

CHAPTER 9

PARKS, RECREATION AND HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT



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GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The City of Carson is committed to expanding the recreational, cultural, and human services facilities and activities within the City by providing commercial recreational uses, affordable recreation opportunities, various services, and a variety of public and private recreational facilities. The City is also committed to promoting the assets associated with the diversity of the community by involving its citizens in a broad spectrum of cultural and recreational activities and programs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Parks, Recreation and Human Services Element is not a mandatory general plan element required by State planning law. This Element is included in the General Plan because the City has determined that there are six important issues relating to community recreation planning which must be addressed, specifically:

- A need for additional recreational facilities in the City;
- A need for enhanced safety and maintenance of the City's parks;
- A need to promote a variety of recreational and educational facilities for the development of the community's youth;
- A need to provide affordable recreational and cultural programs;



- A need for leisure services for seniors in the community, as the number of persons over the age of 50 continues to increase;
- A need for locally based cultural arts programs (i.e., theater, music, art, dance, etc.) to enrich community life; and
- A need to address the recreation and social needs of the community’s emotionally and physically challenged residents.

2.0 STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS

Although this is not a mandatory element required by State planning law, Government Code Section 65560(b)(3) stipulates that the General Plan address “...Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes...and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations, including utility easements...trails, and scenic highway corridors...”

In addition, Government Code Section 65303 states that local governments may adopt “...any other elements or address any other subjects which...relate to the physical development of the county or city.” Such “other” elements are called “optional” elements. Upon adoption, an optional element becomes an integral part of the general plan. It has the same force and effect as the mandatory elements and must be consistent with the other elements of the plan. In turn, zoning, subdivisions, public works, and specific plans must be consistent with all optional elements.

3.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

3.1 EXISTING PARKS

The City of Carson has 16 public parks, one County park (Victoria), and two public golf courses (Victoria Golf Course and Dominguez Golf Course). The Carson Community Center also provides recreation programs and meeting rooms for all residents. The total amount of recreational open space, listed above, in Carson is 354 acres. The total amount of public parkland, including County facilities but not Dominguez Golf Course, is 315 acres. This acreage also does not include public school athletic fields or commercial recreational facilities.

The City’s new target, for the ratio of public park acres to population, is four acres per 1,000 population. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the City’s population is 89,730 persons. Therefore, the current ratio of park acres to population is approximately 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents, but only 1.72 acres per 1,000 residents if only City facilities are included.



Table P-1, *City Parks and Recreational Facilities*, and Exhibit P-1, *Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities*, identify the parks within the City; Table P-1 also lists the major recreational facilities provided at each park.

CLASSIFICATION OF PARK TYPES

There are three types of parks in the City of Carson: Regional Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Mini Parks. In addition, there is a community center. These are described below.

- Regional Parks. A regional park is designed to serve the active and passive recreational needs of the community and surrounding area. These parks are located on or near arterial roadways so as to be easily accessible via automobile, foot, or bicycle. The one regional park in the City, Victoria Park, is a County facility consisting of 36 acres. The park includes ball fields, basketball courts, a swimming pool, a gymnasium, tennis courts, play area, a recreation building, and a picnic area.
- Neighborhood Parks. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve one neighborhood or group of neighborhoods, and are located within walking or biking distance. These parks provide a wide range of both passive and active recreational opportunities. There are 12 neighborhood parks in the City, ranging in size from 3.4 to 12 acres. Facilities vary at each park, but typically include ball fields, basketball courts, children’s play areas, and picnic areas.
- Mini Parks. Mini parks are small parks serving a limited area, often where land is not available for a neighborhood facility. These parks generally include children’s play areas and picnic areas. The two existing mini parks in Carson include Friendship Mini Park and Walnut Street Mini Park. In addition, improvements to the Perry Street at Perry and 215th Streets, were in the planning stage at adoption of this Element and Bonita Street Mini Park is still on the drawing table.
- Community Center. The Carson Community Center is located in the Civic Center complex on twelve acres. It contains a 73,000 square-foot building that is undergoing a 5,400 square-foot expansion. The Center includes facilities for seniors and child care as well as meeting/craft rooms.

3.2 OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

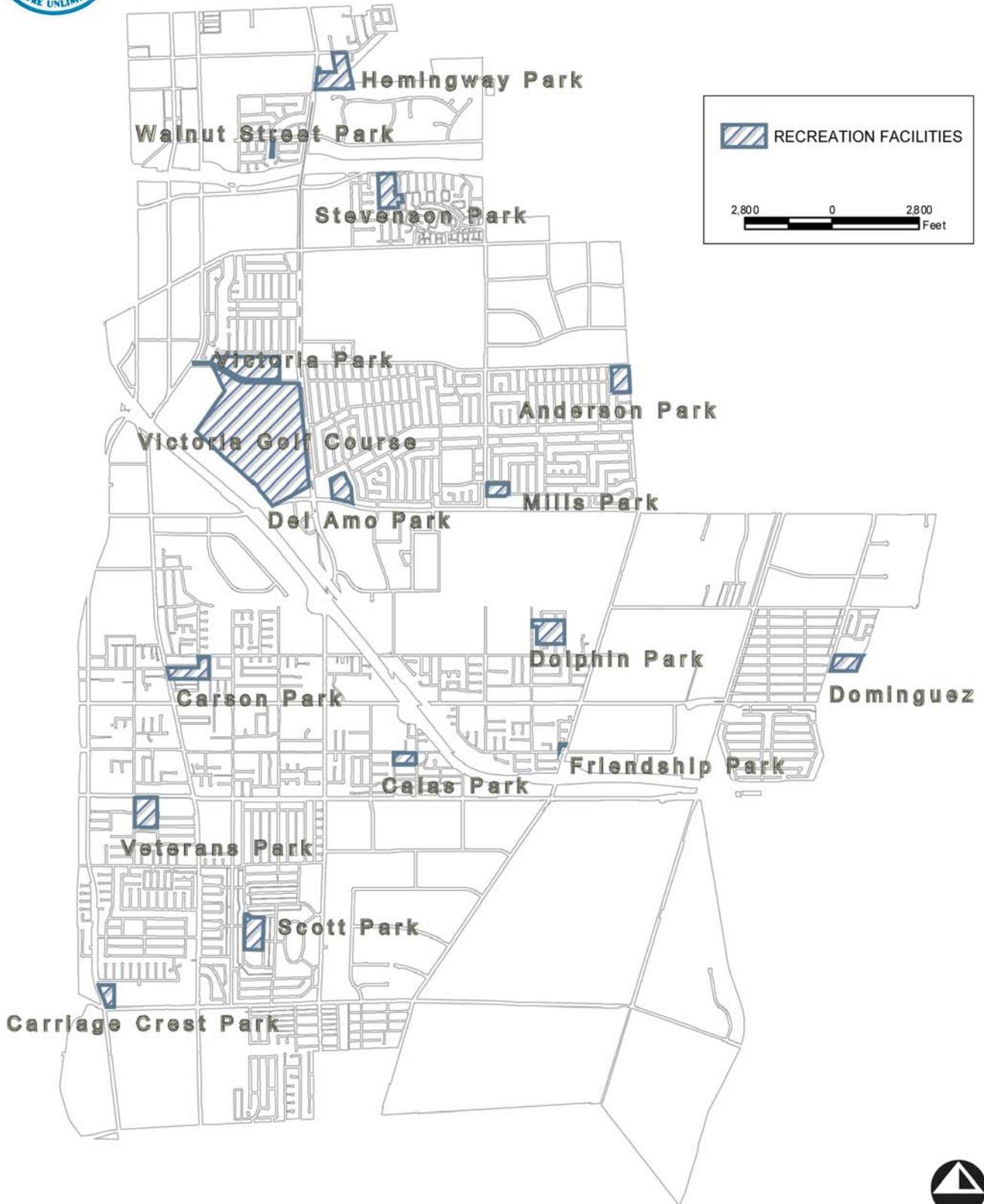
In addition to the parks identified in Table P-1, there are other open space uses in Carson that are suitable for recreational purposes. These include the Dominguez Golf Course and the playfields at the City’s public schools:

- Dominguez Golf Course is a 39.2-acre, privately owned and operated par 3 golf course, which is open to the public. Since this property is privately owned and is designated as General Commercial on the General Plan Land Use Map, it may eventually be replaced by commercial development or recreational open space.



**Table P-1
City Parks and Recreational Facilities**

| Name/Location | Improvements |
|--|--|
| Anderson Park 19101 S. Wilmington Avenue | 8.5 acres: basketball courts, children's play area, Frisbee golf course, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, tennis courts. |
| Bonita Street Mini-Park | 1.73 acres; improvements included in Capital Improvement Plan. |
| Calas Park 1000 W. 220 th Street | 8.7 acres: ball field, basketball courts, children's play area, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar, tennis courts, wading pools. |
| Carriage Crest Park 23800 S. Figueroa Street | 3.4 acres: ball fields, basketball court, children's play area, meeting/craft room, picnic areas, snack bar 0.25-acre expansion was completed in May 2002. |
| Carson Community Center 3 Civic Plaza Drive | 12.0 acres: 73,000 sq. ft.: 26 meeting/craft rooms. 5400 sq.ft. expansion planned that will include a new senior hall and two new early childhood classrooms. |
| Carson Park and Pool 21411 S. Orrick Avenue 21436 S. Main Street | 10.9 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, children's play area, football field, horse-shoes, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar, soccer field, volleyball courts, swimming pool. |
| Del Amo Park 703 E. Del Amo Boulevard | 9.5 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, children's play area, football field, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar. |
| Dolphin Park and Pool 21205 Water Street | 11.8 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, children's play area, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar, tennis courts, volleyball courts, wading pools. |
| Dominguez Park and Pool 21330 Santa Fe Avenue | 9 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, children's play area, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar, tennis courts, swimming pool. Water feature area is being planned. |
| Friendship Mini Park 21930 S. Water Street | 0.3 acres: children's play area, picnic areas. |
| Hemingway Park 700 E. Gardena Boulevard | 13 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, children's play area, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar, tennis courts. |
| Mills Park 700 E. Gardena Boulevard | 5 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, children's play area, football field, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar, soccer field, tennis courts. |
| Perry Street Mini-Park | 1.16 acres; agreement with owner to transfer property to City. |
| Scott Park and Pool 23410 Catskill Avenue | 11.2 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, boxing equipment, children's play area, gymnasium, horse-shoes, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar, tennis courts, volleyball courts, wading pools, swimming pool, boxing center. |
| Stevenson Park 17400 Lysander Drive | 11.7 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, children's play area, horse-shoes, meeting/craft rooms, picnic areas, snack bar, tennis courts, volleyball courts, wading pools. Gymnasium is planned. |
| Walnut Street Mini Park 440 E. Walnut Street | 1.5 acres: basketball courts, children's play area, picnic areas. |
| Veterans Sports Complex and Skate Park 22400 Moneta Avenue | 12.6 acres; ball fields, basketball courts, children's play area, horse-shoes, meeting/craft rooms, snack bar, tennis courts, wading pools. 25,000 sq. ft. building with basketball courts, gymnasium, volleyball courts, fitness center, racquetball courts. Skate Park is planned. |
| Non-City Recreational Facilities Located in Carson: | |
| Victoria Park (County) 419 E. 192 nd Street | 36 acres: ball fields, basketball courts, swimming pool, gymnasium, tennis courts, play area, recreation building, picnic area. |
| Victoria Golf Course (County) 340 East 192 nd Street | 161.6 acres: public regulation golf course. |
| Dominguez Golf Course 19800 South Main Street | 39.2 acres: 18-hole, par 3 golf course with two tier driving range. |



Source: GIS Data, City of Carson, October 2002
OCTOBER 22, 2002

Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities



- There are 546.1 acres of public schools in the Carson with recreational facilities on site. At this time, the City has a Joint Use Agreement with the School District for two of the schools in Carson: Carson High School and Caroldale Elementary School. This agreement provides for joint use of playfields, tennis courts, and other recreational facilities by students and residents during off-school hours.

Of the 546.1 acres of public schools, 349.2 acres are within the Cal State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) campus. There are approximately 40 acres on the campus which are currently developed with recreational facilities, including: a large multi-purpose soccer field, 12 tennis courts, track and field facilities, baseball and softball fields, The Toro Dome gymnasium, and an inline roller rink.

3.3 PROPOSED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

National Training Center at CSUDH. In June of 2001 a major expansion of recreational facilities, the National Training Center, was approved at CSUDH. The National Training Center complex consists of development in two locations -- the project site and the campus improvement area. The project site consists of approximately 85 acres of undeveloped property that will include construction of two adjacent stadiums (a soccer stadium with seating from 20,000 to 27,000 and a tennis stadium with seating from 8,000 to 13,000), along with other support facilities and parking.

The campus improvement area is about 40 acres and includes upgrades to existing campus facilities such as soccer fields, tennis courts, track and field facilities, relocated baseball and softball fields, a relocated velodrome, surface parking and a relocated inline roller hockey rink.

A three-mile jogging trail with fitness stations will be built around the perimeter of the NTC. Some of the proposed facilities may be utilized by various professional or amateur athletes and teams. Others will be programmed for ongoing CSUDH and community programs.

City-Proposed Mini Park. The City is planning a new mini park, to be located south of Sepulveda Blvd. within the utility transmission corridor.

3.4 BICYCLE TRAIL SYSTEM

Bicycle trails are described in three classifications:

- Class I bikeways (bike paths) are off-street facilities with exclusive right-of-way, serving bicycles and pedestrians only.
- Class II bikeways (bike lanes), are for preferential use by bicycles and are established within the paved area of roadways.



- Class III bikeways (bike routes) are shared facilities with motor vehicles on the street, with bicycle use as a secondary use.

Information regarding the Bicycle Plan can be found in Chapter 4, Transportation and Infrastructure Element of this General Plan.

3.5 RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

In addition to the facilities discussed above, the City of Carson provides a wide variety of recreation and community services, from general services and programs, to children and youth services, senior services and facilities, and special interest services/facilities. These are described below.

GENERAL SERVICES/PROGRAMS

Classes. The Parks and Recreation Department offers a number of classes to meet the needs and interests of the community, including, but not limited to: computer workshops, languages, child care, safety instruction, exercise classes, and arts and crafts classes.

Adult Sports. The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of leagues and tournaments for adults in various activities such as softball, flag football, and golf.

Boxing/Weightlifting. Many levels of boxing and weightlifting classes are offered to children, youth and adults at Scott Park. The City also coordinates annual boxing exhibitions to display the skill of the boxers using the program.

Park Activities. In addition to the facilities and equipment available at Carson's parks, a variety of special activities are also offered including: cultural celebrations like Cinco de Mayo and June tenth; annual holiday parties; and camping trips.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

Early Childhood. The preschool curriculum for children ages three to five is designed to encourage child development at all levels, and includes a variety of school readiness skills, creative experiences, psychomotor skills, and social interaction.

Kids Club. This program focuses on children with working parents, offering both before- and after-school activities. Daily schedules include educational activities such as homework and tutoring; group activities revolving around home safety; drug and alcohol awareness; survival skills for children home alone; and recreational activities.

Teen Activities. The City organizes monthly Teen Summits at City parks, featuring "rap sessions" focusing on positive topics, group games, group sports, skits and refreshments. Teen dances are held regularly, rotating among the City park facilities. A Teen Conference is held annually in order to identify popular teen



topics, and discuss pressures teenagers are facing and provide positive ideas to deal with them.

3.6 HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

SENIOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The Senior Social Services Section provides services that protect and improve the socio economic conditions of the elderly through the provision of direct social and recreational services. The services include: information and referral; senior assisted living services that include homemaking; visiting and in-home registry, physical and emotional therapy for stroke victims; case management/crisis intervention; senior advocacy; and comprehensive educational and recreational programs. There are also Senior Clubs that are co-sponsored by the City, yet operate independently.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Special Needs Recreation. These programs are designed to meet the basic recreational, social and physical fitness needs of Carson's adult disabled population groups, including the physically and sensory disabled and the developmentally disabled.

Special Interest Classes. The City's Community Services Section offers special interest classes to the residents in and around the City of Carson. The needs and interests of the community determine the type of classes offered. Subject areas include computer training, exercise, dance, personal enrichment, self-improvement, arts and crafts, educational classes, and workshops, among others. Classes are facilitated by independent contractors, and are offered at convenient locations throughout the City, including Carson Community Center and local parks.

Additional information relating to recreational programs in Carson can be found in the Existing Conditions Report, Section 3.12, Parks and Recreation.

3.7 FINE ARTS

There are many opportunities to enjoy or participate in fine arts and performing arts in the City. Through the City's Community Services Section, the City funds many individuals and groups to provide art, dance and music exhibitions and performances to the community. For example, the Carson Dominguez Hills Symphony Orchestra offers professional music performances. The Carson Civic Light Opera performs with school children in the local schools. The Friends of the Art of Dance, the Apollo Players and the Asociacion Cultural de Carson work exclusively with children in dance, drama and the teaching of musical instruments. The Carson Art Association presents monthly workshops with visiting artists. The Carson Chorale and the Filipina Chorale have performances throughout the year. Annual cultural dance and music productions are held in the form of the Martin Luther King Celebration, the Asian Pacific Celebration and the Mariachi Festival.



In addition, the City coordinates excursions for residents to art museums, plays and concerts to promote fine art and the performing arts.

3.8 LIBRARY FACILITIES

The City of Carson is served by the County of Los Angeles Public Library system. Two facilities are located in Carson, the Carson and Victoria Park libraries. The service areas for the two libraries have a population of more than 116,000. The circulation of materials has steadily increased in the Carson Library, and remained stable in the Victoria Park Library.

The planning standard for the Los Angeles County Library system is 3.09 persons per household, 3.0 library materials items per capita, and 0.5 gross square feet per capita. Currently, the community is underserved in terms of facility size and library materials items. There are no plans for library expansion by the County. In addition, during times of budgetary cuts, library operations funding is often reduced.

3.9 SCHOOL FACILITIES

The City of Carson is served by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Compton Unified School District (CUSD). LAUSD has 14 elementary schools, five middle schools, and six high schools that serve the general Carson area. CUSD has one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school serving the northern edge of the City. The schools located within the City boundaries are shown on Exhibit LU-1.

In addition to public schools, the City also contains two parochial schools (Peninsula Christian and St. Philomena Catholic), an adult school, and the California State University Dominguez Hills campus.

School population growth projected to 2020 would be generated by an estimated 2,142 new dwelling units plus natural growth. The Final Environmental Impact Report prepared for this General Plan includes detailed analyses of projections, school capacities, and classroom needs at the various grade levels. Generally, there are three schools serving Carson with enrollment either at or over capacity, and several other facilities are nearing capacity.

The use of school impact fees, collected under the provisions of State law, supply the funding necessary to add classrooms as required, and are deemed to fully mitigate impacts. In addition, LAUSD is currently planning the use of State bond funds to repair aging classrooms and build new neighborhood schools.

4.0 PLANNING ISSUES, GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The acronyms listed below are used for the implementation measures:

- RA/D: Responsible Agency/Division
- FS: Funding Source
- TF: Time Frame



ISSUE: ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

There is a need for additional recreational facilities in Carson. Such facilities include theaters, bowling alleys, batting cages, and other forms of family recreation, as well as cultural facilities such as a museum, art gallery, amphitheater, performing arts center, and similar facilities.

Goal: P-1: Increase of and improvements to park, recreational and cultural facilities to meet the needs of existing and future residents and workers in the City.

Policies: P-1.1 Acquire additional parkland in accordance with long-term planning efforts, such as this General Plan and the City’s Capital Improvement Program.

P-1.2 Work with local governmental and educational agencies and departments to maintain and, wherever feasible, expand the joint use of facilities within the City.

P-1.3 Promote greater cooperation and coordination with other City departments and public agencies, and encourage the construction of new park and human services facilities in developed areas of Carson as infill development occurs.

P-1.4 Develop non-traditional approaches to providing supplementary services and programs in areas where there are facility deficiencies.

P-1.5 Provide access to existing and future recreational facilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Implementation Measures:

P-IM-1.1 Develop a Master Plan of Parks and Recreational Facilities to be periodically reviewed and updated. This Master Plan should at a minimum address facility needs, maintenance, park utilization, potential funding sources, and similar items. *(Implements P-1.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund
TF: Within two years, to be updated every five years

P-IM-1.2 To facilitate the acquisition of additional parkland: determine the amount of new acreage which should be acquired for parks, the locations of future parks (to include utility transmission corridors and former landfills) and the types of facilities at those locations;



develop a parks acquisition schedule and identify the appropriate sources of financing for land acquisition; and, with the acquisition of new park land, determine the needed level for operations and maintenance funding .
(Implements P-1.1)

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund, Development Fees, State and Federal Funds/Grants
TF: Within two years

P-IM-1.3 Explore opportunities to provide funding through City park bond issues, assessment districts, incremental financing, redevelopment, development agreements, and similar techniques. *(Implements P-1.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund until such time that other funding sources are identified
TF: Ongoing

P-IM-1.4 Estimate and consider implementing user fees as appropriate at new recreational facilities in order to offset the development of such facilities. *(Implements P-1.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund, and if deemed appropriate, User Fees
TF: Within two years

P-IM-1.5 Include parkland acquisition in the City’s capital improvement program. *(Implements P-1.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: Capital Improvement Program
TF: Ongoing

P-IM-1.6 Update the City’s Quimby Act implementation provisions requiring the dedication of land and/or the payment of in-lieu fees based on the City’s parks to population ratio. *(Implements P-1.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Planning and Environmental Services
FS: Development Fees
TF: Ongoing



- P-IM-1.7 Pursue State and Federal funding sources to acquire park facilities in addition to those dedicated to the City. To this end, monitor State and Federal legislation offering funding assistance to local government in the provision of parklands. *(Implements P-1.1)*
- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation
FS: State and Federal Funds/Grants
TF: Ongoing
- P-IM-1.8 Coordinate with County Departments to maintain and, wherever feasible, expand the joint use of facilities within the City. *(Implements P-1.2)*
- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund, Regional, State and Federal Funds/Grants
TF: Ongoing
- P-IM-1.9 Pursue the joint use of recreational facilities at the Cal State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) campus. *(Implements P-1.2)*
- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund, Regional, State and Federal Funds/Grants
TF: Ongoing
- P-IM-1.10 Pursue the joint use of recreational facilities at the public schools in Carson. *(Implements P-1.2)*
- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund
TF: Ongoing
- P-IM-1.11 Establish parkland requirements in the City’s Five Year Redevelopment Plans. *(Implements P-1.3)*
- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation, Redevelopment
FS: Redevelopment
TF: Ongoing
- P-IM-1.12 Include parkland requirements, on-site, off-site, or in lieu monetary contributions in all development agreements. *(Implements P-1.3)*
- RA/D:** Planning and Environmental
FS: Development Fees
TF: Ongoing



P-IM-1.13 Examine the potential to provide mobile programs, storefront operations, street events, etc. (*Implements P-1.4*)

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund, Development Fees, State and Federal Grants/Programs
TF: Ongoing

P-IM-1.14 Ensure that all new recreation facilities and alterations to existing facilities conform to the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (*Implements P-1.5*)

RA/D: Public Works, Planning and Environmental Services
FS: General Fund, Developer, Property Owner
TF: Ongoing



ISSUE: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The use of volunteers to implement certain recreational and human services programs may offset increased costs in other areas. The increased participation of volunteers may also serve to better educate the community regarding the cultural diversity of Carson's residents.

Goal: P-2: Active citizen involvement to establish and achieve community goals.

Policies: P-2.1 Continue to support the efforts of Carson's civic and social service organizations.

P-2.2 Recognize the individuals, organizations, and agencies who have made a contribution to community life in Carson.

P-2.3 Continue to develop a program by which volunteers are solicited to assist in recreational and human services programs and then recognized.

P-2.4 Encourage volunteerism and create a greater sense of stewardship for parks within each neighborhood and community through active public involvement programs.

Implementation Measures:

P-IM-2.1 Provide matching services and space in City publications for charitable organization to advertise the skills and



services needed for volunteer activities. (*Implements PRC-2.1*)

RA/D: Public Information, Information Services
FS: General Fund
TF: Ongoing

P-IM-2.2 Work with Cal State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) and other nearby colleges and universities to attract student interns to assist in appropriate programs in the community. (*Implements PRC-2.1 and PRC-2.3*)

RA/D: Public Information, Information Services
FS: General Fund
TF: Ongoing

P-IM-2.3 Develop a program to honor citizen support. Such a program may include: articles of appreciation in newspapers; recognition on local cable television; an “Appreciation” lunch or dinner; recognition by the City Council at public meetings; invitations to, and recognition at, special events within the community; “Appreciation Month” at City Hall; utilization and/or expansion of existing community recognition programs (e.g., Chamber of Commerce recognition programs); issuance of plaques and certificates, etc. (*Implements PRC-2.1, PRC-2.2 and PRC-2.3*)

RA/D: Public Information, Information Services
FS: General Fund
TF: Ongoing, with aspects of program conducted on an annual basis

P-IM-2.4 Further develop the program by which volunteers are solicited to assist in recreational programs and then recognized. To this end, work with private dance companies/studios, athletic clubs, karate studios, restaurants and caterers, music studios, and other appropriate entities to expand existing course offerings and/or offset costs. Also, recruit personnel through seniors organizations, and local colleges and universities, as appropriate. (*Implements PRC-2.3, PRC-2.4*)

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Public Information, Information Services
FS: General Fund
TF: Ongoing



P-IM-2.5 Establish an active partnership with private sector agencies and groups to encourage support for parks and recreational facilities, community service programs, and expand the number of events through joint use public/private sponsorship. *(Implements PRC-2.3 and PRC-2.4)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Senior Services, Community Services, Public Information, Information Services

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-2.6 Explore programs such as: “Kids for Parks,” public meetings, “Adopt a Park” programs, booster clubs, and volunteer projects (i.e., community service hours for high school students, scout programs, etc.). And implement these programs as feasible and appropriate. *(Implements PRC-2.4)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Public Information, Information Services

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing



ISSUE: SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE OF CARSON PARKS

The safety of the City’s parks is especially important within the community.

Goal: P-3: Improved safety in the City’s parks.

Policies: P-3.1 Continue to work with the Sheriff’s Department in designing park improvements which facilitate effective police surveillance and protection. Continue the Park Safety meetings with Park staff, Sheriff Department personnel, and City Public Safety staff that share park safety issues and solutions.

P-3.2 Continue to support citizen programs that fight crime and promote citizen involvement, such as “Neighborhood Watch”, DARE, “Adopt-A-Park”, and like programs.

P-3.3 Continue to explore, design, and implement vandalism reduction strategies at park and recreation facilities in the City.



Implementation Measures:

P-IM-3.1 Examine the feasibility of sheriff bicycle patrols in the City's parks. *(Implements P-3.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

FS: General Fund

TF: Within two years

P-IM-3.2 Incorporate the principles of defensible space design into the City's parks to enhance public safety (e.g., security lighting, visual observation of open spaces, secured areas, unobtrusive landscaping, etc.). *(Implements P-3.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Planning and Environmental

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-3.3 Develop a Park Ranger Program. *(Implements P-3.3)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-3.4 Continue implementation of the graffiti removal program to eliminate all traces of graffiti. Utilize design deterrents to discourage graffiti. *(Implements PRC-3.3)*

RA/D: Landscape and Building Maintenance

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-3.5 Schedule after-school and weekend recreational programs in Carson parks in order to offer constructive alternatives in place of undesirable activities. *(Implements PRC-3.3)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing

Goal: P-4: Enhanced maintenance and rehabilitation of existing park and recreational facilities.



- Policies:**
- P-4.1 Inventory existing parks and recreational facilities to determine rehabilitation needs through a periodic monitoring program.
 - P-4.2 Plan fiscally responsible rehabilitation and maintenance strategies which enhance the amenity and usability of existing parks.
 - P-4.3 Require park improvements and facilities that are durable and economical to maintain.

See also Policies PRC-2.1 through PRC-2.4.

Implementation Measures:

- P-IM-4.1 Develop a long-range plan for rehabilitation and upgrade of existing parks, and establish criteria to determine priorities for funding. Incorporate this plan into the overall Master Plan. *(Implements P-4.1 and P-4.2)*
 - RA/D:** Parks and Recreation
 - FS:** General Fund
 - TF:** Within two years

- P-IM-4.2 Renovate/redesign existing facilities to accommodate multi-uses, and identify what resources should be allocated to this redesign function and where needed resources will come from to redesign parks. This should include the provision of more night-lighted improvements at existing parks and schools (sited so as not to intrude in residential neighborhoods) and by the management of the use of athletic facilities to ensure an equitable distribution of athletic fields to all users. *(Implements P-4.2)*
 - RA/D:** Parks and Recreation
 - FS:** General Fund
 - TF:** Ongoing

- P-IM-4.3 Pursue all possible methods to generate revenue for the maintenance and rehabilitation of parks, such as commercial leasing, user fees, and other available private and public funding sources. *(Implements P-4.2)*
 - RA/D:** Parks and Recreation
 - FS:** Commercial leasing, user fees, and other available private and public funding sources
 - TF:** Ongoing



P-IM-4.4 Require maintenance and rehabilitation of all private neighborhood parks by the responsible homeowners association(s) through a recorded agreement requiring the perpetual private ownership and maintenance of these parks. *(Implements P-4.2)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: Homeowners Association(s)
TF: Ongoing

P-IM-4.5 Emphasize low maintenance and resource conservation in the design and construction of all new and rehabilitated facilities. *(Implements P-4.2 and P-4.3)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: General Fund, Development Fees
TF: Ongoing



ISSUE: AFFORDABILITY OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

It is important that recreational and cultural programs are affordable and that the City is proactive in developing more affordable recreational opportunities.

Goal: P-5: Recreational programs affordable to all income segments of the Carson population.

Policies: P-5.1 Pursue innovative methods, such as the use of volunteers (see Issue 4.2 of this Element) grants, and private sponsorship, to improve the affordability of recreational programs for residents of the City.

Implementation Measures:

P-IM-5.1 Pursue all potential methods of generating revenues for recreational and cultural programs, such as user fees (based on ability to pay), program underwriters, state and federal grants, and other available private and public funding sources. *(Implements P-5.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Community Services
FS: General Fund, User Fees, Program Underwriters, State and Federal Grants, and other available private and public funding sources
TF: Ongoing





ISSUE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARSON'S COMMUNITY CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Child care facilities are necessary to meet the needs of working families.

Goal: P-6: Quality public and private child care facilities throughout the community.

- Policies:**
- P-6.1 Expand the supply of quality child care in Carson.
 - P-6.2 Explore opportunities for the provision of child care for children of low income families and those with special needs.
 - P-6.3 Provide information to the Carson community on the family care resources offered to City residents.

Implementation Measures:

P-IM-6.1 Institute procedures to facilitate permits or entitlements for child care centers and/or projects which include childcare facilities. Also, encourage the provision of daycare centers by major employers in the City and in areas of large concentrations of businesses. *(Implements PRC-6.1)*

- RA/D:** Business Licenses, Planning and Environmental Services
- FS:** General Fund, Development Fees
- TF:** Ongoing

P-IM-6.2 Develop incentive programs to promote the inclusion of childcare facilities within development projects. Incentive programs may include, but are not limited to: fee waivers, density bonuses, and floor-to-area ratio (FAR) bonuses. *(Implements PRC-6.1)*

- RA/D:** Planning and Environmental Services
- FS:** General Fund, Development Fees
- TF:** Ongoing

P-IM-6.3 Explore the feasibility of converting City owned buildings that are underutilized or vacant into privately managed, not-for-profit, childcare facilities. *(Implements PRC-6.1)*

- RA/D:** Planning and Environmental Services
- FS:** General Fund
- TF:** Ongoing



P-IM-6.4 Support public and private organizations in the provision of after school care programs. To this end:

- Encourage the School District to expand its after school care program by offering before and after school programs in both elementary and junior high schools.
- Outreach to family daycare centers to expand child care services for elementary and junior high school children.
- Explore options for transporting children between home, school, and child care centers. *(Implements PRC-6.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Planning and Environmental Services

FS: General Fund, Development Fees

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-6.5 Schedule educational programs for child care providers on local cable TV channels, with program taping, coordination and presentations provided by the local network as partial fulfillment of its community service obligation. *(Implements PRC-6.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Public Information, Information Services, Local Cable Channel

FS: General Fund, Development Fees

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-6.6 Encourage the School District and the City's childcare providers to expand tutoring programs to benefit the youth of Carson. *(Implements PRC-6.1)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, School District

FS: School District, Childcare Providers

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-6.7 Examine the feasibility of allocating funds for the construction of child care facilities in or near areas of low income housing. *(Implements PRC-6.2)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Planning and Environmental Services

FS: Development Fees, Community Development Block Grant Funds, Bonds, or Other Funding Sources

TF: Ongoing



P-IM-6.8 Support childcare programs (e.g., volunteer at child care centers, “Adopt a Grandparent” programs, etc.). Work with senior citizen groups to generate senior citizen participation in these programs. *(Implements PRC-6.2 and PRC-6.3)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation, Public Information, Information Services
FS: General Fund
TF: Ongoing

P-IM-6.9 Support programs such as Head Start and examine the potential to expand these facilities. *(Implements PRC-6.2 and PRC-6.3)*

RA/D: Parks and Recreation
FS: Federal Funds/Grants
TF: Ongoing

P-IM-6.10 Prepare a pamphlet, updated annually, which identifies family care resources within the City of Carson. Information in the pamphlet may include: types of programs available, accreditation information, location, hours of operation, etc. Include the information on the City’s website. *(Implements PRC-6.3)*

RA/D: Public Information, Information Services
FS: General Fund, State and Federal Funds/Grants
TF: Within one year, and then updated annually



ISSUE: HUMAN RELATIONS

The cultural and socio-economic diversity of Carson’s citizens should be promoted to maintain harmony, promote collaborative understanding, and enhance the richness of the community.

Goal: P-7: Promotion of relationships and understanding between all racial, ethnic, social, and other groups within the community.

- Policies:**
- P-7.1 Encourage and promote a citywide Unity Day.
 - P-7.2 In conjunction with the schools, support and expand activities representative of City residents’ diversity.
 - P-7.3 Support and enhance the Sister City relationships.



P-7.4 Utilize appropriate City recreational and cultural programs to increase cross-cultural experiences among residents.

Implementation Measures:

P-IM-7.1 Work with the School District to further the goals of Unity Day, and examine methods by which to enhance and/or expand this important program, such as inclusion of civic organizations, churches and private businesses. *(Implements P-7.1 and P-7.2)*

- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation, Public Information, Information services, School District
- FS:** General Fund, School District, and/or Other Private Funding Sources
- TF:** Ongoing/Annual Event

P-IM-7.2 Offer multi-cultural programs, integrating games, theater, music and other activities representative of City residents' ethnicity. *(Implements P-7.3 and P-7.4)*

- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation, Community Services, Public Information, Information Services, Chambers of Commerce
- FS:** General Fund, Chambers of Commerce, and/or Other Private Funding Sources
- TF:** Ongoing

P-IM-7.3 Support community festivals, parades, fairs, and other events to celebrate the presence of various ethnic groups within the City. Events could include such activities as displays of homeland costumes, dancing, food, games, and music. *(Implements P-7.3 and P-7.4)*

- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation, Community Services, Public Information, Information Services, Chambers of Commerce
- FS:** General Fund, Chambers of Commerce, and/or Other Private Funding Sources
- TF:** Ongoing

P-IM-7.4 Publicize Sister City events, visits and activities. *(Implements P-7.3)*

- RA/D:** Parks and Recreation, Public Information, Information Services
- FS:** General Fund
- TF:** Ongoing





ISSUE: PROMOTION OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

There is a desire for theaters, museums, galleries, and similar uses in the City. Emphasis should be placed on the diversity of the community by involving its citizens in a broad spectrum of cultural programs. In addition, the City should promote historic landmarks, resources and activities related to the history of Carson.

Goal: P-8: Support of fine, performing and cultural arts programs in the City.

- Policies:**
- P-8.1 Expand the fine and cultural arts in the City’s K-12 schools.
 - P-8.2 Develop a formal relationship between the City and Cal State University Dominguez Hills to improve relationships, provide enrichment to area residents and businesses, and enhance the identity of the Carson community.
 - P-8.3 Promote local and regional participation in the City’s cultural and social activities such as art exhibitions, and musical and theatrical productions.

Implementation Measures:

- P-IM-8.1 Expand fine arts programs. *(Implements P-8.1)*
 - RA/D:** Community Services, City Managers’ Office, Public Information, Information Services, School District
 - FS:** General Fund
 - TF:** Ongoing
- P-IM-8.2 The Fine Arts and Historical Commission should:
 - Prepare an annual report for the City Council on the arts in Carson,
 - Recommend priorities in funding for local cultural arts organizations to City Council, forwarding these recommendations to other service organizations,
 - Diversify cultural programs to include the arts of other lands represented within Carson’s population, and
 - Investigate funding and promotional opportunities for cultural arts in Carson. *(Implements P-8.1)*



RA/D: Fine Arts and Historical Commission, Community Services, Public Information, Information Services

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-8.2 Enhance the community’s relationship with the Music and Theater and Arts Departments at Cal State University Dominguez Hills to enrich, and provide mutual benefit to, both the educational community and the Carson community in general. *(Implements P-8.2 and 8.3)*

RA/D: Community Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Information, Information Services

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing



ISSUE: PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

It is important to protect and preserve historical resources in the City.

Goal: P-9: Protection of historic resources within the City.

Policies: P-9.1 Promote the preservation of historic resources in the City through the Fine Arts and Historical Commission.

P-9.2 Coordinate with the Departments of History and Anthropology at Cal State University Dominguez Hills in order to mutually enrich both the educational and general communities.

P-9.3 Create an oral history program that would archive the City’s history from long time Carson residents.

Implementation Measures:

P-IM-9.1 Encourage the Fine Arts and Historical Commission to work with local historic societies and CSUDH to preserve important historic resources. To this end, work with the City’s Public Information Office to promote local and regional historic resources. *(Implements P-9.1, P-9.2 and P-9.3)*

RA/D: Fine Arts and Historical Commission, Community Services, CSUDH Departments of



History and Anthropology, Public Information, Information Services

FS: General Fund, CSUDH

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-9.2 Encourage all development or redevelopment occurring in areas identified as a potential historic archaeological site to be surveyed for historic archaeological resources prior to initiation of site preparation for development. *(Implements P-9.1)*

RA/D: Planning and Environmental Services

FS: Developers

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-9.3 Ensure that documentation of all historic archaeological surveys conducted in the City of Carson be provided to the Planning and Environmental Services Division. *(Implements P-9.1)*

RA/D: Planning and Environmental Services

FS: Developers

TF: Ongoing



ISSUE: SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The number of persons over the age of 50 is increasing significantly in the City. It is important to consider this growing segment of the population in future planning.

Goal: P-10: Enhance services available to the senior citizens of Carson.

Policies: P-10.1 Administer and, wherever feasible, expand programs designed to meet the recreational, social, physical and economic needs of the City’s senior citizens.

P-10.2 Review the City’s hiring policies to ensure against age discrimination bias.

P-10.3 Advocate for more senior housing and better transportation options.

Implementation Measures:

P-IM-10.1 Complete current assessment and periodically conduct needs assessments for senior citizens and explore opportunities to provide services, such as a mobile library and arts and crafts, at retirement homes, mobile home



parks, and/or seniors housing complexes. *(Implements P-10.1)*

RA/D: Senior Social Services, Public Information, Information Services

FS: General Fund

TF: Annually

P-IM-10.2 Support public programs such as Meals on Wheels, Shared Housing, and other such services. *(Implements P-10.1 and P-10.3)*

RA/D: Senior Social Services, Public Information, Information Services

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-10.3 Assist the private sector in providing professional counseling services to senior citizens seeking advice on Social Security, health care, insurance, housing, annuities, pensions, and other private and public programs providing benefits and/or services to seniors. *(Implements P-10.1)*

RA/D: Senior Social Services, Public Information, Information Services

FS: General Fund, private sector funds

TF: Ongoing

P-IM-10.4 Review the City’s hiring policies to ensure against age discrimination bias. *(Implements P-10.2)*

RA/D: Employment Services, City Attorney, Senior Social Services

FS: General Fund

TF: Annually



ISSUE: LIBRARY FACILITIES

The City of Carson is underserved with library facilities and services.

Goal: P-11: Improve library facilities and services for the citizens of Carson.

Policies: P-11.1 Determine the projected need for library facilities and services.



- P-11.2 Investigate the most effective way to provide for the needs of the City.
- P-11.3 Implement plans for improved library service.

Implementation Measures:

- P-IM-11.1 Work with Los Angeles County or separately to prepare a needs assessment for Carson library use. *(Implements P-11.1)*

RA/D: City Manager, Los Angeles County Librarian
FS: General Fund
TF: 2004-05

- P-IM-11.2 Prepare a feasibility study of alternative solutions to providing additional library facilities and services. *(Implements P-11.2)*

RA/D: City Manager, Los Angeles County Librarian (if appropriate)
FS: General Fund
TF: 2005-06

- P-IM-11.3 Determine and implement the appropriate solution. *(Implements P-11.3)*

RA/D: City Council
FS: Bonds, Grants
TF: 2006-07



ISSUE: SCHOOL FACILITIES

There will be some growth of school populations in the City that need appropriate facilities and current boundaries require adjustment to provide the optimum geographic proximity.

Goal: P-12: Encourage the school districts to provide enhanced school facilities to serve the youth of Carson.

Policies: P-12.1 Work with the school districts to determine the projected need for school facilities and services.

P-12.2 Work with the school districts to appropriately alter boundaries as necessary to provide good school facilities in close proximity to the residential population served.



Implementation Measures:

P-IM-12.1 Provide staff support and encourage the residents of Carson to be involved in school district planning.
(Implements P-12.1 and P-12.2)

RA/D: Planning, Public Information Officer

FS: General Fund

TF: Ongoing

