



POLICY DOCUMENT PART 2

PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT

The City of West Sacramento seeks to provide its residents and visitors with a broad range of active and passive recreation opportunities. The Parks and Recreation Element sets the framework for an expanded park system and a greater variety of recreational activities. West Sacramento's riverfront and natural open spaces will be linked to enhance opportunities for walking, bicycling, picnicking, participating in water sports, and appreciating natural open spaces and conservation areas. Access to a broad range of recreational activities is important to improving public health through exercise. The location of schools and their recreational facilities can serve as a focal point of neighborhood identity and activity. Parklands also help to sustain natural environmental resources by providing landscapes that absorb greenhouse gases, produce oxygen, and filter pollutants into the groundwater basin.

Public Park System

The City has 33 parks, open space areas, and public plazas. Although the City has built several new parks, deficiencies remain in certain areas of the city. The policies in this section set standards for the development of new parks and recreation facilities and guiding the improvement of existing parks. Part of the City's strategy for providing recreation opportunities is to continue to work with the school districts and other public and community groups to jointly use facilities and share programs where feasible and mutually beneficial.

GOAL PR-1

To establish and maintain a public park system and recreation facilities suited to the needs of West Sacramento residents and visitors.

PR-1.1 Parks Master Plan

The City shall maintain and implement the Parks Master Plan. *(MPSP)*

PR-1.2 New Development

The City shall require new residential development to help meet the City's park acreage standard as shown in Table PR-1 and established in the adopted Parkland Dedication Ordinance. To this end, the City shall require of all new development the dedication of land, dedication of improvements, payment of in-lieu fees, or any combination of these determined acceptable by the City, to the extent authorized by law. Projects located in an areas subject to a specific plan may employ alternative strategies to achieve recreation goals. *(RDR)*

PR-1.3 Urban Parks

The City shall, for development in urban infill areas where traditional neighborhood and community parks are not feasible or

appropriate, work with developers to produce creative and flexible solutions for providing urban parks, such as plazas and rooftop gardens. *(RDR)*

PR-1.4 Funding

The City shall pursue all available and appropriate county, State, and Federal funding for the acquisition of parkland and the development of park facilities. *(FB)*

PR-1.5 Walking Distance

The City shall strive to provide park facilities within convenient walking-distance of all residents. *(MPSP)*

PR-1.6 Neighborhood Focal Points

The City shall require that neighborhood parks be integrated into, and be focal points of new residential neighborhoods. *(RDR)*

PR-1.7 Non-Automobile Access

The City shall require that new neighborhood and community parks are accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists, and are connected with transit, to the extent feasible. *(RDR)*

PR-1.8 City Park Complex

The City shall promote the development of one or more large-scale park complexes in West Sacramento.

PR-1.9 Standards, Demographics and Geography

The City's park and recreation facility standards shall be guided by the National Recreation and Park Association standards along with the unique geography and demographics of the city for planning and developing or redeveloping the appropriate amount and types of parks, open space and recreation facilities.

Table PR-1: Park Guidelines¹

Park Type	Service Standards	Description	Guidelines and Typical Components ²
Regional Park		A very large park, typically organized around a significant scenic, natural, historical, or cultural feature. Regional parks are typically administered by the State, counties, or other park agencies rather than the City due to their large size and unique nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 acres or larger • Serves communities within a one-hour driving time • May contain unique facilities or features such as zoos, aquariums, museums, or waterfront access
Community Park	3 acres per 1,000 residents	A large park that serves the needs of nearby residents, people from several neighborhoods, or the entire city. They contain a wide variety of facilities and features for active and passive recreation, waterfront access, and night use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-50 acres in size • Service area of up to 4 miles • Include playfields for organized league practice and play (e.g., softball, baseball, soccer) • Include sports facilities such as tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, handball courts, practice walls, and fitness equipment • May include special facilities such as a pool, community center, gymnasium, or amphitheater

Neighborhood-Oriented Parks	
Central Park	<p>A large, unique park that serves as a central gathering place for the entire city. Essentially a community park that has an elevated status due to its central location, unique features, or historic characteristics.</p>
Neighborhood Park	<p>2 acres per 1,000 residents</p> <p>A medium park that provides for the daily recreation needs of nearby residents, with primarily passive and informal recreation features. Active recreation facilities are limited.</p>
Mini Park	<p>A small park that accommodates the daily recreation needs of nearby residents. Serves specific population groups (e.g., small children, seniors) or uses (e.g., apartment/townhouse complexes, elderly housing). Mini parks are used where larger parks are not feasible.</p> <p>A very small park or outdoor gathering place that serves urban areas. May take the form of a plaza, town square, court mall, piazza, roof top garden, or other non-traditional park. Are most appropriate for infill and redevelopment areas where larger parks are not feasible or inappropriate.</p>
Urban Park	<p>Less than 1 acre</p> <p>Service area of 1/4 mile</p> <p>Primarily hardscape</p> <p>No on-site parking, except for disabled access</p>

- A wide variety of active and passive recreational facilities and features, including sports fields, picnic areas, tennis courts, playgrounds, and passive green open space
- May contain unique facilities or features such as zoos, aquariums, museums, or waterfront access
- 3-10 acres in size
- Service area of 1/2 mile
- Contain passive green open space
- Active recreation facilities are limited to informal practice fields, hard surface playing courts, and children's play equipment
- May have joint-use potential with schools
- 1/2 to 3 acres in size
- Service area of 1/4 mile
- Typically contain children's play equipment, sitting areas, and limited green space
- Less than 1 acre
- Service area of 1/4 mile
- Primarily hardscape
- No on-site parking, except for disabled access

	Recreation Corridor	0.5 linear miles per 1,000 residents	A linear park, greenway, bikeway, or other pathway for non-motorized transportation. Typically developed along a linear geographic feature such as a river, canal, railroad corridor, or utility easement. They serve the entire city and link residential areas, parks, schools, employment and commercial centers, and the waterfront.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically designed for multiple uses such as bicycling, walking, jogging, hiking, horseback riding, and rollerblading
Special Facility	None		A facility such as a community center, athletic complex, aquatic center, or other cultural or athletic facility that serves a specific need and is not included within a regional, community, or central park.	

¹Guidelines are suggestive and excerpted from the National Recreation and Park Association. More specific guidelines unique to the city are provided in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

²The components listed are not all-inclusive in every park.

PR-1.10 Joint Use 🌐

The City shall prioritize the joint-use of school facilities over the development of new park and recreational facilities and shall support significant improvement of existing school cafeterias and auditoriums for joint use purposes. *(IGC)*

PR-1.11 Security and Maintenance ♥

The City shall require that parks are located, oriented, and designed in such a way as to facilitate security, policing, and maintenance. *(RDR)*

PR-1.12 Neighborhood-Based Security and Maintenance ♥

The City shall encourage citizens, neighborhood groups, businesses, schools, organizations, and public agencies to assist in the security and maintenance of publicly-owned park and recreational facilities. *(SO/PI)*

PR-1.13 Year-Round Use

The City shall require that new park and recreation facilities and major upgrades to existing facilities include shade and wind protection to facilitate year-round use. *(RDR)*

PR-1.14 Buffer Potential Impacts

The City shall strive to ensure new high-activity level parks and parks intended for night use are designed to buffer existing and planned surrounding residential uses from excessive noise, light, and other potential nuisances. *(RDR)*

PR-1.15 Community Activity Areas

The City shall identify appropriate open spaces, including areas within the Central Business District and along the Sacramento River, for development of safe community activity areas. *(PSR)*

PR-1.16 Drought Tolerant Landscaping



The City shall emphasize the use of drought-tolerant and drought-resistant landscaping, as well as low impact development (LID) principles in the development of City parks. *(RDR)*

PR-1.17 Improve Existing Parks

The City shall assign high priority to funding the improvement and rehabilitation of parks in existing neighborhoods. *(FB)*

PR-1.18 Parks as Buffers

The City shall encourage the use of parks and recreational corridors as buffers between incompatible land uses. *(RDR)*

PR-1.19 Performing Arts Center

The City shall maintain a performing arts center in the Central Business District. *(IGC)*

Recreation Corridors

Recreation corridors are often built along linear features, such as rivers, drainage canals, and utility alignments. They can be developed at locations where there is sufficient right-of-way to protect resources, such as riparian habitats, waterways, and wildlife corridors, or construct small-scale features, such as shade structures and play courts. Wherever possible, recreation corridors should be used to link other recreational components and destinations within the city or surrounding areas. This section contains policies to enhance the city's network for recreation corridors.

GOAL PR-2

To provide a continual system of parks and open space corridors that connect destination points within and beyond the city of West Sacramento.

PR-2.1 Recreational Corridors along River

The City shall establish recreational corridors along the full length of the Sacramento River and Deep Water Ship Channel located within the city limits. (MPSP)

PR-2.2 Pedestrian/Bicycle System

The City shall develop and maintain a system of pedestrian and bicycle pathways linking City parks, neighborhood shopping areas, major activity centers, and major open space areas with one another and with nearby residential areas. (RDR)

PR-2.3 Connecting to Recreational Corridors

The City shall strive to ensure that pedestrian and bicycle pathways that cross the Sacramento River connect to the city's recreational corridors. (RDR)

PR-2.4 Sacramento Greenway Plan

The City shall coordinate the development of the riverfront as envisioned in the 1997 *Sacramento Greenway Plan* and the *Sacramento Riverfront Master Plan*. (MPSP/IGC)

PR-2.5 Regional Coordination

The City shall coordinate with SACOG and surrounding jurisdictions to ensure that recreational corridors within the city connect with existing and planned facilities outside the city. (IGC)

PR-2.6 Joint Use of City Levee and Utility Properties

The City shall establish recreational trails as part of future levee and utility property improvements where feasible. (RDR/JP)

PR-2.7 Equestrian Access

The City shall strive to accommodate equestrian users in an equestrian network in open space and rural areas where feasible and compatible.

River & Ship Channel Access

With direct access to the Sacramento River along the eastern edge of the City, the City of West Sacramento is poised to take advantage of the opportunities that the river presents. West Sacramento has several potential sites for new marina developments. The policies in this section seek to increase public access to the Sacramento River and Deep Water Ship Channel to improve water recreation opportunities for West Sacramento residents and visitors.

GOAL PR-3

To provide and encourage, to the fullest extent possible, public access to the Sacramento River and Deep Water Ship Channel for recreation purposes.

PR-3.1 River Access

The City shall establish and maintain continuous public access to the Sacramento River for its full length within West Sacramento for fishing and other uses. (RDR)

PR-3.2 Ship Channel Access

The City shall strive to establish and maintain continuous public access to the Deep Water Ship Channel, within the limits imposed by safety considerations. (RDR)

PR-3.3 Public Access Easements ♥

The City shall require the dedication of public access easements through all new developments along the Sacramento River and Deep Water Ship Channel. (RDR)

PR-3.4 Water-Oriented Facilities ♥

The City shall encourage the development of public and private water-oriented park and recreational facilities along the Sacramento River and the Deep Water Ship Channel. (MPSP)

PR-3.5 River, Ship Channel Linkage

The City shall ensure that linear access points along the Sacramento River and Deep Water Ship Channel are linked to the city's overall system of parks, recreational corridors, and open space. (RDR)

PR-3.6 Marinas and Riparian Vegetation

The City shall encourage the development of public and private marinas in appropriate locations that avoid, as much as possible, areas of significant existing riparian vegetation. (RDR)

PR-3.7 Barge Canal Recreation

The City shall support the use of the barge canal for aquatic recreational activities, such as fishing, sailing, rowing, kayaking, and canoeing, and support the establishment of a multi-use aquatic facility along the barge canal. Aquatic parks, boat houses, docks, and other support facilities for boating shall be deemed compatible uses along the Deep Water Ship Channel and the barge canal within all land use designations. (RDR)

Recreation Programs

Recreation programs promote physical fitness and enhance the sense of community. The City provides a broad range of recreational services for its residents, including after school activities, summer

camp, sports leagues, swimming lessons, art classes, as well as programs for seniors and residents with special needs. The policies in this section encourage recreation programs to serve the needs of all residents of West Sacramento.

GOAL PR-4

To establish recreation programs suited to the broad needs and interests of all West Sacramento residents.

PR-4.1 Diverse Needs

The City shall develop and maintain a balanced recreation program which addresses the diverse needs of the various age, ethnic, and interest groups in West Sacramento. (SO)

PR-4.2 Ethnic Programs

The City shall encourage and/or co-sponsor ethnic programs and activities of local interest. (SO/JP)

PR-4.3 Resident Priority

The City shall ensure that residents of West Sacramento are given first priority to participate in City-sponsored recreation programs, activities, and leagues and use of City facilities for such activities. (SO)

PR-4.4 Neighborhood Needs

The City shall consider unique neighborhood needs in developing facilities and programs for indoor and outdoor activities. (SO)

PR-4.5 Special Needs

In planning recreation programs and facilities, the City shall promote the active involvement of all affected residents, including those with special needs, such as the physically disabled and the elderly. (SO)

PR-4.6 School Joint Use

The City shall establish cooperative agreements with the Washington Unified School District for the use of school facilities for City-sponsored recreation programs. *(IGC)*

PR-4.7 Surveys

The City shall periodically survey community attitudes and preferences concerning recreational programs. *(PI/SO)*

Private Recreational Facilities

Private recreational facilities, including golf courses, gymnasiums and fitness centers, and recreation and open space as part of residential developments, provide many of the recreational opportunities for residents. The policies in this section encourage private recreational facilities to augment the recreational opportunities provided by the City.

GOAL PR-5

To promote the provision of private recreational facilities and opportunities.

PR-5.1 Private Residential Open Space and Recreation

The City shall promote the provision of private open space and recreation facilities in large-scale residential developments in order to meet a portion of the open space and recreation needs that will be generated by the development. *(RDR)*

PR-5.2 Commercial/Industrial Open Space and Recreation

The City shall promote the inclusion of private outdoor and indoor recreation facilities in large commercial/industrial projects as a benefit for employees and as a means of reducing demand on public facilities. *(RDR)*

PR-5.3 Private Golf Courses

The City shall encourage the development of private golf courses in conjunction with major new development projects. *(RDR)*

PR-5.4 Commercial Recreation

The City shall promote the development of commercial recreational facilities that meet community needs and complement public parks, facilities, and programs. *(RDR)*


 Table 3-7 Parks and Recreation Implementation Programs		2016-2018	2019-2023	2024-2035	Annual	Ongoing
<p>1. The City shall review and update the <i>Parks Master Plan</i> every 10 years to establish updated goals, policies, and standards for the location, size, and level of development of all existing and proposed parks, open space, and trails. The master plan shall cover at least the succeeding 10-year period, with greater detail devoted to improvements planned for the first five-year period. (MPSP)</p>						
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.1	x	x			
Responsible Department(s)	Parks and Recreation					
Supporting Department(s)	Community Development; Administrative Services					
<p>2. The City shall regularly monitor County, State, and Federal programs for funding of parkland, trails, and open space acquisition, development, and rehabilitation. The City shall actively pursue funding for which it is qualified. (FB)</p>						
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.4				x	
Responsible Department(s)	Parks and Recreation					
Supporting Department(s)	Administrative Services					
<p>3. The City shall periodically review projected park development needs and plans, update cost estimates for park acquisition and development, and remaining development potential based on General Plan 2035. Based on this review, the City shall adjust the park dedication requirements and fee schedule as necessary. (RDR/PSR)</p>						
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.4, 1.9	x				
Responsible Department(s)	Parks and Recreation					
Supporting Department(s)	Administrative Services; Community Development					

Table 3-7 Parks and Recreation Implementation Programs		2016-2018	2019-2023	2024-2035	Annual	Ongoing
4. The City shall prepare, adopt, and periodically update a long-term Major Projects Financing Plan (MPFP), including parks, which identifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service standards • Specific project descriptions, including cost estimates • Schedule of improvements Financing Responsibility, including techniques to be employed (<i>MPSP</i>)		✗	✗	✗		
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.1					
Responsible Department(s)	Public Works					
Supporting Department(s)	Parks and Recreation; Administrative Services					
5. The City shall continue to support its joint-use agreement with the Washington Unified School District which provides for use of school facilities for certain City-sponsored recreation programs. (<i>IGC</i>)					✗	
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.10					
Responsible Department(s)	City Manager's Office					
Supporting Department(s)	Parks and Recreation					
6. The City shall establish a program to work with neighborhood residents to take responsibility for their neighborhood parks, including the possibility of assuming maintenance and security needs or costs. Neighborhood parks 'adopted' by the residents through this program shall remain publicly-owned and accessible by the community. (<i>MPSP/PI</i>)		✗				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.12					
Responsible Department(s)	Parks and Recreation					
Supporting Department(s)	Administrative Services					

Table 3-7 Parks and Recreation Implementation Programs		2016-2018	2019-2023	2024-2035	Annual	Ongoing
7. The City shall establish a methodology for periodically surveying community attitudes and preferences for recreation facilities and programs, and shall compile statistics concerning use of recreation facilities and program participation. (PI)						
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.9	x			x	
Responsible Department(s)	Parks and Recreation					
Supporting Department(s)	Administrative Services					
8. The City shall establish a methodology for periodically surveying community attitudes and preferences for recreation facilities and programs, and shall compile statistics concerning use of recreation facilities and program participation. (PI)						
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.9			x		
Responsible Department(s)	Parks and Recreation					
Supporting Department(s)	Administrative Services					
9. The City shall annually update statistics on participation in various City recreation programs and use of City recreation facilities. (PSR)						
Implements Which Policy(ies)	PR 1.9			x		
Responsible Department(s)	Parks and Recreation					
Supporting Department(s)	N/A					