
City of El Paso de Robles General Plan 2003

Parks and Recreation Element

Prepared for:

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PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

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PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

1.0 Goals, Policies and Action Items

The development and management of parks and recreational facilities are addressed in this Element.

As population, disposable income and leisure time increases so does the demand for parks and recreation facilities. Trends which have an impact on parks and recreation planning include:

- Changes in demographic characteristics, such as population growth, shifts in age distribution, increases in disposable income and improved mobility;
- Changes in recreation trends, such as growth or decline in participation in particular activities;
- Changes in emphasis on providing facilities to serve special groups of persons including the aged or handicapped;
- Changes in governmental funding;

Changes in land use development patterns, leading to higher densities in many areas and resulting in a smaller proportion of the total population having access to private open space.

GOAL PR-1: Optimize the use and development of parks and recreation facilities to serve the existing and projected population.

POLICY PR-1A. Park and Recreation Facilities. Strive to achieve a 7-acres per 1,000 population parkland standard.

Action Item 1. Periodically assess usage of park facilities, and identify physical changes needed to accommodate anticipated land use patterns.

Action Item 2. Implement improvements at existing parks, including completion of recreation facilities.

Action Item 3. Allow activities and land uses near park areas that are compatible with the setting of a park.

Action Item 4. Cooperate with other agencies, including the County, Paso Robles Unified School District and Cuesta College, in park funding and joint use of park facilities.

Action Item 5. Require specific plans to include parks as appropriate.

POLICY PR-1B: Master Plan. Develop a Master Park, Recreational Facility, & Trails Plan addressing Citywide needs and financing for development, maintenance, and operation through the year 2025.

Action Item 1. Complete a needs assessment to identify and prioritize Park and Recreation Facility improvements. Consideration is to be given to the following improvements:

Table PR-1. Park and Recreation Facility Improvements

<i>EXISTING IDENTIFIED PARK AND FACILITY NEEDS</i>
10-acre park north of 24th Street. This should include ballfields, which may replace that at Pioneer Park, and may be located between Spring Street and the Railroad.
Aquatic center, preferably covered, probably a joint venture between the City, school district, and Cuesta College. Most likely to be located at Cuesta College.
10-acre park near the Borkey area
Chandler Ranch Area Specific Plan: park in conjunction with any new school site
7-10 acre park in Union/46 Specific Plan area
<i>OTHER NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS</i>
<i>Recreation Facilities</i>
Youth Center
Neighborhood Center (on east side)
Nature Center, with large contiguous open space area
Enhance crossing of Riverside Avenue to allow for connectivity between fairgrounds and parking lot east of Riverside Avenue
Public Equestrian staging area
General Recreation Services
<i>Parks</i>
No Pocket Parks needed, only larger facilities
The redevelopment of Oak Park Public Housing should include provision of a park to serve the recreational needs of the neighborhood
Develop a neighborhood park in conjunction with the First 5 Early School Readiness and Family Center on the northeast corner of Oak and 36 th Streets
Redevelop Robbins Field as envisioned in the Uptown/Town Centre Specific Plan, provided that a replacement ballfield of similar size and amenities is first developed in a location that is easily accessible to West Side residents.
Conversion of Marie Bauer Elementary School Site to a public park that provides educational facilities to the community.
<i>Bikeways and Trails</i>
Bikeways as indicated in the City's Bikeway Plan
Trail near railroad within 4th Street Specific Plan
Make trail connections between parks facilities citywide
Pursue De Anza Trail along Salinas River
Salinas River trail on either side of the river between <u>Robert Rader</u> (13th Street) and Veteran's Memorial (Niblick Road) bridges
Chandler Ranch Area Specific Plan trail system
Complete the Class I pathway from Creston Road along South River Road
<i>Plans/Programs</i>
Pursue Public Art in Parks Program (development should fund public art in parks)
Implement Master Plan of Bikeways
Develop Multi-Purpose Trail Plan
Expand Bikeway trails map to include pedestrian trails

Action Item 2 (Funding). Seek State, Federal and local grants, and individual, private and corporate support, to improve City parks and recreation services.

- Finance those aspects of the Master Plan not funded through grants, fees or land dedications through such approaches as: general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; Mello Roos Community Facility District bonds; assessments in existing or new special districts; and general fund tax increase.
- Update as necessary the Park Development Fee to implement the Master Plan requirements as it relates to the responsibility of developers.
- Continue to promote the use of volunteers and community groups for the provision of recreation programs, services, operation and maintenance and development of parks.
- Consider use of special districts, such as benefit-maintenance districts, to provide for parkland, maintenance and recreation facilities and programming.
- As part of the budget process, review system-wide operational and maintenance costs compared to fiscal resources; review new facilities as to their long-term impact on maintenance capabilities.
- Actively pursue concession and self-managed operations and fee increases if determined to be fiscally appropriate.

Action Item 3. Investigate and implement, if feasible, acquisition of land, in fee or in easement, within the floodplains of the Salinas River and the Huerhuero Creek for the development of a park, equestrian paths or other public active and passive recreational uses. In the interim, require irrevocable (perpetual) offers of dedication for land adjacent to the Salinas River and Huerhuero Creek as a condition of approval of discretionary development applications. These irrevocable offers will not be accepted until said investigation has been completed and a decision has been made to acquire floodplain lands.

Action Item 4 (Salinas River Corridor). Create and adopt a Salinas River Corridor Plan to address such issues as recreation, conservation, use, public access, and educational outreach. The plan would apply to the Salinas River Overlay area shown on the General Plan Land Use Map indicated in the General Plan Land Use Element.

- Cooperate with neighboring public agencies to establish the DeAnza Trail along the Salinas River as a link in a regional trail system.
- Cooperate with organizations and volunteers dedicated to the preservation of natural areas within the corridor.

2.0 Recreation Issues

The Parks and Recreation Element Appendix contains an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities as well as a discussion of the values of parks and recreation opportunities in the vicinity of Paso Robles.