

Envisioned as a decision making guide through the year 2020, the Park and Recreation Master Plan Update is a comprehensive report addressing the adequacy of Riverside's park and recreation facilities, as well as future needs and opportunities. This report also addresses the Trails Master Plan and makes recommendations to the trails system as it pertains to park, recreation and open space connections. The Master Plan will also serve as a resource for the update of the City's Park, Recreation and Open Space elements of the General Plan. The General Plan update is slated to begin in the year 2003.

1. Vital Roles of Parks for the City of Riverside

1.1 Open Space and Habitat

Riverside's setting among the surrounding open spaces provides a visual backdrop that greatly adds to the overall aesthetic visual quality of the City. Rocky hills, the Santa Ana River, arroyos and citrus groves also serve as natural city boundaries that buffer Riverside from adjoining communities and reinforce a unique sense of place. Preservation of these open spaces not only inhibits costly development in difficult-to-build areas but open spaces also provide habitat and protection for threatened and endangered species, protection of unique natural and cultural resources, and critical habitat linkages. These open spaces also enable natural outdoor experiences for citizens in close proximity to where they live.

1.2 Enhanced Quality of Life through Services

Parks enhance the quality of life for City residents in numerous ways. Green spaces, healthy trees and plant life soften urban development and add visual enhancements to a city. Park facilities enable citizens to become active and engaged in a variety of recreation activities and outdoor pursuits from senior citizen fitness classes to youth soccer. Recreation programs provide a focus for youth activities, including juvenile diversion programs. Community centers can serve as focal points for senior citizen and community activities, reinforcing cohesiveness in a community and attracting major events.

1.3 City Image

Parks serve as a reflection of how a community or neighborhood regards itself and become objects of community pride. Distinctive signature parks such as Fairmount Park and Mount Rubidoux, if properly cared for, can give Riverside a distinctive character and sense of place in the region.



View of Box Springs Mountain from Sycamore Canyon

1.4 Financial Returns

Parks, trails, and open space areas add value to a community in a variety of ways. Parks and especially open space preserves add to the assessed value of adjacent and nearby properties by making these areas more desirable places to live. Visitation and tourism to City attractions such as the Mission Inn and the California Citrus State Historic Park directly add to the appeal of the City, but also add venues for special events, such as the Orange Blossom Festival, and sports activities to be held in the City. The existence of these venues encourages people to visit and stay in Riverside. These visitors lead to revenue generation by filling hotel rooms, dining out, and participating in other activities that support the local economy.

2. Historic Overview of Parks in Riverside

2.1 Early Park Development

Early park development in Riverside coincided with the City Beautiful Movement sweeping the country at the turn of the century. Financed by the booming citrus industry that began in Riverside, finely crafted homes were built and lushly landscaped parks with amenities were created for the enjoyment of all citizens. Fairmount Park and the Mission Inn were both influenced by the California Mission Revival style, and Mount Rubidoux and White Park became major destination and recreation points in the City.

Riverside soon became a leader in the region. These signature parks, fine neighborhoods and classic civic buildings helped create its image. The region's financial center, several higher learning institutions, major hospitals, and two military bases located in and near Riverside, enabled the City to become the hub of the inland empire.

2.2 Accomplishments

Since 1965, the population and geographic extent of Riverside has nearly doubled in size. Despite the rapid growth, hundreds of acres of open space have been preserved through City and County efforts. Thoughtful planning and public acquisition preserved areas such as Box Springs Mountain, Sycamore Canyon Park, numerous acres of citrus groves, and the Santa Ana River. Planning efforts are currently underway to preserve additional open space in La Sierra/Norco Hills and the Lake Mathews area.



Parent Navel Orange Tree

Volunteer groups who have devoted time and energy to their causes have accomplished many community wide

goals, such as open space preservation. The formation of volunteer and friends groups has also led to the development, preservation and enhancement of unique park landmarks and facilities within the City. These groups include Friends of Mt. Rubidoux, Victoria Avenue Forever, and the AYSO partnership with the City that created the Ab Brown Soccer Complex.

In 1998, Riverside was selected as an All-America City because of its history of grassroots involvement, collaboration and consensus-based decision making among the public, private and non-profit sectors to achieve community-wide goals.

3. Present State of the Parks System - Areas of Need

In spite of its accomplishments, Riverside also has major problems with its park system. Rapid growth and limited funding over the years have taken their toll. A few key indicators are as follows:

Parkland Shortages

Developed park acres are only 2 AC/1000 population, short of the 3AC/1000 population statewide standard. Portions of the City are without parks and various facilities are in short supply.

Overuse of Facilities

As might be expected, facilities and parks are often overused and because of the shortages, Riversiders take part in outdoor recreation activities at rates below statewide averages.

Deferred Maintenance

Significant deferred maintenance of the parks exist throughout the City. Residents speak of the need for various improvements such as safety lighting, replacement of children's play equipment, and refurbishment of ballfields and other sportfields.

Negative Public Perceptions

The public perception of lack of safety discourages use of the parks. Conflicts between social service activities in parks and general public use also affects the use of the parks.

It is of interest to note that when parks are rejuvenated, as recently occurred with Shamel Park and Arlington Park, the use jumps dramatically. Just accomplishing the rejuvenation of parks without also addressing their under-supply can contribute to overuse.

4. Present State of the Parks System - Findings

4.1 Needs and Recommendations by General Park and Recreation Category

4.1.1 Open Space and Habitat Areas

The system of open space buffers around the City is not yet completed. Land acquisition in La Sierra/Norco Hills and completion of wildlife corridors between existing preserved open spaces is needed to complete the system.

4.1.2 Trails

A trails and trail hub system still needs to be completed along with completion of connections to the Santa Ana River trail. Trail hubs are needed to adequately serve visitors wishing to utilize the City's surrounding open spaces.

4.1.3 Neighborhood and Community Parks



Bryant Park

The basic park system is deficient in total developed acreage, facilities and geographic distribution. To fully serve the citizens of Riverside, equitable geographic distribution of parks and facilities will be needed throughout the City. In addition, deferred maintenance and existing problems within City parks needs to be addressed, new parks need to be acquired, and vacant parklands need to be developed. At the same time, the City needs to keep pace with growth in order to avoid falling farther behind.

4.1.4 Signature Parks

Riverside is making good progress with its signature parks, a proposed park category discussed in this Plan. The California Citrus State Historic Park (Citrus Park), through City influence and collaboration with the State, is being expanded. White Park has recently been completely refurbished, and Mount Rubidoux is scheduled for additional improvements. Fairmount Park, however still needs major upgrading. As the City's most well-known and most heavily used park, change and improvement to Fairmount Park will have a dramatic impact on the City's perception of its park system.

4.2 Funding to Accomplish Multiple Tasks

Financing park improvements can take many creative forms. These include:

- Development impact fees
- State park bond funding
- Volunteers & community groups
- Partnerships, grants & special funding
- User fees
- City general funds
- Assessment districts
- General obligation funds



Springbrook Wash at Foot of Box Springs Mtn.

The cost to bring developed neighborhood and community park acreages up to standard is roughly estimated to be \$82 million. If the City chose to utilize a short-term target of 2.75 AC/1,000 population it would be possible to reduce the amount to approximately \$66 million. The remaining acreage could then be met at a later date using other funding mechanisms.

5. Policies and Implementation

The policies that have been developed in this Master Plan are intended to provide a framework of support and guidance. They are for the benefit of City staff, as well as the community, as a tool for decision-making about all parks and recreation programs and resources that affect the City. Policies and implementation strategies for the Master Plan included the following:

- Parklands and Park Facilities
- Trails and Parkways
- Open Space
- Natural Resource Management
- Maintenance
- Community Participation & Stewardship
- Funding and Improvements

6. How Did We Conduct This Study?

In order to complete the study, we evaluated the current national, state, and local trends affecting parks and recreation in Riverside. Then, several outreach and information gathering methods were used to gain detailed insights from the community. Public involvement included workshops that allowed community members to inform the City of their concerns, desires, and needs for the park and recreation system. A phone survey was also used to conduct 300 interviews to gain information about use-patterns and park needs and preferences. The sampling error for the sample size of 300 is +/- 5.8% at the 95% confidence level. Further details regarding the phone survey questionnaire and data tabulation of the responses are provided in the Appendices.

Executive Summary

City data, demographic data and discussions with the Parks Commission and the Park and Recreation Department (The Department) staff were also evaluated in order to better understand their needs and resources for managing the park system.

In 2001, the City of Riverside commissioned a Master Plan update for park facilities, recreational resources, and trails as they relate to the multi-purpose recreational trail system developed in the 1991 City of Riverside Trails Master Plan (Trails Master Plan). This update will then provide a foundation for the update of the open space, park and recreation elements of the General Plan. The scope of this document covers an evaluation of parks and park amenities, the difficulties facing the parks system, funding strategies, and plans and policies that will guide future park development until the year 2020.

1.1 Purpose of the Master Plan

The purpose of the Master Plan is to:

- Provide an inventory and assessment of existing park components and resources
- Examine the existing park system and its ability to meet community needs
- Function as a decision-making tool for the City and the public by setting forth goals, objectives and implementation programs regarding parks and facilities
- Provide general recommendations for park and recreation services throughout the City
- Establish policies and directives for implementation of the Master Plan
- Provide funding goals and strategies for park and recreation development

This Master Plan expands upon four basic recreation goals stated in the General Plan:

- Provide adequate recreational opportunities for all of Riverside
- Preserve, restore, enhance and maintain the integrity of the significant historic parks that are essential elements of Riverside's historic, cultural and horticultural heritage
- Establish an integrated system of scenic routes, trails, and paths throughout the General Plan area and
- Adaptively reuse and rehabilitate where appropriate, historic resources such as recreation and community centers.

1.2 Process/Approach

The Master Plan is a synthesis of five major components:

1. The community's expressed needs and desires for the future
2. An inventory and analysis of existing park facilities and programs
3. Park recreation needs and standards
4. Goals, objectives, policies and implementation mechanisms
5. Estimated costs and potential funding sources.

In order to identify community issues and desires, five workshops called "Challenges and Choices," were conducted with City staff, City agencies, concerned citizen and stakeholder groups and individuals. In addition, a phone survey was conducted as well as a mail-in survey to gather public input.

1.3 Scope of the Master Plan

The Master Plan first provides an overview of the physical and regional context of the City as well as the history of its park system. It then examines the current park standards and recreation opportunities in Riverside as well as its trail system. After evaluating the current state of the park and recreation system, priorities and recommendations are presented.

The implementation section of the Master Plan contains policies and strategies for funding parks and park development. The policies and funding strategies provide broad direction and are action-oriented.

The Master Plan is intended as a framework for upgrading the existing system and implementing new park development, open space connections and trails. Concerns or design issues related to specific park sites are beyond the scope of this document. Individual parks have their own master plans that describe development of each park and the facilities to be included.

2.1 Physical Context

The City of Riverside is distinguished from many other communities by its unique setting among surrounding open space. The Santa River corridor to the north creates a distinct boundary between Riverside and its neighbors. In addition to providing recreational opportunities, the river provides habitat for important wildlife and native plants species. Adjoining the Santa River corridor is Mount Rubidoux offering an extraordinary urban open space feature.



Typical Arroyo in Natural State

Box Springs Mountain Reserve and Sycamore Canyon Park to the east and south collectively provide a unique backdrop for the City and contain dramatic landscapes that overlook Riverside. The arroyos and ridges also provide sanctuary for wildlife including indigenous rare and endangered species.

The Arlington Greenbelt and the citrus groves in the south-central part of the City provide open space, an economic base and an historic link to Riverside's formative period. The California Citrus State Historic Park acknowledges the importance of this area by celebrating the role of the California citrus industry with the preservation of a remnant of that legacy.

Additional open space areas help to define and separate Riverside from neighboring communities. To the south, Lake Mathews and Arlington Mountain offer more natural resources and habitat for wildlife, as does La Sierra/Norco Hills to the west.

These significant natural features, within and bordering the City, provide a scenic framework of natural open space that shape not only the City's boundaries, but its identity and character as well. The proximity to these nearby special places invites the challenge and opportunity for the City to take greater advantage of them by better ensuring their preservation and creating a strong connection to them. The park and trail system, therefore, can serve to create and support this stronger connection. How directly the people of Riverside can interact with and are affected by these distinctive landscapes will in part influence the uniqueness of the City's identity and character.

2.2 Riverside as the Inland Empire Hub

The largest inland city in Southern California, Riverside has served as the hub of what is known as the Inland Empire since it was first platted by developers in 1870. The citrus industry that began in 1883 expanded the City beyond its original Mile Square boundaries and fueled what was called “California’s Second Gold Rush” as the population grew rapidly in Riverside. This new gold rush drew many wealthy entrepreneurs. From their wealth, the California Mission Revival style was developed in Riverside and the architecture in the City began to reflect this new California-borne style. The Mission Inn is the most well known result of this revival style and became one of the first three National Historic Landmarks in California.

Supported by a thriving agricultural industry, the financial center of the City and the region was based in downtown Riverside. The location of City, County, and State offices in downtown, four higher education facilities (UC Riverside, California Baptist University, La Sierra University, and Riverside City College), four major hospitals, a County Services complex, and two military bases further reinforced Riverside as a hub for the region.

2.3 Relationship to the Greater Los Angeles and Orange County Regions

With the advent of higher priced housing in the Los Angeles and Orange County markets, many would-be home buyers began moving to outlying areas. Riverside became one of many communities in Riverside and San Bernardino counties that absorbed the influx of these new residents. In addition, the nearby base closures in the 1990’s reduced employment opportunities in the Inland region. Trend analyses of the greater Los Angeles area have shown that the 12 million people living within this area are extremely mobile and willing to travel great distances for work, shopping, and entertainment. This, combined with the reduction of 10,000 local jobs, led to the unemployed seeking work in the Los Angeles and

Orange County areas, further increasing the large numbers of commuters traveling outside of Riverside. With these new circumstances, Riverside’s identity began to shift, and the City is now often seen as another bedroom community within the larger metropolitan area rather than a distinct community.

The Los Angeles and Orange County regions also offer many attractive entertainment venues that draw Riversiders out of the City, such as amusement parks, beaches and major shopping centers.



New Housing in Southern Riverside

The people of Riverside have viewed parks as an essential component of city life for over 100 years. The robust citrus industry allowed Riverside to become a part of the City Beautiful Movement sweeping the country, beginning in the 1890's, and launched an era of architectural splendor and pride in public spaces. The first parks at the turn of the century were private purchases that were later dedicated to the City. Fairmount Park, White Park and Mt. Rubidoux were the first parks of Riverside and became key signatures of the City's identity. The character established by these parks continues to be influential today.

3.1 Parks System Overview

The City Parks Commission was established around the turn of the century and Albert S. White, one of the early settlers of Riverside, served as the first City Parks superintendent. In 1928 a formal series of concepts, studies and master plans were developed to guide the City in its park planning. At that time, Charles Cheny, a city planner submitted his report, Recreation, Civic Center and Regional Plan. His report proposed the idea of combining school and park facilities for the first time. He felt the most efficient arrangement for park development was for the school board to "lease school grounds, buildings and toilets for use in combination with neighborhood park facilities. In return, the park and recreation department should maintain school playgrounds and all planting of school grounds."

Twenty years later in 1948 the report, A Recreation and Park Survey of Riverside, was written by the recreation planning consultant, Americ Hadley. He highlighted that deficiencies still existed within the parks system due to the lack of implementation of the guidelines from Cheny's earlier report.

In order to remedy the parks shortfall, the following year, Charles Eliot presented the Progress of Planning for Riverside. This document included a school and recreation joint-use element. It also contained a method for implementing the combination of facilities through cooperative agreements between the schools and park and recreation entities.

The 1950's experienced growth in park building due to the surge in school-age children and post-war prosperity. Park planners now had to respond to the new post-war "baby boom" phenomenon. The planning firm of Eliot and Iwasko prepared the Master Plan of Land Use for the City of Riverside in 1954. It included, and built upon information from the previous reports by recommending the combining of school and recreation facilities into single sites. The document also outlined three levels of park activities: neighborhood centers, community centers and citywide facilities. Finally, the document indicated locations of existing school and recreation facilities and proposed additional sites for future growth. In 1958, an agreement

Chapter Three - The Riverside Parks System, A Brief History

between the City of Riverside and the Riverside School District was drafted in an attempt to coordinate the planning and operation of school/park facilities. Although this agreement was never formalized, the planning for future school and park sites was closely coordinated at the staff level. Informal meetings by a committee of the Planning Commission and Riverside City School officials were conducted prior to submission of plans to the Planning Commission and the School Board.

In 1965, the City completed The Master Plan Study of Educational and Recreational Facilities. Park development in the City needed to be reevaluated due to several factors: population shifts caused portions of the City to grow more swiftly than expected; annexation produced new growth areas to study; land use patterns were altered with the development of industrial parks and shopping centers in areas formerly zoned for residential development; and alterations in street and highway routes and locations caused previously cohesive neighborhoods to be divided and new ones to be created.

Beginning in the mid-1960's when this last recreation facilities master plan was developed, Riverside began to suffer from the effects of a nationwide malaise. Civil unrest, the Viet Nam war, the recession of the 1970's, gas embargoes, and a presidential resignation affected all aspects of life. In addition, the region's citrus industry continued to decline from the result of pest-related disease that began in the 1940's. Land formerly dedicated to agricultural production was now converting to new residential subdivisions. Changing priorities shifted funds from parks to other priorities. The mid 1960's through the 1970's saw little to no new park development or improvement. The conspicuous decline of Fairmount Park became emblematic to the overall decline of Riverside's park system during this time.

The tax revolt by Californians culminating in the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 had significant repercussions with respect to parks in Riverside. Available funds for parks and recreation were reduced even as the need for new parks and maintenance substantially increased, creating further stresses upon the parks system.

With the passing of Proposition 70, a 1988 park bond act, a resurgence in park improvement began. However, other economic shifts were occurring in the region. Norton Air Force Base and March Air Force Base, large employment centers for the region, were downgraded in the early 1990's with a combined job loss of over 10,000 people. In addition, a desire for a closer proximity to markets in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties coupled with cheaper land, shifted economic growth west along the Interstate 15 corridor. With reduced revenue filling city coffers, the parks system continued to struggle and the City's Park and Recreation Department experienced staff reductions up to 50% in the late 1990's.

3.2 Current State of the Parks System

Presently the City's parks system is straining to support the park and recreation needs of the 11th largest city in California. The increased complexity of the parks system and funding cuts have added greater challenges for parks management. Even with these challenges, the Department has continued to find ways to plan and invest in the City's park system. The passing of Proposition 12 in 2000 as well as an increase in received local park fees has allowed the City to begin its park refurbishment program. Using a creative combination of State bond funding, park development fees, in addition to facility improvement funds, \$27 million was committed to the 2001-2002 Capital Improvement Program. To date, over \$4 million dollars towards parks development and improvements have been invested and the remaining funds are dedicated to park projects that are currently underway or pending.

Throughout the City's tenure with parks and parks management, what has remained constant is that when there is strong community engagement and support, the City's resources and services are cared for and valued. Volunteers, contributions, and political involvement shape the development and support of parks. With the passing of the Proposition 40 Parks Bond Act in 2001, much needed funds will be provided to continue the improvements of the City's parks. Riverside has begun the process of engaging the community to decide how to prioritize these funds for parks development and improvement.

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The City runs and maintains over 44 public parks and open space areas encompassing 2,378 acres for the residents of Riverside. The larger parks contain features such as sports facilities, group picnic areas, restrooms, children's play areas and special features such as nature preserves. The smaller parks typically include only the most basic landscaping with no special facilities. Large or small, these parks are important for providing focal points for neighborhoods and acting as gathering spaces for people to enjoy their community. In addition, parks serve as significant aesthetic amenities that give character to their environment.

4.1 Current Park Categories

4.1.1 Current Park Types

Section III – Context for Planning in the 1994 City of Riverside General Plan examines the City's various facilities, such as parks, that serve existing and new developments. The seven distinct park types used for planning in Riverside are designated and defined as follows:

Neighborhood Parks

These parks provide both passive and active recreational opportunities to residents of relatively small service areas, with such facilities as playgrounds, basketball courts and picnic areas.

Community Parks

These parks often include the same facilities as neighborhood parks, but differ in that they serve residents from a larger area and usually include additional facilities, such as large athletic fields, swimming pools or community centers. Since they provide similar facilities, Community Parks serve as neighborhood parks for nearby residents.



Bordwell Park

Special Use Parks

These parks are facilities designed for specific recreational activities such as ball field complexes, airfields for remote control planes and golf courses.

Small Open Space

These features include historical sites, "pocket parks," parkways, and plazas.

Citywide Parks

These parks provide services to the entire City and include unique recreational and/or scenic features.

Regional and State Parks

These two park types, although not operated by the Department, provide City residents with additional recreational opportunities for natural and historic interpretation, camping, hiking, and fishing. The General Plan includes three regional parks – Box Springs Mountain Regional County Park, Martha McLean-Anza Narrows Regional Park and the Santa Ana River Regional Park – and one State park, the California Citrus State Historic Park.

4.1.2 Current Park Tiers

Section VI – Community Enhancement in the General Plan examines elements, such as recreation, that affect the physical development of the City or County. Public parks and recreation are discussed as an important and necessary element of the City. Riverside’s park system is divided into the following five park tiers, with each tier serving a different function:

Urban Open Space Parks

These parks feature plazas and small open spaces to provide relief in more urbanized areas.

Neighborhood Parks

These parks satisfy non-programmed recreational and open space needs at locations within convenient walking distance (1/2 mile) of the population they serve (3,000 –5,000). These parks should typically include approximately ten acres of land.

Community Parks

These parks are intended to meet the recreational and open space needs of the larger community as well as those of the adjacent neighborhoods. Most of a community park’s service population of 20,000 to 30,000 people should live within one mile of the park. These parks typically should be approximately twenty to thirty acres and include all of the facilities included in a neighborhood park, plus facilities for more structured activities, such as swimming pools, lighted athletic complexes, community centers, restrooms, parking and group picnic areas.

Citywide Parks

These parks serve all the communities of the City by providing major recreational facilities and open space.

Special Use Sites

These sites are generally dedicated to a single use or a group of related uses that serve the entire City. Major sports complexes, golf courses, and hobbyist parks are examples of this type of facility.

4.2 Revisions to Current Park Categories

After evaluating the General Plan's park types and discussions with the Department staff, this Master Plan Update proposes the simplification the existing park categories. The recommendations for new park classifications will be discussed further in Chapter 6, Priorities and Recommendations.

4.3 Other Park and Recreation Facilities and Services

4.3.1 Golf Courses

The City of Riverside operates two public golf facilities. Fairmount Municipal Golf is a 9-hole course and Riverside Golf Club is an 18-hole course. In addition, there are two private golf courses in the City. Canyon Crest Country Club, an 18-hole course, was established in 1968. Victoria Country Club, also an 18-hole course, was established in 1903 and is one of Southern California's oldest private membership clubs.

4.3.2 Community Centers

The City of Riverside operates a number of community centers, clubhouse or activity centers (Table 1). Located throughout the City, these facilities act as hubs for the activities and interests of the local neighborhoods. These facilities allow the Parks and Recreation Department to provide a wide variety of recreational, educational and human service programs for a diverse population. To appeal to this rich diversity, the programs are tailored to specific age groups, interests, and abilities.

In addition to functioning as a recreational resource, community centers also provide a wide variety of life enrichment and cultural programs ranging from music programs and foreign language courses, to dog obedience classes. Families, youths, teens, seniors and disabled members of the community are able to benefit from these activities. Community centers also allow non-profit organizations and private groups to hold special events and meetings or conduct other specialized programs. By providing a forum for residents to share interests and activities and to form relationships, community centers and the associated activities help to build a more interconnected community.

**Table 1
Inventory of Existing Community Centers**

Center Name	Location	Type of Services Provided
Arlanza Community Center	Bryant Park	Recreation Center
Arlington Park Pool	Arlington Park	Pool
Cesar Chavez Community Center	Bobby Bonds Park	Social Service Center, Pool, Sports Complex
Dale Senior Center	White Park	Senior Center, Dept. Offices
Fairmount Park Adult Center	Fairmount Park	Senior Center
Fairmount Park Boathouse	Fairmount Park	Meeting Rooms & Boathouse
Janet Goeske Community Center	Streeter Park	Senior/Handicap Center
Islander Park Pool	Islander Park	Pool
Joyce Jackson Community Center	Nichols Park	Recreation Center
La Sierra Community Center	La Sierra Park	Recreation Center
Renck Community Center & Pool	Hunt Park	Recreation Center & Pool
Ruth Lewis Community Center & Pool	Reid Park	Recreation Center & Pool
Shamel Park Pool	Shamel Park	Pool
Stratton Community Center	Bordwell Park	Recreation Center
Villegas Community Center & Pool	Villegas Park	Recreation Center & Pool
Izaak Walton Building	Fairmount Park	Meeting Room

Source: City of Riverside

4.3.3 Trails

Riverside currently maintains trails for equestrian, biking, hiking, and other pedestrian-oriented uses. Trails provide connections to open space areas and to key cultural destinations such as signature parks and historic sites throughout the City, as well as providing recreational opportunities.

4.4 Other Park Opportunities

4.4.1 State and County Regional Parks

Complementing the park facilities managed by the City of Riverside, exceptional recreational opportunities are available to City residents at nearby State and County facilities such as the California Citrus State Historic Park, Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, the Santa Ana River Trail, Martha McLean-Anza Narrows Park, and the Box Springs Mountain Reserve. Besides shaping and defining the character of Riverside, these park sites offer natural open spaces, community centers, trails, and educational and historic programs. Although not managed by the City, these facilities enrich the recreational opportunities for Riverside area residents.

Chapter Four - Current Categories, Standards and Opportunities

State and County regional parks enhance the City's park system. The presence of regional parks can increase the value and functionality of City parks by providing links between destinations and offering complimentary amenities. These State and County regional parks can be made more accessible and further integrated into the City park system through the development of nearby trail hubs and gateways. By doing so, the City can create a comprehensive park system plan that offers greater benefits to the Riverside community.

4.4.2 City, County and State Partnerships

By combining resources, City and County agencies can develop park and recreation facilities that would be more difficult to build as a singular agency. The California Citrus State Historic Park is an excellent example of collaboration between the City and State. The proposed park at the Savi Ranch Site is another example of a potential dual agency alliance. Through a City and County partnership, a key open space gateway can be created adjacent to the Santa Ana River to increase access and appreciation of the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area and the greater Santa Ana River trail network.

4.4.3 Community Partnerships

Partnerships between non-profit groups and the City can also create more recreational opportunities. The partnership between the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department was formed in response to a shortage of youth soccer fields. The City, business leaders and citizens worked together to create a solution to fund and develop 56 acres belonging to Public Utilities. AYSO now has complete control over the complex and provides a soccer venue for hundreds of children per year.



Other partnerships exist as well. Under the Live Steamer Partnership, train hobbyists are replacing and adding railroad track and a storage unit in Hunter Park. Arizona Middle School is adding football field lights, and Friends of Mt. Rubidoux help with maintenance and monitoring of the Mt. Rubidoux site.

The City of Riverside also has various joint-use agreements with Alford Unified School District, Riverside Community College and University of California Riverside. Facilities are shared such as ball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools and the sports complex.

4.4.4 Developer-Built Parks and Community Assets

In response to an increasing demand for more amenity-rich neighborhoods, developers are building subdivisions with “livable community” elements such as parks within walking distance of the homes. Orange Crest Terrace Community Park, is an example of a turn-key park built by a developer of the adjacent subdivision. In order to fulfill the parkland needs of the new subdivision, a fixed-fee assessment rate was negotiated with the developer in exchange for a built park to be completed at the time of the subdivision completion.

4.4.5 Parkways

Similar to open space and wilderness areas, parkways are specialized open spaces that typically allow limited recreational uses. Even though parkways have park-like attributes, they are not parks and therefore, do not belong to an official park category nor are Department funds used to build or maintain them. Furthermore, they are often developer-built such as Victoria Avenue and Riverwalk. However, parkways are considered valuable assets by the City, and they serve primarily as safe and aesthetically pleasing corridors for pedestrian, cyclists and equestrians. Typically narrow and linear, parkways are often located adjacent to a railroad line, river or significant roadways.

4.5 Other Leisure Opportunities

Endowed with a rich tapestry of classic architecture, historical landmarks, and natural resources, Riverside is home to many museums and cultural facilities that exhibit the arts, history, and nature. While not specifically parks, these other cultural resources fit into an overall collection of leisure and recreation opportunities. In addition to creating a sense of place, they offer tremendous value to the City for local enrichment and as a foundation for a tourism market. Many of these venues are located in the downtown area or within a short drive of the City and complement the parks and recreation facilities of Riverside. The following is a brief overview of some of the City’s important nearby cultural resources:

4.5.1 Outdoor Recreation

Hidden Valley Wildlife Area

Tucked next to Norco, and bound by the northwestern edge of Riverside and along the banks of the Santa Ana River, Hidden Valley Wildlife Area encompasses 1500 acres of open space with access to 25 miles of hiking and equestrian trails along the river, bluffs, and many wetlands. Fall and winter season provide excellent opportunities to view water fowl migration.

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Educational programs at the Nature Center are available by appointment for school study trips, scouts and other groups.

Jensen-Alvarado Ranch

This County-run historic ranch has been restored to portray 19th century rural life in Riverside. Cattle, sheep, chickens, rabbits, a duck pond and goats can be found here. There are citrus groves, peach, apricot and plum orchards, and a grape vineyard. Visitors can observe volunteer docents in period-dress working horse-drawn plows and engaging in other general farm life tasks.

Victoria Avenue

Considered one of Riverside's best places to walk, jog or ride bikes, this wide and peaceful avenue dates back to Victorian times, with construction beginning in 1892. Lined with 14 species of stately eucalyptus trees, pepper trees from Peru, and more than 1,600 palm trees, Victoria Avenue leads through and past the Arlington Heights orange groves. In recent years, a non-profit preservation committee, Victoria Avenue Forever, was formed to assist with maintenance and preservation of the avenue and to urge the undergrounding of unattractive utility lines.



Victoria Avenue

4.5.2 Cultural and Historical Recreation

Harada House

The Harada House is a subject of the first case to test the legality of the Alien Land Law in California. Forbidden by laws to own land, Jukichi Harada, a Japanese immigrant, bought a house and then gave it to his American born children. Sued by his neighbors, the legality of the children's ownership was tested in court. The ruling in favor of the Haradas in 1915 set a precedent that allowed American-born children of ineligible citizens to have rights equal to those of any other citizens.

Heritage House

The Heritage House is a project of the Riverside Museum Associates, a volunteer support group of the Riverside Municipal Museum. It harkens back to the former grandeur of Magnolia Avenue in the nineteenth century, then the most scenic thoroughfare in Riverside. The house was designed by architect John A. Walls, of the prestigious Los Angeles firm of Morgan and Walls, in the Queen Anne Victorian style. It has now been completely restored and reflects the historic tastes, values, and lifestyle of a bygone era.

Chapter Four - Current Categories, Standards and Opportunities



The Mission Inn

The Main Street Pedestrian Mall

Set in the Mission Inn District, the Main Street Pedestrian Mall between 5th Street and 10th Street is a charming place to window shop. The Mall evokes Riverside's historic past and preserves its architectural traditions with its beautifully renovated buildings and landscaped pedestrian walkways. Flanked by a collection of small shops, galleries and sidewalk cafes, the Mall attracts shoppers and those seeking a relaxing environment as well as visitors from the nearby Mission Inn and Convention Center.

Mission Inn

The grandeur of turn-of-the-century Riverside can be experienced at this grand hotel, one of three national landmarks in California. The hotel's founder, Frank Miller gathered the Mission Inn's treasures from around the world. The collection includes lacquered Asian temple guardians, life-sized papal figures, Arts and Crafts furniture, Spanish and Mexican terra cotta and hundreds of bells.

Riverside Art Museum

Contemporary and historic Southern California artists are showcased in rotating exhibitions at the Art Museum. Formerly the City's YWCA, the Mediterranean-style building was designed by Julia Morgan in 1929. The building was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1982.

Riverside Municipal Museum

Once a U.S. Post Office, this 1914 Italian Renaissance style building now greets the visitor with baskets, brilliant stones and dinosaur bones. Riverside's cultural heritage and river communities are highlighted in the many exhibits and the Southland's natural history is displayed with life-size dioramas of the desert and mountains.

UC Riverside/California Museum of Photography

Innovative exhibitions explore photography's relationship to politics, art and society. Housed in a renovated dime store, this facility boasts an Ansel Adams photographic collection and a world-renowned collection of stereoscope cards along with an entire gallery dedicated to interactive displays.

UC Riverside Botanic Gardens

This 39-acre horticultural sanctuary features hiking trails, picnic spots and quiet places for contemplation among birds, blossoms, and insect life. An accessible pathway for all physical abilities wanders through the main features of the gardens.

A city can measure how well it is meeting park standards by comparing the amount of existing park acres to the number needed based upon population figures. Park acreage standards that identify the number of developed parkland required per 1,000 persons of the population are used.

5.1 Meeting Park and Recreation Needs

Current Riverside standards for parkland distribution recommend three developed acres per 1000 population. The standards are further broken down to favor neighborhood parks with two acres of neighborhood park per 1000 people and one acre of community park per 1000 people for a 2 to 1 ratio. Riverside's current distribution has instead evolved toward a 1 to 2 ratio, favoring community parks.

Geographic areas served by existing parks were also examined. Based on current standards, neighborhood parks should be located within a half-mile radius of every residence and community parks within a two-mile radius. The Location of Parkland Shortages Map (Figure 2) shown in Chapter Six is comprised of neighborhood and community park coverage areas. The map reveals shortages of neighborhood park coverage throughout the City. The distribution of community parks better serve the City, but deficiencies occur in the Sycamore Highlands, Arlington Heights, La Sierra and La Sierra South, and Prenda vicinities. The future expansion of the City through the annexation of the Springbrook Wash area and southerly expansion area may create further parkland shortages.

5.2 Challenges and Influences

Riverside has changed dramatically in the span of a generation since the last Master Plan was developed in 1965. The population and geographic area have both nearly doubled. In addition, the City plans to annex a portion of County land northeast of Springbrook Wash and up to eight square miles to the south of the existing City limits. An evaluation of the City's population and growth trends as well as an evaluation of statewide social trends serve as important guides for determining a rationale for park and recreation needs and locations of new facilities.

5.2.1 Growth

In 1965, the population of Riverside was 133,000 people. The population has increased to 262,140 people today, making Riverside the 11th largest city in California. The projected increase in population to 326,700 by the year 2020 (Table 2) will be accompanied by an increase in new housing development. Projected growth for new housing through the year 2020 is

**Table 2
Projected Population**

Area Population	Year 2005	Year 2010	Year 2015	Year 2020
City of Riverside	292,807	302,800	313,000	326,700
County of Riverside	1,838,000	2,031,000	2,245,000	2,531,000

Source: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

**Table 3
Projected Households for City & County of Riverside**

Area Households	Year 2005	Year 2010	Year 2015	Year 2020
City of Riverside	83,880	93,200	103,600	109,800
County of Riverside	515,870	653,000	829,000	934,000

Source: Southern California Association of Governments

24% or about 26,000 new households (Table 3). Some growth is occurring as infill within the City, but the majority of housing development is occurring around the edges in the northwest and northeast corners of Riverside and southerly into the City’s sphere of influence as identified in the General Plan. Growth is expected to continue and to expand in these directions.

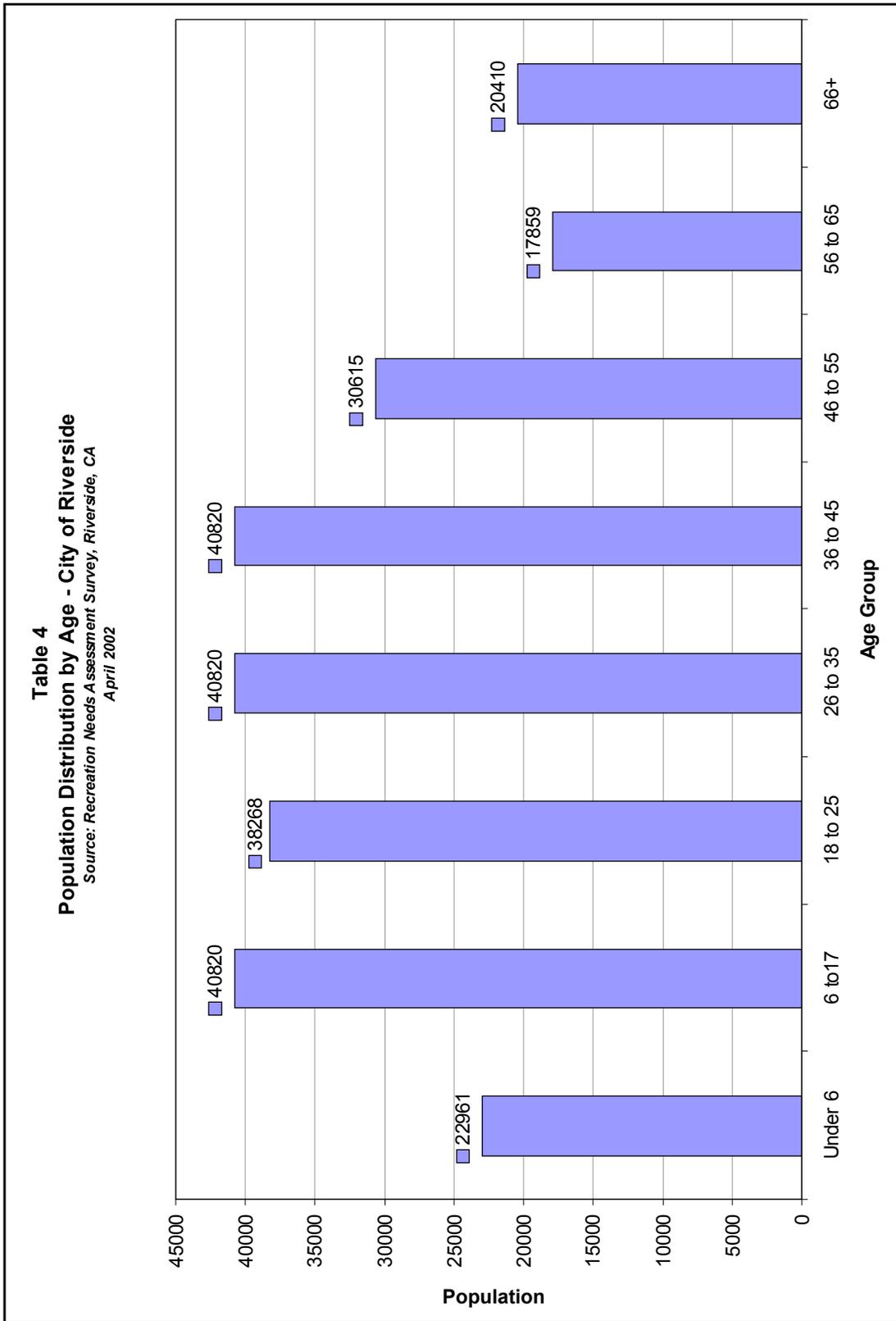
The increasing population in the City of Riverside and surrounding communities will further impact the parks system as demand for park and recreation facilities and open space increase.

5.2.2 Demographics

Aging Baby Boomers

In addition to the changes in size and population, the make-up of the community has changed. There have been several demographic changes since the last Park and Recreation Master Plan in the 1960’s when the post-war baby boom was moving through the school age. That same population phenomena is now moving toward retirement age. An analysis of the City’s population illustrates current age distributions of the population (Table 4).

These demographic impacts on local parks and other recreational facilities are unclear, as Baby Boomers progress toward retirement, they are not likely to follow the prior patterns of their parents. In general, they are healthier, are expected to live longer and exert more financial and political power than their parents. “As California’s elders change, their definition of leisure and recreation continues to change, becoming progressively more active, both in physical and intellectual activities. ... aging Baby Boomers



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will want to combine “fitness with fun” and will be more interested in environmentally sound recreation activities” (Munroe, p.47).

Ethnicity and the Baby Bounce Phenomenon

California is becoming more ethnically diverse everyday. By the year 2000, no single racial or ethnic group constituted a majority of the State’s population. In the Inland Empire, this diversity is reflected by the lack of any racial group constituting a majority of the population. The region now holds the largest percentage of African-Americans in California, growing from 1.3% in 1980 to 7.5% in 2000. In addition, increases in the Latino population are projected to be particularly high.

U.S. Census figures project that Latinos will become the largest ethnic group in California by 2025 and will comprise between 44%-47% of the population. In Riverside alone, Latinos comprised 38% of the population in the year 2000 (Table 5). The Latino population also dominates the second baby boom generation, the “Baby Bounce.” Between 1990 and 1999, the growth of the age group between 0-20 was 70% Latino. Latinos will particularly impact parks and recreation development of the future due to their larger population and their higher use of parks than the non-Latino population (Table 6). It has been shown statistically that Latinos generally desire more developed and natural park activities, enjoy the use of zoos, museums, aquariums and arboretums and take part in activities such as walking and trail hiking in comparison with other groups.

African-American and Asian-American Park Use

Although the survey results appear to portray high park use by the African-American and Asian-American respondents, important factors must be considered.

Data for respondents identifying themselves as non-Latino Black/African American included only 20 respondents out of a total of 300 and data for respondents identifying themselves as Asian/Pacific Islander included only 17 respondents out of a total of 300.

Table 5
Riverside Population by Race/Ethnicity

City of Riverside Race/Ethnicity	2000 Census
White	46%
Hispanic/Latino	38%
Black/African American	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Other	2%

Source: Recreation Needs Assessment Survey, Riverside, CA, April-02

Caution must be used in drawing conclusions from a small group of respondents because the small number of respondents may not accurately reflect the views of the larger African-American or Asian populations. Because of the inaccuracies inherent in such a small sample, responses from these groups are not discussed in this plan.

Table 6
City of Riverside
Frequency of Recreation Facility Use by Ethnicity

	Total	White	Hispanic	African-Am*	Asian-Am**
More than once a week	13%	6%	20%	27%	NA
Once per week or 3 to 4 times per month	15%	14%	17%	18%	NA
"Frequent Users"	28%	20%	37%	45%	18%
Once or twice a month	14%	18%	11%	14%	NA
Several times per year	28%	31%	24%	18%	NA
"Moderate Users"	42%	49%	35%	32%	NA
Once a year	18%	16%	22%	14%	NA
No Use	12%	16%	5%	9%	59%
"Light/Non-Users"	30%	32%	27%	23%	NA
Note: May not sum due to rounding.					
* Sampling error of +/-25%. Refer to previous text for further information.					
** Sampling error of +/-30%. Refer to previous text for further information.					

Source: Recreation Needs Assessment Survey, Riverside, CA, April 2002

5.2.3 Changing Social Patterns

Parks easily become victim to conflicts that exist beyond the park venue if not vigilantly maintained and supervised. Parks are especially vulnerable because they are readily accessible public spaces. Turf warfare by youth gangs, homelessness, and drug-abuse can plague a park and the adjoining neighborhoods. Meaningful programs conducted in safe environments can serve as an effective intercept to potential antisocial or other problematic behavior. To a degree then, such social problems can be viewed as either a problem or a challenging opportunity. For instance, in recent years various social organizations have instituted the feeding of the homeless at Fairmount Park. This practice drives away other park users. Rather than attempting to curtail this practice, finding a more acceptable location other than the park for this function may be a better solution.

5.2.4 Changing Preferences and Use-Patterns for Recreation Facilities and Services – Statewide Trends

Lifestyles, work patterns and home lives have been altered dramatically in the past 36 years and the pace and complexity of life has increased. We are increasingly dependent upon our cars and spend more time in them. The average workweek has grown from under 41 hours to 47 hours (including travel time) and other polls have shown that people would rather work longer hours for higher income rather than have more leisure time and less pay. The significant rise in double-income families results in fewer

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stay-at-home mothers. Households also include more single parents and nontraditional families.

New forms of recreation are being created as people seek “life balancing” experiences. People are also taking more personal responsibility for their health as the Wellness Movement gains momentum. Another developing trend is the increased emphasis placed upon organized and competitive sports compared with impromptu sports activities. A decrease in available time for recreation has resulted in an increase in the need for families to schedule their play and sport activities.

Family and group activities are increasing, as are high-risk adventure and “x-treme” sports such as in-line skating, skateboarding, mountain biking, vertical wall climbing and rock climbing.

Chapter Six reviews findings of the study regarding Riverside's system of park and recreation resources. The following key issues and recommendations are discussed:

- Park Standards
- Open Space and Habitat
- Neighborhood and Community Parks
- Revision of Park Classification System
- Revision of Proposed Park Sites

After these framework categories, community centers, facilities and partnerships are discussed. Then, the following two categories close this chapter:

- Trail System
- Trail Hubs and Trail Access

6.1 Assessing Needs

A variety of methods were implemented to assess the most pressing needs of the Riverside's park system. A series of workshops and a telephone survey were performed to identify concerns, recreation and facility needs, and user preferences.

State data was used as a benchmark to contrast with Riverside's participation rates and facility-to-population ratios to determine if deficiencies were present. In addition, discussions with Department staff and the Parks Commission were held to gain the City's perspective of park system needs and resources.

While Riverside's park system faces a variety of challenges, its parks remain a valuable asset for the City's residents and continue to support a variety of recreation opportunities. The premise of this study's outreach effort was not to dismantle the current park system in order to rebuild it, but to gain insight and direction from the community regarding what works and what might have room for improvement. The series of surveys and workshops that were performed identified a number of concerns that need to be addressed for the parks system to meet community needs.

6.2 Summary of Findings and Recommendations for Parks and Open Space

6.2. Park Standards

The City of Riverside’s adopted standard for developed park acreage is 3 AC/1,000 population. This is a well-recognized standard throughout United States and is justified by the amount of space required for average levels of park and recreation use. With the 3 acres/1,000 population, the City’s previous master plan specifies a ratio of 2 acres of neighborhood park for every 1 acre of community park. Typically, this further breakdown is not required as an adopted standard and Riverside’s existing sites do not meet this standard. It is approximately the reverse.

This 2-to-1 ratio of neighborhood to community parks was originally adopted at a time when park usage was very different than today. Major changes have been outlined above and include three shifts: multi-car families, dual-income families, and large growth in organized group sport activities such as soccer, little league, etc. This has created the need for more specialized facilities typically found in community parks rather than neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks continue to be important and need to be retained, but not to the degree required by the previously adopted standard.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the current neighborhood/community park ratio standard be revised to reflect existing ratios. It is further recommended that new park development continues to reflect this new ratio of 2-to-1 in favor of community parks.

6.2.2 Open Space and Habitat

Riverside is surrounded by a wealth of natural areas, located in the City and County, that contribute to the City’s special character. Preserving and maintaining these natural resources allows Riverside to create and maintain a unique identity in addition to allowing the City to enhance its connections to the regional landscape.



Box Springs Mountain Reserve

The open space system around the City is not yet completed. Key remaining areas include: land acquisition in La Sierra/Norco Hills and the Alessandro and Prenda Arroyos and completion of wildlife corridors between existing preserved open spaces system (Figure 1).

Figure 1:
City of Riverside Open Space Framework

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Recommendation:

In order to complete the open space system around Riverside, a joint effort between the City and the County to acquire the following wildlife corridors is recommended:

- Between Sycamore Canyon Park and Box Springs Mountain Reserve
- Between Box Springs Mountain Reserve and the Santa Ana River via Springbrook Wash
- Between the Santa Ana River and La Sierra/Norco Hills

6.2.3 Local Parks

The neighborhood and community parks make up the core of the City’s local park system. The inventory of developed parks and facilities, when compared against the adopted standards, reveals that deficiencies occur in the areas of overall acreages, geographic distribution and developed facilities. Table 10 depicts needs projections of park acreage based on population growth through the year 2020. Table 16, contained in Appendix B, lists all of the parks and their acreages by category. The existing park acreage is 512 acres, or 1.97 acres/1000 population with a shortfall of 266 acres. By the year 2005, this shortfall is projected to grow to 325 acres.

Figure 2 displays the areas of the City where there is a geographic deficiency of parks. The figure differentiates three different conditions:

- A. Areas with no City-owned parkland and no development
- B. Areas with City-owned parkland and no existing development
- C. Areas with City-owned parkland, but only very limited development

The current General Plan recommendations for parkland acquisition were reviewed with Department staff in order to evaluate their ability to address parkland deficiencies in the City. The present plan recommends nine park sites for acquisition.

Recommendation:

Replace six of the nine current General Plan park sites, with seven new park sites. These replacements are discussed further in 6.2.4.

Figure 3 displays a revised recommendation of sites to acquire for new park development. These recommendations will meet the parkland acreage standards and reduce deficiencies in geographic distribution.

**Table 7
Projected Park Acreage Needs**

Acreage Calculation to Meet 3AC/1000 Pop.	Year 2000	Year 2005	Year 2010	Year 2015	Year 2020
City of Riverside Pop.	262,140	279,407	302,800	313,000	326,700
Park Acreage Needed	786	838	909	939	978
2002 Park Acreage	513	513	513	513	513
Acreage Deficiency	273	325	396	426	465

Source: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

Figure 2:
Locations of Parkland Shortages

Figure 3:
Additional Park Acreage Available

6.2.4 Revision to General Plan's Proposed Park Sites

In order to meet the growing parkland needs of Riverside, the General Plan proposed park sites that would meet these needs. Nine proposed park sites shown in Exhibit 41 of the General Plan were evaluated with the help of Department staff for this Master Plan update. The following park sites include City-owned and non City-owned lands and total 181 acres:

- **River Ranch Park Site**, 15 net acres, non City-owned – located on Sandy Lane in the north La Sierra vicinity
- **Mitchell Avenue Park Site**, 6 net acres – located adjacent to the Rosemary Kennedy Center Pre-School at Arlington Ave.
- **Hillside Park Site**, 10 net acres – located east of Riverside Municipal Airport
- **Hunter Business Park Site**, 15 net acres – located in Canyon Crest Heights
- **Sycamore Highlands Park Site**, 11 net acres – located west of Sycamore Canyon Park
- **Alessandro Heights Park Site**, 10 net acres – located along Overlook Parkway
- **Prenda Reservoir Park Site**, 25 net acres – located along the Prenda Arroyo
- **Victoria/Cross Park Site**, 7 net acres, City-owned, 3 net acres, non City-owned – located on Victoria Avenue in the southern La Sierra vicinity
- **Frost Reservoir Park Site**, 16 net acres, City-owned – located in the southern La Sierra vicinity
- **Agricultural Park Site**, 63 net acres, City-owned land – located in the Arlanza vicinity just west of Van Buren and south of the Santa Ana River. This site is not designated as a proposed park site in the General Plan but is designated as a special use park. The Department currently designates this site as a community park site.

Recommendation:

In order to better reduce parkland deficiencies as illustrated in Figure 2 and meet the recreation needs of the City, six proposed park sites should be removed from the 1994 General Plan, to be replaced with seven new proposed park sites. The following park sites include City-owned and non City-owned lands and total 132 acres:

- **River Ranch Neighborhood Park Site.**
Remove and replace with:
Tyler Park Site, with 15 net acres, located on non City-owned land. This site is located near the Santa Ana River

and its location better conforms with the Rancho La Sierra Specific Plan.

- **Mitchell Avenue Neighborhood Park Site.**

Remove and replace with:

Savi Ranch Park Site, with 28 net acres, located on City-owned land and 10 net acres of non City-owned land. This site is located in an area outside a park service area, it is adjacent to the Santa Ana River, and allows better and easier access to the Santa Ana River Trail.

- **Hillside Neighborhood Park Site.**

Remove and replace with:

Tequesquite Park (City-owned)/*Wood Streets Vicinity* (non City-owned) Park Sites, 15 net acres. The Hillside Park Site's close proximity to the municipal airport does not allow it to serve an area with greater parkland needs. In addition, nearby Nichols Park provides neighborhood park needs for this area. The new proposed park site locations serve an area with greater park needs and would reduce deficiencies in the Wood Streets and Poly High (north of the 91 Freeway) vicinities.

- **Hunter Business Neighborhood Park Site.**

Remove and replace with:

Springbrook Vicinity Park Site, 10 net acres, non City-owned land. The Hunter Business Park Site is surrounded by industrial and commercial uses that typically do not have a great need for parkland development. The new park site location anticipates parkland needs for the Springbrook vicinity when this area is annexed by the City of Riverside.

- **Alessandro Heights Neighborhood Park Site.**

Remove and replace with:

Victoria/Gage Neighborhood Park Site, 7 net acres, non City-owned land. Helps to reduce deficiencies in the Poly High vicinity south of the 91 Freeway.

- **Prenda Reservoir Community Park Site.**

Remove and replace with:

Golden Star Neighborhood Park Site, 19 net acres, non City-owned land. The current location of the Prenda Park Site falls within the service areas of two existing community parks. The new site is located in an area that is not included in a park service area and also anticipates more residential growth over time.

- **Agricultural Park Site.**

Remove:

This removal is based upon the lack of need for a special use facility in this area. In addition, the Agricultural Park site will

add a surplus of park acreage in this vicinity that is currently serviced by adequate park acreage.

The proposed park site replacements provide 12 less acres than the existing park sites. However, a total of 325 acres are still available for park development to meet the City's parkland needs in the year 2005. Figures 3 and 4 displays recommendations and opportunities for new park acquisition, and existing park expansion and development. These acreages will reduce parkland shortages and geographic distribution deficiencies. For all proposed park sites, the exact locations still need to be determined.

6.2.5 New Park Designations

In Chapter 4, the current General Plan park categories and park tiers were discussed. As noted in Chapter 4, redundancy and confusion is present in the current designations.

Recommendation:

In order to reduce duplications of park categorization and to simplify the allocation of parkland funding, the designation of seven park types and five park tiers as described in the current General Plan are proposed to be replaced with three park categories and four park classifications. To be clear, this re-categorization only involves changing the categorization and terminology of parklands. The actual parklands available in the City remain the same.

6.2.5.A Proposed Park Categories

Local Parks

Local parks are intended to serve the needs of residents who live in close proximity or within a short driving/biking distance to the parks as described in the current General Plan.

Local parks are presently and will continue to be, eligible for Local Park Fees, funds that are allocated for local park improvements. In addition, these parks are currently and will continue to be ineligible for Regional/ Reserve Park Fees, funds that are allocated only for regional/reserve park improvements.

Regional/Reserve Parks

These open space and wilderness areas are typically not as heavily programmed and structured as local parks and, they are intended to provide an alternative to more intensively used parks. They typically offer a more natural setting for limited recreation activities such as trails for hiking and off-road cycling and selective other amenities typically associated with more

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developed parks. They are also intended to support habitat and important natural resources and processes within the Riverside region.

The larger urban parks also provide open space, but generally contain more amenities for park users, such as designated picnic areas, pavilions, and restrooms.

Regional/reserve parks currently have, and will continue to have limited eligibility for local park fees, as long as proposed park improvements fulfill local park needs such as restrooms, picnic facilities, and play lots.

Regional/reserve parks will continue to have full eligibility for regional/reserve park fees.

Signature Parks

Signature parks are not currently a standardized category of parks in the City, but are instead a proposed new category of this Master Plan update. The signature park designation is an acknowledgement that recognizes these parks have special attributes and importance to the community. The specific characteristics of signature parks are highly variable in terms of size, programming and concept, but their commonality is based upon their ability to contribute to the City's image. Acting as focal points in the City, these unique parks help define the overall City image by highlighting and presenting special historical, natural and/or recreational features.

The signature park designation is intended as an overlay to existing park categories and in most cases does not necessitate changing a park from its current category. For example, this new designation allows for the presence of a signature local park or a signature regional/reserve park.

This overlay provides an opportunity to create a new funding mechanism for the upgrade and maintenance of parks designated as signature parks that would be above and beyond current funding allowed by the City. For example, a signature local park would be eligible for the existing local park fees in addition to a new signature park funding structure. A regional/reserve park could be eligible for limited local park fees, full regional/reserve fees, and signature park funds. This new funding source is only a proposal at this point and the specific strategies for such funds have not yet been developed.

Recommendation:

That the development of a new funding mechanism for designated signature parks be explored.

It is also recommended that criteria to formally define the selection and designation process for signature parks be developed.



Rutland Park



Sycamore Canyon Park

6.2.5.B Proposed Park Types

As discussed, the General Plan uses seven park types to describe the various parks that serve local needs. We recommend the use of four park types to reduce confusion and redundancy. We further recommend that the four park types all function as a sub-group under the Local Park classification. As with the park classifications, we propose changing only the categorization and terminology in describing the parks. The actual parklands

available in the City remain the same. The four new proposed park types are:

Neighborhood Park

This park type is well defined in the General Plan and we recommend maintaining the current description. Table 9 lists the specific parks in this category.

Community Park

This park type is also well defined in the General Plan and we recommend maintaining the current description. Table 9 lists the specific parks in this category.

Pocket Park

Pocket parks are miscellaneous urban-type open spaces and include historical sites, or other small developed green spaces in neighborhoods. A pocket park's shape may vary considerably and its size is typically less than two acres. Pocket parks may include special historical or recreational features but are typically too small for the more intensively programmed features found in neighborhood parks. Landscape features of a pocket park can vary and can contain tot lots or be passive park areas. Table 9 lists the parks in this category.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks are generally dedicated to a specialized use or a group of related uses that serve the entire City. Major sports complexes, golf courses, and hobbyist parks are examples of this type of facility. These parks can also have joint-use management structures between the Department and another non-Department entity whereby the Department maintains the facility in exchange for use of the facility. Sports organizations, universities and colleges are examples of non-Department entities. Table 9 lists the parks in this category.

6.2.6 Removal of Current Park Types

In order to further simplify park nomenclature, this Master Plan also recommends the deletion of the following park types from the City's General Plan:

Small Open Space Parks

The name of this park type can be misleading as "open space" can be understood to be a natural environment. The General Plan definition of small open space parks includes features such as historical sites, parkways, and plazas. These features have more urban-like characteristics than an undeveloped open space and are better described by the proposed "pocket park" name.

Citywide Park

This category of parks is used twice in the General Plan: as a park type and as a park tier. The citywide category adds an extra layer of classification that is both confusing and redundant. While the General Plan definition adequately describes the function of a citywide park, many parks currently designated as citywide parks can be better defined by other categories that are discussed further in Chapter 6. Thus, it is recommended that this category be deleted from the General Plan.

6.2.7 Reclassification of Parks

Chapter 4 discussed the simplification of the park categories in order to more clearly define the park types and functions. This process revealed parks that, due to their current function and characteristics, would be better defined under different categories.

Recommendation:

The following parks are recommended for reclassification from their current park designations to new park designations. They are organized by their recommended new category:

6.2.7.A Regional/Reserve Parks

- **Fairmount Park**, currently a citywide park - Although Fairmount Park is an urban park, it also has open space value for the City.
- **Mount Rubidoux**, currently a citywide park - This park contains unique features similar to Fairmount, but it also has open space value
- **Sycamore Canyon Park**, currently a citywide park - This park is a key element of the open space system of the City.

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Table 8
Proposed Regional/Reserve
and Signature Parks

Regional/Reserve Parks	
Fairmount Park	2601 Fairmount
Mount Rubidoux	4706 Mt. Rubidoux
Quail Run Park	Sycamore Canyon Blvd.
Sycamore Canyon Park	5300 block of Central
Signature Parks	
California Citrus State Historic Park	Van Buren Blvd at Dufferin Avenue
Fairmount Park	2601 Fairmount
Mount Rubidoux	4706 Mt. Rubidoux
White Park	3936 Chestnut Street

- **Quail Run Park**, currently a community park - This park site is extremely hilly for park development and is therefore best suited as open space reserve. This site also provides a trail linkage to open space areas. In addition, the Department currently designates this park site as regional/reserve.

6.2.7.B Signature Parks

- **Fairmount Park**, a regional/reserve park - Designed by the sons of the Frederick Law Olmsted, the country's first landscape architect, this park recalls the elegance of historic landscape architectural design,

continues to draw visitors from the surrounding region and acts a gateway into the City.

- **Mount Rubidoux**, a regional/reserve park - Although it functions primarily as urban open space, Mount Rubidoux's historical significance, its role in the celebration of Sunday Mass and its unique recreation opportunities, elevates it as a distinctive urban park for the State as well as the City.
- **White Park**, a special use park per the General Plan, a community park per the City - One of Riverside's first parks, White Park has a historic value and a strong relationship to the urban center of the City. It also provides a venue for special city events and celebrations.
- **California Citrus State Historic Park**, a State park with City collaboration - This park is owned and operated as part of the State Parks system but created as a collaboration between the City and the State. This park is considered significant because it provides a historic and contextual feature to the community

6.2.7.C Local Parks

Neighborhood Parks

- **Islander Park**, currently a community park, it is recommended for re-designation as a neighborhood park - Although the site encompasses a total of 21.5 acres, only 1.4 acres of this park have been developed. The remaining undeveloped acreage is currently being evaluated as potential site for flood control. Other plans under consideration for

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this site includes providing a trailhead for access to nearby Box Springs Mountain Reserve and the City trail system. At this time, this plan proposes that Islander Park should be reclassified as a neighborhood park due to limited acreage projected for parkland development and the expressed needs of the local neighborhood.



View of Sugarloaf from Islander Park

Special Use Parks

The following nine sites are currently designated as special use parks in Exhibit 12 of The General Plan. The parks are as follows:

- Ab Brown Soccer Complex
- Agricultural Park Site
- Challen Hill Park Site
- Hunter Park
- Don Lorenzi Park
- Mount Rubidoux
- Tequesquite Park Site
- Victoria Country Club
- White Park

Of the nine listed sites, the following six are recommended for reclassification in the General Plan:

- **Agricultural Park Site** – Remove from park inventory. We propose removing this park site because there is a superior nearby park site that will better serve the needs of the City.
- **Challen Hill Park Site** – Redesignate as a Neighborhood Park. As part of the efforts to meet parkland needs of the City, 5 acres of this site can be developed as a neighborhood park. The remaining 29 acres are too steep for intensive development and thus will likely remain undeveloped as permanent open space.
- **Don Lorenzi Park** – Redesignate as a Community Park. While originally designed as joint-use function of storm water release as well as playing fields, this park primarily serves as a community park (upstream siltation control is critical to converting this park to a more intensively used community park).
- **Mount Rubidoux** – Reclassify as a Regional/Reserve park with a Signature Park overlay.
- **Tequesquite Park Site** – Reclassify as a Community Park. This park is currently under consideration to be developed as a community park instead of a neighborhood park.

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- **Victoria Country Club** – Remove from park status.
The country club qualifies as a special use, however, it is a private golf course and does not qualify as a City facility. Its previous inclusion may have been in error since other similar private and public facilities, such as the Canyon Crest Country Club and the Riverside Golf Course were omitted.
- **White Park** –
Already designated as a special use park in the General Plan, the Department designates White Park as a community park. While it has community-wide appeal, it is small in size (5 acres) and does not have many of the amenities typical of a community park such as numerous ballfields or a swim center. Its specialized and limited use as a senior center, Department offices headquarters, and a venue for special events better qualifies this park as a special use park.

The following parks are currently categorized as community parks by the Department and are recommended for reclassification as Special Use parks:

- **Riverside Sports Center** -
Not categorized in the General Plan
- **Sam Evans Sports Complex** (Riverside City College) -
Categorized as a community park in the General Plan

While the above facilities have features associated with community parks, because of their specialized use and organizational structure, they function more as a special use park. These facilities involve a complex structure of ownership and management between the Department and the sports hosting agency complexes. Table 9 lists the parks proposed for this type.

Because special use parks are a subgroup of the local parks category, these parks would continue to be eligible for local park funds.

Pocket Parks

The Department currently designates the following parks under a hybrid category of special use/open space parks. Their combined acreage totals 5.89 acres. Because the size, design and function of these parks do not fall under the General Plan descriptions of a special use park, reclassification as pocket parks better describes this type of park:

- Carlson Park
- Low Park
- Newman Park

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**Table 9
Proposed Local Parks and Park Types**

Local Parks	Address
Neighborhood Parks	
Arlington Park	3860 Van Buren Blvd
Bergamont Park	9229 Bergamont
Collett Park	10950 Collett Ave
Harrison Park	2851 Harrison St
Highland Park	780 Glenhill Drive
Islander Park	3794 Mt. Vernon
Don Jones Park	3995 Jefferson St
Lincoln Park	4261 Park Ave
Myra Linn Park	4540 Meredith
Mountain View Park	6241 Wiehe Ave
Patterson Park	1846 Linden St
Rancho Loma Park	11343 Rancho Loma
Rutland Park	7000 Rutland
Taft Park	6826 New Ridge Drive
Thundersky Park	20440 Thundersky
Dario Vasquez Park	2400 14th St
Washington Park	2769 Mary St
Community Parks	
Bobby Bonds Park	2060 University Ave
Bordwell Park	2008 MLK
Bryant Park	5950 Philbin Ave
Castleview Park	1410 Via Vista Dr
Hunt Park	4015 Jackson
La Sierra Park	5205 La Sierra
Nichols Park	5505 Dewey
Orange Terrace	2010 Orange Terrace
Reid Park	701 N. Orange St
Shamel Park	3650 Arlington
Villegas Park	7240 Marguerita
Pocket Parks	
Carlson Park	4700 Buena Vista Ave
Low Park	7101 Magnolia Ave
Newman Park	3780 14th St
North Park	3172 7th St
Swanson Park	5723 Glenhaven
Tibbets, Eliza (Parent Navel Orange Tree)	SW Corner of Arlington & Magnolia
Special Use Parks	
Ab Brown Soccer Complex	3700 Placentia Ave
Hunter Park	1400 Iowa Ave
Riverside Sports Center	UC Riverside
Sam Evans Sports Complex	Riverside City College
Streeter Park	6778 Streeter Ave
White Park	3936 Chestnut St
Other Parks	
Boy Scout Camp	

- North Park
- Swanson Park
- Tibbets, Eliza (Parent Navel Orange)

Like special use parks, pocket parks are a subgroup of the local parks category and would continue to be eligible for local park funds.

Other Parks

- Boy Scout Camp -
The General Plan does not identify this site, but it is presently categorized by the Department as a Citywide park.

Because this site is no longer used for camping by the Boy Scouts and has limited access from Fairmount Park, and no public visibility, it does not function as viable parkland.

Recommendation:

The City should consider absorbing this acreage into the Public Utilities Department-owned “wilderness” area below the Lake Evans dam and drop it from the parklands inventory.

6.2.9 Community Centers

Community centers are normally located within community parks, sometimes in conjunction with community pools. Because community centers can act as activity hubs for a community, programs and activities held at these centers should be catered, to the extent practical, to the demographics, needs and desires of the surrounding community area.

Recommendation:

Periodic review of the City’s existing community center programs and infrastructure is recommended to ensure that the facilities are safe and adequately meet the needs of the neighborhoods they serve.

6.2.10 Deficiencies of Park and Recreation Facilities

Table 10 shows an analysis of the deficiencies in recreation facilities. It first identifies the inventory of the existing facilities. The next two columns compare the estimated activity rates of participation by Riverside resident compared with the statewide averages for these activities. Out of 26 recreation categories, Riverside has a lower use per person than statewide per capita in 21 recreation categories. It is presumed by this study that the reason for Riverside's lower use per person is the shortage of developed parks and facilities.

The next two columns show the suggested facility demands for meeting State activity use for the year 2002 and Riverside's existing inventory in terms of facilities and infrastructure average. Except for organized adult softball fields, football fields and use of open grass areas, the City falls behind the State in all recreation facility types. However, the shortage of facilities can be comfortably accommodated within the suggested citywide developed park acreage expansion.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the statewide rates be used to calculate facility requirements rather than the Riverside participation rates since the local rates may not reflect the actual desire for participation in such activities.

6.2.11 Joint Use Partnerships with Schools

All of the City's prior recreation and land use plans strongly recommended the implementation of joint use parks and schools. This was intended to create a park development process that increased efficiency and reduced redundancy. A few partnerships between schools and the City were created and continue to exist today and should not be abandoned. Due to social changes and concerns for children's safety, however, schools and their playgrounds are becoming less open to general public access. In some cases, school playgrounds have been completely fenced off from the

adjacent parks. The trend toward more restrictive access to schools will most likely continue and consequently, future parkland development should not be reliant on these cooperative partnerships.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that where these joint uses occur, a well written agreement defining the roles of each party and protecting public access to and use of these facilities be put in place.

However, joint use of school facilities such as gymnasiums, aquatic centers, and equestrian



Looking North Toward Riverside

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**Table 10
City of Riverside and State Per Capita Use Levels and Facilities Needs**

Activity	Riverside Per Capita Participation	State-wide Per Capita Participation	Facility Demand To Meet Statewide Use Levels	Existing Facilities in Riverside	Facilities Needed to Meet Statewide Use Levels
Softball:					
Organized Youth	3.1	3.1	24.1 fields	21	3.1 fields
Organized Adult	2.3	2.3	14.5 fields	21	-8.1 fields
Baseball:					
Organized Youth	4.3	4.3	28.0 Fields	11	17.0 Fields
Football	2.4	2.4	2.2	4	-1.8
Soccer:					
Organized Youth	2.9	3.4	36	23	13
Organized Adult	1.9	2.2	24	18	6
Picnicking	5.5	7.3			
Groups of <100	4.3	5.7	394 Tables	30 Areas	
Groups of 100-400	1.2	1.6	55 Tables	4 Areas	
Tot Lots/ Playgrounds	11.9	17	118 Areas	33 Areas	85 Areas
Swimming (Public Pool)					
Recreational	12	32	28	5	13
Competitive	1.7	4.5	7	2	5
Tennis	2	2.3	54 courts	18 courts	36 courts
Golf	4.2	6.3	6	4	2
Basketball:					
Organized: Youth/Adult	5.8	8	20	6	14
Walking/ Jogging/ Running	30.7	55.5	97 mi	5 mi	92 mi
Trail Hiking	2.3	8.3	27 mi	15.27 mi	11.3 mi
Equestrian Trail Riding	0.7	2	15 mi	11.5 mi	3.5 mi
Bicycling	20.4	44.8	352 mi	73.27 mi	278.7 mi
Paved Trails	14	37.6	272 mi	n/a	n/a
Non-paved Trails	6.4	7.2	80 mi	n/a	n/a
Skate Boarding	9.3	11.4	6	1	5
Skating/Roller Hockey	0.6	0.7	2	1	1
Indoor Classes					
Youth or Adult	5.3	5.3	59.5	8	51.5
Use of Open Grass Areas	15	23.7	159.6	218.4	-58.8
Attend Outdoor Cultural Events in Parks	3.9	4.5	6.1	2	4.1

Source: Recreation Needs Assessment Survey, Riverside, CA, April 2002

centers that are run by the local school is still a desired partnership. It is recommended that where these joint uses occur, a well written agreement defining the roles of each party and protecting public use of these facilities is in place.

6.3 Park Revitalization Concepts

While this Master Plan update does not address individual park designs, it was felt that descriptions of thoughts and suggestions should be provided for three park prospects: Fairmount Park (with an included concept plan), the Tequesquite Arroyo, and Arlington Heights.

6.3.1 Fairmount Park

Fairmount Park has always been the City's most important park feature and still receives the highest amount of visitation of any park in the City. However, the park faces major problems due to its age and heavy use levels. Existing undeveloped public lands are available for expansion of this great park and such expansion can occur companioned with revegetation and rehabilitation. The following major concepts are suggested for consideration:

- **Emphasize the park's historic values in the redesign and restoration.**

Fairmount Park was one of the few parks in the nation to be designed by the Olmsted Brothers, sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect who designed New York's Central Park. Historic features and landscape materials should be utilized as well as the principles utilized by the Olmsteds in the expansion areas.

- **Provide expansion space in the park and create a positive image from the freeway.**

It is suggested that the Executive Golf Course be removed/relocated and the space be utilized for park expansion. Lake Evans could be expanded into this area as a focal point for the area. This would be an ideal location for lake related amenities with a potential for revenue generation and family day use facilities. Boat access destinations should be included.

- **Improve Market Street frontage.**

Market Street is a major entry into the City, but the park edge provides an unattractive face. It is suggested that the existing park maintenance area be relocated; that Springbrook Wash be widened into a wetlands amenity; and landscaping should be developed with views into the park. A meandering bike trail/walkway should be considered along the entire distance from the freeway up through the panhandle connection to downtown.

Figure 4:
Conceptual Improvement Plan for Fairmount Park

- **West side expansion.**

The west end of Lake Evans presently has a very narrow strip of land between the lake and the roadway. A concept to consider is the relocation of the roadway away from the lake edge and the creation of a widened grassy level area next to the lake.

The lower area was once a quality natural riparian habitat, but is now heavily degraded due to age and its use as a residential area for the homeless. Neighbors appear to be supportive of using the area instead for soccer or other sports as well as group use. The majority of the space should be utilized for improved riparian habitat, but designed so as not to become an attractive nuisance.

- **Relocation of homeless feeding program.**

It is our understanding that regional charities now utilized the park as a place to provide food for the homeless. This worthy program is quite damaging to the park's image and greatly discourages use by the general public. It is suggested that the City work with these charities in order to find a more suitable location for this program.

6.3.2 Tequesquite Arroyo

This area is adjacent to the Santa Ana River and the City's former landfill facility. It is suggest that a portion of the City's ownership be considered for a neighborhood park site. In addition, other potential uses include:

- An 18-hole golf course, with the ability to connect to Toro Corporation and UC Riverside's Turf Management programs.
- Development of constructed wetlands to be utilized for non-point source clean-up of runoff. These might be developed in conjunction with golf with the potential for the excavated soil to provide topsoil for the development of the golf course on the retired landfill. Another possible benefit is the use of some or all of the wetlands for a wetlands mitigation bank.
- A trailhead for both the Santa Ana River Trail and Mount Rubidoux.

6.3.3 Arlington Heights Community Park

A community park is under consideration within the Arlington Heights area. It could be designed so that it would include a number of rows of citrus along Victoria Avenue or Van Buren Boulevard with park improvements behind this permanent citrus buffer. The cost of land in the area, as compared with other sectors of the City, would justify this dual-use facility.

6.4 Summary of Findings and Recommendations for Trails System and Trail Hubs

6.4.1 Trails System

The City of Riverside's 1991 Trails Master Plan consists of primary and secondary loops throughout the City and trail access facilities that were reviewed and evaluated. It was found that certain trails and trails access facilities shown on the plan would now be extremely difficult to achieve due to subsequent development. In some cases the trails system did not connect the major open spaces surrounding the City. A final concern was that, at present, no prioritization for implementing the trail system is in place.

Recommendations:

Improving and creating more connections and increasing the safety of the bicycling, equestrian and pedestrian trails system within the City is recommended.

A primary loop should connect signature parks, County, and State open spaces and parks. A revised network of trail hubs and trail access points to the Santa Ana River, La Sierra/Norco Hills, Box Springs Mountain, Sycamore Canyon and County trails are also recommended. Continued improvements to Victoria Avenue are also recommended due to its important role as a linkage to the overall trail loop and its historical significance and connection to the California Citrus State Historic Park.

The secondary loop trails form smaller interior loops of varying distance and ability levels. These trails range from walks of less than 2 miles to all-day hiking or trail rides on bikes or horses. Secondary trails further connect community and neighborhood parks to the primary trail system forming a finer mesh of connections throughout the City. Opportunities for walk-a-thons, 10K-and-over runs, triathlons, and bike races are a design consideration for this system.

A more detailed description of adjustments to the trails system follows and are illustrated in Figure 4.

Mission Grove/Orangecrest

The backbone of the trails master plan links Sycamore Canyon Park with the Alessandro Arroyo and points south out into the County. This segment is a part of the City's primary loop trail and is currently shown meandering through the Mission Grove Area. Due to changes in the development pattern in this area and trail easements that have subsequently been obtained and improved under the mapping process, the alignment of this trail segment needs to be revised on the Trails Master Plan to reflect the following:

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The proposed trail segment is now proposed to exit the Sycamore Canyon Park at the intersect of Barton Street and the Metropolitan Water District right-of-way where it passes through the park, thence south along Barton Street, crossing Alessandro and the March Air Reserve Base property and continuing to Siegal Avenue, thence west along Siegal Avenue to Trautwein Road, thence northerly along the east side of Trautwein Road to John F. Kennedy Drive, crossing Trautwein on the southerly side of John F. Kennedy, thence westerly along John F. Kennedy Drive to Dauchy, thence northerly along the easterly side of Dauchy to the Alessandro Arroyo.

Approximately 80% of this proposed alignment has been secured through conditions of approval on various maps in this area.

A second primary trail segment is now proposed beginning at the southeasterly corner of John F. Kennedy Drive and extending southerly along the easterly side of Wood Road to Krameria, where the County's trails plan then picks up this segment and continues it southwestward through the County area.

This trail segment is 90% in place as a part of the Communities Southwest project and is intended to serve as a connector to the County trail to the south.

Citrus Park/Arlington Heights/El Sobrante

The primary trail link currently shown passing through the Citrus Park along the Gage Canal right-of-way between Irving Street and McAllister Street is proposed to be shifted off of the canal and up to the northwesterly side of Dufferin Avenue, thence southwestward along Dufferin, crossing Van Buren Boulevard at Dufferin, and continuing to McAllister Street as a primary trail, thence southerly along the easterly side of McAllister to the City Limits. This change is intended to avoid bisecting the historic core of the Citrus Park, a proposed pay-to-enter venue, with a free public access trail, and to coordinate with trail segments now proposed in a tentative tract in the Van Buren Heights area immediately abutting the City Limits in this area.

A related primary trail link between the Citrus Park and to County trails along Mockingbird Canyon Road and points south is now proposed to commence at the intersect of Irving Street and the Gage Canal on the easterly edge of the park and to extend southerly along Irving to Firethorn, thence westerly along Firethorn to Van Buren, thence southerly along Van Buren to Mockingbird Canyon Road, crossing Van Buren at this location, and thence southwestward out into the County area along Mockingbird Canyon Road, ultimately linking with Lake Mathews.

The primary trail connection to a County trail heading up Harrison Arroyo as previously shown on the Trails Master Plan is no longer viable, according to County parks staff. Hence this connection is proposed to be deleted. Inlieu

of the Harrison Arroyo primary trail link, a second related primary trail link is now proposed beginning at McAllister and Dufferin, and extending along the easterly parkway of McAllister out into the County area to the south ultimately to connect to Lake Mathews. This change of alignment will coordinate with a current map being processed in the County.

The secondary trail segment beginning at McAllister and Dufferin and shown running northerly along McAllister, thence mid-block westerly through the groves is proposed to be deleted. The Stewart Street trail segment is proposed to be extended southerly to Dufferin in lieu of this secondary segment on McAllister.

Another related secondary trail link presently shown extending from Dufferin Avenue at Stewart westerly to La Sierra Avenue, then northerly to Victoria is proposed to be deleted from the Trails Master Plan. The County has indicated that the previously planned trail segment along La Sierra Avenue extending up to Lake Mathews has been deleted from their plan due to the changes in the ultimate size of La Sierra Avenue now planned out in the County area (i.e. eight lanes of traffic). Consequently, this trail segment within the City is no longer seen as viable.

A related secondary trail link is presently shown running along the easterly parkway of Stewart Street between Victoria and Dufferin, stopping short of Dufferin by a half block and turning east to McAllister. This link is now proposed to run continuously through to Dufferin as a secondary trail. This change will coordinate with a trail segment on the abutting tract map being processed in the County.

A final related primary trail link is the segment on Myers Street between Victoria and the Gage Canal. The portion of this segment between the Gage Canal and Dufferin is proposed to be deleted since the Harrison Arroyo trail connection is no longer viable.

6.4.2 Trail Hubs & Trail Access Points

The development of informative and easily identifiable trail access points and hubs will enhance the experience of the trail user and act as a linkage between the community and the surrounding open spaces via the trails system.

The two principal points of entry onto the trails system, redefined herein as trail access points and trail hubs, replace the terms of small and large areas respectively as used in the 1991 City of Riverside Trails Master Plan. These two sizes of staging areas were previously undifferentiated by site in the plan, but are now designated site by site.

An access point is defined as the smaller of the staging areas along the trails system. This terminology better describes the hierarchy and intent of these areas. Access points will provide the minimum essential elements for a designated trail access area.

Similarly, trail hubs are defined as the larger staging areas per the 1991 Trails Master Plan. It is felt the term hub better describes the intent and concept of these facilities. Hubs are similar to access points, but with expanded facilities.

6.4.3 Amenities at Access Points and Trail Hubs

The trail hubs as proposed in this Plan support the trails system framework by their location in, or near the major open spaces that surround the City; specifically, Norco Hills, the Santa Ana River, Box Springs Mountain, Sycamore Canyon, Arlington Heights, and its surrounding citrus groves. Trail hubs are intended to serve the regional population as well as the local residents. Hubs are envisioned as requiring approximately .5 to 1.5 acres of land to develop. Since hubs would generally be another amenity within designated local and/or regional park sites, the acreage needed is considered to be included within the calculation to fulfill the overall standard of 3 acres of parkland per 1000 population for meeting the recreation needs of the City.

Amenities at both access points and trail hubs would include the following:

- Identification and directional signs
- Marked parking stalls, including up to six pull-through stalls to accommodate vehicles with directional signs
- Watering facilities for horses
- Water for cyclists, equestrians and hikers
- Hitching posts
- Shade
- Trash Receptacles

Additional amenities to be found at trail hubs, but not access points, would include the following:

- Simple fenced corrals with hitching posts
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms

Trail access points also provide access to the trails system but are intended to primarily serve the immediate neighborhood. They would typically be located within parks that are adjacent to the existing and proposed trails system.

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A trail access point would generally require up to 11,000 square feet (.25 acres) to accommodate. Features of a trail access point are as described previously, and would be similar to the previous definition of a small staging area per the original Trails Master Plan.

6.4.4 Designation Recommendations

City of Riverside:

- **Agriculture Park Site** – located west of Rutland Park
- **Fairmount Park**
- **Prenda Park Site** – Alessandro Heights

County of Riverside:

- **Box Springs Mountain Reserve**
- **Rancho Jurupa** – north of Santa Ana River

State:

- **Citrus Park** – State of California, Arlington Heights

Private:

- **Humane Society Site** – Private sector ownership, located southwest of the Martha McLean-Anza Narrows Park

Other:

- **Ingalls Park Equestrian Center** - City of Norco

Recommendation:

To better serve trail system users, place access points and trail hubs in better geographical balance around the City. To allow the City better control of the destiny of its own trails system, this plan proposes a total of six trail hubs and six access points, removing some previously proposed staging sites and adding some new proposed sites as follows (see also Figure 4):

- Hub** **Agricultural Park Site** - Replace with:
Savi Ranch Park Site Trail Hub – Jointly owned by the County and City of Riverside, designation of this site as a trail hub could replace the proposed trail staging area at the Agricultural Park Site. Located at the City Limits of Norco and Riverside and the southwestern edge of the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, this proposed trail hub takes advantage of this key location by creating a gateway to the Santa Ana River Trail. In addition, a joint venture with the County may help defray the costs of developing a new trail hub.

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- Hub Fairmount Park Site** - The Fairmount site is retained as a trail hub. Currently, no formal trail hub is developed in Fairmount Park. As a proposed signature park, a developed trail hub in this location further establishes Fairmount Park as a multiple use venue that attracts the regional and local population with various activities and amenities.
- Hub Prenda Park Site** - Replace with:
Sycamore Canyon Park Trail Hub - This trail hub is proposed to replace the Prenda Park Site trail hub because the Prenda site is recommended for removal from the Master Plan as a proposed park site. In addition, a trail hub at the Central Avenue location provides a highly visible gateway into Sycamore Canyon Park and an excellent connection to the recreational trail system. Although at this time there remains some resistance to equestrian use in Sycamore Canyon from environmental groups due to potential negative impacts, the Central Avenue site could readily accommodate hiking and biking uses even if equestrian use is ultimately banned within Sycamore Canyon. Maintaining a dialogue with environmental groups in order to reach a mutually agreed upon arrangement should be a goal of the Department.
- Hub Ingalls Park** - Replace with:
La Sierra Park - Located in the La Sierra area, a proposed trail hub at this existing community park would be relatively inexpensive to implement. It would be located on a primary north/south trail segment that directly connects the La Sierra area to the Santa Ana River and provides convenient links along Campbell Avenue to the Norco Hills and Ingalls Park beyond.
- Access Box Springs Mountain Site** - Possibly replace in future with:
Islander Park Site – At this time, the County has not yet developed a trail staging area on the Box Springs Mountain property. If the County property shown on Figure 4 remains in its present natural condition after another five years (i.e. in 2008), the City may want to consider designating a trail access point within Islander Park. Islander Park is already partially developed with 21 acres of available undeveloped parkland. In addition, a trail access point at Islander Park would provide easy access to the trail system for the surrounding community, including the UC Riverside population. Figure 4 does not show this change, but instead retains the Box Springs site on the map for planning purposes at this time.

- Access Rancho Jurupa** - Replace with:
Tequesquite Park Site – A trail access point at the Tequesquite site can provide a gateway to two adjacent open space areas, Mount Rubidoux and the Santa Ana River. Although a staging area was previously proposed in nearby Rancho Jurupa Park, that site is on the opposite side of the Santa Ana River, and thus does not offer easy access for City residents.
- Hub Citrus Park Site** - It is recommended that the existing designation at the Citrus Park be retained, but that the location be shifted from within the State Park’s footprint to an alternate City-owned site on the northerly side of Dufferin Avenue. This shift would correlate with other recommendations within this report regarding realignment of the trail currently shown bisecting the Citrus Park. The proposed realignment of the primary trail and relocation of this trail hub are intended to avoid encroaching upon the park, which is planned as a paid admission venue.

The following trail staging area sites are recommended for removal from the Trails Master Plan:

Humane Society Site - Because The Humane Society Site is a privately owned site and also primarily for equestrian use, for the purpose of this Master Plan, it is not considered a viable location for a multi-purpose trail hub.

The following trail hubs and access points are recommended for addition to the Plan:

- Hub Springbrook Wash/Box Springs Site** – Located within an area proposed for annexation into the City of Riverside, a trail hub is proposed to be located within a park intended to serve residents within the annexation area east of the 91/215 Freeways and north of the 60 Freeway and would link this area of the community to both Box Springs Mountain and the Santa Ana River.
- Access Washington Park** – Located on Mary Street near Victoria Avenue in the middle of town, this park site could serve as a non-equestrian access point to the Victoria Avenue bike and hiking trails and points southerly.
- Access Victoria-Cross Park** – Located on the northerly side of Victoria Avenue at the west end of town, this site could provide excellent non-equestrian access to the Victoria Avenue bike and hiking trails and points southerly.

Access Reid Park/Ab Brown Soccer Complex – Located adjacent to the Riverside Golf Course and just south of the Ab Brown Soccer Complex, this proposed trail access point would connect both Reid Park and the Soccer Complex to the proposed primary trail loop between Box Springs Mountain and the Santa Ana River trails system.

Access Orange Terrace Community Park – Located in the Orangecrest area, this community park would provide easy non-equestrian access for this area of the community to the trails system and points south.

6.4.5 Trail Funding

Historically, the City's efforts to create a system of trails located off street right-of-ways have relied on two primary sources. The first is dedication of rights-of-ways and construction of trails at the time of development. This has resulted in a spotty network of trails, depending upon the development patterns at the time. The second source has been state and federal grant funds, sometimes in partnership with the County. These funds are typically focused on regional trails, such as the Santa Ana River trail system.

Suggested funding sources for the trail system and trail hub improvements include partnerships with the County, Federal Transportation Funds, the State Bicycle Account and State park bonds. However, given the reduced prospects of both State and Federal Grant programs due to the recent downturn in the economy, a more reliable development driven funding source is needed to fill in the gaps and complete the entire trail system. Funding dedicated strictly to the provisions of trails and trail hubs may be needed.

It is therefore recommended that an evaluation of a potential increase to the Regional/Reserve Park Fees be undertaken to determine if some trails component to this fee would be feasible. Furthermore, if some form of general obligation bond for parks acquisition and improvements is developed, it is recommended that a portion of the issue be allocated to trails and trail hubs.

Figure 5:
Proposed & Existing Trails and Proposed Trail Hubs &
Trail Access Points

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Funding for parkland acquisition and development as well as operation and maintenance comes from a variety of sources. Many of these sources are specifically earmarked for only limited purposes, such as State wildlife habitats and corridors. In addition, the State legislature has set up two mechanisms that allow a jurisdiction to keep up with population growth through exactions and fees placed on development projects. This chapter discusses the anticipated funding needs, possible phasing considerations, a range of potential sources, and recommendations.

7.1 Funding Needs and Sources Matrix

The primary need of the City is to address its serious deficiency in park acreage as well as to complete the restoration of the existing parks. The Funding Strategies Matrix (Table 11) provides an overview of the various categories of actions and companion funding pertaining to projected needs faced by the park system. It also lists the approximate costs of accomplishing each need and the potential funding sources that are most applicable for each identified need.

7.2 Existing Funding Sources

7.2.1 Development Impact Fees

In order to fulfill its responsibility to protect public health, safety and welfare, Riverside requires developers to provide adequate funding to acquire and then implement the development of lands acquired as a condition of development approval.

Two fees have been established; 411 funds which are allocated for neighborhood and community parks and 413 funds which are allocated for regional parks and open space. To ensure that the fees are adequately funding needed park acquisition and development, the fee calculation needs to be updated periodically. Regional/Reserve Park Fees have in the past been used primarily for three primary sites: Sycamore Canyon, Fairmount Park, and Mt. Rubidoux.

Recommendation:

Regional/Reserve Park Fees should be expanded to finance the acquisition and development of trails as well as the proposed large community park and companion orange grove buffer in Arlington Heights.

**Table 11
Funding Strategies Matrix for City of Riverside Parks**

Resource Category	Specific Needs	Estimated Costs Associated with Needs	Potential Funding Sources
1. Existing Park Inventory – Deferred Maintenance Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of Park System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 31.4 million total -\$ 27.0 million in progress \$ 4.4 million still required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citywide General Obligation Act or Assessment District State Bond Act (Prop 40)
2. Neighborhood, Community and Special Use Parks: Catch-up only plus build to Year 2005 needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under-served Areas Emerging Areas Make-up of the 1.8/acre to 3.0/acre parks to 1000 people citywide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assume a deficit adjustment of approx. 325 acres Year 2005. \$200K (201 ex. city ac. to develop) = \$40.2 mil. \$250K (114 ac. to acquire and develop) = \$28.5 mil. Estimated necessary funding: \$68.7 mil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citywide G.O. Bonds or Assessment District State Bond Acts such as Prop 40, Prop 49 Developer Fees for population increase of 20,000 people by Year 2005: \$20 million.
3. Signature Parks: Catch-up Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fix-up/up-grade existing Add or build upon existing New Concepts/functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered under 1. above Covered under 2. above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic & Urban Parks Funds (Prop 40) Water Safety & Clean-up (Prop 13, Prop 50) Fishing/Wetlands Habitat (WCB funds) Economic Development funds Public/Private Partnerships
4. Trails & Trails Hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail hubs and new trails (11 hubs & 15 Gage Canal implementation Multi-use (8 miles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional trail development, trail hubs and trail <p>Estimated necessary funding: \$7.0 million +/-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with County Federal Transportation Funds State Bicycle Account Proposition 40
5. Open Space & Corridor Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Sierra/Norco Hills Springbrook Wash connector Sycamore Canyon connectors Arroyos South area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition and development of open space links <p>Estimated necessary funding: \$2.0 million +/-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developer trade-offs Developer dedications WCB and County Habitat Funds Proposition 50
Resource Categories No. 1 – 5, Estimated Costs: \$82.1 mil. +/-			
6. Special Focus on Annexation Areas (Accomplish with existing fee structure. Periodic review necessary to ensure funding mechanism is keeping pace w/growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community parks Neighborhood parks Open space Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Pay-as-You-Go" approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annexation Area Assessment District Quimby Act & Developer Fees WCB funds
7. Operation & Maintenance of Existing & Expanded Park System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community parks Neighborhood parks Open space Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 325 acres expansion @ 5,000 - 6,000 acres per \$1.6 - \$2.0 million per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City General Fund Assessment District

7.2.2 State Park and Water Bond Funding

State bonds provide periodic funding for parks acquisition and development and are useful for “catch-up” purposes for the City’s highest priority needs. Funds from Proposition 12, passed in 2000, are currently being utilized to fund refurbishment-type capital improvements to several parks throughout the City. The funding from the recently passed Proposition 40 has not yet been allocated. In addition to these earmarked funds, there are usually a number of categories of competitive grants in both park and water bonds for which the City park system may qualify.

Recommendation:

The Department should seek grant funding where qualified and should investigate the opportunities provided by state bond propositions. Some examples are discussed below.

Proposition 40, passed in 2002, will likely become available in fiscal year 2003-04 and will provide up to \$2 million dollars to the City. It could either be used to complete the refurbishment of the existing park system or to begin the catch-up process of new park acquisition and development.

Proposition 49, passed in November 2002, will increase state grant funding for before and after-school programs providing tutoring, homework assistance, and education enrichment. Public elementary, middle and junior high schools, including charter schools will be eligible for grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Some of the City’s parks may qualify for Proposition 49 funds where school and City park partnerships currently exist as well as for programs in partnership with the two school Districts.

Proposition 50, passed in November 2002, will increase funding not only for improvements to public water systems for safer drinking water, but also for water clean-up through constructed wetland projects and habitat restoration. Fairmount Park and the Tequesquite Arroyo project may be eligible for funding to acquire, create, and restore its wetlands and open space wildlands.

7.2.3 State and Federal Transportation Funds

Funding for bikeway and trails development are available from State and Federal sources. The State provides two bikeway funding programs, the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and the Safe Routes to Schools Programs, both of which are administered by CalTrans.

Class I bicycle, hiking and riding trails are funded through the Federal Recreational Trails Program and the Non-motorized Trail Program, both of which are administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Many Federal programs that are available for all classes of bicycle trails are oriented toward commuting. Bicycle trails serving commuters and recreational purposes would qualify for Federal funding. Federal bicycle funding programs include the Transportation Enhancement Activities program (TEA), Congestion Mitigation Air Quality improvement program (CMAQ), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and the Scenic Byways program. Specific information and applications are available from the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). For Riverside, the local MPO is the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). While Federal legislation stipulates that bicycle programs may be funded from these sources, individual MPO's may reserve these funds for other uses. The City public works department may also have information about the various transportation funding programs.

All of the Federal and State bicycle funding programs are administered through the local MPO and require that the project be included in an approved bicycle plan that has been approved by CalTrans and the MPO.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City seek grant funds to assist in trail and bikeway acquisition and development.

7.2.4 Volunteers & Community Support Groups

Riverside has had great success with volunteers and friends groups. A prime example is the Friends of Mount Rubidoux who have raised funding for improvements, assisted with daily clean-up and citizen patrol, and raised awareness of the mountain's values and needs. The Victoria Avenue Forever group has also performed exemplary support efforts.

During the public workshops, participants expressed a great deal of interest in creating new groups for other parks units.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that staff be assigned to foster partnerships with volunteer groups.

7.2.5 Partnerships, Grants & Special Funding

In the past, the City has entered into partnerships with U.C. Riverside, Riverside City College and others. Some of these partnerships have not necessarily been financially worthwhile due to limited public access available after construction.

New partnership opportunities appear to be possible, and could be helpful in meeting the City's needs. They include two possible opportunities to partner with the County at the Savi Ranch property adjacent to the Santa Ana River and the surplus military property near the former March Air Force Base. Other opportunities may be possible with the California Baptist University and with private concessionaires in Fairmount Park and possibly at Tequesquite Arroyo.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City actively seek partnerships to assist with its mission. However, possible partnerships need to be carefully evaluated to ensure that the City will be able to stretch its dollars and receive fair value for its investment.

7.2.6 Developer Trade-offs and Dedications

On occasion conditions allow developers, who are willing or in need, to dedicate land (usually open space) in exchange for density clustering on other parts of their property. Large portions of Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park were acquired in this manner as well as small segments of the Alessandro Arroyo.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that such funding mechanisms be explored as to their applicability for La Sierra/Norco Hills and portions of the wildlife corridors and arroyos included in this plan.

7.2.7 User Fees

User fees can be used to offset a small percentage of operation and maintenance costs of facilities, but they should not be relied upon to support any acquisition or development costs of parks.

7.2.8 City General Funds

The City's General Fund has been under increasing pressure over the years because of the various public services that it provides. It is therefore an unlikely source for greatly expanded acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of parks and recreation.

7.2.9 Assessment District(s) – Citywide

A funding gap for developing new parks in underserved areas and maintaining aging parks in the City currently exists and new funding

mechanisms are required in order to alleviate these challenges in the park system. Specialty assessment districts such as lighting and landscape districts and benefit assessment districts are long-lived and can be created to provide funding for operations and maintenance of parks. Depending on the structuring, this funding would also cover acquisition and development costs.

Recommendation:

The Department should determine the park needs of the City and explore funding measures that would be supported by the citizens. If an assessment district is created, the Department should periodically review the assessment fee structure to ensure it is accomplishing desired goals.

7.2.10 Assessment Districts – New Developments

A number of agencies in California have begun to require that, as a condition of approval, large new development areas create an assessment district for the long-term operation and maintenance of new park areas and facilities. This is an effective strategy for avoiding continuously falling behind as new parks are created for new populations.

Recommendation:

The City should explore the potential for establishing assessment districts with new development, especially in new areas being annexed into the City.

7.2.11 General Obligation Bonds

The City can request the voters' approval of bonds that can be used for acquisition and development of parks. However, the 2/3 voter approval requirement makes passage of such funding difficult.

Recommendation:

If the City determines that it should pursue a General Obligation bond vote to accomplish its funding needs for parks, a careful citizen based approach should be utilized in seeking passage.

7.3 Approximate Financial Needs

A rough estimate for funding the various recommended elements in addition to bringing the developed neighborhood and community park acreages up to the 3 AC/1,000 population standard is approximately \$82.1 million. A portion of this cost should be covered by an influx of approximately \$20 million of developer fees from a

Chapter Seven - Costs and Funding Strategies

projected increase of 20,000 new residents by the year 2005. In addition, a program of actively pursuing potential grant funds over the next three to five years should meet approximately \$15 million of this need. A shortfall of approximately \$47 million would be left.

If the City chose to utilize a short-term target of 2.75 AC/1,000 population as a priority goal with an immediate funding program, it would be possible to reduce the funding need by approximately \$16 million, leaving a shortfall of \$31 million. The remaining .25 AC/1,000 population could then be achieved in a later funding mechanism, allowing an evaluation of the performance of this initial program and then a re-prioritizing and adjusting for the final effort.

If the City achieves a goal of 2.75 AC/1,000 population by the year 2005 and continues to require developers to provide 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 population, the City will slowly reduce its parkland deficiencies. The City will then be able to continue to meet its goal of providing 3 AC/1,000 through the year 2020 and beyond.

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In a large and complex city like Riverside, planning and management of a parks system is a challenging endeavor. The unique characteristics and needs of the community need to be considered when determining the best fit between park facilities and services with the community. Simultaneously, equitable distribution of park resources needs to be allocated for all residents and finally, parks need to be managed with consistency. To achieve these goals, the following set of policies has been developed for guidance. These policies provide a framework to direct parks development for the duration of the Park and Recreation Master Plan. The policies are intended to support City staff as well as the community during decision-making about all parks or plans for recreation programs and resources that affect the City.

The City of Riverside's Park and Recreation policies were developed by reviewing the City's 1994 General Plan, planning documents from comparable cities, and by considering specific directions obtained from the outreach process. These suggested policies have been developed to reflect current Riverside issues and park system management practices. Specific policies were created to address the priorities of the community heard through the workshops.

Recommendation:

That the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council review and consider for formal adoption the policies that follow in this chapter.

8.1 Parklands and Park Facilities

Park Standards

- 8.1.1 Neighborhood parks are intended to serve a residential population within a one-half (1/2) mile radius of the park. Community parks are intended to serve a residential population within a two (2) mile radius of the park.
- 8.1.2 The Department should develop design guidelines for the development of new parks according to the classification of parks defined in this Master Plan.
- 8.1.3 The Department should develop a strategic plan for identifying and acquiring potential park sites in areas determined to be deficient in park acreage.
- 8.1.4 In new development areas, if plans for residential development do not specify the number of proposed units, new park acreage should be based on the highest allowable density of residential units per acre.
- 8.1.5 The City shall establish acquisition and development standards and shall require residential developers to accept the responsibility for the provision of park and recreation areas and facilities pursuant to those standards.
- 8.1.6 The Department should review and update the Master Plan every ten years at minimum.

Location

- 8.1.7 Integration with public transportation routes should be considered when locating regional reserve parks, community parks and community centers
- 8.1.8 Parks should be located adjacent to park compatible use areas, such as residential uses, greenbelts, bicycle corridors, schools and natural waterways to minimize the negative impacts of adjacent land uses on the recreational function of the parks.
- 8.1.9 Proposed parks shall be sited and configured to have minimal negative impact on surrounding residential areas due to park uses, lighting, noise, traffic, etc.
- 8.1.10 The City shall encourage the reciprocal use of public facilities where appropriate and feasible between the City, State, school districts, universities, and other quasi-public uses, to maximize recreational opportunities for the citizens of Riverside.

8.2 Trails and Parkways

Urban Trails

- 8.2.1 The Department shall continue to coordinate the City's system of scenic routes, trails and paths with other surrounding regional trails.
- 8.2.2 Priorities for linkages should be established between signature parks, open spaces and county parks.

- 8.2.3 To the extent feasible, the number of trail crossings of vehicular driveways and streets should be minimized.
- 8.2.4 Distinct fencing should be installed to demarcate equestrian trails where appropriate.
- 8.2.5 Avoid the placement of new equestrian trails immediately adjacent to vehicular traffic.

Open Space and Natural Area Trails

- 8.2.6 Trails should conform to CEQA requirements when developed in highly sensitive habitat areas.
- 8.2.7 Trail locations should avoid bisecting wildlife corridors such as riparian corridors.
- 8.2.8 Trail construction should use environmentally sensitive grading techniques, drainage management and vegetation buffers to increase runoff absorption and filtration.
- 8.2.9 Setbacks should be created around sensitive areas to reduce impacts from the use of trails.
- 8.2.10 Trails in open space and natural areas should have signage, barriers where appropriate, and other design features to keep users on trail and to minimize off-trail use.
- 8.2.11 Where possible, existing areas of disturbance such as: fire roads, footpaths, and utility corridors, should be considered first for trail placement/development.
- 8.2.12 Trails and trail hubs should include signage that provides users with trail information, such as destination, identification of trail types, safety regulation, interpretive opportunities and distance.
- 8.2.13 Trail hubs should be developed as focal points for trail activities and to provide staging areas for those who must drive to the trail.

8.3 Open Space

- 8.3.1 Prioritization for open space and natural area acquisition should be based on the protection of habitat and biological diversity, recreation opportunities, enhancement the City's image and community identity, and buffering the impacts of urban development.
- 8.3.2 Open space areas shall be managed to preserve native plant communities and the healthy function of the ecosystem. When consistent with good management practice goals, new non-invasive vegetation that is compatible with native plant communities of the specific area may be planted.
- 8.3.3 The Department shall develop and support policies to ensure designated public open spaces have adequate public access, appropriate uses and activities, and provisions to prevent illegal

encroachment. These open spaces include Sycamore Canyon Park, Mount Rubidoux, and the Santa Ana River Wildlife area and other joint-use facilities.

8.4 Natural Resource Management

- 8.4.1 Park facilities and landscape shall be designed to enhance and preserve natural site characteristics as appropriate, to minimize maintenance demands, and to incorporate xeriscape (low-water demand) principles where feasible.
- 8.4.2 Special attention to exotic plant species control and abatement shall be considered for plant selection adjacent to or near natural or open space areas.
- 8.4.3 Native wooded areas along waterways, arroyos, and drainage canals shall be protected and restored to help preserve water quality, habitat value and to provide an enriched resource for residents.

8.5 Maintenance

- 8.5.1 Public safety should be the highest priority for park maintenance staff. Maintenance staff shall look for potential safety concerns in all aspects of their work, and make sure that all appropriate action is taken to protect park users from potential injury.
- 8.5.2 Park appearance should be reviewed by staff and revised as necessary to address aesthetic issues such as appearance of trees, turf areas, condition of facilities, and cleanliness.
- 8.5.3 Where appropriate and feasible, the Department should recruit community groups or citizens for the maintenance and upkeep of parks.
- 8.5.4 Staffing for park maintenance should reflect the anticipated level of activity associated with each park so that facilities, including restrooms and trashcans are adequately maintained. Coordination between maintenance staff and recreation staff should be encouraged to ensure maintenance will be adequate to support regular programs and special events.
- 8.5.5 A baseline assessment of each park should be conducted to evaluate health and safety issues, condition of infrastructure and facilities, and overall park function. The results should be used to develop initial priorities for capital improvements, staffing and maintenance practices. Subsequent assessments should be conducted periodically as needed to revise priorities.
- 8.5.6 Standards for equipment acquisition, facilities repair and upkeep should emphasize the best available products and practices, long-term solutions and cost-efficiency.

8.6 Community Participation and Stewardship

- 8.6.1 In order to expand service capabilities, decrease staff demand and resource allocations, the Department should consider the direct involvement and partnership with public agencies, private non-profit organizations and other citizen groups. With these other groups, recreation programs such as juvenile diversion, family-oriented activities, and specialized park facilities can be sponsored. Examples and models of current partnerships are Ab Brown Soccer Complex, Victoria Avenue Forever, and Friends of Mt. Rubidoux.
- 8.6.2 Where feasible, the Department should actively encourage citizen participation in decisions concerning the acquisition and development of park facilities and the design, implementation, and operation of recreation programs.
- 8.6.3 As appropriate, individuals and groups should be encouraged to participate in park rehabilitation prior to site development of such park. Wherever possible, the residents of a park's service area should be asked to participate in choosing recreation elements for the park.
- 8.6.4 The Department should continue to promote community awareness and stewardship of parks, open spaces, and trails through activities such as the Adopt-A-Park program, public outreach and education, beautification projects, neighborhood watch, and other special events.
- 8.6.5 The Department should consider the needs of all age groups, abilities, disabilities, and special interest groups in its park, recreation, and community services planning and design.
- 8.6.6 The Department should place emphasis on youth programs and services, especially those that provide positive educational and social influences to at-risk youth.
- 8.6.7 The Department should ensure the application of services, activities, and programs support and draw upon the cultural diversity of the community.
- 8.6.8 The City should ensure adequate funding to adequately conduct desired recreation programs.
- 8.6.9 Registration procedures for special events, permits, facilities and classes should strive to minimize paperwork in order to encourage use of the City's park facilities.

8.7 Funding and Improvements

- 8.7.1 Park build-out should be completed in a timely manner consistent with the overall build-out of adjoining land uses.
- 8.7.2 The City shall continue to implement its park standards. When ten-year census data is available, the parkland "met standards" should be re-evaluated and the Park Master Plan revised accordingly.

Chapter Eight - Parks and Recreation Policies

- 8.7.3 Every five years, the City shall review and update the City's Park Impact Fee as applied to commercial and residential development for park facility development and improvement.
- 8.7.4 Department staff should actively seek out and pursue publicly funded grants, donations and corporate sponsorship to support new development of park and recreation facilities.
- 8.7.5 Where feasible, alternate methods of land acquisition or utilization for park and open space, such as recreation easements and dedications, should be pursued in lieu of fee-title purchase.
- 8.7.6 Where appropriate, the City should encourage private development of recreation facilities that complement and supplement the public recreational system.
- 8.7.7 Floodways and non-park infrastructure improvements, such as detention basins, railroad rights-of-way and utility easements, should be evaluated for potential open space areas and trail corridors.
- 8.7.8 Turn-key type park development should be considered by the Department on a case-by-case basis. Where conditioned, such proposals shall include a signed development agreement and adequate sureties provided to assure completion as determined by the City.
- 8.7.9 As appropriate, concession or public/private enterprise opportunities should be considered in existing and future plans for local and regional/reserve parks.
- 8.7.10 The fee policies and procedures for park use, events facility use and community center rentals shall be evaluated on an ongoing basis. Fee structures should emphasize cost recovery through revenue collection, and procedures should provide consistency in collection of fees and handling of fee-waivers.

The participation of the community is crucial to the success of Riverside's parks system. Community input guides park officials in making priorities for park development. In addition, strong engagement by the public creates a sense of ownership for a park that can prevail over negative incursions. Community input was obtained in several ways: a phone survey, community workshops, and written surveys. The outreach identified the community's issues and concerns about the current park system and management practices, priorities for recreational development, and opportunities for new development.

9.1 Telephone Survey

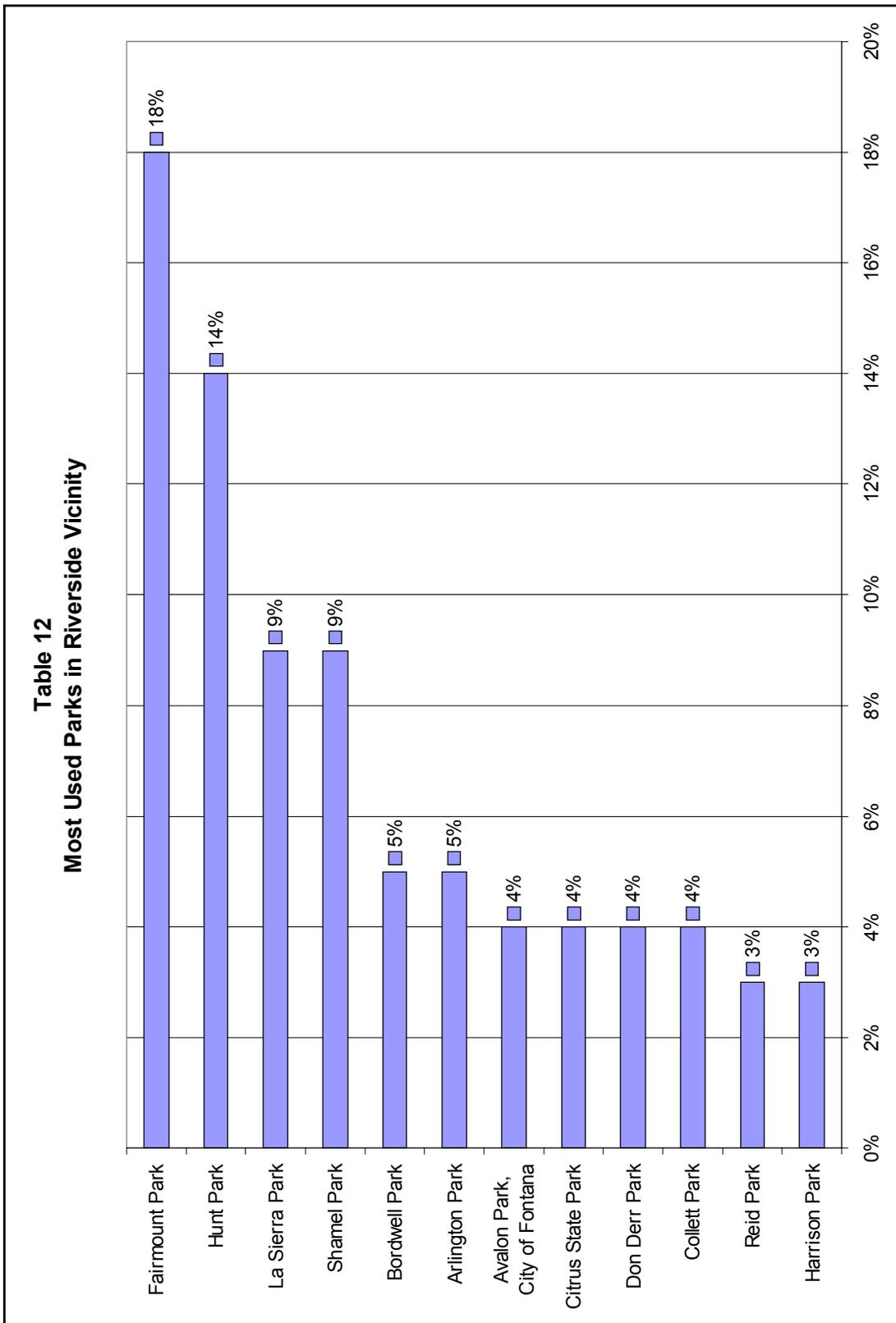
Research Network, Ltd. was retained to conduct a telephone survey in January 2002. A total of 300 Riverside households were contacted to assess their recreational needs and current recreation use patterns. Among subject areas of interest were the park locations they regularly used, their specific participation rates for a variety of recreational activities, and their collective priorities for designing and developing new recreation programs or facilities. Complete details of the survey methods and results are included in the Appendices.

Most Often Used Facility or Park

According to the survey, the individual parks that receive the most use are Fairmount Park, Hunt Park, Shamel Park, and La Sierra Park. (Table 12) The most popular activities based upon numbers of users are picnicking, walk/jogging/running, attending concerts and fairs, open turf use, biking on paved surfaces and using play equipment.

When asked to rank the most desired recreation need, "none" was rated as the highest need by 25% of the survey participants, followed by more/bigger parks, biking/jogging paths, recreation pools, and tot lots by 29% of the respondents.

The survey found that 57% of the respondents rated the park facilities as "good" to excellent." In contrast 42% of the respondents rated the park facilities as "poor" to "fair." When further probed about reasons for the negative response, the most common reasons given were dirty and littered parks, locked or dirty bathrooms, broken and damaged equipment, unkempt grass areas, and broken and damaged benches and tables. 62% of the survey respondents were light or non-users of parks. Households who reported their ethnicity as White or with a household yearly income of less than \$40,000 tended to use the parks less frequently. The most common reasons given for low use of parks were the lack of need or no interest in programs, not enough time, or no awareness of available programs.



The survey also queried household members regarding their participation in an array of 24 recreation activities. Respondents were asked if household members had engaged in each activity during the past year and were also asked to estimate how often.

Table 13 reveals that the activity with the most reported participation is Picnicking in Groups of Less than 100 people (49%), Walking/Jogging/Running (47%), Attendance at Outdoor Cultural Events/Concerts, Seasonal Celebration or Fairs (44%), Casual Use of Open Green or Turf Areas (43%), Bicycling on Paved Surfaces (29%), Use of Tot Lots (28%), Swimming in Public Pools for Recreation (18%), Picnicking in Groups of 100-400 People (18%), Trail Hiking (16%), and Bicycling on Unpaved Surfaces (16%).

The participation rates outlined in Table 14 is generally similar to data collected every 5 years by the California State Department of Parks of statewide average participation rates. The data from the 1997 State Parks survey illustrates these similarities as well as the lower than average participation rates in Riverside. Similarities and differences of the responses to the two surveys are revealed in the comparison table. The surveys reflect the differences in demography, climate, and recreation facility availability as well as differences in survey methods and question design. Even though participation rates between the City and State are not identical, the California Parks survey provides insight about overall recreation trends.

9.2 Community Workshops

The City involved the community in its latest park planning process by conducting a series of five workshops titled “Challenges and Choices” in Spring 2002. The workshops were held in different parts of the City in order to hear voices from all portions of the community. The purpose of these workshops was to explain the objectives and process of the Master Plan and to find out directly from the public what they felt were the priorities that needed to be addressed in the parks system.

During the workshops, participants were asked to share their concerns and ideas for improving Riverside’s parks. The topics presented in Challenges and Choices were used as a springboard for discussion. A comprehensive summary of this input is provided in the Appendices.

The workshops revealed a recurring need for an increased sense of safety in the City’s parks in

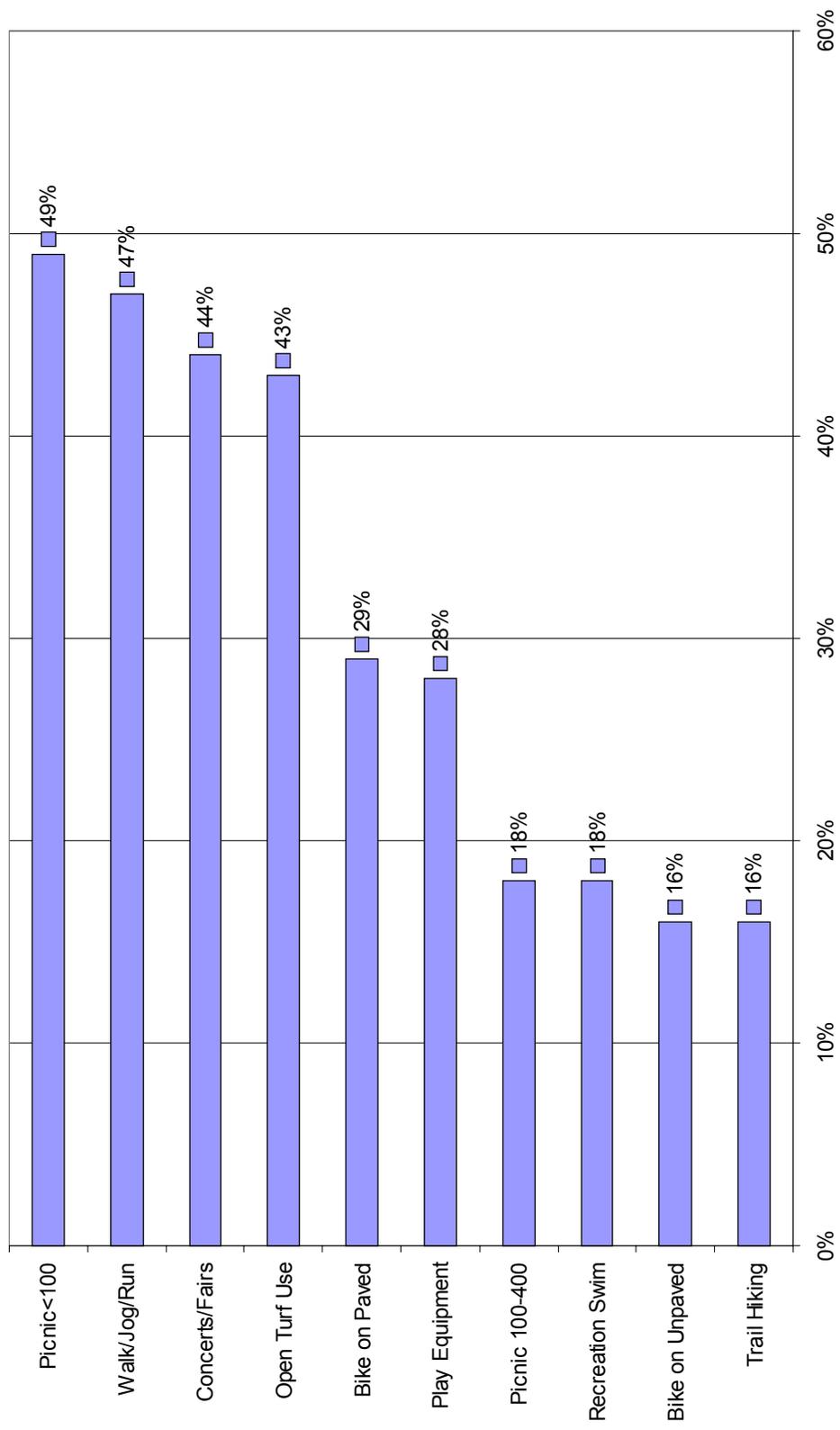


Harrison Park

Chapter Nine - Outreach Methodology and Findings

addition to a more active and engaged relationship between the City and the community. Specific requests include new neighborhood parks in underserved areas, youth programs, a safe trails system throughout the City, and lighted parks and play fields. Table 15 summarizes the priorities of the workshop participants.

**Table 13
Resident Participation in Recreation Activities**



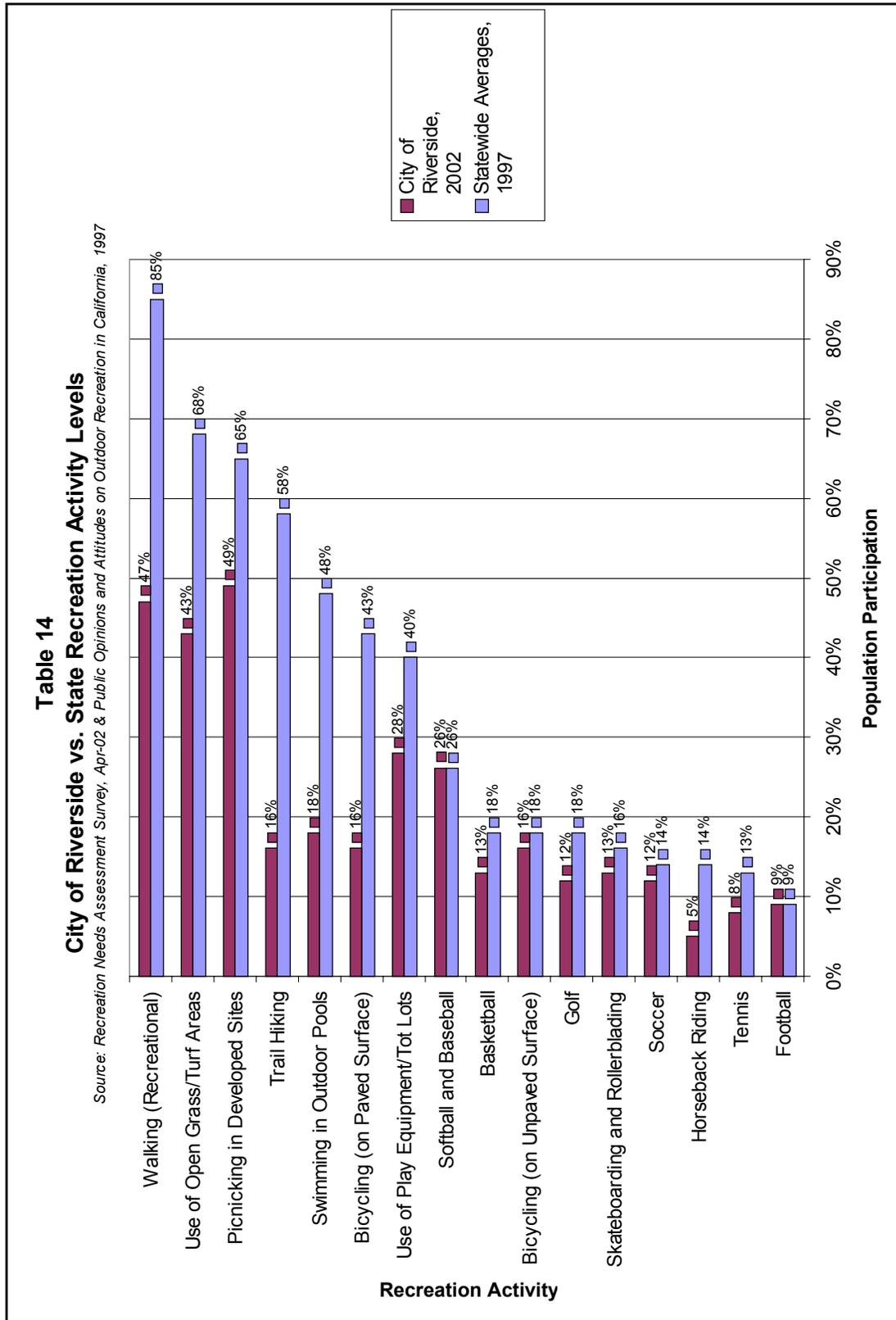


Table 15
Park & Recreation Priorities of the Riverside Community

Source	Stated Needs
Telephone Survey	<p>New Recreation Facilities Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Safety in Parks More/Bigger Parks Biking/Jogging Paths Recreation Pool Tot Lots Teen Facilities/Programs Basketball Courts Skating/Skateboarding Facility
Community Workshops	<p>Parks Programs and Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement more safety measures Lighted ball and soccer fields Restrooms at Neighborhood Parks More Educational Programs Special Events Facilities for weddings, parties, etc. <p>Signature Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create greater access to Mount Rubidoux Inspire quality at Signature Parks Energize Fairmount Park with multiple uses and activities Beautify and rejuvenate Fairmount <p>Livable Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create more small and neighborhood parks within walking distance. Create a safe trails system for children to use throughout the City. Create more open space connections <p>Community Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop better coordination between City and community for "Adopt-a-Park" programs. Build a sense of ownership between parks and neighborhoods. Reduce City bureaucracy <p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect fees from commercial development Keep collected fees in community Require developers to provide parks as condition for building. Pass a City bond to fund parks Encourage community based groups to assist in fundraising.

Source: Research Network Ltd. & The Dangermond Group