agreement that assures long-term public access, the City has invested resources in the development and maintenance of the joint use facilities at the school. As the process of negotiating an agreement to allow public use of the school grounds has proceeded, it has become evident that agreements should be negotiated at the District rather than at the individual school level. If the agreements are made at the District level, a consistent set of standards throughout the City can be applied, which ensures that the best interests of both parties are considered. It will also be much more efficient than a piecemeal approach.

Recommendation:

- Look at other California cities for model joint use agreements, for example Glendale's Edison School/ Pacific Park project.

Need: **On-site Programming Would Benefit from Increased Cooperation and Joint Use of School Facilities**

In almost every Pasadena neighborhood, school facilities play an important role in terms of children's education and daily family routine. In Section 4.4, Program Distribution Analysis, the idea of increased onsite programming at or near schools was discussed and an unmet need was identified, especially in Northwest Pasadena.

Recommendation:

- Consider increased programming and associated facility improvements at school sites throughout

Pasadena to address programming needs, especially 1) parent-infant, toddler, and pre-school programming in Northwest Pasadena and 2) educational and vocational programming at middle schools and high schools.

Need: Address Service Area Gaps and Neighborhood Identity

The distribution of school facilities throughout Pasadena suggests that these facilities could play an important role in neighborhood recreation and programming, especially in areas not currently served conveniently by City park facilities. Since opportunities are limited for acquisition of new City parkland to meet identified needs in Pasadena, joint use, renovation and improvement of existing school facilities for greater usability is a key strategy.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with PUSD to develop a model joint use agreement that can be used as a starting point for future agreements. City shall commit to provide surplus play equipment, maintenance and improvement of fields, or assist in funding for field maintenance. Look to other cities for models, such as Glendale's Edison School / Pacific Park example.
- Consider creating a Joint Use Committee with City and PUSD representatives to develop a model agreement and oversee future joint use projects.
- Coordinate with PUSD to determine feasibility of a joint effort to open some of these campuses for recreation and recreation programming outside school hours. Neighborhood schools could become the neighborhood school and park. Public schools within or near identified service area gaps include:
    - Allendale Elementary
    - Cleveland Elementary
    - Hamilton Elementary
    - John Marshall Junior High School
    - Linda Vista Elementary School
    - Longfellow Elementary
    - Madison School (Northwest Pasadena; a joint use improvement project has already been completed)
    - McKinley School (Central District)
    - San Rafael Elementary
- Continue to pursue enhancements at McKinley School that would enable the school to function more effectively as a neighborhood recreation

facility during non-school hours.

- Work with the PUSD to develop use arrangements for closed schools to be used as parks and / or recreational facilities where appropriate and at no expense to PUSD.

5.3.4 Deficits in Fields / Specific Facilities

The community demand analysis portion of the project provides important data on the types of recreation facilities used by Pasadena residents. This information coupled with information from the community outreach process and sports user groups, has been compared to the City's inventory of facilities to determine whether the City has a surplus or deficit for a variety of recreation element. Based on the information collected, there are deficits for the following recreation elements:

- Recreational Swimming Pools
- Soccer fields (youth and adult)
- Softball fields (adult)
- Indoor Basketball Courts

Each of these deficits is discussed below. Since opportunities for acquisition of new City parkland to meet identified needs are limited in Pasadena, renovation and improvement of existing facilities for greater usability will be a key strategy in addition to creative partnerships with school sites and private resources.

Need: Additional Swimming Pools and Water Play areas

Recreation Demand and Needs Analysis indicates that there is a need for additional public pools in Pasadena and access to pools during high use periods on summer weekends.

Recommendations:

- Consider water play elements at city parks.
- Consider joint use agreements for use of pools at public and private schools.

Need: Additional sports fields/multiuse fields

Sports fields and large open turf areas are designated as multi-use facilities. They may be sized and equipped to accommodate a particular sport or activity, however over the course of a year use may not necessarily be limited to one sport. The City will program and schedule activities as appropriate and efficient.

For purposes of the analysis of the need for new fields, only regulation-sized fields are counted within the inventory.

Many sports are played successfully on sub-standard sized facilities. However, the intent of the Master Plan is to plan for regulation-size fields and bring the facility inventory in line with the community need. Based on the information provided through the Master Plan process, soccer and adult softball fields were identified as fields needed. It is City policy to consider fields appropriate for multiple uses. The recommendations focus on this approach.

Soccer

More than 5,000 players are participating in soccer (youth and adult combined) in Pasadena each year. Results of the Sports User Questionnaires indicate that 28% of youth and 25% of adults are from out-of-town. Based on the results of the community demand analysis, 3.8 youth fields and 3.1 adult fields are needed in Pasadena, for a total of 6.9 fields. It is important to note that these figures include participation by out-of-town players. No new fields would be needed if only Pasadena residents played on Pasadena fields. Soccer is played throughout the City on many facilities that would be considered sub-standard.

Softball

With regard to softball, more than 1,000 players are participating in adult softball in Pasadena each year. Based on the information received from the sports user surveys, 37% of them are from out of town. The issue with adult softball is that it is being played predominantly on sub-standard fields. Youth softball is not an issue as there are enough facilities to meet the needs throughout the City. Currently, adult softball is being played at the following sites:

- Brookside Park Field #1 (undersized youth softball field)
- Brookside Park Field #2
- Villa Park (undersized youth softball field with other park amenities beyond outfield)
- Jefferson Park (undersized youth softball field with other park amenities beyond outfield)
- Area H (no formal fields, used by corporate teams such as JPL)

Recreation Demand Analysis (Appendix L) shows that additional fields are needed to accommodate out-of-town softball users. By 2025, this translates to a total of 5.6 additional adult softball fields based on the recreation needs of all users. Only 1.4 more fields would be needed if only Pasadena residents played on Pasadena fields.

KEY ISSUE #3: RECREATION FACILITY USE & DISTRIBUTION

Recommendations below are based on the assumption that non-resident players are to be accommodated on Pasadena fields at current levels. In the prioritization of recommendations, and the planning of facilities, it is important to note, however, that one of the Core Green Space Principles is that Pasadena residents, PUSD students, and those who work in Pasadena should be given first priority in the use of fields.

Baseball

The need for additional baseball fields was expressed during the workshop with sports user groups; however recreation demand analysis of Section 4 does not indicate a quantity deficit. Therefore, there are no specific recommendations to add baseball fields. Implementation of recommendations for multiuse fields should provide additional programming capacity for baseball if the need arises.

Flag Football

Recreation Demand Analysis (Section 4) indicates that there is an unmet need for adult flag football fields. Implementation of recommendations for multiuse fields should provide additional programming capacity for flag football. This activity generally takes place on multiuse fields sized for soccer.

Recommendations for Multiuse Sports Fields:

- Improve existing City facilities. Modifications to existing facilities or improvements to existing facilities, such as durable surface and artificial turf fields could result in enhanced efficiency and expanded use of facilities. Lighting of certain fields in specific areas could have a significant impact in the number of games accommodated on fields. Specifically:

Brookside Park: The approved Central Arroyo Master Plan shows the existing adult field flipped in orientation. The existing youth field could become adult-usable by adding a temporary outfield fence that could be installed or removed as necessary. This creates a lighted two-field softball complex for adult play at Brookside Park and increases opportunities for multi-purpose use due to larger central area. One adult soccer field could replace two smaller soccer fields upon re-orientation of the existing adult softball field.

Hahamongna Watershed Park: Two new adult soccer fields are already included in the current Hahamongna Master Plan.

Villa Parke: Enhance safety and increase multi-use opportunities for adult softball play by adding outfield fence.

Jefferson Park: Enhance safety and increase multi-use opportunities for adult softball play by adding outfield fence.

Brenner Park: Potential lighting for existing field.

Robinson Park: A master plan to improve Robinson Park already exists and includes suggestions to expand to the south, adding 2.5 acres to the site and enlarging multipurpose field to accommodate larger regulation football area and two ball fields.

- Pursue Joint Use of Select School Sites that could accommodate three new soccer game fields not currently used for soccer games. School site candidates that appear to have potential include:
    - Eliot Middle School
    - Pasadena High School
    - Washington Middle School
    - Wilson Middle School
- Pursue Creation of New Multi-use Sports Fields in new facilities. Several opportunities exist in Pasadena to develop recreational facilities on existing City-owned property and/or to acquire property for improvement.
- Pursue use of East Pasadena LA County Flood Control Basin for a new multi-use field large enough to accommodate one youth soccer field and three new adult lighted softball fields. These should be multipurpose fields that will be sized to accommodate adult softball.
- Investigate developing property owned by the County of Los Angeles that is adjacent to East Sierra Madre Avenue. There are flat portions of land in a lower basin and on an upper bench. In cooperation with the County, the City could develop one new multi-use field large enough to accommodate one youth soccer field.

Need: **Additional lighting for sports fields**

The addition of lighting at sports fields can be an efficient way to increase field capacity without needing additional land and without constructing new fields. Impacts on adjacent neighborhoods are an important consideration in the design process.

Recommendations:

- Consider new lighting at existing non-lighted fields, except at the natural areas of the Arroyo Seco.

KEY ISSUE #3: RECREATION FACILITY USE & DISTRIBUTION

- Consider lighting at proposed fields including Los Angeles County Flood Control Basin.
- Consider new lighting at three new soccer fields proposed at school sites.

Need: Additional bicycling or jogging paths

Based on quantitative and qualitative needs identification tools, walking, jogging, and hiking have been identified as important activities in Pasadena.

In order to address this identified need, to encourage community walkability, to address numerous General Plan policies, and to enhance community health the following strategies are recommended:

Recommendations:

- Implement planned improvements for the recently-acquired 30-acre parcel in the Hahamongna Watershed area that include trailhead and interpretive elements.
- Implement Arroyo Seco master plan improvements that include trail elements.
- Pursue improvements related to Viña Vieja Park and a potential north/south trail element that would link Pasadena to natural open space to the north.
- Complete and implement the City of Pasadena Trails Master Plan (in progress) that will enhance non-motorized transportation throughout Pasadena. Continue to implement the Pasadena Bicycle Master Plan.
- Address identified neighborhood park service area gaps so that most residential areas are within convenient walking distance of a neighborhood recreation facility.

Need: Additional parking at certain recreation facilities

The need for additional parking was expressed during some of the community input efforts.

Recommendations:

- Consider parking improvements at Area H and Hahamongna Watershed Park facilities.

Need: Additional tennis courts

Recreation Demand Analysis (Section 4) indicates that there might be an unmet need for additional tennis courts. The City does not propose additional courts because the need is actually being met in a variety of ways: at school courts, at private facilities, and in adjacent jurisdictions. There is not a stadium-style tennis court (court with adjacent stadium-style seating for spectators) in Pasadena. In future planning, this may need to be considered if tennis grows in popularity.

Recommendation:

- Work collaboratively with the PUSD to return public and school tennis courts back to usability and to be available to the community.

5.3.5 Maintenance

Maintenance of parks and sports facilities was mentioned during several community input efforts as an important issue to address. It is possible that comments regarding maintenance were directed at both City and public school facilities used by sports groups. Implementation of the City's recently-adopted policy regarding field permitting and field resting should have a positive effect on field conditions. Additionally, several recommendations of this Master Plan should help as well, including: recommendations to limit use of sports fields by teams predominantly from other areas, recommendations to add fields, and recommendations to consider increased cooperation with Pasadena Unified School District in use of fields.

Need: Continued coordinated maintenance efforts for all City recreational facilities

Recommendations:

- Continue to develop policies, guidelines, and criteria for maintenance of City facilities - including playground equipment, picnic facilities, and sports fields and and appropriate staff and resources to achieve these goals.
- Continue to implement recently-adopted City policy regarding resting of fields.
- Implement recommendations of this Master Plan regarding additional sports fields and park facilities.
- Continue policy that limits use of City facilities to those organizations with at least 60% participation by Pasadena residents.
- Continue discussions with Pasadena Unified School

District regarding use and management of recreation facilities on school property.

5.4 Recreation Program Types & Distribution

In terms of specific needs identified by the community, priority programs and services can be organized into two areas: 1) Programs and services that create a greater understanding, knowledge and participation in physical fitness, good nutrition and healthy lifestyle, especially for youth, and 2) Expanding awareness and participation in the stewardship and appreciation of the community's natural environment. Underlying this is a need for the role of the City's Human Services and Recreation Department to be defined in terms of how it provides programs and services for underserved groups and how it partners with other public, private, and non-profit providers to deliver services. The primary goal of the recommendations in this Section is to promote shared resources and expanded partnerships to provide a well-linked and coordinated web of services and facilities that result in increased capacity of the City to serve the community.

5.4.1 Specific Program and Service Needs

As discussed in Section Three, recreation programs in Pasadena are offered by a wide range of organizations, both public and private. In general, the City directly provides or contracts to provide recreation programs and activities where there is an identified need or unmet customer demand. These needs and demands change over time as the population changes. A challenge for the City is to adapt to these changes. The following needs were identified as priority needs through the community outreach process.

Need: **Additional various "indoor programs" such as vocational and educational programs, arts programs at schools, music instruction, arts or crafts instruction, and volunteer center**

A number of program types were identified as priority by the community outreach process. Many of these programs can be organized as "indoor program needs". This is because programs and services like these can be placed in many different facilities and these facilities can be modified over time as community need for such programs changes. Programs that were identified as important include: arts & music classes, vocational training/volunteer center, youth development, health and wellness programs, and family programs. These program needs are not necessarily specific to a certain facility or area. These needs change over time and the City needs to have the flexibility to offer such programs and services on an as-needed basis.

Recommendations:

- Establish partnerships with existing indoor programs.
- Create opportunities for flexible use of indoor space to meet changing program needs over time (see recommendations pertaining to Green Space Distribution and to Joint Use of Facilities).
- Expand the youth employment program to a year-round program that provides activities such as work experience, job shadowing, and employment skills. Consider the integration of these activities at all community park sites and when possible at school sites.

Need: Increased environmental education and events

Through the community outreach process, an identified priority program need was environmental education and an understanding of programs that are available concerning the natural environment. There are several existing youth programs that provide information on the environment but these efforts could be more collaborative.

Recommendations:

- Develop an Education Center in Hahamongna Watershed Park. The City has recently acquired a 30-acre parcel of Metropolitan Water District property within the Hahamongna Watershed Area that currently consists of Forest Service buildings, a fire station, and an equestrian facility. This property represents an exciting opportunity to meet several recreation facility and program needs, including additional open space, environmental education, trails adjacent to larger recreational and open space areas.
- Establish partnerships with existing environmental education programs. Partner and expand role in the annual Greening the Earth Day event, extending themes and activities throughout the year in programs and services at park, school and community center sites.
- Partner with public and private schools, including Art Center, Caltech, and the high schools on environmental education.
- Determine opportunities in existing community publications such as the activity brochure, program calendars or community center bulletin boards to promote community environmental activities as well as educational information.

5.4.2 Filling the "Gaps" in Service Provision

KEY ISSUE #4: RECREATION PROGRAM TYPES & DISTRIBUTION

As discussed in Section Three, the City seeks potential providers that may be available to address gaps in certain services or programs. The goal is to prevent duplication or displacement of effective existing recreation programs. If such a provider is identified and available, the City may offer use of City facilities or provide limited funding or other resources to support the needed program or activity. City-provided sports efforts generally target developing skill levels (beginner through intermediate proficiency) and focus on developmentally appropriate activities. Persons seeking highly competitive and specialized sports training are linked to organizations offering advanced instruction or competition.

Current City policy includes provisions to provide programs and services for individuals or families who cannot afford or access services elsewhere. The City provides these services at a subsidized rate. It is recommended that implementation of this policy continue, increasing participation and access to City services.

Need: **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**

Similar to the "service area analysis" to determine the need for facilities, the City must strive to offer recreation programs and services in appropriate locations around the City. The need for this is simple: put the programs in places where people who need them can access them. While this is a simple concept, it is more difficult in practice. It requires the Human Services and Recreation Department to continually research and analyze the users of programs and determine what changes are necessary over time. Further, facilities and space to conduct recreation activities are not often readily available in those neighborhoods where there may be the greatest population density and need.

Recommendations:

- Emphasize programs for those target populations that may have a higher population density in specific park or community center neighborhoods. For example, there is a high density of youth age 18 years and younger in the Jackie Robinson Community Center, Villa Park, and La Pintoresca Park areas. Those areas that have the greatest density of seniors age 65 years and over include Villa Park, La Pintoresca Park, Washington Park, and Central Park. For those neighborhoods that may not have a public park or community center, work with schools to expand their role as community center sites rather than just educational. Examples would include Maranatha

High School and McKinley School in neighborhoods where there is a high density of seniors age 65 years and over.

KEY ISSUE #5: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND ONGOING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

5.5 Organizational Structure and Ongoing Community Participation

5.5.1 Organization of Service Delivery

Coordination and delivery of recreation services and programs is aided by an organized department. The City's role as a "clearinghouse" for services and programs is challenging in that the needs of the community are often changing and the private and non-profit providers are also often changing.

Need: **Streamlined processing and improved collaboration with service providers to become a connected delivery system**

Through the community outreach portion of the Master Plan process, users of the City's programs and services mentioned the need to maintain an effective and efficient administrative process. The responsible City departments continue to create methods of organization and service provision and delivery that react to this need.

Recommendations:

- Streamline permitting process. Implement the automated registration and facility reservations program, combining the now two separate functions of reservations and facility management into one.
- Improve coordination between service providers. City to act as a primary provider of information on services and programs.
- Set program provision criteria. Establish Department standards to strengthen the consistency in which programs are determined, developed and delivered.
- Coordinate marketing efforts. Realign resources or identify opportunities that will fund the direct mailing of the activities brochure on a quarterly basis. Consider a more comprehensive advertising campaign that would include all public and private service providers to promote their activities in one central publication.
- 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.

5.5.2 Community Participation

Participation from the greater Pasadena community was vital in the preparation of this Master Plan. Planning for parks and recreation programs must continue to involve users of the facilities and programs to ensure that they meet community needs.

Need: Create ongoing mechanisms for active community participation in facility and program planning.

Recommendations:

- Continue to seek community and neighborhood participation in planning for improvements to neighborhood, community and citywide parks.
- Continue to coordinate with the community to determine the appropriate types and locations of recreation programs.
- Review the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Master Plan every five years to determine if the policies, recommendations and implementations measures are still current.

5.6 Summary of Proposed Improvements in Existing City Facilities

Since opportunities for acquisition of new City parkland to meet identified needs are limited in Pasadena, renovation and improvement of existing facilities for greater usability will be a key strategy.

Recommendations for existing City facilities are established through the annual ***Capital Improvement Program (CIP)*** budget process.