

RESOLUTION

This resolution amends the definitions of park sites and recreational amenities and facilities within the Public Recreation Plan of the Service Systems Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles provides public recreation, parks, beaches, multiuse trails, and open space facilities and sites within the City of Los Angeles;

WHEREAS, abundant and accessible parks and open space are essential components of healthy and sustainable neighborhoods and park and recreational facilities offer opportunities for physical activity, safe places for families and children, spaces for social interaction, access to nature, and places for mental respite;

WHEREAS, people who live within walking distance of a park or recreational facility are more likely to engage in physical activity;

WHEREAS, parks and open space provide people with access to nature which can improve psychological, social, and medical health;

WHEREAS, parks and open space provide aesthetic and environmental benefits such as urban cooling, stormwater management, and carbon and pollution sequestration, which can mitigate the impacts of pollution;

WHEREAS, parks and open space enhance property values, increase municipal revenues, and attract home buyers, workers, and tourists;

WHEREAS, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Growth Forecast estimates that the City will add significantly more people during the coming decades. New residential construction in Los Angeles is necessary to accommodate the additional population;

WHEREAS, new residential construction should not diminish the City's park and recreational facilities or reduce the service level currently provided by the City;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities to serve the new residential population and to maintain the existing service level;

WHEREAS, residential development projects that do not subdivide the land upon which units are constructed add population to the City and increase the demand for park and recreational facilities to the same extent as residential development projects which require land subdivision;

WHEREAS, the City's General Plan includes a number of policies to maintain and increase both the number and type of park and recreational facilities in the City, including identifying potential funding opportunities for new recreation and park facilities;

WHEREAS, the City's Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan strives for the equitable distribution of park and space in every Los Angeles neighborhood;

WHEREAS, three City Council motions called for a reexamination of the Park Fee policies, including adjusting park fee credits to reflect current costs of construction (Council File 07-3619), developing a proposed fee charged to developers of new market rate apartments to be used to purchase open space (Council File 07-3387-S2), and reviewing the requirements regarding the service radius for park acquisition and to recommend how the General Plan and the Municipal Code should be amended to the City's goals (Council File 05-1562);

WHEREAS, a combined Recreation and Parks Department and Department of City Planning working group and a Park Advisory Committee researched and discussed the primary issues associated with the City's park and recreation and regulations, including service radius, park level of service, qualifying parks, credits for on-site recreational amenities, deferrals for low-income housing, land dedication, residential fee schedule, and expanding park fees to other residential uses;

WHEREAS, the City has completed a nexus study of recreation and park impact fees and a review of reference city policies and impact fees;

WHEREAS, establishing a park and recreational impact fee for all residential development will require all project applicants to pay a fair share of the cost of acquiring, developing, and improving park and recreational facilities in the City;

WHEREAS, the fees established by this ordinance are based upon and do not exceed the cost of providing capital recreation and park facilities and sites necessitated by new residential development for which the fees are imposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AS FOLLOWS:

The Public Recreation Plan of the Service Systems Element of the Los Angeles City General Plan is amended to read as follows:

The Public Recreation Plan consists of this text and the map on the other side of this sheet.

The Public Recreation Plan-is a portion of the Service Systems Element of the Los Angeles City General Plan. This section of the Plan addresses neighborhood, community, and regional recreation sites and facilities. Subsequent sections will address other facilities.

PURPOSES

Use of the Plan

The Public Recreation Plan consists of this text and the map on the other side of this sheet. The plan map shows, in an illustrative manner, the general location of recreational sites on a citywide basis. More specific locations are shown on the adopted community plan maps.

The Public Recreation Plan (Plan) sets forth recreation guidelines intended to provide a basis for satisfying the needs for city recreational sites. The guidelines are not intended to set an upper limit for the areas of parks, recreational sites or other types of open space. Instead, they are intended to provide the City with a flexible and broad range of options on how park expenditures can be spent across the city.

The Plan emphasizes neighborhood, community, and regional recreational sites and parks because of their importance to the daily lives of the City's people, especially its children. In addition, this Plan elevates the importance of regional parks as community resources for active and passive recreational activity. It includes policies and programs to meet the needs for a broad range of recreational facilities. This Plan is to be continually revised to meet expanding needs for recreational sites.

In view of the limited availability of funds for acquisition and development of recreational sites, the Plan suggests that priority be given to those presently underserved areas of the City which have the greatest need for recreational sites and facilities.

Programs are intended to carry out the policies and accomplish the objectives of the Public Recreation Plan. This Plan does not mandate the City to commence any new programs which may require the expenditure of work-hours or funds.

Objectives of the Plan

The objectives for the Public Recreation Plan are based on recognized planning principles and the extent and nature of deficiencies in the City's recreational sites and facilities and are as follows:

- To provide a guide for the orderly development of publicly-accessible recreational sites and facilities in the City.
- To provide long-range guidelines for use in connection with new subdivisions, intensification of existing residential development, or redevelopment of blighted residential areas as described under general local recreation standards.
- To develop and locate publicly-accessible recreational sites and facilities to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people at the least cost and with the least environmental impact.
- To provide a guide of priorities for the acquisition and development of public recreational facilities.
- To further refine and carry out the goals and objectives set forth in the Concept and Citywide Plan for recreation.

DEFINITIONS

Neighborhood Recreational Sites and Facilities- should provide space and amenities for outdoor and indoor recreational activities. It is intended to serve residents of all ages and abilities in their immediate neighborhood. Neighborhood recreation sites and facilities should be based on local community preferences, allow for both active and passive recreation for users of all ages and abilities, and be site-appropriate and suitable for the intended recreational activity.

When available, they should be transit accessible and available with facilities for meetings, dances, dramatic productions, arts and crafts, and other community-desired activities. Off-street parking should be provided whenever possible.

Community Recreational Sites and Facilities - should be designed to serve residents of all ages and abilities in several surrounding neighborhoods. Its amenities serve a much wider interest range than do those of a neighborhood site. The typical community recreational site or facility may offer recreational facilities for organized activities in addition to the amenities provided for neighborhood sites and facilities and specialized facilities as may be needed to meet the needs of the community.

Regional Recreational Sites and Facilities— provides specialized recreational facilities that have a regional draw, which normally serve persons living throughout the Los Angeles basin. A regional recreational site or facility may include, or emphasize, exceptional scenic attractions. A regional recreational site or facility may also contain the types of amenities provided in neighborhood and community recreational sites.

School Playgrounds of the Los Angeles Unified School District may supplement local recreational sites. They are open for a limited number of after school hours each day during the school year and on a full day schedule during the summer.

GUIDELINES

A satisfactory recreation system must measure up to accepted guidelines in several respects: there must be sufficient land area set aside for recreation; the recreation area must be equitably distributed throughout the City; there must be facilities to meet different recreational needs- including both active and passive recreation- and provision for residents of all ages and abilities; and the Department of Recreation and Parks should have the ability to develop and use flexible criteria to adapt and respond to the urgent need for parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities and the allocation of resources. Recreational sites and facilities should be provided at a broad range of levels that collectively help communities reach the recommended park acreage. An overall provision of 10 acres of land per 1,000 persons for total recreational sites and facilities is recommended. A minimum of 10% of the total land area should be in public recreation or open space.

The location and allocation of acreage for neighborhood, community, and regional recreational sites and facilities should be determined by the Department of Recreation and Parks on the basis of the service radius within residential areas throughout the City. No park site should be diminished in size or removed from any service area unless the required acreage is replaced within that district or unless the need is diminished due to population changes.

- **Neighborhood Recreational Sites and Facilities.** The following guidelines may apply to neighborhood recreational sites: If coordinated and used with a school playground, up to one-half the acreage of the playground may be counted toward the total acreage required, but a school playground alone is not likely to suffice to properly serve a neighborhood.
 - The service radius of a neighborhood recreational site or facility should generally be within walking distance of the site.
 - The site or facility space should be located within a neighborhood so that users are not required to cross a major arterial street or highway when walking to the site.
 - The type of activities and programs conducted at each neighborhood site or facility should be determined by measuring the desires of the clientele in the area served. Care must be taken to provide activities for residents' of all ages and abilities groups within the neighborhood.
 - The population characteristics of each area served should be used in determining the general facilities required.
 - The recommended service levels for neighborhood sites and facilities is 2 acres per 1,000 residents.
-
- **Community Recreational Sites and Facilities.** The following guidelines may apply to community recreational sites: Community recreational sites and facilities can be of any size, but are generally larger than neighborhood parks. Community-serving recreational amenities may be included on smaller sites that have a larger geographic draw, e.g. a swimming pool on a smaller parcel.
 - If coordinated with high school or junior high school site, up to one-half the required acreage may be fulfilled by the school play area.
 - The service radius of a community site should generally be accessible within a relatively short bike, bus, or car trip.
 - The community site or facility should be easily accessible to the area served.
 - The community site or facility may serve several neighborhoods.
 - The types of activities available at the community site or facility should be determined by measuring the desires of the population served.
 - The recommended service levels for community sites and facilities are 2 acres per 1,000 residents.

Regional Recreational Sites and Facilities. The following guidelines may apply to regional recreational sites:

- Regional recreational sites and facilities can be large urban recreational sites or can be smaller sites or facilities that draw visitors from across the City.
- The service radius of a regional recreational site should generally be within a reasonable drive.
- Regional sites or facilities should serve the entire City
- Regional sites or facilities typically include a broad range of facilities that are appropriate for large parks of that size and have a large regional draw.
- The population characteristics of each area served should be used in determining the general facilities required.
- The recommended service levels for regional recreational sites and facilities are 6 acres per 1,000 residents.

POLICIES

Recreational facilities and services should be provided for all segments of the population on the basis of present and future projected needs, the local recreational standards, and the City's ability to finance.

- Park and recreation sites shall be acquired and developed first in those areas of the City found to be most deficient in terms of the recreation standards.
- Recreational use should be considered for available open space and unused or underused land, particularly publicly owned lands having potential for multiple uses.
- High priority will be given to areas of the City which have the fewest recreational services and the greatest numbers of potential users.

PROGRAMS

- Continue to include land acquisition for park and recreational purposes as a regular item in the City's Five Year Capital Improvement Program.
- Prepare a priority schedule based on greatest need for acquiring and developing park and recreational sites.
- Seek federal, state and private funds to implement acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities.
- Establish policies to facilitate donation of parks to the City.
- Lease or acquire unused or abandoned properties suitable for recreational activities.
- Encourage multiple use of public properties such as power line or flood control rights of way, debris basins, reservoir sites, etc., for recreation.

POLICIES - Community Buildings/Gymnasiums

- Park community buildings should be designated as large and flexible structures to permit a wide variety of recreation activities, meeting the needs of all groups and special interests, to adequately serve the current and future community.
- The availability of community buildings/gymnasiums will be based on the needs of the local population between the ages of 7 to 34. It is this age range which most uses gymnasiums.

PROGRAMS - Community Buildings/ Gymnasiums

- Use the areas of Public Community Building Deficiency identified in the Public Recreation Plan -Section 1, Background Report as guides for locating new community buildings as funds become available. A program for updating the Table and Public Community Building

Maps by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Planning Department should be initiated as important changes in population, land use and facilities occur.

- Encourage the Los Angeles City School District to remove the emergency energy curtailment program which results in the closure of two-thirds of its public gymnasium facilities one night a week on rotation, and to reactivate the closing only in times of demonstrated emergency.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks should develop standard sets of criteria and designs for local recreation center buildings.
- Design of new community buildings should, include a gymnasium with a minimum size which would permit basketball play. It is desirable that the gymnasium be large enough to permit a regulation size high school basketball court.

POLICIES - Swimming Pools

- Swimming pool service levels will be based on the needs of the local population between the ages of 6 to 20. It is this age range which most use public pools.
- New pools should be located to maximize use in various swimming programs. Where possible, new pools should be located on or near junior high school or high school sites.

PROGRAMS - Swimming Pools

- Use the areas of Public Swimming Pool Deficiency identified in the Public Recreation Plan - Section 1 Background Report as guides for locating new swimming pools as funds become available. A program for updating the Table and Public Swimming Pool Maps by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Planning Department should be initiated as important changes in population, land use and facilities occur.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles City School District should continue and expand the cooperative efforts regarding joint use of swimming pools.
- The City of Los Angeles should continue to locate new swimming pools at junior high school and high school sites where appropriate.

POLICIES - Tennis Courts

- Tennis service levels will be based on the needs of the local population between the ages of 10 to 61. It is this age range which most use tennis courts.
- Use of existing and future tennis courts should be maximized through design, lighting and operation.

PROGRAMS - Tennis Courts

- Use the areas of Public Tennis Court Deficiency Identified in the Public Recreation Plan - Section 1 Background Report as guides for locating new tennis facilities as funds become

available. A program for updating the Table and the Public Tennis Court Maps by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Planning Department should be initiated as important changes in population, land use and facilities occur.

- Continue the program of designing new facilities with night lighting adequately shielded to assure the privacy of adjacent residential uses.
- Continue the program of illuminating unlighted public park tennis courts and encourage lighting of school tennis facilities in tennis court deficient areas when funds become available.
- Continue the program of building tennis courts in groups rather than one at a time.