
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.

Parks and Recreation Element Appendix



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PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT APPENDIX

1.0 Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Parks

The City contains several types of parks and other recreational facilities. Each is discussed in the paragraphs below.

Regional Park

Regional parks are identified as unique recreational centers serving the entire urban population. These consist of extensive park areas that provide service and facilities that are specialized or of City-wide or regional interest. Typical facilities may include large open space areas, large group picnic facilities, rest rooms, water-oriented facilities, competitive sports fields, play equipment for varied age groups, concessions. Barney Schwartz Park is the only regional park in the City.

Community Park

Community parks are large parks of greater than 30 acres. Centennial Park is the only community park in the City.

District Park

District parks are medium-sized parks that generally vary from eight to twelve acres in size. Sherwood Park, Oak Creek Park, and Pioneer Parks are considered district parks in the City of Paso Robles.

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park can be generally defined as a landscaped park of limited size for passive recreation of all ages, but with designated active areas. Neighborhood parks provide scenic and aesthetic value. Typical improvements found at neighborhood parks include athletic fields, multi-use turf areas, hard courts and playground equipment. Neighborhood parks range from three to ten acres in size. Paso Robles neighborhood parks include Paso Robles City Park, Turtle Creek Park, Lawrence Park, Robbins Field, and Melody Park.

Mini Park

Mini parks are generally less than three acres in size and are designed to serve a concentrated or limited population. They are often developed for a unique or single purpose such as a recreation facility for a neighborhood, a recreation or eating location for employment uses or to preserve an isolated open space resource such as a small clustering of oak trees. Typical improvements at mini parks are play areas, picnic table and landscaping. Desirable locations for mini parks are within neighborhoods and in close proximity to small lot and higher density residential development, including apartments, condominium complexes and housing for the elderly. Mini parks are also appropriate within business districts. Mini parks in Paso Robles include Lenco (Casa Robles) Park, Royal Oak Meadows Park, and Mandella Park.

Other Recreation Facilities

Bikeways

The City of Paso Robles has designated several bikeways within the community, as described in the Bikeways Plan for the City (November 1993). The City's Bikeways Plan identifies several key bicycling destinations, such as schools, public facilities, parks and recreation facilities, employment centers, and shopping centers. The City utilizes Caltrans' Highway Design Manual, which establishes three types of bikeways as described below:

Class I Bike Path: A bikeway which is completely separated from the paved path for motorized vehicles and which is designated for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians. Generally, bike paths are designed to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic.

Class II Bike Lane: A bikeway which provides a restricted right-of-way for the exclusive or semi-exclusive use of bicycles. Generally, a bike lane is a one-way striped lane within the paved width of a street.

Class III Bike Route: A bikeway which provides a right-of-way which is shared with motorists and which is designated by bike route signs. Bike routes are generally lightly-traveled streets that provide alternative routes for cyclists.

Schools

School sites make up a large inventory of recreational open space in the community which should be recognized as a satisfying a portion of park space standards. Common recreational activities include soccer, youth baseball, tennis, exercise and gym use. School sites have limitations, however, including access, conflicting schedules, hours of operation, lack of restrooms during non-school hours and so forth.

Centers

Recreation centers include the Senior Center, Veterans Facility, Centennial Park Recreation Activity Center, George Stephan Community Center and Youth Arts Foundation. Three types of centers should be provided:

- small multi-use centers in neighborhoods.
- large centers which provide for organized activities strategically located to serve existing and future residents.
- community centers which serve the entire city and provide for specialized activities in the arts.

Single activity centers

Single activity centers such as the municipal pool and Robbins Field, concentrate intensive, active recreation in one place to serve the entire community. Such a facility is not a park in the true sense because it does not provide the range of recreation options needed. A larger park, however, could contain a single activity center.

An inventory of City park facilities is listed in Table PR-A and a map of the park locations is in Figure PR-A.

Table PR-A. Park Facilities			
Facility	Amenities	Acreage	Location
Regional Parks			
1. Barney Schwartz Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball Diamonds • 2 Concession Stands • Restrooms • Soccer Fields • 2 Group Pavilions • 1 Irrigation Lake • Walking Trail 	40.0	2970 Union Road
Community Parks			
2. Centennial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphitheater • banquet room • large group barbecue area • small barbecue pits • kitchen • children's playground (2) • meeting rooms • Centennial 100' Pool, wading pool and bath house (seasonal) • restrooms • 4 tennis courts • walking paths / jogging trails • gymnasium • basketball courts • bleachers • game room • parking • volleyball court 	16.0	600 Nickerson Drive
District Parks			
3. Pioneer Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Lighted Softball Field, • 1 Basketball Court, Spectator Area • Small and Large BBQ Pits • Restrooms • Playground • Picnic Area • Lawn Area • Parking Area • Community Skate Park 	6.1	21 st Street and Riverside Avenue
4. Sherwood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Soccer Fields • 2 Softball Fields (1 is lighted) • 2 Spectator Areas • Group BBQ Facility • Picnic Areas • Playground • 2 Restrooms 	12.3	Creston Road and Scott Street

Table PR-A. Park Facilities			
Facility	Amenities	Acreeage	Location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Tennis Courts • Horseshoe Pits • Sand Volleyball Court 		
5. Oak Creek Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Picnic Facilities • Walking Path 	10.5	Creston Road and Cedarwood Drive
Neighborhood Parks			
6. City Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn Area • Group BBQ Facility • Small BBQ Pits • Picnic Area • Playground • Horseshoe Pits • Walkways • Gazebo • Restrooms • Museum • Gardens • Fountain 	4.8	Spring Street and 12 th Street
7. Melody Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • 1 Basketball Court • Jogging Path 	3.0	Caddie Lane and Country Club Drive
8. Turtle Creek Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn Area • Shuffleboard • Bulletin Board • Picnic Area • Small BBQ Pits 	4.5	Brookhill Drive
9. Lawrence Moore Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Restrooms • Small Ballfield • Small BBQ Pits • Picnic Area • Open Turf Area 	2.0	155 Riverbank Lane
10. Robbins Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Lighted Softball Field • Spectator Area, • Restrooms • Announcing Booth • Scoreboard • Concession Stand • Sandbox/Play Area 	2.4	Park Street and 6 th Street
Mini Parks			
11. Royal Oak Meadows Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn Area • Playground • Small Ballfield • Small BBQ Pits • Picnic Facilities 	2.4	Parkview Lane and Poppy Lane
12. Lenco Park (Casa Robles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Small BBQ Area • Picnic Area 	0.25	Niblick Road and Appaloosa Drive
13. Mandella Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn area 	0.25	Fairview Lane and Nacimiento Lake Drive
Total Acreeage		104.5	

Table PR-A. Park Facilities			
Facility	Amenities	Acreage	Location

Source: Paso Robles Park and Recreation Department, 2002.

An inventory of other City recreational facilities is listed in Table PR-B.

Table PR-B. Other Recreational Facilities			
Facility	Amenities	Acreage	Location
Centers			
1. George Stephan Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Park Recreation After School Program • Meeting Room 	-	3050 Park Street
2. Senior Citizen Center	5,375 square foot building with a large meeting hall, commercial kitchen, smaller meeting rooms and offices for individual programs. This facility has a secured patio and shares a common parking lot with concrete paths planned to connect to future park development.	-	270 Scott Street.
3. Veterans Building	3,780 square foot building with a large meeting hall, commercial kitchens, smaller meeting rooms and offices for individual programs. This facility has a secured patio and shares a common parking lot with concrete paths planned to connect to future park development.	-	240 Scott Street.
Single Activity Centers			
4. Municipal Pool	The municipal pool is located on school district property on the west side of the city. This facility was constructed in 1962, before the tremendous growth shift occurred toward the east side of the community. The pool is operated by the City during the months of June, July and August, with a daily average attendance exceeding 200 persons. The pool was primarily built for competition and is not designed for children's swimming instruction, or family recreational swimming.	-	28 th & Oak Streets
5. Indoor Pool	This facility is designed and used for therapeutic swimming, as well as teaching beginning swimming. Built in 1979, the therapy pool is in good repair and used 12 months a year.	-	28 th & Oak Streets

Table PR-B. Other Recreational Facilities			
Facility	Amenities	Acreage	Location
6. Robbins Field	One softball field (lighted), spectator area, restrooms, announcing booth, scoreboard, concession stand, sandbox / children's play area	2.4	6 th & Park Streets
7. City Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Conference Center - 112 capacity with audio visual, chairs, podium, multiple microphone capabilities and kitchen tables • Public Library • Small Conference Room 	-	1000 Spring Street

Source: Paso Robles Park and Recreation Department, 2003.

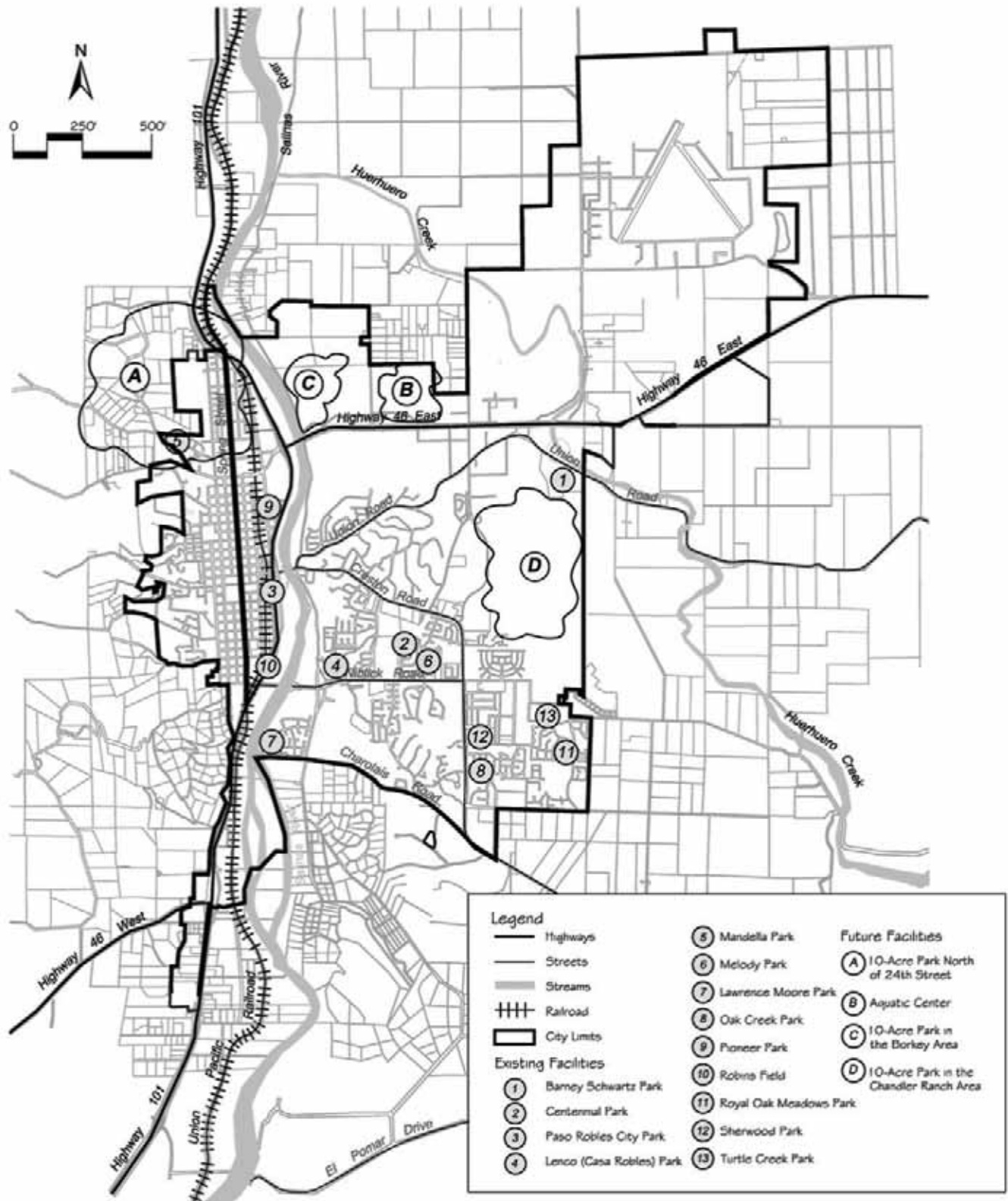
Table PR-C illustrates the schools serving the City of Paso Robles, and describes their recreational amenities

Table PR-C. School Facilities			
Facility	Amenities	Acreage	Location
High Schools			
1. Paso Robles High School (9-12 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,600-student capacity • 45 Regular Classrooms • 15 Labs • Administration Office • 5 Labs • Music Room • Administration Offices • Gymnasium • Weight Room • Computer Classrooms • Activity Center • Kitchen • Vocational Agricultural Farm • Auto Shop • Library • Parking Lots • Playfields • Tennis Courts • Football Field with Track • Restrooms 	40.0	800 Niblick Road
2. Liberty High School (10-12 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 140-student capacity • 5 Regular Classrooms • 1 Computer Lab • 1 Home Economics Classroom • 1 Art Classroom • Administration Office • Vocational Agricultural Farm • Parking Lots 	4.0	810 Niblick Road

Table PR-C. School Facilities			
Facility	Amenities	Acreage	Location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playfields • Restrooms 		
<i>Middle Schools</i>			
3. George Flamson Middle School (6-8 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 768-student capacity • 18 Regular Classrooms • 5 Labs • Music Building • Auditorium • Administration Office • Cafeteria/Kitchen • Gymnasium • Computer Classroom • Parking Lot • Playfields • Tennis Courts • Football Stadium • Restrooms 	17.0	24 th and Spring Street
4. Daniel Lewis Middle School (Intermediate grades)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnasium • Music Room • Computer Lab • Multipurpose Room • Classrooms 	4.8	900 Creston Road
<i>Elementary Schools</i>			
5. Kermit King School (K-5 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 593-student capacity • 14 Regular Classrooms • 2 Kindergarten Classrooms • Administration Office • Multipurpose Room • Kitchen • Library • Computer Classroom • Parking Lot • Playfields • Restrooms 	11.2	700 School House Circle
6. Bauer/Speck Elementary School (K-5 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 680-student capacity • 22 Regular Classrooms • 2 Kindergarten Classrooms • Administration Office • Multipurpose Room • Kitchen • Library • Computer Classroom • Parking Lot • Playfields • Restrooms 	15.1	17 th and Oak Streets
7. Winifred Pifer Elementary School (K-5 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 650-student capacity • 15 Regular Classrooms • 2 Kindergarten Classrooms • Administration Office • Multipurpose Room • Kitchen • Library • Computer Classrooms • Parking Lot 	14.5	

Table PR-C. School Facilities			
Facility	Amenities	Acreage	Location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playfields • Restrooms 		
8. Georgia Brown School (K-5 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 584-student capacity • 16 Regular Classrooms • 2 Kindergarten Classrooms • Administration Office • Multipurpose Room with Library and Computer Classroom • Parking Lot • Restrooms 	7.5	36 th and Oak Street
9. Virginia Petersen Elementary School (K-5 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 590-student capacity • 26 Regular Classrooms • 2 Kindergarten Classrooms • Administration Office • Multipurpose Room • Library • Computer Classroom • Parking Lot • Playfields • Restrooms 	11.0	2501 Beechwood
10. Pat Butler School (K-5 grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 530-student capacity • 14 Regular Classrooms • 2 Kindergarten Classrooms • Administration Office • Multipurpose Room • Library • Computer Classroom • Parking Lot • Playfields • Restrooms 	10.9	700 Nicklaus Street

Source: Paso Robles Park and Recreation Department, 2003.



Existing and Future City
Park and Recreation Facilities

Figure PR-A

2.0 RECREATION ISSUES

Parks and recreational resources are important to identify and evaluate because they provide an important measure of the physical quality of life in a community. Such resources enhance the City's aesthetic qualities, the health of the City's environment, and residents' perceptions and enjoyment of the City. Community parks are both recreation and open space resources, which can provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation, and can also include natural preserve areas.

In addition to traditional City parks, open space areas surrounding Paso Robles provide numerous recreational opportunities. This includes areas that serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations, such as bikeways and hiking and equestrian trails, and areas of outstanding scenic and cultural value. The Salinas River and Huerhuero Creek corridors provide an opportunity for active and passive recreation facilities including equestrian paths and other trails.

Lake San Antonio, Lake Nacimiento and Lake Santa Margarita provide recreational opportunities to the west and south of the City of Paso Robles. The State Department of Parks and Recreation has acquired several large properties in the County for open space preservation and recreational development. Other State and Federal Agencies have developed recreation facilities in connection with reservoirs. The U.S. Forest Service has developed camping and other recreation facilities in the National Forest.

Parks and recreation areas as well as scenic areas should be preserved for active, quiet and scenic function. Land that can be utilized for recreation purposes within the Paso Robles planning area and the surrounding hillsides should be protected either through direct acquisition, the dedication of easements, or by working with other agencies and jurisdictions to adopt policies and programs that will protect them from development. The Open Space Element encourages community involvement in the design and construction of new open space and recreational facilities.

