

## Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element

### I. Introduction

The parks and recreational facilities of Los Angeles County play a vital role in maintaining a high quality of life for residents. The County owns and operates parks and recreational facilities in both unincorporated areas and cities in Los Angeles County. These facilities serve the local needs of communities in the unincorporated areas, as well as regional needs countywide.

The Parks and Recreation Element provides policy direction for the maintenance and expansion of the County's parks and recreation system. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to plan and provide for an integrated parks and recreation system that meets the needs of residents. The goals and policies set forth in this Element address the growing and diverse recreation needs of the communities served by the County.

### II. Parkland Classifications

For planning purposes, parks are classified based on the size, use, and physical characteristics of the land. In addition, the traditional template of local and regional parks has been expanded to capture diverse opportunities for acquisition and development of parkland. The County's park system, including facilities that are owned, operated, and maintained by the County, totals approximately 70,000 acres. Table 10.1 summarizes the acreage of local and regional parkland, by Planning Area. A complete inventory of the parks operated by DPR can be found in Appendix F.

**Table 10.1: Existing County Parkland, by Planning Area**

Planning Area	Parkland, in Acres		
	Local	Regional	Total
Antelope Valley	50	3,870	3,920
Coastal Islands	0	41,000	41,000
East San Gabriel Valley	220	3,440	3,660
Gateway	51	816	867
Metro	111	398	509
Santa Clarita Valley	71	14,425	14,497
San Fernando Valley	1	565	566
Santa Monica Mountains	0	0	0
South Bay	26	593	618

West San Gabriel Valley	56	3,465	3,521
Westside	22	414	436
Total	608	68,986	69,594

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, July2013.

The County offers a wide variety of parks and recreation resources, which generally fall under two systems: local park system and regional park system.

### **Local Park System**

The local park system consists of parks of varying sizes that meet local needs and offer opportunities for daily recreation. This system includes community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, and park nodes, and is summarized in Table 10.2.

#### ***Community Parks***

Community parks are typically 10 to 20 acres, and serve several neighborhoods within a 1 to 2 mile radius of the park. Community parks that are located in residential neighborhoods serve both the needs of the community park service radius and neighborhood park service radius. Community parks provide opportunities for a wide variety of active and passive recreation activities. The amenities programmed into a community park are focused on meeting the needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community. They allow for group activities and recreational opportunities that may not be feasible in neighborhood parks. Amenities for community parks can include informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, public restrooms, concession buildings, maintenance buildings, onsite parking and information kiosks.

#### ***Neighborhood Parks***

Neighborhood parks are typically 3 to 10 acres, and serve residents living within a half mile radius of the park. Neighborhood parks provide space, programs and recreation activities to create healthy social networks within residential communities. The common objective of all neighborhood parks is to bring people together to recreate and socialize close to home. Ease of access and walking distance uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers are important factors in locating neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks should be well-connected to other public facilities, such as schools and libraries. Amenities for neighborhood parks can include informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, picnic tables, picnic shelters, barbecues, practice sports fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, public restrooms, information kiosks, recreation offices, and onsite parking.

#### ***Pocket Parks***

Pocket parks are less than three acres in size, and serve residential or business areas within a quarter mile radius or within walking distance. They are best used to meet limited or specialized recreational needs. Pocket parks can provide landscaped public use areas in industrial and commercial areas, scenic overlooks, linkage to a community pathway system, and urban infill sites in park poor communities. Pocket parks generally do not have onsite parking. Amenities for pocket parks can include both active and passive features, depending on the community’s setting and needs, such as children’s play apparatus, picnic areas, fountains and seating areas. Due to the

limited amenities included in pocket parks, they are typically not included in the service radius analysis.

**Park Nodes**

Park nodes are small pieces of open space that serve as public destinations, connections, and community defining spaces. Nodes provide physical and visual breaks to the urban landscape and connect various spaces, such as waterways, streets, trails, and greenways. Park nodes are used as gathering and rest areas, and serve as opportunities for social and cultural exchange. Examples of park nodes include equestrian and hiking trail heads, bike rest stops and stations with lockers and repair areas, neighborhood focal points, and passive amenities, such as plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks, and public art installations.

**Table 10.2: Local Park System Summary**

Facility	Typical Park Features and Amenities
<p><b>Community Park</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 4/1,000 Suggested Acreage: 10 to 20 acres Service Area: 1 to 2 miles</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, family and group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues.</p> <p>Active sports activities including but not limited to: lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts. Additional amenities may include aquatics complex, skate park, arena soccer, roller hockey, community gardens, and dog parks.</p> <p>Park facilities including but not limited to: public restrooms, concession building, community buildings, maintenance building and onsite parking and information kiosks.</p>
<p><b>Neighborhood Park</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 4/1,000 Suggested Acreage: 3 to 10 acres Service Area: 1/2 mile</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues.</p> <p>Active park amenities including but not limited to: practice sports fields, basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts.</p> <p>Park facilities including but not limited to: public restroom, onsite parking and information kiosks.</p>
<p><b>Pocket Park</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 4/1,000 Suggested Acreage: less than 3 acres Service Area: 1/4 mile</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: picnic areas and seating areas.</p> <p>Active park amenities including but not limited to: children’s play apparatus.</p>
<p><b>Park Node</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 4/1,000 Suggested Acreage: 1/4 acre or less No service radius area</p>	<p>Varies; can include: plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks and public art installations</p>

## Regional Park System

The regional park system is intended to meet the park and recreation needs of residents and visitors throughout Los Angeles County. This system consists of community regional parks, regional parks, and special use facilities, and is summarized in Table 10.3.

### *Community Regional Parks*

Community regional parks are typically 20 to 100 acres, and have a service radius of 20 miles. Community regional parks protect and conserve natural resources, preserve open spaces, and provide recreational facilities that are not available in neighborhood or community parks. Amenities for community regional parks can include a jogging exercise course, informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, information kiosks, public restrooms, concession building, recreation offices, maintenance buildings, and onsite parking. Community regional parks may also have one or more of the following features: multiple sports facilities, aquatics center, fishing lake, community building and gymnasium, and scenic views and vistas.

### *Regional Parks*

Regional parks are typically greater than 100 acres in size, and have a service radius of 25 miles or more. They include unique areas such as lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies, and campgrounds, in addition to the active recreational facilities offered in community and community regional parks. Many of the recreation activities are associated with experiencing the natural environment. A regional park may also perform important ecological and environmental functions, including serving as wildlife habitats. The connection of these parks to natural areas is often vital to ensuring a healthy ecological system. Amenities for regional parks can include picnic areas, nature centers, trail systems, scenic drives, campgrounds, water areas for swimming, fishing and boating, and in some cases, sport fields.

### *Special Use Facilities*

Special use facilities are generally single purpose facilities that serve greater regional recreational or cultural needs. One notable example is the Hollywood Bowl. Special use facilities require adequate public access and sufficient buffers to protect adjacent residential users and to insulate the park from commercial or industrial development. Special use facilities can meet both passive (e.g., historic and cultural facilities, natural areas, habitat preservation areas, arboreta and botanical gardens, and nature centers) and active (e.g., golf courses and driving ranges, equestrian centers, off-highway vehicle parks, water parks) needs within the region. There are no size criteria or service radius areas associated with special use facilities.

**Table 10.3: Regional Park System Summary**

Facility	Typical Park Features and Amenities
<p><b>Community Regional Park</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 6/1,000 Suggested Acreage: 20 to 100 acres Service Area: up to 20 miles</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues.</p> <p>Active sports activities including but not limited to: lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts.</p>

	<p>Additional amenities may include one or more of the following features: multiple sports facilities, aquatics center, fishing lake, community building and gymnasium, and scenic views and vistas.</p> <p>Park facilities including but not limited to: public restrooms, concession building, community buildings, maintenance building and onsite parking and information kiosks.</p>
<p><b>Regional Park</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 6/1,000 Suggested Acreage: greater than 100 acres Service Area: 25+ miles</p>	<p>Passive park amenities including but not limited to: group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues.</p> <p>Additional amenities may include one or more of the following features: lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies for swimming, fishing and boating, and sports fields.</p>
<p><b>Special Use Facility</b></p> <p>Acres Per Thousand Population: 6/1,000 No size criteria No assigned service radius area</p>	<p>Generally, single purpose facilities. Can include passive features such as: wilderness parks, nature preserves, botanical gardens and nature centers.</p> <p>Active uses can include: performing arts, water parks, golf driving ranges and golf courses.</p>

**Trails**

The County offers unique trail user opportunities that showcase its diverse scenery and provide connectivity to parks, open spaces, cultural resources, and wilderness areas. Los Angeles County has an ideal climate for trail user activities on most days of the year.

Typical trail uses range from hiking and walking, to mountain biking and horseback riding, with many users participating in more than one activity. The quality of the trail experience is directly proportional to the state of the visual, natural, and educational environment through which the trail passes. The wide variety of experiences, include but are not limited to: exercise, solitude, spiritual practices, physical and mental well-being, building social networks, testing athletic skills, and experiencing nature. The County strives to make all trails multi-use and accessible to all non-motorized users including pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists, where appropriate.

In May 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted the County of Los Angeles Trails Manual, which provides County staff and developers with guidelines and standards for trail planning, design, development, and maintenance of County trails. The purpose of the Trails Manual is to provide guidance to County departments that interface with trail planning, design, development and maintenance of hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking recreational trails, while addressing physical and social constraints and opportunities associated with the diverse topographic and social conditions that occur in the unincorporated areas.

Figure 10.1 depicts the County's regional trail system.

**Figure 10.1: Regional Trail System Map**

## **Other Recreation Facilities**

In addition to local and regional parks and trails, residents are served by the following types of recreation facilities: multi-benefit parks, school sites, city parks and facilities, private recreational facilities, and greenways.

### ***Multi-Benefit Parks***

Multi-benefit parks and open spaces are created through collaborative efforts among city, county, state, and federal agencies; private organizations; schools; private landowners; and industries. These parks are characterized as having more than one function and contributing to multiple program goals. There are a number of applications of multi-benefit parks including: utility corridors and flood protection basins that can serve as areas for active or passive recreation; school sites located adjacent to parks that can share facilities, such as parking and park amenities; watershed areas that can protect critical wildlife habitats, preserve open space, provide trails for recreation, and contribute to water conservation objectives; and water districts, where trails can be located adjacent to flood protection channels and trailhead parks.

### ***School Sites***

The County works with school districts to organize, promote, and conduct joint recreational and educational programs. These community recreation agreements are a form of joint-use agreement, where either a school or park facility may be put to some recreational use by the other party in exchange for some facility improvement and/or maintenance. A park does not have to be adjacent to a school (i.e., share a common boundary) for an agreement to be viable.

### ***City Parks and Facilities***

City parks and facilities that are located close to the borders of the unincorporated areas are enjoyed by city and County residents alike. Similarly, local County parks that are located within or close to the borders of cities provide recreational amenities for both populations. This overlap in local park service radius is an important factor to consider in the placement of new local County parks.

### ***Private Recreational Facilities***

Private recreational facilities play an important role in meeting recreational needs. The network of private recreational facilities consists of churches, health and fitness clubs, and other organizations that offer a variety of programs and facilities. This Element does not include an inventory of private recreational facilities, and as the County does not control, maintain, or program private recreational facilities, these resources are not credited toward the County's acreage goals for public parks.

### ***Greenways***

Greenways provide a linear area along natural corridors, and often follow features such as rivers, man-made waterways, drainage channels, and utility easements. Greenways can accommodate various modes of uninterrupted pedestrian travel on pathways, including walking, jogging, and bicycling, and can include recreation areas and natural landscape features.

## **Recreation Programs**

Along with access to parks and recreation facilities, the availability of a wide range of recreation programs is critical to the quality of life in any community. A comprehensive offering of effective

recreation programs benefit individuals, neighborhoods, and households of all ages, income levels, cultures and abilities by:

- Offering opportunities to play, grow, and learn;
- Providing a sense of place and of belonging;
- Promoting health and wellness, including obesity prevention;
- Improving neighborhood and community connections, and problem-solving;
- Enhancing community cohesiveness while honoring diversity;
- Helping protect natural environments; and
- Providing positive youth development opportunities.

Recreation programs can range from organized sports, tournaments, scheduled classes, and special events, to more individualized, casual leisure activities such as picnics and walking. Effective recreation programs promote the constructive use of leisure time and a lifelong commitment to a healthy lifestyle.

DPR offers a wide variety of recreation programs to meet the diverse needs of residents. These programs serve a diverse group of stakeholders including, but not limited to: preschool-aged children, elementary school-aged youth, middle school-aged youth, high school-aged youth, adults, seniors and households.

## **Parkland Dedication and Funding**

As specified in P/R Policy 3.1, the County standard for the provision of parkland is 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents of the population in the unincorporated areas, and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population of Los Angeles County. This section describes the County's parkland dedication requirements, as well as funding mechanisms for the planning and development of parks and recreation facilities.

### **Quimby Act**

The California Quimby Act, which is part of the Subdivision Map Act, applies to residential subdivisions and permits the County, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or payment of fees for park and recreational purposes. As part of its approval of a subdivision, the County may require the subdivider to provide land to serve the park and recreational needs of future residents of the subdivision.

The Quimby Act establishes a standard of dedicating 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for subdivisions. Quimby fees may be used to acquire land for local park purposes, improve local parkland (including existing local parks), or both acquire and develop local parkland. To convert a Quimby obligation inland (acres) into the Quimby fee, the land obligation is multiplied by the Representative Land Value (RLV) per acre for the Park Planning Area (PPA) in which the subdivision is located. RLVs are adjusted annually based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Because of the need for usable public parkland for active recreation purposes, DPR rarely gives any Quimby credit for parkland exceeding a slope of three percent and instead gives credit for the "net"

park acreage (maximum slope of three percent) the County receives. As specified in P/R Policy 3.10, DPR does not accept undeveloped park sites from developers. This means that the developer is required to provide a developed park to the County on a “turn-key” basis and receives credit for the costs of developing the public park up to and against any remaining Quimby obligation, after accounting for the net acreage dedicated to the County.

For the purposes of the County's Quimby Act Ordinance, the unincorporated areas are divided into 47 PPAs, based on location and neighborhood characteristics. The Quimby fees generated in one PPA may not be spent in another area.

### **Proposition A Funds**

Proposition A Funds may be used to fund the development, acquisition, improvement, restoration and maintenance of parks; recreational, cultural and community facilities; and open space lands. These funds are administered by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District. The Open Space District was created when voters approved Proposition A in 1992. Proposition A authorized an annual assessment on nearly all of the 2.25 million parcels of real property. Proposition A funded \$540 million for the acquisition, restoration or rehabilitation of real property for parks and park safety, senior recreation facilities, gang prevention, beaches, recreation, community or cultural facilities, trails, wildlife habitats, or natural lands, and maintenance and servicing of those projects. In 1996, voters approved another Proposition A to fund an additional \$319 million for parks and recreation projects and additional funds for maintenance and to service those projects.

### **Landscaping and Lighting Districts**

The California Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 authorizes local legislative bodies to establish benefit related assessment districts, or Landscaping and Lighting Districts (LLADs), and to levy assessments for the construction, installation, and maintenance of certain public landscaping and lighting improvements. LLADs may be established to maintain local public parks.

### **Mello-Roos District**

A developer may apply to the County to form a Mello-Roos District pursuant to the California Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 to develop and maintain park improvements. Pursuant to County guidelines, the parks should be regional in nature, and have an impact or benefit beyond the associated subdivision.

## **III. Issues**

### **1. Park Planning For a Diversity of Needs**

Parks and recreation facilities are used for various purposes by a wide range of users. Because the needs of park users are diverse, no individual park or recreational facility can meet the needs of all users. Therefore, a diverse and comprehensive system of facilities is needed to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities.

A mistaken assumption is that parks and recreation planning only involves looking at population projections and then providing more of what already exists. Numerous studies have shown that parks and recreation needs and preferences vary by age, race and ethnicity, and other factors. In addition, the physical distribution of parkland and park accessibility by underrepresented groups and underserved populations, including low-income and transit-dependent communities, are important considerations. The County must understand and plan for these diverse park and recreation needs.



Based on data from a wide variety of sources, outdoor recreation activities with learning components, trail related experiences, and water recreation will increase. Motorized recreation, augmented with navigational equipment, will also continue to grow. As the population evolves and changes, there will be many new supporters and advocates for outdoor recreation and opportunities for partners to contribute to a better quality of life. Cooperation and partnerships between public, private, and nongovernmental service providers can ensure a seamless and comprehensive system of outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences.

Enhanced collaboration refers to the idea of providing more and improved park and recreation services through multiple use facilities and partnerships with other public, non-profit, and private organizations. The County must work with other agencies to leverage financial, land, and other resources to meet the growing and diverse recreation needs of residents.

## **2. Acquisition and Development of Additional Parkland**

There are large areas that are underserved by parks and recreational facilities. Nearly two out of three children do not live within walking distance (one quarter mile) of a park, playground, or open space.

DPR conducted a preliminary gap analysis to determine the need for additional parks and to identify park poor areas. Using the County's goals for 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in the unincorporated areas, and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents, the Gap Analysis Study shows that the unincorporated areas face a significant deficit in local parkland: 3,719 acres, as shown in Table 10.4.. Also noteworthy is the fact that 9 of the 11 Planning Areas have deficits in regional parkland. Based on population projections, the unincorporated areas would have deficits of 5,987 acres in local parkland and 5,046 acres in regional parkland by the year 2035 if no new parks are created.

The Gap Analysis Study represents a first step toward identifying park-deficient neighborhoods in the unincorporated areas. Figures 10.2 and 10.3 show the service radius for local and regional parks. Areas that do not lie within the service radius are considered underserved by parks and recreation facilities.

**Figure 10.2: Community Regional and Regional Park Service Radius Map**

**Figure 10.3: Community, Neighborhood and Pocket Park Service Radius Map**

**Table 10.4: Existing County Parkland by Planning Area, Year 2010**

Planning Areas	Local Parkland Goal 4 Acres / 1,000 Population			Regional Parkland Goal 6 Acres / 1,000 Population		
	Unincorporated Population 2010	Parkland Acreage	Surplus / Deficit Acreage	Countywide Population 2010	Parkland Acreage	Surplus / Deficit Acreage
Antelope Valley	73,488	50	-244	382,868	3,870	1,573
Coastal Islands	368	0	-1	4,096	41,000	40,975
East San Gabriel Valley	234,251	220	-717	933,116	3,440	-2,159
Gateway	103,094	51	-361	1,666,588	816	-9,183
Metro	306,768	111	-1,116	1,819,084	398	-10,517
Santa Clarita Valley	94,907	71	-308	271,227	14,425	12,798
San Fernando Valley	5,137	1	-20	1,749,325	565	-9,931
Santa Monica Mountains	19,222	0	-77	85,785	0	-515
South Bay	69,612	26	-253	1,016,674	593	-5,507
West San Gabriel Valley	122,834	56	-435	915,196	3,465	-2,026
Westside	27,407	22	-87	974,646	414	-5,434

<b>Total</b>	<b>1,057,088</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>-3,719</b>	<b>9,818,605</b>	<b>68,986</b>	<b>-6,522</b>
--------------	------------------	------------	---------------	------------------	---------------	---------------

Sources: 2010 U.S. Census and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, July 2013.

**Table 10.5: Projected Future County Parkland Need, Year 2035**

	Local Parkland Goal 4 Acres / 1,000 Population			Regional Parkland Goal 6 Acres / 1,000 Population		
	Unincorporated Population Projection 2035	Current Local Parkland Acreage	Surplus / Deficit Acreage	Countywide Population Projection 2035	Current Regional Parkland Acreage	Surplus / Deficit Acreage
<b>Total</b>	1,648,695	608	-5,987	12,338,623	68,986	-5,046

Source: 2008 SCAG RTP and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, July 2013.

A good community parks and recreation system is based on the quality of facilities and services provided, as well as the ability to anticipate and respond to changing trends. According to the report, *Park and Recreation Trends in California 2005*, changes in the size and composition of State's population will drive the impacts on the delivery of parks and recreation services in the future.

A more in-depth gap analysis will be conducted as part of the County's future Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This analysis will involve a detailed review of topics such as demographic, geographic, land use, and transportation data for each Planning Area to determine its park deficiencies in terms of acreage, accessibility, and suitability. For more information on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, please refer to Chapter 16: General Plan Implementation Programs.

### 3. Improved Trail Systems

Trails offer opportunities for people to hike, walk, run or ride, and encourage people to connect with nature. As linear parks, trails help make the region more livable and provide communities with access to increased health and fitness activities. Trails can also promote increased activity with smaller amounts of land than large parks, and can often use leftover or unwanted land.

As the population continues to grow and the region becomes increasingly urbanized, the demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and trails will increase. One way to meet this demand is to create and maintain an adequate multi-use trail system that is accessible to all residents and to provide continuous enjoyment through increased and expanded connectivity. Additional trails are also needed closer to population centers in the central and southwestern portions of Los Angeles County, where more residents could conveniently access and reap the recreation, health, and mobility benefits of trails.

Multi-use trails are used by equestrians, cyclists, hikers, and runners. As the amount of public land continues to decrease, the need for multi-use trails will continue to grow, as well as the need to find solutions to possible user conflicts. An expanded multi-use trail system can alleviate user conflicts, while also providing increased access to this important health and fitness system.

### 4. Protection of Historical and Natural Resources on County Park Properties

Many County parks contain important historical and natural resources that must be protected. Historic resources on County park properties include buildings, collections, landscapes, bridges, and other physical features. The maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historical resources are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

Natural resources include natural areas, sanctuaries, and open space preserves. There is a need to establish linkages that will promote connectivity to enhance the movement of wildlife and promote genetic health among native species of plants and animals. Continuous efforts to expand the regional park system are necessary to protect and conserve natural resources regardless of the required park acreage based upon park standards. Open space areas that are established for conservation purposes, such as wildlife sanctuaries, provide a greater benefit than the relative location of the site to populated areas. In the regional park system, a key consideration is the ecological health of natural environments. Accessibility to regional facilities is also important. Access may be enhanced by providing improved public transportation to connect population centers with regional parks.

Threats to these resources include both intentional and unintentional acts, such as deferred maintenance, renovation or improvements that significantly alter or damage the resource, acts of vandalism and theft, or overuse by park users.

## 5. Sustainable Parks

It is important for County park properties to contribute to the County's goals of sustainability, carbon footprint reduction, water conservation, and energy conservation. Sustainable design and management are necessary to promote responsible environmental practices, enhance social benefits, and reduce the cost of ownership and management.

All park projects must be considered within their surrounding context. Landscapes need to be treated as interdependent and interconnected spaces that share systems of soil, topography, vegetation, and water. By understanding these larger patterns and employing a comprehensive approach, parks can be designed in a way that helps repair and restore ecosystems rather than detract from them. For example, designing a park to take advantage of natural processes is one way to achieve sustainability through site design.

Funding is the main challenge facing the design and implementation of sustainable strategies. However, sustainable design and management practices will help reduce operation and maintenance costs in the long run. In addition, regular maintenance and preventative measures can prolong the life of existing buildings and facilities on County park properties, and reduce the need for new or expanded facilities.

## IV. Goals and Policies

<b>Goal P/R 1: Enhanced active and passive park and recreation opportunities for all users.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Park Programming	Policy P/R 1.1: Provide opportunities for public participation in designing and planning parks and recreation programs.

	Policy P/R 1.2: Provide additional active and passive recreation opportunities based on a community's setting, and recreational needs and preferences.
	Policy P/R 1.3: Consider emerging trends in parks and recreation when planning for new parks and recreation programs.
	Policy P/R 1.4: Promote efficiency by building on existing recreation programs.
Park Management	Policy P/R 1.5: Ensure that County parks and recreational facilities are clean, safe, inviting, usable and accessible.
	Policy P/R 1.6: Improve existing parks with needed amenities and address deficiencies identified through the park facility inventories.
	Policy P/R 1.7: Ensure adequate staffing, funding, and other resources to maintain satisfactory service levels at all County parks and recreational facilities.
	Policy P/R 1.8: Enhance existing parks to offer balanced passive and active recreation opportunities through more efficient use of space and the addition of new amenities.
	Policy P/R 1.9: Offer more lighted playing fields using energy efficient light fixtures to extend playing time, where appropriate (eg., not in areas adjacent to open space or natural areas that can be impacted by spillover lighting).
	Policy P/R 1.10: Ensure a balance of passive and recreational activities in the development of new park facilities.
	Policy P/R 1.11: Provide access to parks by creating pedestrian and bicycle-friendly paths and signage regarding park locations and distances.
<b>Goal P/R 2: Enhanced multi-agency collaboration to leverage resources.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Collaboration and Financing	Policy P/R 2.1: Develop joint-use agreements with other public agencies to expand recreation services.
	Policy P/R 2.2: Establish new revenue generating mechanisms to leverage County resources to enhance existing recreational facilities and programs.
	Policy P/R 2.3: Build multi-agency collaborations with schools, libraries, non-profit, private, and other public organizations to leverage capital and operational resources.
	Policy P/R 2.4: Utilize school and library facilities for County sponsored and community sponsored recreational programs and activities.
	Policy P/R 2.5: Support the development of multi-benefit parks and open spaces through collaborative efforts among entities such as cities, the County, state, and federal agencies, private groups, schools, private landowners, and other organizations.
	Policy P/R 2.6: Participate in joint powers authorities (JPAs) to develop multi-benefit parks as well as regional recreational facilities.

	Policy P/R 2.7: Increase communication and partnerships with local law enforcement, neighborhood watch groups, and public agencies to improve safety in parks.
Mass Care and Shelters	Policy P/R 2.8: Evaluate and enhance facilities and amenities with respect to alternative use of parks to carry out Mass Care and Shelter operations in the wake of a disaster.
<b>Goal P/R 3: Acquisition and development of additional parkland.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Parkland Acquisition and Dedication	Policy P/R 3.1: Acquire and develop local and regional parkland to meet the following County goals: 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in the unincorporated areas and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population of Los Angeles County.
	Policy P/R 3.2: For projects that require zone change approvals, general plan amendments, specific plans, or development agreements, work with developers to provide for local and regional parkland above and beyond their Quimby obligations.
	Policy P/R 3.3: Provide additional parks in communities with insufficient local parkland as identified through the gap analysis.
	Policy P/R 3.4: Expand the supply of regional parks by acquiring land that would: 1) provide a buffer from potential threats that would diminish the quality of the recreational experience; 2) protect watersheds; and 3) offer linkages that enhance wildlife movements and biodiversity.
	Policy P/R 3.5: Collaborate with other public, non-profit, and private organizations to acquire land for parks.
	Policy P/R 3.6: Pursue a variety of opportunities to secure property for parks and recreational facilities, including purchase, grant funding, private donation, easements, surplus public lands for park use, and dedication of private land as part of the development review process.
Parkland Development	Policy P/R 3.7: Mitigate impacts from freeways to new parks to the extent feasible.
	Policy P/R 3.8: Site new parks near schools, libraries, senior centers and other community facilities where possible.
	Policy P/R 3.9: The Department of Parks and Recreation does not accept undeveloped park sites from developers. Developers are required to provide a developed park to the County on a “turn-key” basis and receive credit for the costs of developing the public park up to and against any remaining Quimby obligation, after accounting for the net acreage dedicated to the County.
<b>Goal P/R 4: Improved accessibility and connectivity to a comprehensive trail system including rivers, greenways, and community linkages.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Trail System	Policy P/R 4.1: Create multi-use trails to accommodate all users.
	Policy P/R 4.2: Develop staging areas and trail heads at strategic locations to accommodate multi-use trail users.

	Policy P/R 4.3: Develop a network of feeder trails into regional trails.
	Policy P/R 4.4: Maintain and design multi-purpose trails in ways that minimize circulation conflicts among trail users.
	Policy P/R 4.5: Collaborate with other public, non-profit, and private organizations in the development of a comprehensive trail system.
	Policy P/R 4.6: Create new multi-use trails that link community destinations including parks, schools and libraries.
<b>Goal P/R 5: Protection of historical and natural resources on County park properties.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Park Resource Preservation	Policy P/R 5.1: Preserve historic resources on County park properties, including buildings, collections, landscapes, bridges, and other physical features.
	Policy P/R 5.2: Expand the collection of historical resources under the jurisdiction of the County, where appropriate.
	Policy P/R 5.3: Protect and conserve natural resources on County park properties, including natural areas, sanctuaries, and open space preserves.
	Policy P/R 5.4: Ensure maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historical resources in County parks and recreational facilities are carried out in a manner consistent with the most current Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.
Education and Programming	Policy P/R 5.5: Preserve and develop facilities that serve as educational resources that improve community understanding of and appreciation for natural areas, including watersheds.
	Policy P/R 5.6: Promote the use of County parks and recreational facilities for educational purposes, including a variety of classes and after school programs.
	Policy P/R 5.7: Integrate a range of cultural arts programs into existing activities, and partner with multicultural vendors and organizations.
<b>Goal P/R 6: A sustainable parks and recreation system.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Sustainable Parks System	Policy P/R 6.1: Support the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation in County parks.
	Policy P/R 6.2: Support the use of alternative sources of energy, such as wind and solar sources to reduce the use of energy at existing parks.
	Policy P/R 6.3: Prolong the life of existing buildings and facilities on County park properties through preventative maintenance programs and procedures.

	Policy P/R 6.4: Ensure that new buildings on County park properties are environmentally sustainable by reducing carbon footprints, and conserving water and energy.
	Policy P/R 6.5: Ensure the routine maintenance and operations of County parks and recreational facilities to optimize water and energy conservation.

## V. Park and Recreation Element Implementation Program

- County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Trails Program
- Parks Sustainability Program

For descriptions of these programs, please refer to Chapter 16: General Plan Implementation Programs.

[Text Boxes]

<p><b>Parks, Playgrounds, and Beaches in the Los Angeles Region (1930)</b></p> <p>The Olmsted Brothers and Bartholomew report entitled <i>Parks, Playgrounds, and Beaches in the Los Angeles Region</i> was the first comprehensive parks and open space plan for the greater Los Angeles area. The report proposed a system of parks, parkways, children’s playgrounds, and public beaches. It was a model of ambitious, intelligent, and sensitive planning commissioned at a time when land was available. However, only segments of the report have been implemented to date. Through its planning efforts and collaboration with other agencies and jurisdictions, the DPR hopes to revive and fulfill the Olmsted and Bartholomew vision to the maximum extent possible.</p>
<p><b>Green Visions Plan (2007)</b></p> <p>Green Visions is a joint venture between the University of Southern California and the region’s land conservancies, including the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. The Green Visions Plan offers a guide to habitat conservation, watershed health and recreational open space for the Los Angeles metropolitan region. The electronic tools and data developed as part of Green Visions are intended to expand the analytic and planning capabilities of local agencies and organizations to, among other things, reduce the fragmented, piecemeal approach to regional resource planning.</p>
<p><b>Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2013)</b></p> <p>The 2013 Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) addresses water resource issues of the Los Angeles region in an integrated and collaborative manner. Recreation and open space are important components of the IRWMP, with priority projects providing open space, habitat, and recreational benefits. The IRWMP also recommends that new parkland be acquired to keep pace with population growth.</p>
<p><b>SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan (2008)</b></p> <p>In 2008, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) completed the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) as a vision of how Southern California can balance resource conservation, economic vitality, and quality of life. The RCP presents a visionary, regionwide approach to coordinate and facilitate the preservation of open space in Southern California. Specifically, the Plan includes an “Open Space and Habitat” chapter, which focuses on community open space, natural lands, and farmlands. Community open space includes areas that enhance the quality of life and completes interconnected networks of parks, trails, greenbelts, community gardens, and urban</p>



forests serving the region's communities.