

PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

It is the overall goal of the City of Arroyo Grande to adequately provide for the recreational needs of Arroyo Grande area residents and visitors. The Parks and Recreation Element should be used as a guide for development additional park and recreation facilities: It should be recognized that City facilities also serve residents of adjoining communities and visitors as well as residents of the City.

Neighborhood and Community Park Standards

Objective PR1 Neighborhood and community park facilities, including the sports complex, should be provided at a ratio of four (4) acres of parkland per 1,000 persons.

Policy PR1-1 Neighborhood parks serve as the day-to-day recreational areas of the City, and should include such amenities as playgrounds, playfields, and areas for passive recreation.

Implementation Measure PR1-1.1 Review new development proposals for impacts to neighborhood park facilities and require dedication of land and/or payment of in-lieu fees pursuant to Ordinance 313 C.S.

Policy PR1-2 Community parks shall include playfields for such activities as baseball, softball, soccer and football, volleyball and tennis courts, restrooms and picnic areas.

Implementation Measure PR1-1.2 Review new development proposals for impact to community park facilities and require dedication of land and/or payment of fees pursuant to Ordinance 313 C.S.

Cooperation with Other Agencies

Objective PR2 The City should supplement existing park, recreation and cultural facilities when needed and economically feasible and cooperate with Lucia Mar Unified School District, the County and adjoining Cities of Pismo Beach, Grover Beach and Oceano CSD to provide for operation and maintenance and to develop additional facilities and services.

Policy PR2-1 Pursuant to the objective above, the following are identified as short-term needs (1-5 years from present) for additional recreational facilities:

Implementation Measure PR2-1.1 Actively seek grants through Proposition 12, and other funding for preservation of Swinging Bridge.

Implementation Measure PR2-1.2 Continue creek dedication required by Subdivision Ordinance.

Implementation Measure PR2-1.3 Construct Rancho Grande Park capital improvements.

Policy PR2-2 Pursuant to the objective above, the following are **intermediate-term** needs (5-15 years from present) for additional recreational facilities:

Implementation Measure PR2-2.1 Cooperate with the Lucia Mar Unified School District and/or San Luis Obispo County Park Division regarding future joint development of a park with swimming pool and/or multi-purpose room/gymnasium.

Implementation Measure PR2-2.2 In cooperation with other agencies, pursue construction of a senior's and/or youth recreation center.

Implementation Measure PR2-2.3 Encourage private development of a golf course and identify a potential County area in the Pismo Beach/Arroyo Grande Fringe that could accommodate such a facility. Consider ALC/Williams area as an alternative location subject to Specific Plan.

Implementation Measure PR2-2.4 Investigate use of Methodist Campground or Newsom Springs area for regional day camp/park amphitheater, and/or youth hostel facility.

Implementation Measure PR2-2.5 Improve bike lanes or paths that connect to County, Pismo Beach and Grover Beach systems and serve priority parks and schools.

Implementation Measure PR2-2.6 Encourage private development of equestrian facilities in the Oak Park Acres and/or adjoining unincorporated areas.

Policy PR2-3 Pursuant to the objective above, the following are long-term needs (10 – 20 years) for additional Commercial recreational facilities:

Implementation Measure PR2-3.1 Encourage private development of a miniature golf course by identifying those areas in the City that could accommodate facilities.

Implementation Measure PR2-3.2 Cooperate with San Luis Obispo County Parks Division to ensure that trail systems within Arroyo Grande link urban area with County trails.

Implementation Measure PR2-3.3 Encourage private and concessions by identifying those areas of the City that could accommodate such facilities.

Special Needs Recreation

Objective PR3 The City should promote recreation programs which meet the special needs of children, the elderly, and the handicapped.

Policy PR3-1 Continue and expand pre-school programs to meet existing and future needs.

Policy PR3-2 Disseminate local child care resource information and provide referral services to the residents of Arroyo Grande.

Policy PR3-3 Initiate programs and the construction of facilities within public parks that generate more outdoor and indoor activities for senior citizens.

Policy PR3-4 Coordinate an assistance program for elderly citizens requiring transportation to recreation programs using volunteers.

Policy PR3-5 Provide barrier free access in all new park developments.

Policy PR3-6 The City should continually assess the ever-changing recreation needs of the community.

Implementation Measure 3-6.1 The Parks and Recreation Commission shall review the Parks and Recreation Element for revision every two years.

Implementation Measure 3-6.2 At large, City-sponsored events, when appropriate, solicit public input via questionnaires on recreation needs of the City.

Recreational Trails

Objective PR4 A network of recreational trails, bicycle lanes and bikeways should be established for use by local residents and visitors to the Arroyo Grande Valley.

Policy PR4-1 Trails should be located generally as shown in Figure PR-2.

Implementation Measure PR4-1.1 Review development proposals for consistency with this element and require easements, dedications, and improvements when necessary.

Implementation Measure PR4-1.2 A regional recreational trail should be established along the Arroyo Grande Creek greenbelt from Strother Park to the ocean.

Implementation Measure PR4-1.3 Proposed trails, especially bicycle lanes which serve as connections to schools and recreation facilities, shall be given high priority in implementation

Implementation Measure 4PR- 1.4 All established trails shall be identified by signage for identification and access.

Implementation Measure PR4-1.5 Safe street crossing provisions shall be incorporated into any trails/routes crossing major streets.

Funding and Maintenance

Objective PR5 The City will consider all available financing and acquisition techniques in the development and maintenance of park and recreation facilities.

Policy PR5-1 The financing of the City's park and recreation facilities and park system maintenance should be shared by the City, developers, special districts, and other government agencies.

Implementation Measure PR5-1.1 The City's Capital Improvement program is a means of coordinating the acquisition, improvement and rehabilitation of City park facilities.

Implementation Measure PR5-1.2 Solicit and make use of, to the maximum extent possible, any federal and/or state grants, matching funds programs, fees and private donations for the acquisition of parkland.

Implementation Measure PR5-1.3 Establish a volunteer program to reduce the cost of maintenance and operation of park facilities and recreation programs.

Implementation Measure PR5-1.4 Continue to utilize Quimby Ordinance fees and dedications to the maximum extent feasible, to improve and expand upon parks and recreational facilities.

Implementation Measure PR5-1.5 Implement existing park Master Plans and develop financing programs for needed improvements.

Policy PR5-2 The City will cooperate with San Luis Obispo County, the Lucia Mar Unified School District, other public agencies, and private interests to combine efforts of improvement, expansion or construction of new recreation facilities.

Implementation Measure PR5-2.1 Pursue development of joint facilities with the Lucia Mar Unified School District.

Implementation Measure PR5-2.2 Coordinate efforts to establish recreational trails with the San Luis Obispo County Parks Division.

Implementation Measure PR5-2.3 The City encourages commercial recreational facilities in the City, such as bowling alleys, miniature golf and/or sports complexes.

Policy PR5-3 The City shall improve and/or rehabilitate existing parks and recreation facilities and maintain them in the best possible condition for maximum public enjoyment.

IMPLEMENTATION METHODS

The financing of improvements described in this Element will require a mix of techniques available to pay for park development, maintenance, and operations. Several methods of financing new parks and recreation programs, and renovating and maintaining existing parks are described below. Each expansion or rehabilitation project should have a financing plan prepared that specifies the sources of revenue to pay for planning, land acquisition, capital improvements, rehabilitation, and operations and maintenance. Park and Recreation Facilities should be programmed as part of the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Maintenance and Operation

In order to avoid any deficits or cutbacks in the level of park maintenance, the following actions are recommended:

User fees: Consider collection of adult user fees and increases over above present level, where appropriate.

Concessions: Encourage increased concessionaire activities at appropriate facilities (Soto Sports Complex).

Citizen, League, and Team participation: Continue volunteer programs to include organized work days and expand if possible. Continue to encourage donations of time, materials, maintenance, and expertise by utility companies, businesses, and individuals as well as league and team members.

New Parks and Facilities

The City has a variety of options to fund new park and recreation operating expenses, including taxes, fees, bonds, assessments, donations, and /or grants, including the following revenue sources:

Quimby Act: The City will continue to implement the Quimby Act, which requires developers to provide land and/or fees for the acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities based on the local standard of four acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Federal and State Grants: The City should aggressively seek grants from State and Federal agencies, including State Park Bond Act funds, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and any new grant programs.

Land dedications/easements: As development occurs in areas of the City, appropriate land dedications and easements should be negotiated for park and recreation facilities.

Trail easements: In addition to the conventional park acquisition methods, public trail rights-of-way can be secured through agreements with public and semi-public organizations, such as utility companies and flood control districts. Trail development may be accomplished by developers, by contract with private construction firms, by volunteers (Boy Scouts, riding clubs, etc.), or nominal cost labor agreements (Honor camps – CMC).

Development impact fees: The City should consider an ordinance establishing development impact fees for the purpose of financing park improvements, including a portion of transient occupancy tax and the property transfer tax.

User fees: Designate a portion of adult user fees for new park and recreation facility acquisition.

Citizen participation: Continue to encourage donations, volunteer labor, foundation grants, and special events.

General Obligation Bonds: The City could consider a general obligation bond to finance needed park improvements with a two-third-majority vote. This option should be considered as a means to pay for a major share of land acquisition, capital improvements, and the rehabilitation of the park system outlined in the Parks and Recreation Element.

Revenue Bonds: The City may use revenue bonds to finance land acquisition and capital improvements for park facilities that generate revenues from user fees or concessions. This technique would most appropriately apply to equestrian centers, swimming pools, gymnasiums, and other special purpose facilities which can include user fees.

Cooperation with Other Agencies: The City should directly request financial support from the County, Cities of Grover Beach and Pismo Beach and Oceano CSD to contribute to the operations and maintenance costs of youth sports and other youth recreation programs serving non-Arroyo Grande City residents.