

The image is a collage. At the top, there are two photos of trees against a blue sky. Below this is a dark brown horizontal bar. The main title is in large, bold, black letters. To the left of the main text is a vertical strip of a green tree. To the right is a vertical strip of a tree with bare branches. Below the main text is a large green sign with white 3D letters. At the bottom, there are two vertical strips of green foliage.

# EDUCATION, RECREATION, AND CULTURE

The City of Sacramento recognizes the importance of providing quality education, cultural services, and recreation and parks in making Sacramento a great place to live and do business. Access to education, good jobs, active recreational opportunities, and participation in the arts enhances the city's livability for residents. In addition, a skilled workforce and an engaging cultural environment are important in attracting new industries to the community to keep the city's economy healthy.

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# Education

Policies in this section provide for the development of new schools commensurate with population growth that are accessible from every neighborhood. Opportunities for life-long learning are encouraged, enabling Sacramento's residents to obtain skills to meet the needs of evolving business sectors. Schools are encouraged to be located and designed to serve as a centerpiece of neighborhood identity and activity.

## GOAL ERC 1.1

**Efficient and Equitable Distribution of Facilities.** Provide efficient and equitable distribution of quality educational facilities for life-long learning and development of a highly skilled workforce that will strengthen Sacramento's economic prosperity.

### Policies

**ERC 1.1.1 School Locations.** The City shall work with school districts at the earliest possible opportunity to provide school sites and facilities that are located in the neighborhoods they serve. *(IGC)*

**ERC 1.1.2 Locational Criteria.** The City shall continue to assist in reserving school sites based on each school district's criteria and the school siting guidelines of the California Department of Education and on the City's following location criteria:

- Locate elementary schools on sites that are safely and conveniently accessible, and away from heavy traffic, excessive noise, and incompatible land uses.
- Locate school sites centrally with respect to their planned attendance areas.
- Locate schools in areas where established and/or planned walkways, bicycle paths, or greenways link schools with surrounding uses.
- Locate, plan, and design new schools to be compatible with adjacent uses. *(RDR/IGC)*

**ERC 1.1.3 Schools in Urban Areas.** The City shall work with school districts in urban areas to explore the use of existing smaller sites to accommodate lower enrollments, and/or higher intensity facilities (e.g., multi-story buildings, underground parking, and playgrounds on roofs). *(IGC)*



*Sacramento City College Learning Resource Center.*

*See LU 8, Public/Quasi-Public and Special Uses for additional policies on schools and school locations.*



*Elementary school in the Tahoe Park neighborhood.*



**ERC 1.1.4** **Joint-Use Development.** The City shall work with school districts and institutions of higher education to explore opportunities for joint-use development that integrates uses for recreation, cultural, and non-school-related activities at new and existing facilities. *(IGC)*

**ERC 1.1.5** **Higher Education.** The City shall encourage and support the development, expansion, and upgrade of higher education facilities such as community colleges, California State University, and private universities. *(IGC)*

**ERC 1.1.6** **Higher Education and K–12 School Districts.** The City shall encourage higher education institutions to strengthen their links with local K–12 school districts to facilitate the transfer of students into these institutions. *(IGC)*



*Cosumnes River Community College opened in 1970.*



- ERC 1.1.7**     **Multi-University Campus.** The City shall cooperate with systems of higher education to explore the future possibility of a multi-university campus. *(IGC)*
- ERC 1.1.8**     **Research and Development Parks with Universities.** The City shall support the growth of research and development businesses and organizations associated with universities that enhance the education and diversity of the Sacramento population. *(IGC)*
- ERC 1.1.9**     **School Financing Plans.** The City shall assist school districts with school financing plans and methods to provide permanent schools in existing and newly developing areas in the City. *(IGC)*



# Parks and Recreation

Policies in this section provide for the maintenance of existing facilities and for the development of new parkland, facilities, and programs throughout the city to enable access from neighborhoods. In higher density areas, such as downtown, small public places will be developed to support the lifestyle and needs of residents. In addition, Sacramento's riverfronts and natural open spaces will be linked to enhance opportunities for walking, bicycling, picnicking, participating in water sports, and appreciating natural open spaces and conservation areas. Access to a broad range of recreational activities is important to improving public health through exercise. The location of schools and their recreational facilities can serve as a focal point of neighborhood identity and activity. Parklands also help to sustain natural environmental resources by providing landscapes that absorb greenhouse gases, produce oxygen, and filter pollutants into the groundwater basin.



## GOAL ERC 2.1

**Integrated Parks and Recreation System.** Provide an integrated system of parks, open space areas, and recreational facilities that are safe and connect the diverse communities of Sacramento.

*See LU 9, Open Space, Parks, and Recreation, for additional policies on parks and recreation facilities and locations.*

## Policies

**ERC 2.1.1 Complete System.** The City shall develop and maintain a complete system of parks and open space areas throughout Sacramento that provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation. (MPSP/SO)



A pedestrian walkway connects the Sacramento State campus to surrounding businesses and residences.

**ERC 2.1.2**

**Connected Network.** The City shall connect all parts of Sacramento through integration of recreation and community facilities with other public spaces and rights-of-way (e.g., buffers, medians, bikeways, sidewalks, trails, bridges, and transit routes) that are easily accessible by alternative modes of transportation. *(MPSP)*

**GOAL ERC 2.2**

**Parks, Community and Recreation Facilities and Services.** Plan and develop parks, community and recreation facilities, and services that enhance community livability; improve public health and safety; are equitably distributed throughout the city; and are responsive to the needs and interests of residents, employees, and visitors.



Universal playground, accessible to people of all ages and abilities.



**Policies**

**ERC 2.2.1**

**Parks and Recreation Master Plan.** The City shall maintain and implement a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to carry out the goals and policies of this General Plan. All new development will be consistent with the applicable provisions of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. *(MPSP)*

**ERC 2.2.2**

**Timing of Services.** The City shall ensure that the development of parks and community and recreation facilities and services keeps pace with development and growth within the city. *(MPSP/SO)*



- ERC 2.2.3**      **Service Level Radius.** The City shall strive to provide accessible public park or recreational open space within one-half mile of all residences. *(MPSP/SO)*
- ERC 2.2.4**      **Park Acreage Service Level Goal.** The City shall strive to develop and maintain 5 acres of neighborhood and community parks and other recreational facilities/sites per 1,000 population. *(MPSP/SO)*
- ERC 2.2.5**      **Meeting Service Level Goal.** The City shall require new residential development to meet its fair share of the park acreage service level goal by either dedicating land for new parks, paying a fair share of the costs for new parks and recreation facilities or renovation of existing parks and recreation facilities. For new development in urban areas where land dedication or acquisition is constrained by a lack of available suitable properties (e.g., the Central City), new development shall either construct improvements or pay fees for existing park and recreation enhancements to address increased use. Additionally, the City shall identify and pursue the best possible options for park development, such as joint use, regional park partnerships, private open space, acquisition of parkland, and use of grant funding. *(RDR/MPSP/FB)*
- ERC 2.2.6**      **Urban Park Facility Improvements.** In urban areas where land dedication is not reasonably feasible (e.g., the Central City), the City shall explore creative solutions to provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities (e.g., provision of community-serving recreational facilities in regional parks) that reflect the unique character of the area. *(MPSP)*
- ERC 2.2.7**      **Public Parkland Preservation.** The City shall ensure that any public parkland converted to nonrecreational uses is replaced to serve the same community, consistent with California's Public Park Preservation Act of 1971 (Public Resources Code Section 5401). *(RDR/MPSP)*

**ERC 2.2.8**

**Capital Investment Priorities.** The City shall give priority to the following parks and recreation capital investments:

- Acquiring land for or constructing parks and recreation facilities where adopted Service Level Goals are not being met
- Acquiring, restoring and preserving large natural areas for habitat protection and passive recreation use such as walking, hiking, and nature study
- Acquiring and developing areas for recreation use and public access along the banks of the American and Sacramento Rivers
- Building and improving parks and facilities to ensure safety for users and adjacent properties *(MPSP/FB)*



*As land becomes scarce in developed areas, traditional park space that is larger in size will become increasingly difficult to provide for infill developments; thus, small public places will need to be provided to help meet future recreational demands.*

**ERC 2.2.9**

**Small Public Places for New Development.** The City shall allow new development to provide small plazas, pocket parks, civic spaces, and other gathering places that are available to the public, particularly in infill areas, to help meet recreational demands. *(RDR)*

- ERC 2.2.10** **Range of Experience.** The City shall provide a range of small to large parks and recreational facilities. Larger parks and complexes should be provided at the city's edges and along the rivers as a complement to smaller sites provided in areas of denser development. *(MPSP)*
- ERC 2.2.11** **On-Site Facilities.** The City shall promote and provide incentives such as density bonuses or increases in building height for large-scale development projects to provide on-site recreational amenities and gathering places that are available to the public. *(RDR)*
- ERC 2.2.12** **Compatibility with Adjoining Uses.** The City shall ensure that the location and design of all parks, recreation, and community centers are compatible with existing adjoining uses. *(RDR)*
- ERC 2.2.13** **Surplus or Underutilized Land.** The City shall consider acquiring or using surplus, vacant, or underutilized parcels or abandoned buildings for public recreational use. *(MPSP/FB)*
- ERC 2.2.14** **Youth "Friendliness."** The City shall provide parks and facilities for youth between the ages of 10 and 18 to ensure safe gathering places for their recreation. *(RDR/MPSP)*
- ERC 2.2.15** **Aging Friendly Community.** The City shall develop facilities that support continuing engagement, foster the personal enrichment and independence of older residents, and reflect the needs of Sacramento's aging population within the community. *(SO)*
- ERC 2.2.16** **Organized Sports Facilities.** The City shall develop facilities (e.g., multi-field complexes) for a variety of organized sports. *(MPSP)*
- ERC 2.2.17** **Joint-Use Facilities Co-located.** The City shall support the development of parks and recreation facilities co-located with public and private facilities (e.g., schools, libraries, and detention basins). *(IGC/JP)*
- ERC 2.2.18** **Private Commercial Recreational Facilities.** The City shall encourage the development of private commercial recreational facilities to help meet recreational interests of Sacramento's residents, workforce, and visitors. *(RDR/JP)*



*Youth basketball camp.*

*Located in the South Area, the Bing Maloney Golf Course Complex provides an 18-hole municipal course with a driving range and practice putting greens.*



**ERC 2.2.19** **Municipal Golf Courses.** The City shall support the maintenance of and reinvestment in municipal golf courses, to foster a sense of community pride, ensure the City’s courses remain competitive in the marketplace, and encourage play. *(SO/FB)*

**ERC 2.2.20** **Responsiveness to Community.** The City shall work with affected neighborhoods in the design of parks and recreational facilities to meet the unique needs and interests of residents (e.g., providing for cultural heritage gardens and teen centers). *(PI)*

*A Sacramento area YMCA offers youth and teen activities; fitness and aquatics classes; day, summer, and sports camps; and childcare programs.*



**GOAL ERC 2.3**

**Recreational Programs.** Support recreation and community service programs that promote wellness, fun, lifelong learning, skill development, personal enrichment, and positive relationships.

**Policies**

**ERC 2.3.1 Interpretation and Celebration.** The City shall provide recreation programming, special events and venues, and educational opportunities that honor, interpret, and celebrate the diversity, history, cultural heritage, and traditions of Sacramento. *(MPSP/SO/PI)*



*A baseball diamond with specialized surface that enables people of all abilities access to play.*

**GOAL ERC 2.4**

**Rivers, Creeks, and Natural Resource Areas.** Provide positive recreational experiences and enjoyment of nature through the development, maintenance, patrol, and preservation of the rivers, creeks, and natural resource areas, while maximizing the use of these areas through partnerships with other agencies.

**Policies**

**ERC 2.4.1 Service Levels.** The City shall provide 0.5 linear mile of parks/parkways and trails/bikeways per 1,000 population. *(MPSP/SO)*

**ERC 2.4.2 Waterway Recreation and Access.** The City shall work with regional partners, State agencies, private land owners, and developers to manage, preserve, and enhance the Sacramento and American River Parkways and urban waterways and riparian corridors to increase public access for active and passive recreation. *(IGC/JP)*

**ERC 2.4.3 Connections to Other Trails.** The City shall maintain existing and pursue new connections to local, regional, and state trails. *(MPSP/IGC)*



*The Two Rivers Bike Trail provides a bike route along the south side of the American River within the Richards Boulevard area and connections to other local and regional trails.*

**ERC 2.4.4**     **Setbacks from Rivers and Creeks.** The City shall ensure adequate building setbacks from rivers and creeks, increasing them where possible to protect natural resources. *(RDR)*

## **GOAL ERC 2.5**

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**Funding.** Secure adequate and reliable funding for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, programming, and maintenance of parks, community facilities, recreation facilities, trails, parkways, and open space areas.

### **Policies**

**ERC 2.5.1**     **Multiple Tools.** The City shall use a broad range of funding and economic development tools to ensure high-quality development, maintenance, and programming of the City parks and recreation system. *(FB)*

**ERC 2.5.2**     **River Parkway.** The City shall coordinate with Sacramento County and other agencies and organizations to secure funding to patrol, maintain, and enhance the American River and Sacramento River Parkways. *(FB/IGC/JP)*

*Recreational multi-use path along the Sacramento River.*



**ERC 2.5.3**      **Property Acquisition.** The City shall secure funding for property acquisitions that can be accessed quickly to respond to opportunities. *(FB)*

**ERC 2.5.4**      **Capital Funding.** The City shall fund the costs of acquisition and development of City neighborhood and community parks, and community and recreation facilities through land dedication, in lieu fees, and/or development impact fees. *(FB)*





# Libraries

Policies in this section provide for the expansion of library resources and new facilities commensurate with population growth, which creates a civic environment with vast opportunities for learning and cultural and academic enrichment. In addition to providing books, music, ebooks, computer access and other resources, they also can serve as multi-functional facilities, gathering places for programs, and cultural centers for performances and community events. In new development, they can be co-located with schools, parks and community centers to function as a centerpiece of neighborhood identity.



*The Colonial Heights Public Library, located in the Fruitridge Broadway Area, includes a homework center, college and career center, and a community room for community group meetings and activities.*

## GOAL ERC 3.1

**Adequate Library Facilities.** Provide adequate library facilities that enhance Sacramento's quality of life and create a civic environment with vast opportunities for self-learning and cultural and academic enrichment.

*See LU 8, Public/Quasi-Public and Special Uses for additional policies on libraries and library locations.*

## Policies

**ERC 3.1.1 Adequate Services and Facilities.** The City shall ensure adequate library services and facilities are maintained for all residents. *(MPSP/SO)*

**ERC 3.1.2 Library Siting.** The City shall promote the siting of libraries in higher-density and infill areas along major arterials and transit service routes to provide convenient access to Sacramento residents. *(MPSP)*



*The Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Public Library, located in the South Area, includes a special Samuel C. Pannell African American Collection established in memory of the late Sacramento City Councilman, which contains adult fiction and non-fiction written by or about African Americans.*

- ERC 3.1.3** **Under-Served Areas.** The City shall give priority to the construction of new libraries in communities that are deficient in library services, including East Sacramento near 65th Street and Folsom Boulevard, North Sacramento, and the South Area Community Plan area. *(RDR/MPSP)*
- ERC 3.1.4** **Joint Use.** The City shall encourage the development and use of multi-functional library facilities by public and private agencies at locations such as schools, community centers, and public-private partnership venues. *(MPSP/SO/IGC/JP)*



*The Downtown Sacramento Central Public Library & Galleria is a multi-functional facility incorporating meeting space with traditional library uses.*

- ERC 3.1.5**     **Digital Literacy and Access.** The City shall encourage access to digital resources and information tools and the development of 21st Century literacy skills. *(IGC/PI)*
- ERC 3.1.6**     **Educational Awareness.** The City shall promote public awareness of library facilities and services. *(PI)*
- ERC 3.1.7**     **Funding.** The City, in conjunction with the Sacramento Library Authority, shall explore methods of financing new library facilities and expanding and upgrading existing facilities. *(IGC/FB)*



*Fortune Festival, a celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander culture and business.*

# Arts and Culture

Policies in this section support the diversity of arts and cultural facilities located in Sacramento. Art programs and exhibitions, musical and dramatic performances, and similar events provide opportunities for the attendance of residents and visitors, as well as their participation and appreciation. The inclusion of art in public places broadens the exposure and awareness of city residents and visitors, and enhances and enriches the community culture and quality of life.

## GOAL ERC 4.1

**Diversity of Arts and Cultural Facilities and Programs.** Provide a diversity of arts and cultural facilities and programs for people of all ages to improve knowledge of Sacramento's history, enhance quality of life, and enrich community culture.

*See LU 8, Public/Quasi-Public and Special Uses and ED 1, Business Climate, for additional policies on tourism and cultural and entertainment uses.*

## Policies

**ERC 4.1.1 Sacramento as the Region's Cultural Center.** The City shall partner with universities and educational institutions, libraries, arts and cultural organizations, and creative individuals and supporters to strengthen the region's network of cultural resources. *(IGC/JP)*

**ERC 4.1.2 Accessible Facilities and Programs.** The City shall encourage the development of arts and cultural facilities and programs that are accessible to all residents (e.g., affordable fees and accessible by various travel modes). *(MPSP/IGC/JP)*

**ERC 4.1.3 City-Owned Resources.** The City shall enhance the quality of existing City-owned arts and cultural resources and facilities through reinvestment, communications and marketing. *(SO/FB)*

**ERC 4.1.4 Downtown Venues for the Region.** The City shall explore opportunities to collaborate with other jurisdictions in the region to enhance the visitor experience and support the development and expansion of regional performing arts venues in downtown Sacramento. *(IGC)*

**ERC 4.1.5 Convention Center.** The City shall support renovation and expansion of Convention Center facilities and adjacent supportive infrastructure, including hotels, to attract top-tier national and international events. *(SO/FB)*



*The Sacramento Theatre Company in downtown Sacramento, opened in 1942, presents public performances of classical and modern plays in two theatres with more than 300 performances per year.*



*Crest Theater.*

**ERC 4.1.6** **City Archives.** The City shall maintain and enhance the City Archives as a unique cultural resource for documenting the human experience in Sacramento. *(SO)*

**ERC 4.1.7** **Community Center Theater.** The City shall support the Community Center Theater, and renovate it into a vibrant, attractive facility that provides first class programming. *(SO)*

**ERC 4.1.8** **Conservation of Resources.** The City shall fund the conservation of its art and archival collection and official records. *(FB)*



*Friday Night Concert in the Park event at Cesar Chavez Plaza Park in downtown Sacramento.*

**ERC 4.1.9** **Citywide Expansion of Resources.** The City shall encourage and support expansion of art and cultural events, festivals, activities, and performances throughout the city. *(SO/IGC/JP)*

**ERC 4.1.10** **Partnerships to Increase Programs.** The City shall encourage partnerships among arts and cultural groups, community organizations, and the business community to develop arts and cultural educational activities and programming for all ages. *(IGC/JP/PI)*



*The Oak Park Community Center provides arts and activities for youths, adults, and seniors.*

**ERC 4.1.11** **Programs for Children.** The City shall support programs and events that introduce children to the arts and provide positive outlets to explore their own talents and creativity for self-expression. *(MPSP/PI)*

- ERC 4.1.12**     **Retention of Artists.** The City shall encourage artists to live and work in Sacramento. *(JP)*
  
- ERC 4.1.13**     **Maintenance of City-Owned Facilities.** The City shall allocate funding to the maintenance of City-owned arts and cultural facilities. *(FB)*
  
- ERC 4.1.14**     **Assistance for Non-City-Owned Facilities.** The City shall support efforts to stabilize private and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations so they can maintain and expand their facilities, program, and events. *(FB/JP)*
  
- ERC 4.1.15**     **Grants and Donations.** The City shall support the efforts of nonprofit, private, and community-based organizations to apply for public and private grants and encourage donations for arts and cultural activities. *(JP)*
  
- ERC 4.1.16**     **Cultural Institutions.** The City shall promote funding for integrated marketing opportunities and partnerships for cultural institutions. *(IGC/JP)*
  
- ERC 4.1.17**     **Contributions to Art in Public Places Program.** The City shall encourage private commercial development to contribute at least two percent of a project’s total construction budget to the City’s Art in Public Places program. *(RDR/JP)*
  
- ERC 4.1.18**     **Public Art in New Developments.** The City shall encourage private commercial development to include public art in all new buildings. *(RDR/JP)*



*The B Street Theatre in midtown Sacramento provides live theater to general audiences, families, and school children.*



*Public art at the west entrance of the Sacramento Convention Center.*



*Sacramento Zoo exhibits over 400 animals on 14 acres in William Land Park.*



# Museums, Zoos, and Other Major Destination Attractions

Policies in this section facilitate the continued operation and new development of diverse facilities and programs that are accessible to residents and visitors alike and maintain and strengthen Sacramento's role as the primary center of culture in the region. These major destination attractions provide important local opportunities for residents and school children to learn about history, science, art, culture, wildlife species, and the environment.



*Aerial view of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park.*

*Photograph courtesy of California State Parks Department*

## GOAL ERC 5.1

**Major Destination Attractions.** Maintain and strengthen Sacramento's traditional role as the regional center for major destination attractions.

### Policies

**ERC 5.1.1** **Development and Expansion of Attractions.** The City shall support the development and expansion of destination attractions throughout Sacramento including museums, zoos, historic sites, and the Sacramento River and American River waterfronts. *(RDR)*

**ERC 5.1.2** **Zoo.** The City shall support renovation and enhancement of the Sacramento Zoo in its current location. *(MPSP)*



*The Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, established in 1849, was designed to resemble a Victorian garden and is the oldest existing cemetery in Sacramento.*



**ERC 5.1.3** **Educational Activities.** The City shall support expanded educational activities at the city’s cultural facilities (e.g., Fairytale Town, Sacramento Zoo, Sacramento History Museum, Crocker Art Museum, Powerhouse Science Center, Old Sacramento, and performing arts venues). (MPSP/JP)

**ERC 5.1.4** **Historic City Cemetery.** The City shall maintain and protect the Historic City Cemetery and support its use as a cultural and educational site. (MPSP)



*The California State Railroad Museum is within the Old Sacramento Historic District and offers railroad heritage experiences and tours to Sacramento residents and visitors.*

**ERC 5.1.5** **Old Sacramento Historic District.** The City shall maintain and protect the Old Sacramento Historic District, as defined in the 1967 Redevelopment Plan, while recognizing its importance for tourism and its role as a commercial district. *(RDR/MPSP)*

**ERC 5.1.6** **Sacramento Marina.** The City shall support the enhancement of the Sacramento Marina as a recreational connection to the Sacramento River waterfront. *(MPSP/IGC/JP)*

**ERC 5.1.7** **Funding.** The City shall allocate funding for the ongoing maintenance, renovation, and programming of City-owned museums, zoos, and other major destination attractions. *(SO/FB)*

