



SACRAMENTO PARKS PLAN 2040

DRAFT PLAN MARCH 2024





LAND AND EQUITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the original people of this land, the Nisenan people, The Southern Maidu, Valley and Plains Miwok, Patwin Wintun peoples, and the people of the Wilton Rancheria, Sacramento's only Federally recognized Tribe:

May we acknowledge and honor the Native people who came before us and still walk beside us today on these ancestral lands by choosing to gather today in the active practice of acknowledgement and appreciation for Sacramento's Indigenous People's history, contributions, and lives.

The City of Sacramento affirms racial equity as a core value in which race does not affect life outcomes. We acknowledge historical racial inequities and are committed to transparent, deliberate, and actionable solutions that will remedy those inequities and serve all our diverse communities.

SACRAMENTO PARKS PLAN 2040

Draft Plan

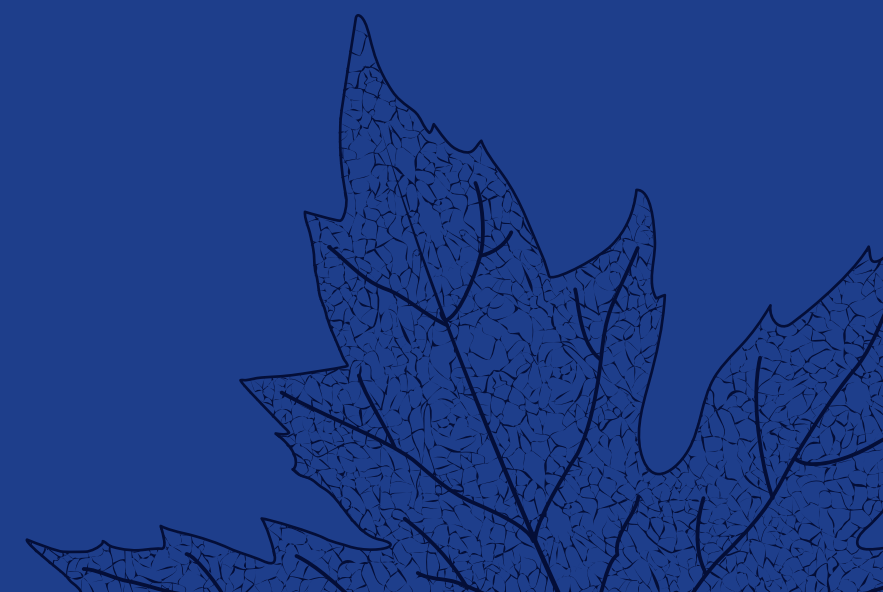
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This letter will be included in the Final Plan, following extensive community outreach, review, and comments on the Draft Plan.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sacramento’s Parks Plan 2040 was developed over a five year period through a collaborative effort between City staff, the Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Department (YPCE), city leaders, community members, and key partners. We appreciate the guidance provided by our technical, outreach, and youth advisory group members, as well as all the time, energy, and ideas that many residents and community groups devoted to the Parks Plan.

City Council

- Mayor - Darrell Steinberg
- District 1 - Lisa Kaplan
- District 2 - Vacant
- District 3 - Karina Talamantes
- District 4 - Katie Valenzuela
- District 5 - Caity Maple
- District 6 - Eric Guerra
- District 7 - Rick Jennings
- District 8 - Mai Vang
- City Manager - Howard Chan

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- Jason Wiesemann, Park Planning and Development Services Manager
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Parks and Community Enrichment Commission *Commission Members as of January 2024*

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Odet Ford | Joe Flores |
| Gordon Lew | Jeanine Gaines |
| Robbie Robbins | Mark Nicholas Rossow |
| Louis Hermann | Nicole Mary Kangas |
| Lindsey King | Cyera Boone |
| Victoria Vasquez | Halia Rose Salinas-Collins |

Sacramento Youth Commission *Commission Members as of January 2024*

- Malini Sophia Patel
- Ayinde Fletcher
- Anthony Junior Orozco, Jr
- Reyes Jesus Rios
- Liliana Grace Miller Segura
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- Ainsley Brynn Fong
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- Skylar Fitt
- Alejandra Johanna Taylor
- Termir Raemell Knox

Other Committees, Commissions, and Boards

- Active Transportation Commission
- Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission
- Community Police Review Commission
- Disabilities Advisory Commission
- Measure U Community Advisory Committee
- Parks Plan Outreach Advisory Committee
- Parks Plan Technical Advisory Committee
- Parks Plan Youth Advisory Committee
- Planning and Design Commission
- Preservation Commission
- Sacramento Children’s Fund Planning and Oversight Commission
- Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
- Racial Equity Committee



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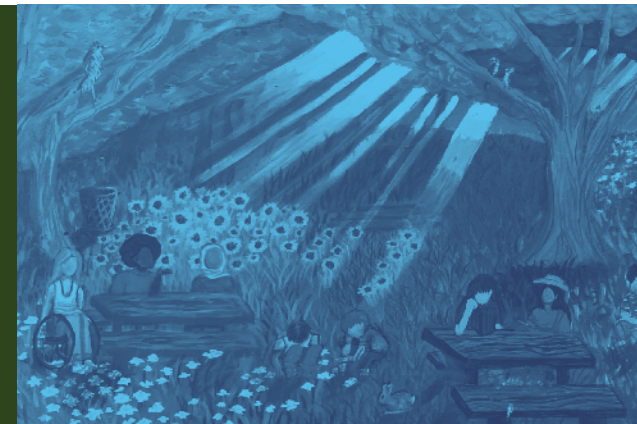
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INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the Parks Plan 2040 by defining its purpose, describing the planning process, noting relevant City planning efforts and initiatives, and providing an overview of the chapters and appendices that will inform efforts to enhance parks, facilities, trails, programs, and events in the future.



INTRODUCTION

The City of Sacramento has an extensive park and recreation system, with more than 4,300 acres of parks, parkways, and open space. These parks and parkways are critical to our city. They provide safe and engaging places to gather, play, and relax. They accentuate our urban tree canopy, preserve habitat, protect greenspace along the American and Sacramento rivers, and help mitigate heat, flooding, and the related impacts of climate change. Our recreation amenities and facilities support sports, swimming, outdoor recreation, indoor programs, and connections to our cultural heritage. Additionally, our programs and services address the needs of all ages, and create opportunities for our children and youth to play, learn, and grow—cultivating our leaders and citizens of tomorrow.

This extensive infrastructure and activity—integral to the success, health, and vibrancy of our city—is managed by Sacramento’s Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment (YPCE). Despite the challenges, changes, and increasing demand since the pandemic for healthy activities and outdoor access, YPCE stands ready to lead citywide efforts to create an integrated and accessible park and recreation system for our diverse city.

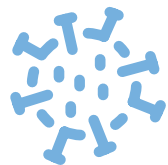
To maintain and manage this park and recreation system in the future, YPCE and the City together will:



Secure and sustain the assets, programs, staff, and resources needed to support equitable recreation benefits for all residents;



Enhance parks, recreation, and youth development opportunities as our city diversifies and grows; and



Address the increasing demand for parks and healthy lifestyles that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic years.

YPCE is keeping these needs in mind as it defines a new strategy for investing in parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and services over the next 20 years.



PARKS PLAN PURPOSE

In late 2019, YPCE began updating the 2005-2010 Sacramento Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide its investment in projects and programs over the next 20 years. The new plan, the Parks Plan 2040 (Parks Plan), inventories the existing physical and programmatic assets, identifies community needs and priorities, and refines the policies, actions, and tools that YPCE will use to guide the provision of parks, recreation facilities, programs, events, and services. By outlining a feasible investment approach and realistic projects and programs, this plan provides implementable recommendations that align with YPCE’s mission, the City’s goals, and the community’s vision for the future.

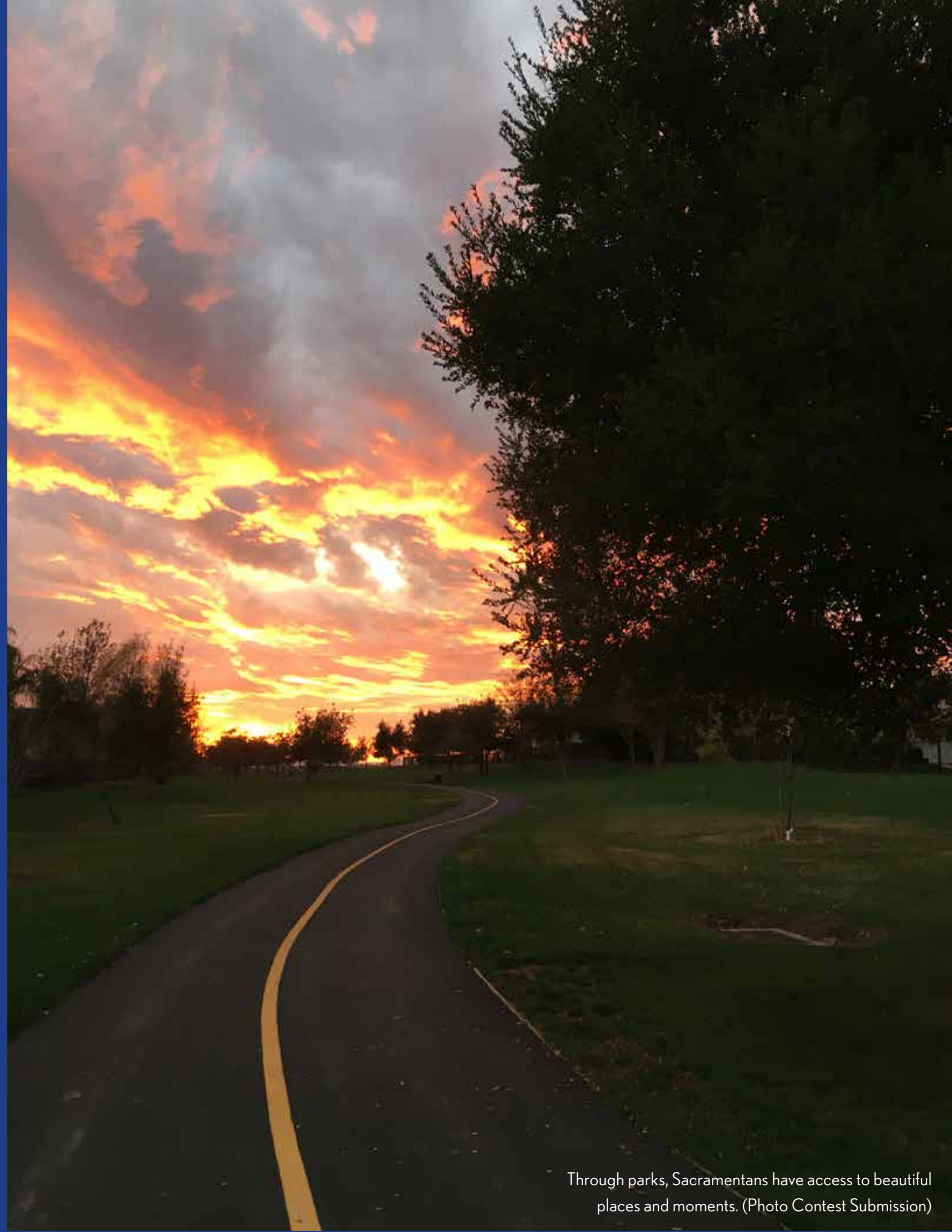
The City last prepared a systemwide master plan and investment strategy for parks and recreation in 2005, refined through a technical update in 2009. The Parks Plan 2040 addresses shifts in lifestyles, demographics, technology, and development patterns that have fundamentally reshaped needs since then. Now is the time to create a new plan to guide the City and YPCE in prioritizing projects and programs to better meet the needs of our growing and evolving community.



PLANNING PROCESS

The Parks Plan 2040 resulted from a multi-year planning effort that corresponded to the timing of Sacramento’s 2040 General Plan update. While the General Plan identifies overarching goals for youth, parks, recreation, and open space within the context of other City goals and initiatives, the Parks Plan provides more detailed directions for YPCE services to guide annual work planning.

Figure 1-1. Parks Plan 2040 and 2040 General Plan Update Planning Processes



Through parks, Sacramentans have access to beautiful places and moments. (Photo Contest Submission)

COMMUNITY AND ADVISORY GROUP ENGAGEMENT

Public engagement, community outreach, and the involvement of advisory and stakeholder groups throughout the process helped ensure the Parks Plan reflects the needs and desires of the entire Sacramento community. The planning process included a variety of activities and communications platforms to involve residents, park visitors, stakeholders, and community groups representing people of diverse ages, cultures, abilities, and interests. In addition, five advisory groups provided direction for the plan at key milestones. Nine additional committees, commissions, and boards were selectively involved in plan development or review.

Since most outreach activities were conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2023, the team pivoted to planned engagement activities to collect feedback for the plan development.

Highlights include:

- A mix of in-person and virtual activities to broaden opportunities to be involved;
- Project communication and social media to facilitate information-sharing information and input;
- Activities designed for young children, youth, tweens, teens, and young adults to understand their unique needs;
- Questionnaires and activities in five different languages;
- Pop-ups and workshops targeting different districts in the city; and
- Recruited involvement of liaisons to underrepresented groups.



Figure 1-2. Community Involvement



Project Advisory Groups

- YPCE Project Management Team (PMT)
- YPCE Executive Team
- Parks and Community Enrichment Commission (PCEC)
- Sacramento Youth Commission (SYC)
- Youth Advisory Committee
- City Council



Other Committees, Commissions, and Boards

- Active Transportation Commission
- Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission
- Disabilities Advisory Commission
- Measure U Community Advisory Committee
- Parks Plan Outreach Advisory Committee
- Parks Plan Technical Advisory Committee
- Planning and Design Commission
- Preservation Commission
- Racial Equity Committee
- Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission
- Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
- Community Police Review Commission



General Engagement Activities

- Maptionnaire Online Survey
- Photo Contest
- Park and Recreation Survey



Targeted Engagement for Youth, BIPOC, and Underrepresented Groups

- Youth Drawing Activity
- Youth Art Expo and Contest
- Community Panels
- Community Connections
- Community Briefings, Presentations, and Pop-up Events



Project Information and Communication

- Social Media posts
- Project webpage
- Traditional media, flyers, posters, and signage

**See Chapter 4 Community Voices for more details on public engagement activities.*

HEALTH AND EQUITY-BASED PLANNING

The Parks Plan 2040 was underway when COVID-19 social gathering restrictions were put in place and when Black Lives Matter protests across the nation called greater attention to the need for examining policies and practices from an equity standpoint.

The pandemic temporarily closed major facilities and programs while simultaneously increasing the number of people in parks. It heightened the importance of social gatherings and outdoor spaces for individual and community health, mental health, and wellbeing.

The Black Lives Matter movement and related protests demanded action to examine policies and practices that have intentionally or unintentionally marginalized vulnerable groups and individuals. The events of 2020-2021 brought attention to environmental inequities—such as in the provision of parks, facilities, and programs—that have a disproportionate effect on the health and wellbeing of underserved and marginalized communities. The Parks Plan 2040 acknowledges and addresses these inequities, barriers to access, and the importance of healthy lifestyles for all.

Equity in Outreach and Planning

Recognizing that there are groups who have historically been underrepresented in city planning processes, the project team intentionally slowed their Parks Plan engagement process and conducted strategic outreach to marginalized communities. This intentional pause gave the team and community the opportunity to dive deeper into existing inequities and future needs for park and recreation services.

Aligned with City goals, the Parks Plan then moved forward with urgency and purpose in the creation, implementation, and maintenance of a more equitable and inclusive City of Sacramento through parks, programs, and youth enrichment. The Parks Plan considers policies and projects that will help ensure that Sacramento residents have access to safe, healthy, affordable, diverse, and high-quality parks, facilities, and programs regardless of location, ethnicity, race, ability, or income.

The Parks Plan 2040 was developed with a commitment to health, equity, and park and recreation access. Referenced throughout the plan are initiatives, analysis, strategies, and recommendations intended to improve health, wellness, access, and inclusion for all members of Sacramento’s diverse community.

SACRAMENTO’S EMPHASIS ON DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

As led by the Office of Diversity & Equity (ODE), the City of Sacramento is committed to building a more representative, equitable and inclusive city. The City uses the following definitions to guide their work:

DIVERSITY: The City of Sacramento defines diversity as the variety of human differences and similarities among people, such as: age, belief system, class/caste, culture, disability, education, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, generation, geography, job role and function, language, marital status, mental health, nationality, native or Indigenous origins, parental status, personality type, race, religion, sexual orientation, thinking style, work experience and work style.

EQUITY: Regardless of one’s identities, equity is when all people have fair, just treatment, access to the opportunities necessary to satisfy their essential needs, advance their wellbeing and achieve their full potential, while identifying and eliminating barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.

INCLUSION: Inclusion is a dynamic state of operating in which diversity is leveraged to create a fair, healthy, and high-performing organization or community. An inclusive environment ensures equitable access to resources and opportunities for all. It also enables individuals and groups to feel safe, respected, engaged, motivated, and valued, for who they are and for their contributions toward organizational and societal goals.



Figure 1-3. Health and Equity in the Parks Plan 2040

HEALTH EQUITY+ EQUITABLE PARKS+ ACCESS



The just and fair quantity, availability, affordability, and proximity to quality parks, greenspace, recreation facilities, and programs that are safe, inclusive, culturally relevant, and welcoming to everyone and promote health, wellbeing, and fitness.

YPCE Supports Health and Wellness

- Sports and fitness
- Relaxation and respite
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Older adult services
- Youth development and childcare
- Caretaker support
- Places free from wildfire smoke and pollution
- Park safety and crime deterrence through programming
- Social connections to minimize isolation
- Access to nature
- Access to healthy foods
- Walking/biking opportunities
- Shade and cooling centers
- Warming centers and resiliency hubs
- Equipment sanitation and cleanliness

YPCE Supports Equity, Access, and Inclusion

- Park and program availability
- Travel distance to parks and programs
- Park quality and good facility conditions for all
- Parity in park development and renovations
- Lighting and nighttime recreation options
- ADA accessibility
- Universal play and play for all ages
- Program affordability
- Cultural relevancy of programs/facilities
- Park heritage and placemaking
- Language accessibility and communications
- Diverse staffing and bilingual customer service
- Design for special and specialized needs (abilities, religious preferences)
- Job skills training and internships
- Varied skill levels in programming

CONCURRENT AND PRECEDENT PLANNING EFFORTS

The Parks Plan 2040 and the City's 2040 General Plan Update were developed simultaneously and built on previous plans and initiatives. The Parks Plan 2040 is a subsequent project under the General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report. The Parks Plan 2040 acts as a more specific policy implementing guide for parks planning, which would bridge the City's General Plan Youth, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element goals and policies and YPCE's annual workplans and budgeting.



2040 General Plan Update

Sacramento's 2040 General Plan Update identifies permitted land uses and 10 key strategies related to housing, tree canopy enhancement, infrastructure in underserved neighborhoods, and transportation, amongst others. The plan includes the development of the Youth, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element (YPRO) that defines goals and policies related to developing parks and recreation facilities.



Sacramento Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Sacramento's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan was developed in tandem with the 2040 General Plan Update process. The plan supports the City of Sacramento's effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change by setting new targets and identifying key strategies. It builds off the City's 2012 Climate Action Plan, the City's Climate Emergency Declaration, and incorporates recommendations from the Mayor's Commission on Climate Change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2045.



2018-2023 YPCE Strategic Plan: Diverse Dynamic Together

Adopted in 2018, the Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Strategic Plan involved City leaders, stakeholders, partners, and the YPCE Executive Team in creating a five-year guiding document for Department services. The Strategic Plan initiated the rebranding of the City's Parks & Recreation Department into the Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment Department. It identified YPCE's new vision, mission, and goals for the future, defined a new organizational structure, and identified roles and responsibilities in conjunction with prioritized action items for a five-year timeframe.



2017 Citywide Youth Development Campaign

The 2017 Citywide Youth Development Campaign outlined a unified effort to deliver child and youth services operated or funded by the City. The plan guided the City and partners in providing youth with research-based support and opportunities, while integrating social justice principles into program delivery and organizational and institutional practices.



Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

The Age-Friendly Community Action Plan represents a commitment on the part of the City to improve the quality of life for older Sacramentans and will serve to guide the City in preparing for its growing aging population. The plan focuses on the specific needs of older adults and includes goals and actions to meet these needs. One of the key components of the plan is the involvement of actions supported by YPCE and are intended to align with the Parks Plan 2040.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Parks Plan 2040 is organized into eight chapters, with support documentation in the Appendices:

CHAPTERS

Ch. 1 Introduction describes the purpose of the Plan, the planning process, and concurrent planning efforts.

Ch. 2 Planning Context describes the local Sacramento context, the YPCE Department history, and trends impacting the provision of parks and recreation in the City, State, and nation.

Ch. 3 Park Assets and Services provides an overview of the YPCE department, YPCE parks, facilities, programs, and services. This chapter also describes other recreation providers either within the city or nearby.

Ch. 4 Community Voices explores the community's priorities and needs identified through comprehensive outreach and public engagement from the voices of those who participated.

Ch. 5 Park Access and Equity presents a series of maps and statistics that show the distribution of parks, service gaps and deficiencies, and areas of greatest need.

Ch. 6 Level of Service and Needs evaluates the level of service and needs for YPCE-provided parks, facilities, programs, and services.

Ch. 7 Key Directions carries forward YPCE's values, vision, and mission through key directions and strategies for providing infrastructure and services.

Ch. 8 Implementation introduces an implementation framework, tools, and short-term process to guide implementation in the first five years and beyond.

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Park and Facility Inventory summarizes recreational assets within the city.

Appendix B. Programs and Services Matrix provides an overview of the different programs offered within YPCE's different divisions.

Appendix C. Park Gap Analysis details the methodology and findings of the park gap analysis based on park access, gap characteristics, and alternate park and recreation opportunities.

Appendix D. Policies identifies goals and policies to guide YPCE's provision of parks, recreation, and related services through the year 2040.

Appendix E. Park Development and Renovation Guidelines present design guidelines for the acquisition, development, and renovation of new and existing parks.

Appendix F. Capital and Maintenance Cost Assumptions presents a menu of costs for typical enhancements across the parks and recreation system.

Appendix G. Project Prioritization Tool provides YPCE staff with a tool to assist in the prioritization of proposed projects to add to annual work plans.

Appendix H. PPPG Project Request Form offers a revised Project Request Form for the intake of new project proposal information from external organizations, partners, and members of the public.

Appendix I. Funding Sources presents a variety of funding resources for park and facility development, maintenance, and revitalization.





02

PLANNING CONTEXT

This chapter discusses the development of the parks and recreation system in the City of Sacramento, the present-day and forecasted future community, and the trends shaping how people use and need recreational space.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The City of Sacramento is well known for its diverse residential neighborhoods, bustling local economy, an extensive park network, and a robust tree canopy. It is understood across the City of Sacramento that parks, recreation assets and programs play a critical role in fostering livability while reflecting community identity, shaping new development, conserving greenspace, and supporting the recreation needs of youth and all residents.

Nevertheless, the provision of parks and recreation services has changed dramatically in recent years in light of health crises, environmental changes, and recreational use patterns. It is important to reflect on the City's park history, geography, changing community demographics, and emerging recreation trends that may affect future needs. This chapter provides an overview of this planning context and introduces the key circumstances and trends the plan should address.

OUR PARK HISTORY

Recreational and open space, used in a variety of ways, has always been a core part of the development of Sacramento. Large parklands, such as William Land Regional Park, were acquired many decades ago and continue to offer residents leisure and play opportunities in natural settings. Other recreation initiatives included providing children's play equipment, sports leagues, community pools, and recreation centers. From the beginning, the City understood that youths were not the only ones who needed designated space for leisure and exercise, and therefore targeted a wide audience with their recreational offerings.

From its early incorporation in the late 1800s, the City of Sacramento has acquired over 230 parks. The original Department of Parks, established in 1922, has undergone many evolutions as the City has grown, ultimately developing into the present-day Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment (YPCE) in 2017.

As it continues to grow and expand, the City must continually reassess its parks and recreation services in relation to changing conditions. Population increases, economic and demographic shifts, resident needs, resource limitations, and public health all have affected how parks and facilities have been acquired, financed, planned, maintained, and operated throughout the City's history.



Figure 2-1

KEY MOMENTS IN SACRAMENTO'S PARK HISTORY

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CAL.

Compiled from Plats of Record and from Official and Private Surveys by C.M. PHINNEY, COUNTY SURVEYOR.

Published by JOS. M. ANDERSON

Drawn by H.A. Dase, C.E.

Color Key:

■ City events

■ Parks and recreation events

■ Department-related events



1860s Old Sacramento



1910 Central California Traction Company Car



1927 Sacramento Zoo

1849 City of Sacramento is incorporated with the following dedicated parks: Leland Stanford Park, James Marshall Park, Albert Winn Park, Ulysses S. Grant Park, John Muir Park, Fremont Park, Franklin Roosevelt Park, and Cesar Chavez Plaza.

1902 City purchases McKinley Park from the Sacramento Street Railway Company.

1911 City purchases its first regional park, Del Paso Regional Park.

1912 Citizen's Board of Playground Directors is established.

1918 William Land Regional Park is opened.

1920s Developers begin using the same restrictive covenants used to create parks and walkways as a tool to segregate Sacramento neighborhoods.

1921 Department of Recreation is established.

1921 Camp Sacramento is officially opened.

1922 Department of Parks is established.

1927 Sacramento Zoo is opened.

1936 Clunie Pool and Clubhouse in McKinley Park is opened (City's first public pool and community center).

1938 The Federal Housing Administration begins redlining the West End neighborhood, home to the greatest concentration of non-whites in Sacramento at the time, which experienced a 30% decline in property value over the next 11 years.



1907 Wintun Dancer



1910 Capital Park



1930 William Land Park



1930s-1960s Clunie Pool at McKinley Park



1947 Easter Egg Hunt Virginia Hayes Winner



1954 Southside Park Fishing Derby



1965 Bertha Henschel Park

1954 The Department of Recreation and Parks is established.

1957 The City's first Recreation and Park Master Plan is completed.

1961 The City's first senior center is built at Marshall Park.

1964 North Sacramento is annexed, adding 11 parks and the Woodlake and Hagginwood Clubhouses.

1966 Highway 99 is completed, cutting off customers from Oak Park's thriving commercial districts.

1968 The City updates its Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

1971 CA State Quimby Act is enacted, allowing local governments to collect land or fees from developers to build parks.

1979 The Department of Parks and Community Services is created, adding the Crocker Art Museum, Metro Arts, and History & Science Divisions.

1981 The City adopts a Park Land Dedication Ordinance.

1984 A new Parks and Recreation Master Plan is completed.

1986 The 4th "R" Year-Round Childcare Program begins.

1989 The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is updated.

1993 The Department of Parks and Community Services is reorganized into the Department of Neighborhood Services.



Oak Park Activist Blanche Hill



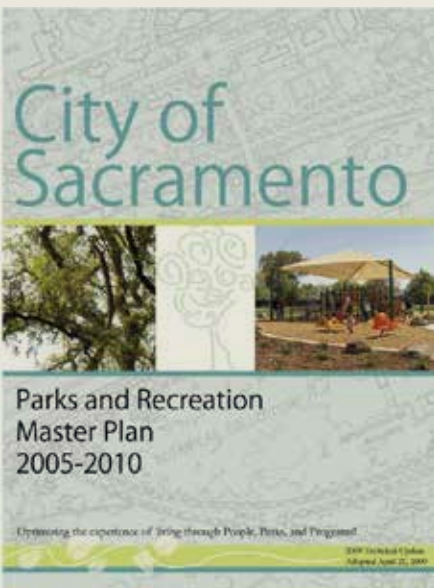
1947 Eating Eggs



1960 Tahoe Park Little League

Color Key:

■ City events ■ Parks and recreation events ■ Department-related events



2004 City Parks Plan completed



2006 Southside Park Universal Universe Accessible Playground



2006 Southside Park Universal Universe Accessible Playground

1998 The Department of Neighborhood Services is integrated into the Dept of Neighborhood, Planning, and Development Services.

1999 The Park Development Impact Fee Ordinance is adopted.

2000 The Department of Neighborhood, Planning, and Development Services is integrated into the Department of Parks and Recreation.

2002 The Neighborhood Park Maintenance Community Facilities District (CFD) is established.

2004 The Department completes a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2005-2010).

2005 The Parks and Recreation Commission is launched.

2006 Southside Park's fully accessible playground opens.

2008 The City adopts the Department of Parks and Recreation Sustainability Plan (2008-2015); Park and Recreation Programming Guide (PRPG) is approved by City Council.

2008 Hit by the recession, the Department's budget is reduced by 40%, reducing staffing and operations.

2009 The Department completes a Parks and Recreation Master Plan Technical Update.

2012 Measure U is passed, approving a temporary half-cent sales tax increase to fund City services.

2016 PRPG is updated to Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG)

2017 The Department of Parks and Recreation is reorganized into the Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment (YPCE).



2012 Measure U is passed



2017 YPCE is formed



2019 YPCE Strategic Plan is formed



2020 saw programmatic changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic



2023 OYD merges with YPCE

2017 The City adopts new Level of Service standards for parkland dedication and adds a citywide impact fee.

2018 Measure U is renewed, approving a permanent full-cent sales tax increase that includes funding for parks and recreation.

2019 The City adopts YPCE's Strategic Plan: Diverse, Dynamic, Together.

2020 The COVID-19 pandemic creates severe shifts in budget, operations, and safety protocols.

2022 The North Natomas Aquatic Complex opens in North Natomas Regional Park.

2022 Measure L is passed, establishing the Sacramento Children's Fund.

2023 The Office of Youth Development (OYD) merges with YPCE, bringing with it an expanded focus on youth services, safety, and programming.

2024 YPCE adopts the Parks Plan 2040 to guide department and citywide services for parks, recreation facilities, and programs.



2022 North Natomas Aquatic Complex



2022 North Natomas Aquatic Complex

OUR CITY TODAY

Sacramento, California's capital, is spread across almost 100 square miles at the confluence of the Sacramento River and the American River in northern California. As part of Sacramento County, the city is adjacent West Sacramento and Elk Grove, near the City of Rancho Cordova, with Yolo County bordering on the western side. The City of Sacramento is part of a larger regional metropolitan area that offers tremendous park and recreation opportunities.

Planning Areas and Council Districts

Through its history, the City of Sacramento has transitioned from an agricultural and "Gold Rush" trade community to a vibrant urban and regional destination with distinct and diverse neighborhoods, major political and educational hubs, and an active arts and culture scene. Geographically, the American River, two interstates (I-5 and I-80), plus several highways (Highway 99 and 160), and railroads divide the City. As noted in the 2040 General Plan, it is frequently described in terms of 10 planning areas with different characteristics and needs.

The neighborhoods and planning areas of Sacramento have developed at different times, with some areas of the City having historic roots (e.g., Central City) and others continuing to develop more recently (e.g., North Natomas). In addition, some areas were incorporated from Sacramento County (e.g., Arden Arcade), which had developed under different standards and guidelines than those required by the City of Sacramento. Similarly, parks and facilities throughout the city were acquired and/or developed

at different moments in Sacramento's history and therefore often exhibit different characteristics, levels of development, and quality of amenities.

While different development patterns have shaped and characterized neighborhoods and the parks and facilities that serve them, nowadays park maintenance, investment and re-investment are most closely aligned with the City's eight Council districts.

The City allocates funding and prioritizes projects based on Council District, ensuring that all Council Districts receive attention on their parks and programs. While this approach considers park and recreation needs on a citywide scale, it does not address the historical investment disparities across various neighborhoods that have resulted in underserved pockets of the city.

Given the City of Sacramento's commitment to equity, the Parks Plan 2040 considers needs for parks, facilities, and programs citywide and by Council District to assist in future decisions about needs and funding priorities.

Figure 2-2. City of Sacramento Planning Areas

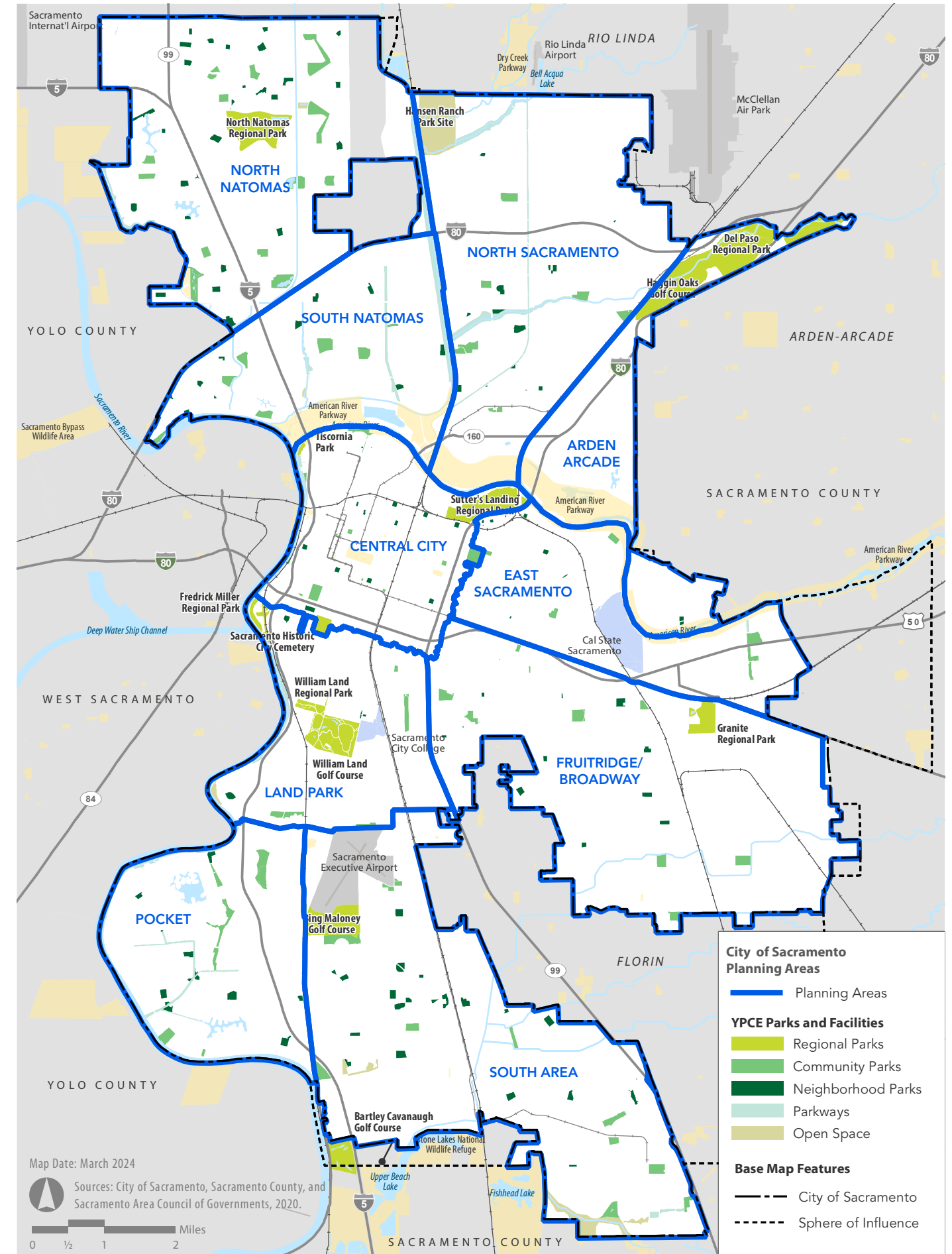
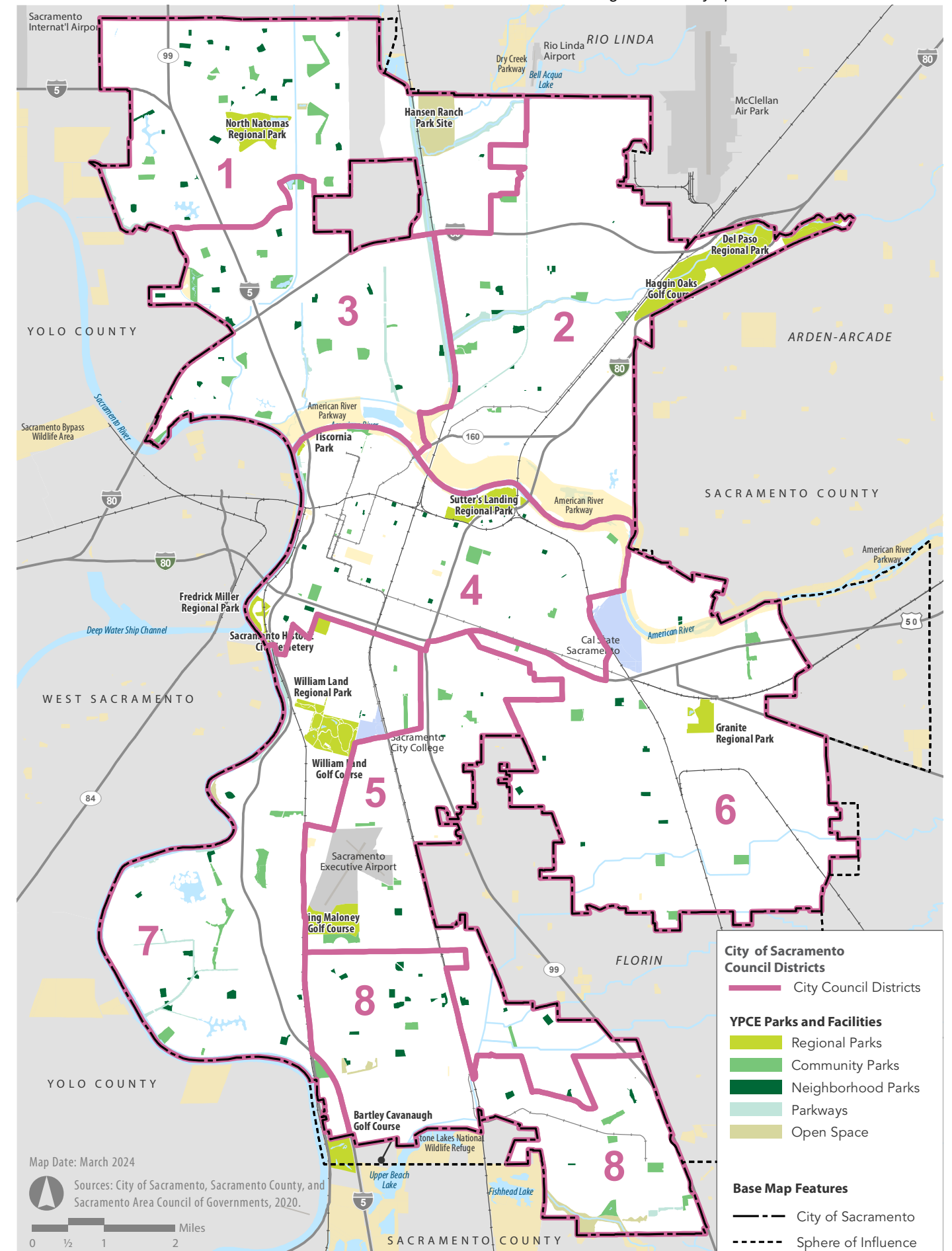




Figure 2-3. City of Sacramento Council Districts





OUR COMMUNITY

With approximately 472,000 residents, the City of Sacramento is the sixth most populated city in California and the 35th most populated city in the nation.¹ Overall, City residents are racially and culturally diverse, with significant populations identifying as Hispanic/Latino, Black, Asian, or mixed race. A variety of languages are spoken, including English, Spanish, Hmong, Chinese, and Vietnamese, among others. Ethnic and racial diversity also varies by Council District, with more diverse populations in Council Districts 1 and 8, and less diversity seen in Council District 4.

The area is rich in tradition and heritage as the tribal land of many native groups, including the Maidu, the Miwok, the Nisenan, and the Patwin Wintun people, as well as members of the Wilton Rancheria tribe. Many of these Indigenous people continue to live in Sacramento.


Sacramento has a slightly younger population (median age: 34.9 years) when compared to that State of California (median age: 36.7 years) and of the U.S. (38.6 years). When compared to the State of California, Sacramento has a higher percentage of children, youth, and adults aged 65 or older. This demographic profile has implications for the planning of parks and recreational facilities that cater to these age groups.

In addition to age, income levels are another important metric to consider in the ability of residents to pay for parks and programs. The median household income of Sacramento is \$62,318, which is below that of the state. Also compared to the State of California, Sacramento has a higher percentage of persons in poverty. In these households, there may be lower discretionary income to spend on outdoor and recreational activities, as families will prioritize non-discretionary expenses like housing, taxes, debt, groceries, and gas.

City demographics are also evolving as the city continues to grow. According to forecasts identified in the 2040 General Plan Update, the City of Sacramento will grow to 638,433 people by 2040, adding 69,000 new housing units and 77,000 new jobs.² This increase in population, infrastructure, and economic growth will require attention to environmental impacts, access to greenspace, aging demographics, cultural diversity, and financial sustainability of public assets.



Sacramento by the Numbers

 Approximately **472,000** residents

 **22%** expected growth through 2040

 **56.5%** of the population identify as BIPOC

 **29.2%** of the population are children and youth

 **13.3%** of the population are adults aged 65 and older

 **15.7%** of residents are below the poverty level

¹ The population reflects the U.S. Census Bureau 2018, as provided in the Sacramento 2040 General Plan Update.

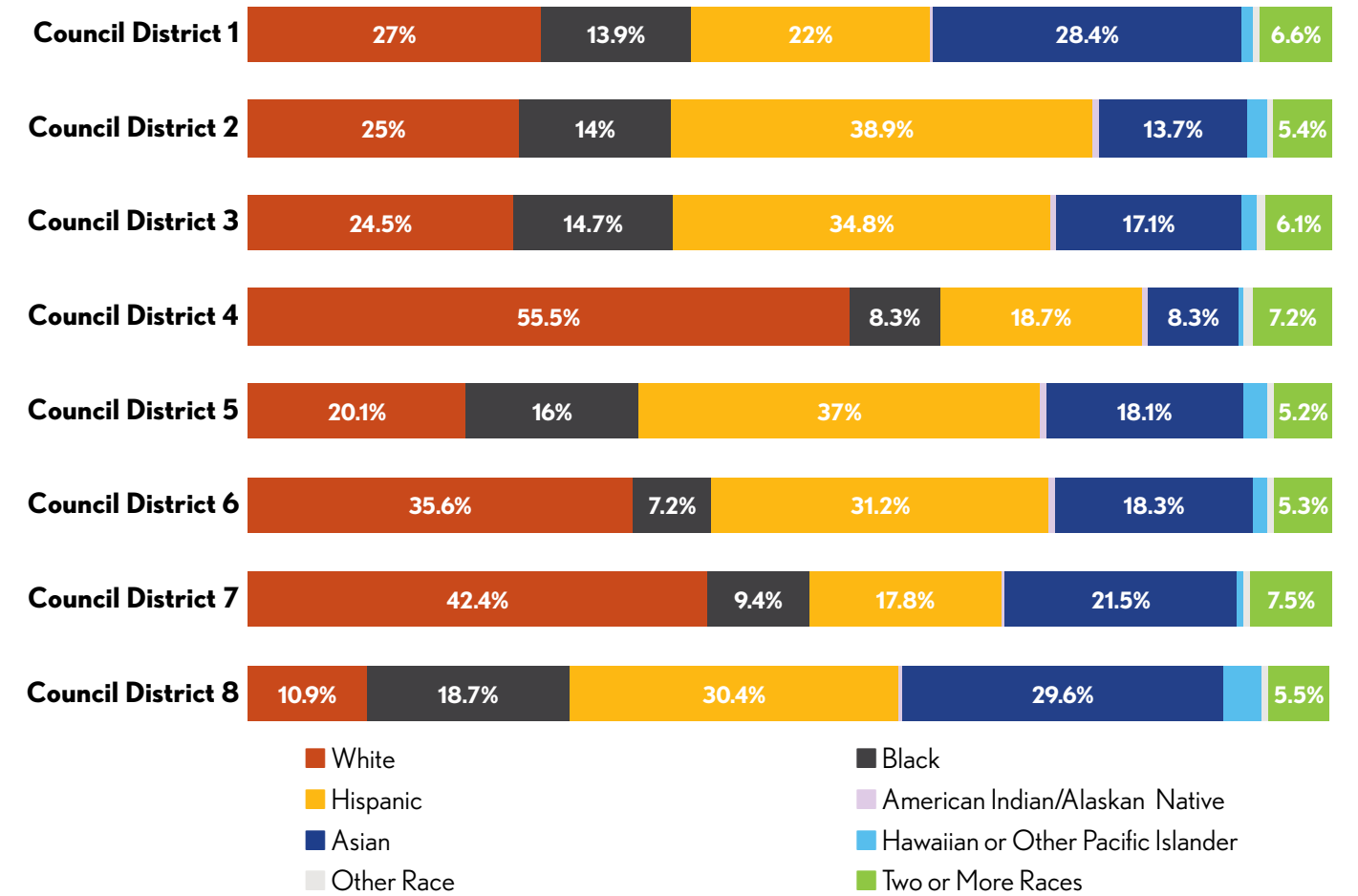
² The 2040 population source is SACOG 2021, as provided in the Sacramento 2040 General Plan Update.

Table 2-1. Demographic Comparison (City of Sacramento and CA State)

	SACRAMENTO CITY	CALIFORNIA STATE
Population	524,943 total population (2020) 5,323.4 population per square mile (2020)	39,253,956 residents (2020) 253.7 population per square mile (2020)
Age	34.9 median age 6.5% persons under 5 years 22.7% persons under 18 years 13.3% persons 65 years and over	36.7 median age 5.7% persons under 5 years 22.5% persons under 18 years 15.2% persons 65 years and over
Race / Ethnicity	43.5% White, not Hispanic or Latino * 13.5% Black or African American * 0.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native * 19.3% Asian or Asian American * 1.7% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander * 9.6% Two or more races 28.3% Hispanic or Latino (any race) <i>*Indicates singular race selections.</i>	71.9% White, not Hispanic or Latino * 6.5% Black or African American * 1.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native * 15.5% Asian or Asian American * 0.5% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander * 4% Two or more races 39.4% Hispanic or Latino (any race) <i>*Indicates singular race selections.</i>
Households	49.8% rate of home ownership 2.63 average household size 202,231 total housing units	55.3% rate of home ownership 2.94 average household size 14,392,140 total housing units
Income	\$65,847 median household income \$33,503 per capita income (12 months) 15.7% persons in poverty	\$78,672 median household income \$38,576 per capita income (12 months) 11.5% persons in poverty
Employment	64.3% employment of persons 16 years+	63.3% employment of persons 16 years+
Languages	36.1% households speak a language other than English at home, including Spanish (18.2%), Mandarin/Cantonese (3.8%), and Hmong (2.4%), amongst others.	43.9% households speak a language other than English at home
Health	7.8% under age 65 years have a disability 6.5% under age 65 years have no insurance	6.8% under age 65 years have a disability 8.9% under age 65 years have no insurance
Access to Tele-Communications	94.7% of households have a computer 89.5% of households have broadband	94.3% of households have a computer 88.9% of households have broadband

Source: 2020 U.S. Census.
Note: The data shown in this above figure, including population statistics, differs from population counts used in the Level of Service Analysis (Chapter 6). The Level of Service Analysis uses population estimates and projections that align with the 2040 General Plan Update for the City of Sacramento.

Figure 2- 4. City of Sacramento Racial and Ethnic Demographics by Council District



Source: City of Sacramento Redistricting 2021 Final Sacramento Council District Map; California Statewide Database Official 2021 Redistricting Data Resolution No. 2021-0001 adopted December 16, 2021.



RELEVANT CITY INITIATIVES

The City is continually repositioning itself to evolve with the needs of current and future residents. The City has several development projects underway that will significantly affect parks and recreation opportunities for youth, recreation tourism, adult sports, health, and wellness, and more. Some of these are related to infrastructure improvements and programs, while others are tied to new housing, business, retail, and facility development. Some projects are led by YPCE; others are being managed by external entities.



2040 General Plan Update

In 2017, Sacramento’s City Council adopted a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2027. The City’s Vision Zero Action Plan (2018) and Vision Zero School Safety Study (2021) were adopted to identify focus areas for improvements and create safer streets. The City received \$2.2 million in federal dollars to help fund safety upgrades at nine Sacramento schools. While other departments provide and manage the City’s bicycle network, these initiatives also support YPCE’s efforts to improve park access for pedestrians and bicyclists and develop off-street shared-use parkways that support a more walkable/bikeable city.

COVID Relief Funding and Youth Program

Since the onset of the pandemic, the City has applied millions of dollars in Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and state and federal grants to launch and expand programs to help residents in need.

Several of these programs have had implications for recreation and youth. The City used ARPA funds to continue the Sacramento Youth PopUp program, which was launched in 2019 by Sierra Health Foundation with support from Mayor Steinberg’s Office, the City, and Comcast. The program supported non-profit organizations that organized events on weekend nights in Sacramento’s disadvantaged neighborhoods. Millions of dollars also went to funding community centers, city pools—including the new North Natomas Aquatics Complex (NNAC) and Community Center (NNCC)—and the Sacramento Zoo. Community-based organizations that work with teens and young adults in underserved neighborhoods such as Oak Park, Del Paso Heights and Meadowview to prevent youth and gang violence received additional funding.

The North Natomas Aquatics Complex (NNAC) and Community Center (NNCC)

In May 2022, YPCE opened its largest and newest recreation facility. The NNAC is a new community center and waterpark, located in North Natomas Regional Park, which features a 50-meter competition pool, a 25-yard recreational pool, zero-depth entry splash pool, and waterslides. The waterpark is adjacent to the NNCC, which features a ballroom, warming kitchen, and a private dressing room. The facility is available for rental for meetings, receptions, banquets, celebrations, and other social gatherings.



River District Development

The River District is a redevelopment area at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers that will create a vibrant, mixed-use community. The River District will include a ribbon of parks along the river’s edge and will connect to the surrounding neighborhoods by a network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways.



The Railyards Stadium and MLS Expansion

As part of City efforts to expand Major League Soccer (MLS) in Sacramento, Republic FC is building support to develop a new Railyards Stadium to create a downtown venue for soccer and entertainment. While the MLS expansion team was originally slated to start in 2022, this was placed on indefinite hiatus. Such stadium and team expansion projects often have both direct and indirect impacts on community and recreational soccer.



Measure L

Sacramento Children and Youth Health and Safety Act: On November 8th, 2022, voters approved Measure L to establish the Sacramento Children’s Fund. The measure requires the City to spend the equivalent of 40% of its local cannabis tax revenues (CBOT) on services for anyone under the age of 25. The funding generated by this proposal will be directed by a five-year strategic investment plan led by YPCE. Examples of services include school activities, youth workforce development, street outreach and mental health counseling.

The Sacramento Children’s Fund Planning and Oversight Commission, which will work with the Sacramento Youth Commission, will propose the five-year strategic plan to the City Council.

TRENDS AFFECTING PARKS AND RECREATION

Dynamic new trends in parks and recreation influence how people play, use parks and trails, connect to nature, and relate to one another. This section notes several trends emerging across local, regional, and state geographies that will continue to affect Sacramento residents’ park and recreation needs. These trends are grouped into three categories:



Recreation

- Lifelong Play
- Trail Use
- Health, Wellness and Fitness
- Virtual Recreation
- Social Spaces

Equity and Access

- Access for All
- Investment in Youth Development
- Active Aging
- Cultural Relevancy and Diversity
- Universal Design
- Technology in Parks
- Equitable Investment
- Environmental Justice
- Homelessness
- Housing and Additional Residents
- Safety and Crime

Operational Sustainability and Resource Resiliency

- Resource Shortages
- Deferred Maintenance
- Essential Services
- Workforce Services and Amenities
- Resource Sharing and Partnerships
- Economic Development/Recreation Tourism
- Environmental Remediation
- Climate Resiliency
- Urban Greening

Each trend is defined briefly, highlighting several of the ways that the YPCE is proactively addressing these trends. The list does not include trends specific to park design and development, which will be addressed in Appendix D. Park Development and Renovation Guidelines.

RECREATION

LIFELONG PLAY

Given new research showing the benefits of play for all ages, the notion of “play” is expanding in our parks, facilities, and programs. Instead of focusing on playgrounds for children aged 2-12 years, cities are adding facilities and programs to meet the “playful” needs of teens, adults, and older adults. Fueling this trend is the recognition that play supports both physical health (motor skill development, balance, fitness) and mental health (cognitive growth, socialization, focus).

In response, cities are diversifying play structures and play spaces. Instead of traditional equipment, modern play areas might include interactive water features, native, low-maintenance plantings, adventure zones, thematic areas, movable parts, and more. Outdoor fitness equipment, climbing spires and ziplines, hill slides, and interactive art elements are appearing more frequently to serve teenagers and adults as well as multi-age groups like families. Low-impact and alternative active recreation activities—such as pickleball, tai chi, water yoga, and hiking groups—are on the rise, providing recreation opportunities for adults and older adults to get outdoors and socialize.

An adult soccer league at Granite Park



Engaging all Ages

Sacramento’s wide range of activities invites participants of all ages to socialize through recreation and activities. Sports and leisure opportunities include children’s recreation explorer camp, youth summer camps, teen events, aquatics programs (age 0-50+), older adult exercise classes, and multi-generational programming. Opportunities for different age groups also include leisure enrichment activities such as dance, gymnastics, cultural arts, martial arts, and adult sports such as soccer leagues at Granite Park.

TRAIL USE

Trails and shared use pathways are among the most desired outdoor recreation amenities. These recreation features continue to rise in demand across the U.S. because they appeal to people of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities and cultures, abilities, and even across incomes. Trails support a variety of activities such as walking, jogging, biking, dog-walking, nature interpretation, meditation, and outdoor education. They provide active exercise (e.g., trail running) and passive exercise (e.g., going for a stroll). They can be used individually and by small groups and families.

Beyond being a park amenity, many park agencies play an important role in providing trails and pathways as part of a larger mobility/transportation system within a city. When designed well, they connect neighborhoods and communities, offering off-street alternative routes and movement patterns within urban spaces to encourage walking, biking, and other forms of recreation. Trails and shared pathways can be landscaped with shade trees and benches to escape from higher temperatures. Increasingly, cities are investing more in trails and pathways as part of healthy living and carbon reduction initiatives.

The multi-use trail at Sutter's Landing Regional Park.

Connecting the dots

Sacramento is using shared use trails to connect various city destinations and park assets. These trails provide an enjoyable outdoor space for exercise, active transit, and leisure. One example is the shared use trail within Sutter's Landing Regional Park, which connects users to the American River Parkway. Trailside signage, shade landscaping, adjacent seating, and stamped concrete contribute to the overall welcoming and appealing aesthetic of the trail corridor.



HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND FITNESS

Designing for health—physical, mental, spiritual—is a major movement within the design-planning realm, with public agencies and private institutions increasingly on board. Cities are acknowledging a growing public health crisis around conditions like obesity, diabetes, and depression. In response, cities are partnering with the health sector to promote preventative healthcare and active living through design and planning.

As examples, cities are providing bikeshare programs, planting trees for shade coverage, and creating more community gardens.

Parks and Recreation Departments are expanding programming to target different age groups and cultures. Ecotherapy and “Park Rx” programs are inspiring doctors to prescribe spending time in parks as a medicinal remedy to certain ailments. There is also a large refocus on the health and wellness of vulnerable communities through environmental justice and equity initiatives. Health and Wellness Hubs are replacing traditional community centers, to shift focus on holistic health services and community wellbeing.

The FitLot at Oak Park Community Center.

A FitLot for Community Health

Stationary exercise equipment in parks offers diverse users the chance to stretch and exercise on their own time, at their own pace. One such FitLot, located at Oak Park Community Center, was built in partnership with the City of Sacramento YPCE and AARP to provide a free outdoor fitness park to serve community members. Not only is the Oak Park FitLot free to use, but it also hosts free classes, workout sessions, and regular active routine classes to support long-term healthy habits.

Additional examples of Sacramento's commitment to health, wellness, and fitness include wellness rooms, community gardens, leisure enrichment classes, adult sports, aquatics courses, and the START program. The City also develops partnerships to provide health resources, wellness clinics, meals on wheels, and more.



VIRTUAL RECREATION

Over the past decade, handheld gaming devices and mobile phone apps began to blend virtual experiences with physical spaces. Geolocation was used for gaming (e.g., Pokémon GO), for community interaction (e.g., geocaching), for educational experiences (e.g., mobile phone tours), and more. In 2020, the closure of physical spaces and restrictions on group gathering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic furthered this trend. Many city-run recreation programs transitioned online, both adapting previous activities such as instructional classes like yoga, as well as introducing new activities well-suited for virtual engagement, such as e-sports. The YPCE also transitioned much of their communication channels to online format, such as class

registration, publication and promotion of events, and public feedback. This facilitated bi-directional communication channels overall and allowed for better efficiency. Despite the reopening of public parks and facilities, and the restarting of in-person recreational programming, many cities have decided to keep their virtual programming due to its success. While we have found that virtual interaction cannot replace in-person interaction, it does offer benefits that traditional recreation programs do not. In some cases, virtual classes have increased participation rate by making access easier for working parents, people without vehicle access, connecting with others in a safe place, residents living further from the recreation center, etc.

YPCE's virtual recreation includes a variety of activities for different age groups, such as animal stretches for kids and DIY pressed herb candle making for adults.



Virtual Engagement

The COVID pandemic accelerated the growth of YPCE's virtual recreation programming, which created online enrichment classes and fun activities targeted to youth aged 0-5, youth in K-6 grades, teens, adults, and older adults. How-to videos assisted kids and parents to stay engaged and creative during stay-at-home periods.

Technology has also been applied to augment older adult programming, teen afterschool programming, and pick-up game organization.

SOCIAL SPACES

The planning and design of public social spaces is accounting for more diverse uses and audiences. Picnic areas, originally designed for a family of 4-5, are now commonly being designed for larger groups of extended families and friends, outdoor private gatherings, and public events. Community centers and park facilities are adjusting to different types of uses ranging from youth sports classes to professional training courses, to quinceañeras, to commercial kitchen rentals. The broadening of uses, especially those on a rental basis, also provides financial support for operations.

People's relationship to public space is changing, partly in response to COVID-19 and partly in response to an evolving society. As sidewalks became temporary extensions of restaurants and store fronts, parking lots became medical testing zones, and streets were closed for community events, people's notion of social spaces became much more flexible and expansive.

Food Truck activity at McKinley Park, and Summer Oasis Camp for Sacramento youth.



A Place to Come Together

Sacramento parks host a variety of community events ranging from permitted block parties, farmers markets, public fitness classes, sports competitions, food truck events, and citywide events such as National Night Out. Additionally, rentals of park spaces and community centers are increasing, offering activities like cooking classes, dog training, private parties and family celebrations, kids' camps, and pickleball competitions.

EQUITY AND ACCESS

ACCESS FOR ALL

Parks and recreation facilities are playing a larger role in public health and wellness, zoning and land use planning, and investment in infrastructure. As this role grows, there is inquiry into whether these critical resources are fairly distributed within communities, and if all residents—regardless of age, income, ethnicity, age, or ability—can derive the benefits they provide.

The NRPA estimates that in the United States, nearly 30% of residents—approximately 100 million people—live further than a half-mile, or a 10-minute walk, distance to a park. This lack of access is not equally experienced across all segments of the population, but instead disproportionately affects lower income communities and communities of color.

In California, the percentage of residents without convenient access to parks is lower than the national average at 21%, according to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Yet it is not only access to a park that matters, but access to a park with sufficient acreage, amenities, and programming. Often, larger parks with more amenities tend to exist on the periphery of cities, while smaller parks with few amenities are in the urban core. In response to these uneven conditions, cities around the nation are being pushed to address the inequitable distribution of park and recreation resources.

Table 2-2. Park Access Metrics Comparison

PARK ACCESS METRICS	CITY OF SACRAMENTO	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Percentage of residents who live further than a half mile from a park.	8%	10%	21%
Percentage of residents who live in areas with less than 3 acres of parks or open space per 1,000 residents.	37%	49%	61%

Source: CA Department of Parks and Recreation Parks Access Tool (2022)

To support equitable access to park and recreational sites and services, the City also implements a series of fee reduction and scholarship programs for facility usage, sports enrollment, swim courses, lifeguard training certifications, and more.



INVESTMENT IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Many park agencies are moving beyond their traditional focus on promoting fun and play for youth, into programs that expand services and enrichment activities for teenagers, young adults, and parent-child groups. They are taking a more holistic view of youth development that goes beyond physical exercise, into intellectual growth, socialization, professional development, and leadership skills. The aim is to produce early adult outcomes such as economic self-reliance, healthy family and social relationships, and community contributions.

This approach also involves young people in local decision-making, empowering them to shape their future environment in which they may live, work, raise families, and retire.

For example, young teenagers are being engaged through active recreation, school-based learning programs, and nature programs. Teenagers are offered civic opportunities, career training and job skills, internships, and team-building development. Young adults, parents, and family units are being supported with professional preparation, access to resources, childcare services, and continuing education courses.

Landscape and Learning (L&L) participants learning and working.



Stewards of the Future

Sacramento puts a great emphasis on youth development. Programs include mental health and wellness workshops, lifeguard trainings, employment services, and a series of city-run programs that merge work, learning, and socialization. Programs include the Summer @ City Hall for high school students interested in local government and active citizenship, the Sacramento Youth Commission for policy and advocacy work, the Summer Oasis Camp (grade 1-6), a variety of Youth Sports Programs, and the Hot Spot teen activities.

Another offered activity is the Sacramento Landscape and Learning (L&L) Program, which is a paid work experience for youth aged 14-17 who are interested in park operations, landscape design, environmental management, and green space maintenance. Participants learn skills including teamwork, communication, planning, and landscape operations.

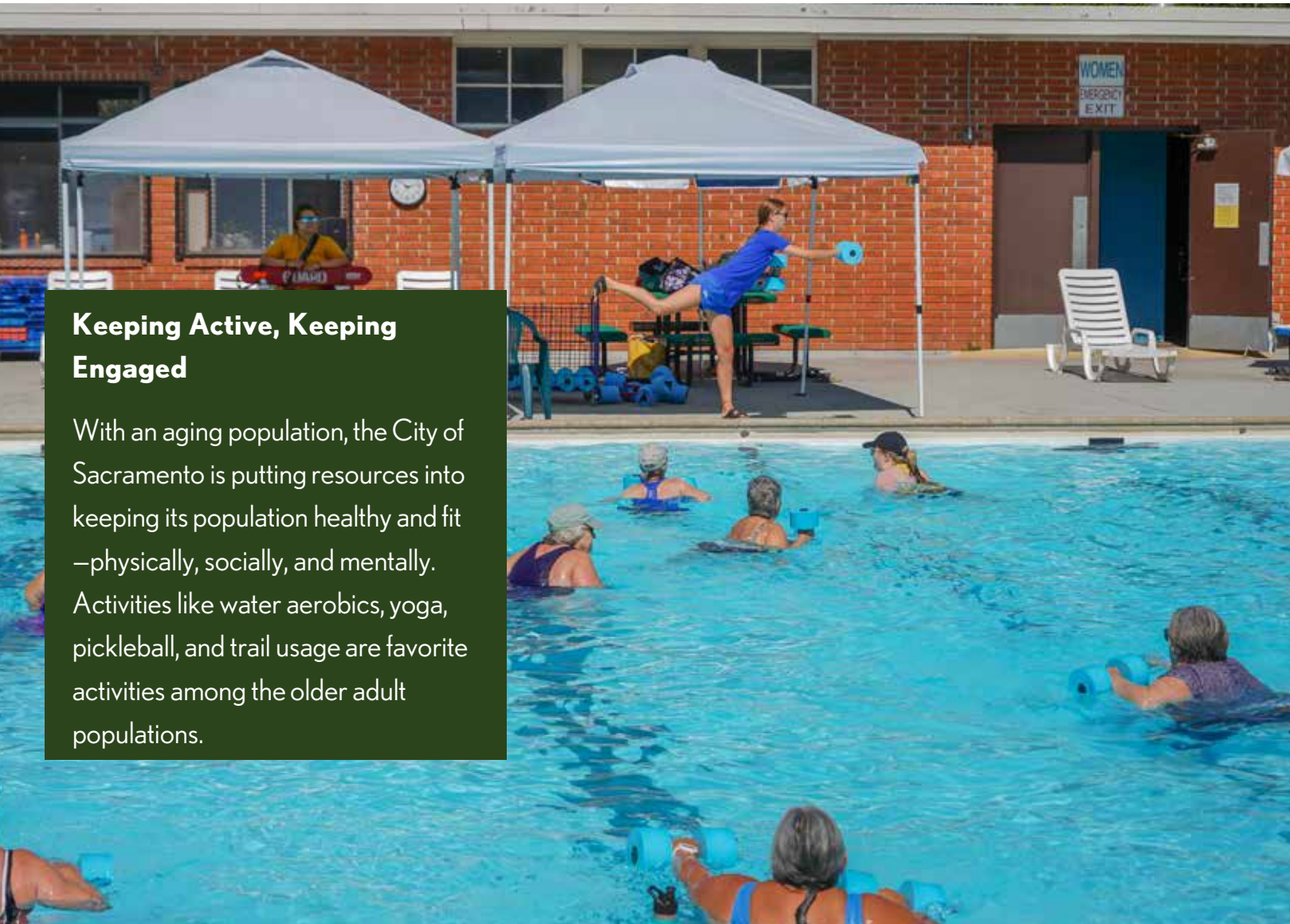
ACTIVE AGING

Active Aging is a booming trend within older adult communities, where individuals are looking for ways to stay physically and mentally active, engage with friends and neighbors, and try new experiences. With a growing population of older adults, there is a heightened demand for recreational activities and spaces that accommodate uses ranging from physical exercise, to learning and enrichment classes, to healthy living programs, to social services. In some cases, low-impact programs and accessible facilities are needed for declining vision, hearing, coordination, and mobility.

Sometimes older adult care centers fulfill this need; in other cases, individuals turn to their local parks and program providers. This is a diverse age group that cannot be offered a one-size-fits-all approach.

Sacramento is developing an age-friendly action plan (2024) that will guide the City in preparing its growing aging population, including addressing specific needs of older adults.

Water aerobics at Tahoe Park.



Keeping Active, Keeping Engaged

With an aging population, the City of Sacramento is putting resources into keeping its population healthy and fit—physically, socially, and mentally. Activities like water aerobics, yoga, pickleball, and trail usage are favorite activities among the older adult populations.

CULTURAL RELEVANCY & DIVERSITY

Cities are rethinking the inclusiveness and cultural relevance of their existing park facilities and programs. This effort acknowledges that current activities may not fully reflect the diversity of the population, so it may not appeal to—or even discourage—certain residents from participating, ultimately lowering engagement rates and creating disconnected communities.

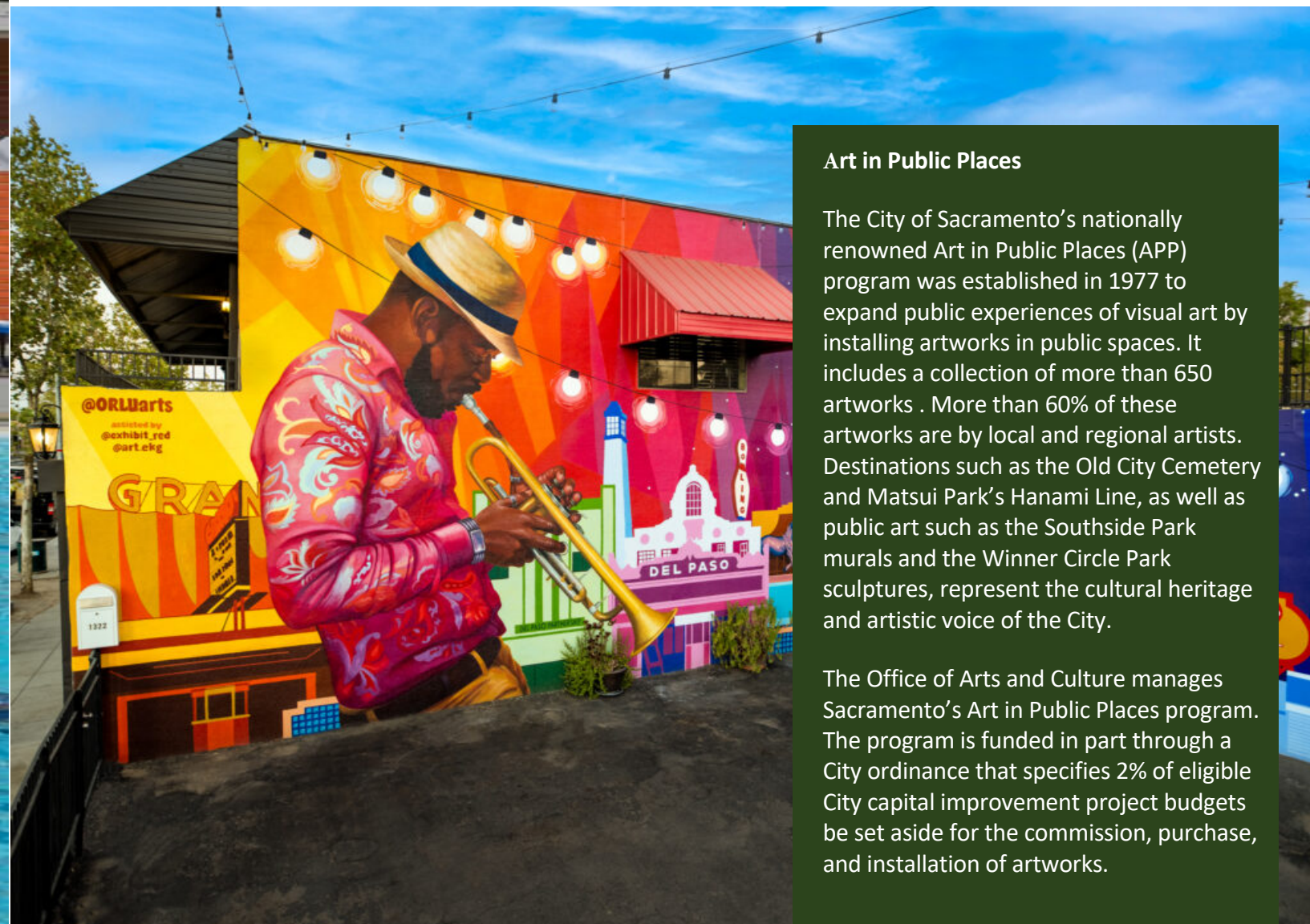
Population demographics shift and grow, and the needs and preferences of the community likewise evolve. Research shows that cultural and ethnic groups can experience unique barriers to accessing parks and programs.

Service providers across the country are responding to the diverse cultural makeup of their communities in a variety of ways, including expanding outreach and communication methods, providing culturally responsive park design and programming, and hiring more diverse staff.

There is also growing demand for events, vendors, and entertainment to reflect a wider array of interests and cultures. Parks and recreation facilities, as major community anchor points, are ideal locations to host such events and promote cross-cultural education.

Mural credit: Liv Unger, Rhythm of the Boulevard, acrylic on stucco, Sacramento, CA 2022.

Photo credit: Roderick Cooney



Art in Public Places

The City of Sacramento’s nationally renowned Art in Public Places (APP) program was established in 1977 to expand public experiences of visual art by installing artworks in public spaces. It includes a collection of more than 650 artworks. More than 60% of these artworks are by local and regional artists. Destinations such as the Old City Cemetery and Matsui Park’s Hanami Line, as well as public art such as the Southside Park murals and the Winner Circle Park sculptures, represent the cultural heritage and artistic voice of the City.

The Office of Arts and Culture manages Sacramento’s Art in Public Places program. The program is funded in part through a City ordinance that specifies 2% of eligible City capital improvement project budgets be set aside for the commission, purchase, and installation of artworks.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Universal design is an approach for creating built environments that exceed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards and are inclusive to all levels of ability. This might include people with disabilities in vision, hearing, mobility, and sensory input. This also includes consideration of different users, such as people with strollers, people with walking aids, couples or groups, variations in sensitivity to heat or sun, etc.

Playgrounds and recreation systems based on universal design standards encourage access, independence, safety, and comfort for all people. This approach is being integrated into public parks, indoor and outdoor recreation elements, and infrastructure to meet the needs of people of all abilities.

Oak Park (top left), Wild Rose Park (top right), and Independence Field (bottom).



Access Leisure and Inclusive Design

YPCE strives to provide inclusive spaces through park and play structure design. For example, rubberized flooring, bold visual stimulation, and tactile play surfaces at Oak Park and Wild Rose Park welcome children and youth of diverse abilities to play and learn. Visitor comfort for diverse users is also factored into amenities. Gender neutral restrooms at Valley Oak Park reflect the inclusive design approach for Sacramento parks. Furthermore, certified staff from the Access Leisure program work with families to develop appropriate modifications to safely participate in any program.



TECHNOLOGY IN PARKS

Evolving technology affects how parks are maintained, irrigated, monitored, managed, and operated. Online programming, reservation systems, and digital marketing is helping recreation programming run more efficiently and reach a wider population. Maintenance requests are documented electronically and tracked for better service. In some systems, members of the public can submit claims for repair or service to park amenities through simple applications on their phones.

They can also submit park evaluations, and generally provide easy feedback to the department. In addition, more parks include public Wi-Fi and electronics charging stations for users to stay connected.

These shifts in technology use in parks and recreation allow more community input and stakeholder engagement in day-to-day maintenance and operations of parks and promoting park stewardship among residents.

The Wi-Fi connection map for 27 Sacramento parks.



Wi-Fi in City Parks

As a component of the City's public-private partnership with Verizon, free high-speed Wi-Fi access points have been installed at 27 parks throughout the City of Sacramento. This service supports the City's goal of digital equity and economic development, and will help bridge the digital divide by providing public wireless access for citizens who don't have access at their homes.

EQUITABLE INVESTMENT

Park systems reflect the evolution of a city, growing piece-by-piece over time as cities shift and expand with new developments. Older parks may have different standards due to the rules and regulations during development. New parks are either acquired through land dedication or city purchase, and developed from a variety of funding sources, including impact fees, in-lieu payments, general funds, and other tax pools based on what is available at the time. When cities invest in acquiring

new parks and park development, it is not always strategically aligned with addressing needs. For example, a city may allocate equal resources across district council boundaries, regardless of where investment is most needed.

This mélange of different standards, level of service, and funding mechanisms has the tendency to create conditions where parks and recreational amenities are not equitably distributed across the city.

Measure U has allowed for the reopening of all 12 city swimming pools and 5 stand-alone wading pools.

Financing City Parks with Measure U

In 2012, Sacramento voters approved a half-cent sales tax increase to fund essential services that had been cut or reduced since the 2008 Great Recession. Measure U provided much-needed funds for struggling parks and recreational services.

In 2018, a new version of Measure U passed that increased the sales tax to a full cent, and shifted the proceeds to the City's General Tax. While the tax amount was higher, the overall yield was depressed by economic impacts from COVID-19. Additionally, because the tax went to the General Fund, there were other needed recipients of the funds beyond parks and recreation. From FY2019/2020 to FY2020/2021, the YPCE only received an increase of 4% Measure U tax funding, which was just enough to maintain current staffing levels. Larger portions of Measure U taxes went to the Fire Dept (18%) and the Police Dept (12%).

Other examples of equity-focused investments include reduced Park Impact Fees (PIFs) in incentive zones and affordable housing developments, After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs for youth, and the prioritization of park projects to ensure safety and access for all.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Lower-income communities and communities of color often bear a disproportionate burden of pollution and associated health risks due in large part to a legacy of institutional racism and discriminatory planning practices. As the impacts of climate change continue to mount, the risks associated with environmental vulnerability have become more pronounced and are anticipated to further disrupt socially and economically disadvantaged communities. Parks and open spaces provide ecosystem services that mitigate climate impacts and pollution, as well as provide settings for people to interact with each other

and engage in physical activity in a natural environment, which promotes health and wellbeing.

In 2016, the CA State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1000 "Planning for Healthy Communities," requiring local governments to identify disadvantaged communities in their jurisdictions and address environmental justice in their General Plans. The law has several aims, including reducing harmful pollutants and the associated health risks, and promoting equitable access to positive health resources such as housing, healthy food options, and quality recreation facilities.

Elmhurst Community Garden in Brooks Truitt Park



Sacramento's Community Gardens

To combat food insecurity and promote healthy eating, the City partners with local community-based organizations to operate community gardens in areas with fewer fresh food sources. As of 2022, the YPCE operates 19 community gardens with over 450 individual plots, including ADA-specific plots. Additional gardens are currently in development.

HOMELESSNESS

The last comprehensive nationwide Point-In-Time count, conducted in January 2020, revealed over half a million people are experiencing homelessness in the United States. This count, steadily increasing since 2017, skyrocketed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as people lost consistent income and faced additional health and family burdens. While homelessness impacts people of all ages and races, there is an overrepresentation of Black, Indigenous and people of color affected. Additionally, vulnerable populations including LGBTQIA+ youth and adults, and people facing mental health or substance abuse issues, are more likely to experience homelessness. Homeless youth will be a focus of the Measure L Children’s fund.

With the rise of homelessness outpacing services like overnight shelters, more individuals are staying overnight in parks and other public open spaces. This presents operational challenges for parks and recreation agencies who are tasked with maintaining safe, healthy, and sanitary facilities while balancing the needs of all residents. Across the nation, park agencies are partnering with other departments and non-profits to address the impacts of homelessness and offer solutions.

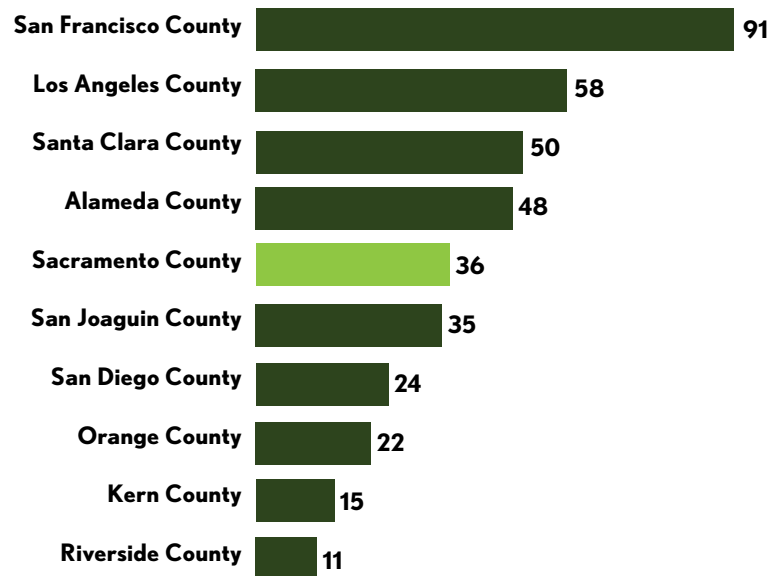
A Growing Homelessness Crisis

The most recent 2019 Point in Time (PIT) survey for Sacramento County revealed that, on any given night, 5,570 individuals experienced homelessness. From a previous PIT count conducted in 2017, this number had increased by 19%. It is assumed the problem has been exacerbated since 2019 due to COVID-19.

Sacramento’s 2021 Comprehensive Siting Plan outlines strategies for siting shelters and services across the city to service over 9,820 people annually. Programs range from immediate emergency needs (shelter, food, healthcare) to transitional assistance (short-term housing) to long-term support (permanent supportive housing, job services).

Sacramento County Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count 2019.

Per Capita (per 10k residents)



HOUSING AND ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS

The rise of housing prices across the county is creating higher housing burdens (where people pay more than a third of their monthly income on housing costs), increased eviction rates, and negative health stressors. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing, leaving few funds for recreation and entertainment.

Compounding the spike in housing prices is an expected population increase within Sacramento. The city is projected to reach 638,433 people by 2040, representing a 22% increase from 2020. To provide more housing, various cities have started

authorizing the development of multi-family units on previous single-family lots. Some are requiring new development to have affordable housing percentages, and others are permitting the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and similar bonus structures. Post-pandemic, some struggling downtown areas and commercial districts are converting office spaces into residential units. As an important note, these options increase the density of residential development, which in turn increases the demand for parks and public spaces as well as the impacts on small neighborhood parks.

Select Inventory Sites as identified in the 2021-2029 Housing Element Update

Sacramento’s Housing Element Inventory Sites

The 2021-2029 Housing Element of the City of Sacramento General Plan outlines strategies to respond to the growing need for housing. As part of the Housing Element, City staff conducted a comprehensive inventory of vacant and non-vacant land within City limits that is zoned to allow for housing as well as available to develop within the 2021-2029 Housing Element period to meet those goals. The online map is intended to be used for developers and city planners to make more informed decisions about how and where to site new housing.



SAFETY AND CRIME

Trends across the nation include the rise in crime and violent crimes, especially over the last two years. Crime and fear of crime can be a barrier to park use, especially for certain user groups like women, older adults, and families. It is not only the crimes committed within park boundaries that impact park usage, but also the crimes that occur around the edges, in the surrounding neighborhoods, and along the access routes. The prevalence of violence and crime deter park visitation, which reduces the health benefits of parks for communities, ultimately culminating in less healthy communities.

Sacramento Park Ranger Services Program.

Service, Safety and Preservation

Sacramento is taking great strides to ensure safety in public spaces like parks and recreation facilities. Through security features like lighting, cameras, graffiti abatement, and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), the City is improving its public spaces.

One such example is the Park Ranger Services Program, whose mission is to serve, protect, and preserve the city's parks, community centers, and recreation facilities for the greater public. They assist the public in situations of non-emergency incidents taking place at city parks, working in conjunction with the Police Department. The City has 12 rangers who cover over 200 parks, and act as a link between the community, the police, and the parks.

By applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Guidelines, many cities have integrated safety measures into park spaces, including features such as lighting, safe restrooms, good sightlines for visibility from the street, and fencing/barriers for more dangerous areas (like roadways). However, cities that wish to increase equity and access to parks and recreation spaces are also giving deeper thought as to how to improve safety through park activation, resource allocation, and effective Park Safety Ranger programs.



OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESOURCE RESILIENCY

ACCESS FOR ALL

As urban populations increase and cities expand outwards or become denser, governments across the U.S. are struggling to address supply chain issues, staffing shortages, and funding challenges while still providing adequate services to their constituents. While the demand on parks and programs has increased through the COVID-19 and post-pandemic years, the costs of new construction and supplies have increased. Staff are leaving positions, and new staff are more expensive and time consuming to find, hire, and train. This is discussed frequently in terms of lifeguard shortages across the nation but is also affecting recreation programs and maintenance staff. Staffing shortages are also critically impacting childcare and after school programs. At the same time, parks and recreation departments have not necessarily seen an increase in their budgets; in some cases, many agencies have seen a decline in revenue streams.

YPCE is converting stand-alone wading pools into splash pads to reduce staffing needs and provide more inclusive access to water amenities.

According to NRPA, of the total average operating expenditures for parks and recreation operations, only 23% comes from generated revenue (program fees, space/equipment rentals, etc.). The rest comes from dedicated levies, taxes, grants, and sponsorships, with the majority coming from the city's general fund taxes. Despite the variety of funding sources, parks and recreation departments typically operate on thin margins and often must make influential decisions about how to allocate resources throughout the park system.

The instability of funding sources is another challenge. In theory, parks and facilities are perpetual expenditures. Once established, they consistently require funding for upkeep and operations. Being heavily dependent on the city tax base, parks and recreation departments may not have the stability required for effective planning and operations. In times of decreased funding, recreation programs may halt, facilities may close, staffing may be reduced, and maintenance may be deferred.



Adapting to Resource Shortages

Facing deficits in funding, the City of Sacramento's YPCE has had to rethink their operations and offerings to match their capacity. Strategies include sharing human resources between department divisions, as well as aligning divisions' services, functions, and goals. For some sites, they've contracted with non-profits for space leases and maintenance of open space and trails. In addition to strategically pursuing grants, YPCE is also rethinking the types of recreational amenities they offer, in consideration of budget and public demand.

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

When maintenance requests surpass maintenance budgets, cities often implement a deferred maintenance system, where they assess which requests to prioritize based on considerations such as site significance, health and safety, operations and maintenance impacts, and community need. Deferred maintenance programs

can be extensive task lists, and it is common for maintenance projects to sit unattended for so long that repairs become larger projects or facilities need replacements. This then turns less-expensive maintenance costs into more-expensive capital improvement costs.

McClatchy Park restrooms undergo needed maintenance.



Sacramento's Deferred Maintenance Program

During and following the 2008 Great Recession, Sacramento's Department of Parks and Recreation underwent severe cuts to maintenance funding and staffing. Funding was slowly increased through designated taxes like Measure U, but years of reduced maintenance only added to the later repair costs, and parks continued to struggle with reduced staffing.

In 2014, YPCE began a Deferred Maintenance Study to evaluate all park amenities, including their estimated improvement costs and scores based on safety, code violations, and operations. Using the scores, YPCE staff rated parks to prioritize improvements and repairs.

The Deferred Maintenance Study found that more than \$140.5 million worth of repairs and improvements were needed for over 5,000 park amenities. Pools reflected dire maintenance needs, with approximately \$17 million in deferred maintenance costs that increase over time through neglect. Irrigation, community centers, play equipment, and restrooms (pictured) also require upkeep for safety. Given these patterns of accumulating costs, the City is rethinking how they prioritize projects, how they oversee and maintain parks, and how they can better sustain quality park facilities.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

An especially noticeable trend seen during COVID-19 was the quick transformation of park facilities into sites for delivering essential services. Parking lots became testing and vaccination sites, community centers became temporary hotels for unhoused people, and gymnasiums became storage sites for emergency food distribution. This quick transformation is not a new phenomenon – park community centers have often been sites for emergency shelter or logistics – but the scale and frequency of the transformation seen during the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of these sites in the public eye.

This trend also makes the case for increased funding to parks and recreation departments as public agencies that provide essential services. Typically, essential service funds go to emergency services like fire departments, police departments, and public health agencies. If parks and recreation are transforming to take on more of the essential public services, cities need to reconsider budgets so that such activities are supported with funding and staff.

Essential services, such as Hart's Healthy Pantry and Triple-R Adult Day Care provide needed programs and assistance for immediate need.



Serving Immediate Needs

Besides regular services, YPCE community centers are used to provide essential services and immediate needs. At times, these facilities act as heating centers, cooling centers, food distribution centers, and more. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these sites were transformed into vaccination sites, childcare centers, and emergency food pick-up points. All YPCE community centers are designated as emergency shelters, and YPCE staff as emergency responders.

Through a partnership with the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, the Hart Senior Center (located at James Marshall Park) offers a monthly food distribution program called Hart's Healthy Pantry. People aged 60 and older who meet monthly household income eligibility receive a packaged box of groceries with items like milk, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, and more.

WORKFORCE SERVICES AND AMENITIES

The attraction and retention of businesses and workers is a major focus of city governments to improve their local tax base and economy. The trend toward business “campuses” sees companies (either individual or grouped) providing their workers with an array of live-work amenities, such as pocket parks, BBQ and picnic areas, outdoor work zones, and yoga sessions for midday stretches. In most cases, however, these are internally focused private corporate spaces and programs, available only to the provider company network. Cities are considering how they might provide similar services and amenities to the wider workforce population. If unable to provide such services themselves, cities might partner with business associations, or create schemes to attract large businesses to their jurisdictions.

By offering more public quality of life services for the general workforce, cities can improve their worker attraction and retention. Lunchtime recreation programs (e.g., fitness events, walking clubs), evening activities (e.g., sports leagues, music in the park), and pop-up events (e.g., food trucks, farmers’ markets) are becoming more popular for servicing employees, as well as attracting residents and shoppers to commercial and business areas.

A local farmers’ market at North Natomas Regional Park attracts many segments of Sacramento society.

Live, Work, Play

Parks and facilities are not only for individual resident exercise and leisure, but are used to attract and retain a strong and healthy workforce population. The design, maintenance, and programming of public spaces can be a large draw for nearby workers and business communities. With good planning, services and programs can align with workforce needs.

For example, North Natomas Regional Park hosts a seasonal farmers’ market offering fresh produce, baked goods, local products, and more. This commercial event brings together locals, visitors, and regional workers to shop for groceries while engaging with their community. At times, the market offers activities like Yoga in the Park, live music, and pet adoptions.



RESOURCE SHARING AND PARTNERSHIPS

In response to limited resources, park agencies are increasingly collaborating with external partners under resource sharing agreements, which allow two or more independent organizations to utilize one facility or program. Partnerships include the private sector, other public agencies, and non-profit organizations, and typically provide additional recreation opportunities either in city sites, in sites owned by others, or in jointly owned or operated sites.

Collaborative efforts take many forms. In some cases, park agencies will invite non-profits organizations, businesses, or staff from other agencies to support city park programming and/or space activation. This might be in the form of volunteers or contracted personnel. In other cases, park agencies will partner with external providers, such as a private-sector fitness facility, to cross-promote existing recreational activities. Another way parks agencies increase access in underserved areas is to create joint-use agreements with local schools to provide recreational and educational facilities outside of school hours. In exchange, municipalities may provide capital improvements or maintenance for school recreation facilities.

Electric vehicle charge stations were installed by the City at select community centers and parks for public use.

Partnerships for a Better Future

Sacramento’s YPCE partnered with the Department of Public Works for the installation and ongoing costs of electric vehicle charging stations at community centers and parks. As a separate endeavor, this partnership is also working to install and maintain Class 1 bike trails, which designates a hard-surface multi-use trail suitable for bicycle and foot traffic that is separated from motor vehicle traffic.



Partnerships for a Better Future

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ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

Many urban areas have inactive industrial sites or transportation infrastructure as relics from their past. Often, the surrounding environments are more degraded and burdened with pollutants resulting from these historical uses. These sites, however, present unique opportunities for acquiring large tracts of land to remediate and reclaim as public open space.

The greening of these sites yields a multitude of public benefits, including mitigating air pollution with new plantings, improving

stormwater capacity with designated retention zones and directional flows, and reducing urban heat island effects by planting trees and removing impermeable surfaces. While it's typically very difficult for cities to increase their park land acreage within urban cores, these types of underused sites are presenting new opportunities for cities to repurpose underused parcels, improve their pollution levels, and provide additional park and recreational space and services to their citizens.

The Railyards Project was approved in 2016 and will include 33 acres of open space, a soccer stadium of approximate 20,000 seats, and almost 500,000 square feet of historic and cultural uses. It will also include residential, retail, hotel, and medical uses.

Remediating Problematic Sites

Both the City and YPCE are implementing a series of environmental design tactics to improve systems and protect nature. They are removing noxious vegetation, conserving wetlands, planting native and water-wise species, removing old parking lots for better water permeability, implementing bioswales and other low impact development strategies, converting medians into parkways, and increasing street trees to reduce the urban heat island effect. In addition to these tactics, Sacramento is embarking on larger clean-up projects for park development, such as Bark Park, Sutter's Landing, Airfield Park, Del Paso Heights Sports Complex, and Vista Park.

Vista Park is located within the Railyards, a large new infill project in the heart of Sacramento. The Railyards project is transforming 244 acres of historically significant former industrial land into a thriving, mixed-use urban community. In addition to Vista Park, the community will feature smaller parks, public open spaces, and an open-air major league soccer stadium.



CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Governments, businesses, and communities are working to reduce the risks and costs associated with climate change. Parks and recreation agencies are well-positioned to be key players in this effort by advocating for designs and programs that align with their local climate needs. For example, cities are incorporating water-wise, drought-tolerant, and native plants into landscape designs, lessening harmful biological agents from the use of pesticides/herbicides, and co-locating flood water storing facilities within parks. Trail infrastructure – including parkways, bike lanes, walking paths, and other active transportation methods – is increasingly seen as vital to reducing urban carbon footprints. Further strategies include tree canopies to decrease urban heat island effects, parks to reduce stormwater flooding, soil amendments (such as

compost) to sequester carbon from the atmosphere, and forest management to mitigate wildfire destruction.

Anticipated infrastructure funding can help advance these efforts. With the Great American Outdoors Act (2020) that permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Act at \$900 million annually, and the INVEST in America Act (2021) that provides infrastructure grants, there will be large amounts of funding available for land acquisition, park and recreation planning, and infrastructure maintenance, repair and development. Agencies can use these funds for trails, renewable energy utilization, waste reduction and recycling, tree coverage equity, and other much-needed activities for climate resiliency.

River District Park features water efficient landscaping.



Drought Tolerant Landscaping

On a citywide scale, Sacramento is taking action to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change. Parks and public green space offers many opportunities to integrate more strategic landscaping and design features that are more suitable for the current and future environment.

One example is the River District Park, which features designs that are highly conscious of water conservation. A dry stream, drought tolerant trees, and water-wise planting all contribute to an attractive and strategic landscape design. The park has no turf but instead uses decomposed granite. Solar irrigation is used instead of electricity. The park is a model of how low impact development can look beautiful while offering ample outdoor recreation opportunities.

PLANNING CONTEXT

URBAN GREENING

As temperatures increase with changing climate conditions and urban growth, cities are anticipating more heat-related illnesses and death from crisis events like heat waves. Higher temperatures create more demand for energy, often resulting in increased cost burdens for consumers. The urban heat island effect, which is due to concentrated energy from urban activities, is raising temperatures especially within core areas that lack greenery. To address this, cities and citizen groups are embarking on greening initiatives such as planting more trees for better shade coverage, installing water-based play features, planting drought-tolerant

and native species, and replacing impermeable surfaces with low impact development for sustainable design.

Urban greening is also an important component of environmental justice. Lower income areas and communities of color tend to have less parks, water and energy access, resiliency hubs, trees, and overall neighborhood vegetation. Efforts to improve urban greening must therefore address this inequity so that everyone can live more comfortably in a healthier environmental landscape.

Landscape & Learning (L&L) Youth are hired to assist in park development, maintenance, and operations, including planting more trees.



Cooling the City Down

An ample tree canopy can make a large difference in combating rising temperatures in cities. The urban heat effect – caused from human actions like running electric utilities, paving over earth with asphalt, commuting to work, etc. – is a growing concern for many cities who are seeing an annual increase in heat-related illnesses. The planting of shade trees is a small action that cities and community members can do to mitigate health risks caused by rising temperatures and sun exposure.





03

PARK ASSETS AND SERVICES

YPCE applies several resources to the provision of parks and recreation services. This chapter provides an overview of the YPCE organization, park land, facilities, and programs and services offered.

PARK ASSETS AND SERVICES

Park and recreation services support personal benefits, such as physical and mental wellness, experiential learning, and connections to the natural world. They provide environmental benefits including biodiversity, water management, beautification, and improved air quality. They offer social benefits for community engagement, team skill-building, and celebration of cultural identities. And they promote economic development through recreation tourism, investment, increased property values, and growth opportunities.

This chapter provides an overview of the YPCE organizational structure and discusses the parks, facilities, and programs provided and/or managed by the department. The chapter also briefly addresses other providers that coordinate with YPCE to support the overall park and recreation system.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

In 2017, Sacramento's Parks and Recreation Department was reorganized and rebranded as the Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE) to reflect the City's commitment to youth development and community services, in addition to park and facility maintenance, management, and programming. In 2023, YPCE merged with the Office of Youth Development (OYD), taking on additional tasks and initiatives related to youth services, health and wellbeing, and workforce development. This was further propelled by the passing of Measure L (retitled the "Sacramento Children's Fund").

The new organization of the department is indicative of the staffing and resources the City applies to managing and providing parks, facilities, and services. This organizational structure is critical to the City's current and future investment since staff are among the greatest assets in ensuring quality parks and programs. The six divisions of YPCE are shown in Figure 3-1.



Figure 3-1. The Six Divisions of YPCE



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Youth Development Division is responsible for creating, delivering, and fostering citywide programs, trainings, projects, and services that navigate critical pathways for youth development including youth participation opportunities, community involvement, relationship building, and skill building. The Youth Development Division manages the Sacramento Youth Commission. Youth Development Division programs include:

- Youth Civic Engagement
- Sacramento Youth Commission
- Mental Health & Wellness Workshops
- Workforce Development
- After School Programs
- The 4th “R” Year-Round Childcare
- Expanded Learning



COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT DIVISION

The Community Enrichment Division is responsible for a wide range of programs, services and facilities that support safe space, community livability, and a high quality of life for all of Sacramento. It provides recreation, leisure enrichment and community resources for all ages, including youth, teens, active adult, and older adult programs. Community Enrichment Division programs include:

- Older Adults Programs
- Access Leisure Programs
- Aquatics
- Camp Sacramento
- Youth and Adult Sports Programs
- Community Centers
- Permitting & Events



PARK MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Park Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining parks, open space, turf landscape, structures, and park amenities citywide. This includes daily care, long term projects, volunteer coordination, special events and any other park related issue. The Division also maintains and operates the Old City Cemetery, which is a state historic landmark that offers monthly tours and events. Park Maintenance Division programs include:

- Old City Cemetery
- North Area Maintenance
- South Area Maintenance
- Community Garden Program
- Volunteer Program



PARK SAFETY DIVISION

The Park Safety Division is responsible for preserving, protecting, and enforcing park regulations at parks, open space, community centers, aquatic facilities, and bike trails. Park Ranger Services, a component of the safety division, provide park guests and neighbors with a safe and trouble-free environment under the slogan, “Service, Safety, and Preservation.”

- Park Ranger Services
- Safety and security of parks and parkland
- Homelessness coordination and response
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Special event support
- Park permits distribution



PARK PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

The Park Planning & Development Services Division is responsible for park planning, parkland acquisition, park site amenities plan, policy implementation, and the design and development of new and renovations of existing neighborhood, community, and regional parks.

- Landscape Architecture Section
- Park Planning Section



ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division is responsible for department-wide support of fiscal management, human resources, procurement, grant writing and management, lease management, and administrative operations that include managing the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission and the Ann Land & Bertha Henschel Memorial Fund Commission.

PARKLAND

The City of Sacramento manages 235 parks providing 4,329.2 acres of recreation space and greenspace. Together with recreation facilities, they provide important infrastructure for the park and recreation system. City parks vary in size, configurations, intended uses, and level of development, including the numbers and types of facilities and amenities provided. Diversification of park types also allows for better distribution of different recreation experiences across the entire city.

Figure 3-2. Park Classifications and Types

Park Inventory and Classification

To assist in monitoring park sites and ensuring quality of design across different park types, all parks have been grouped into classifications and types. These categories consider characteristics such as park size, count, and type of recreation facilities, provided amenities, programmatic uses, and more.

REGIONAL PARK Attracts visitors from the entire city and beyond.



Multi-use Regional Parks provide a variety of specialized and cultural facilities to serve large groups.

7 sites, 14 -213 acres

Examples: North Natomas Regional Park, Sutter’s Landing Regional Park, William Land Regional Park



Regional Recreation and Cultural Attractions provide major recreation facilities or cultural venues that serve as citywide attractions.

6 sites, 19-175 acres

Examples: Haggin Oaks Golf Course, Camp Sacramento, Sacramento Historic Old City Cemetery

COMMUNITY PARK Attracts visitors from multiple neighborhoods or a portion of the city.



Multi-use Community Parks are medium-size parks that provide a mix of recreation facilities, sports fields, and activity spaces.

46 sites, 4-44 acres

Examples: C.K. McClatchy Park, North Laguna Creek Park, Shasta Community Park



Special-use Community Parks offer a unique recreation facility, such as a garden, skatepark, plaza, or waterfront park.

26 sites, 0.1-42 acres

Examples: Southside Community Garden, Ali Youssefi Square

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK Serves the surrounding neighborhood within walking distance.



Multi-use Neighborhood Parks provide essential play and leisure space for nearby neighbors.

102 sites, 0.5-13 acres

Examples: Artivio Guerrero Park, Bertha Henschel Park, Earl Warren Park



Pocket Parks are small sites that provide greenspace for community aesthetics.

13 sites, 0.1-1 acre

Examples: Brockway Park, Harrier Park, Ricardo Favela Park



Play Lots are small sites with one play feature to serve nearby neighbors.

11 sites, 0.2-1.8 acres

Examples: Dixieanne Tot Lot, East Lawn Children’s Park, River District Basketball Court

PARKWAY are linear parks designed primarily for trail use.



14 sites, 0.5-494 acres

Examples: Jacinto Creek Parkway, Ninos Parkway, North Point Way River Access, Fisherman’s Lake Parkway

OPEN SPACE Includes undeveloped, natural areas, and preserves.



10 sites, 0.2-266 acres

Examples: Bannon Creek Preserve, Meadowview Estates Open Space, North Natomas Park Nature Area

PARK ASSETS AND SERVICES

Most city parks – approximately 54% – are neighborhood parks that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities. However, neighborhood parks also represent the least amount of acreage across the park system. Regional parks provide the most acreage, with a mix of developed and natural spaces. The City also provides a few open space areas that are not developed for recreation uses. (Figures 3-3 and 3-4).

Distribution of City Parks

YPCE Parks

YPCE's parks are distributed throughout the entire city (see Figure 3-5).

- **Regional Parks:** YPCE's regional parks stand out because of their size. More of the City's multi-use regional parks are in the northern portion of the city, while the southern half of the city has more regional attractions, such as golf courses. The City's smallest regional park is a cultural attraction known as Camp Sacramento that provides nature-based recreation programs to City residents from its location in El Dorado County (see Figure 3-5 inset).
- **Community Parks:** YPCE's community parks are scattered throughout the city, with a wide range of sizes, amenities, and functions.
- **Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks are the most common type of park, ranging from 0.09 acres to 12.61 acres in size. While they are the most prevalent park classification, they are also notably lacking in certain parts of the city.
- **Parkways:** There are 14 parkways across the city. All parkways contain multi-use trails; some have artwork, gardens, river/beach access, and picnic areas. A select few offer sports recreation facilities such as basketball, soccer, and volleyball.
- **Open Space:** YPCE's open space areas are predominantly located in the northern portion of the city. Hansen Ranch is the largest of the sites, covering 265.9 acres in North Sacramento.

Figure 3-3. Number of Sites by Classification

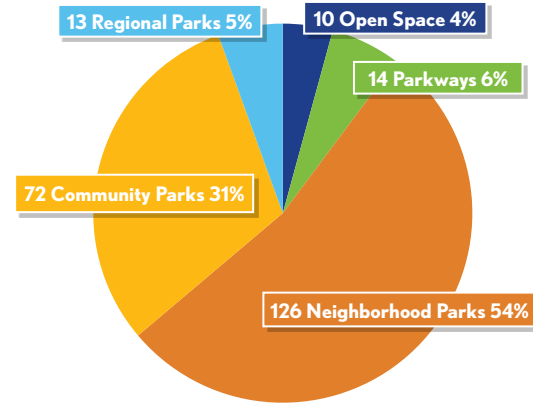
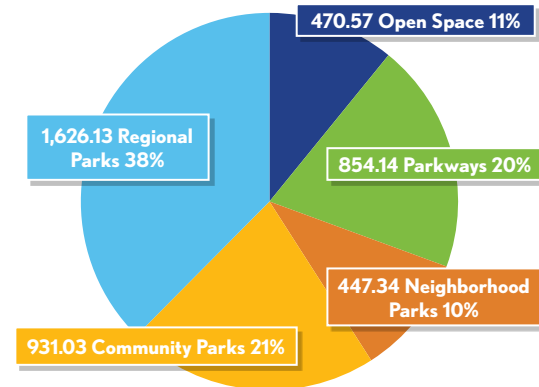


Figure 3-4. Acreage of Sites by Classification

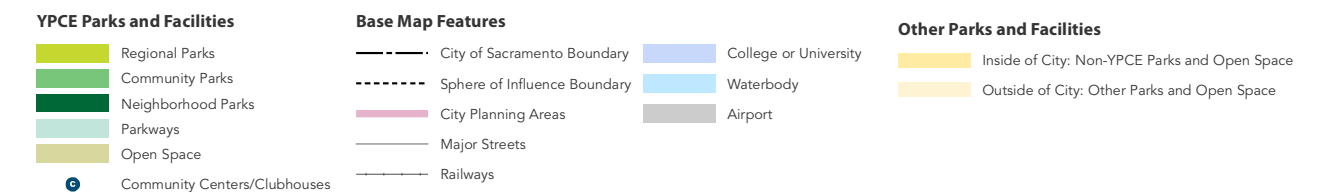
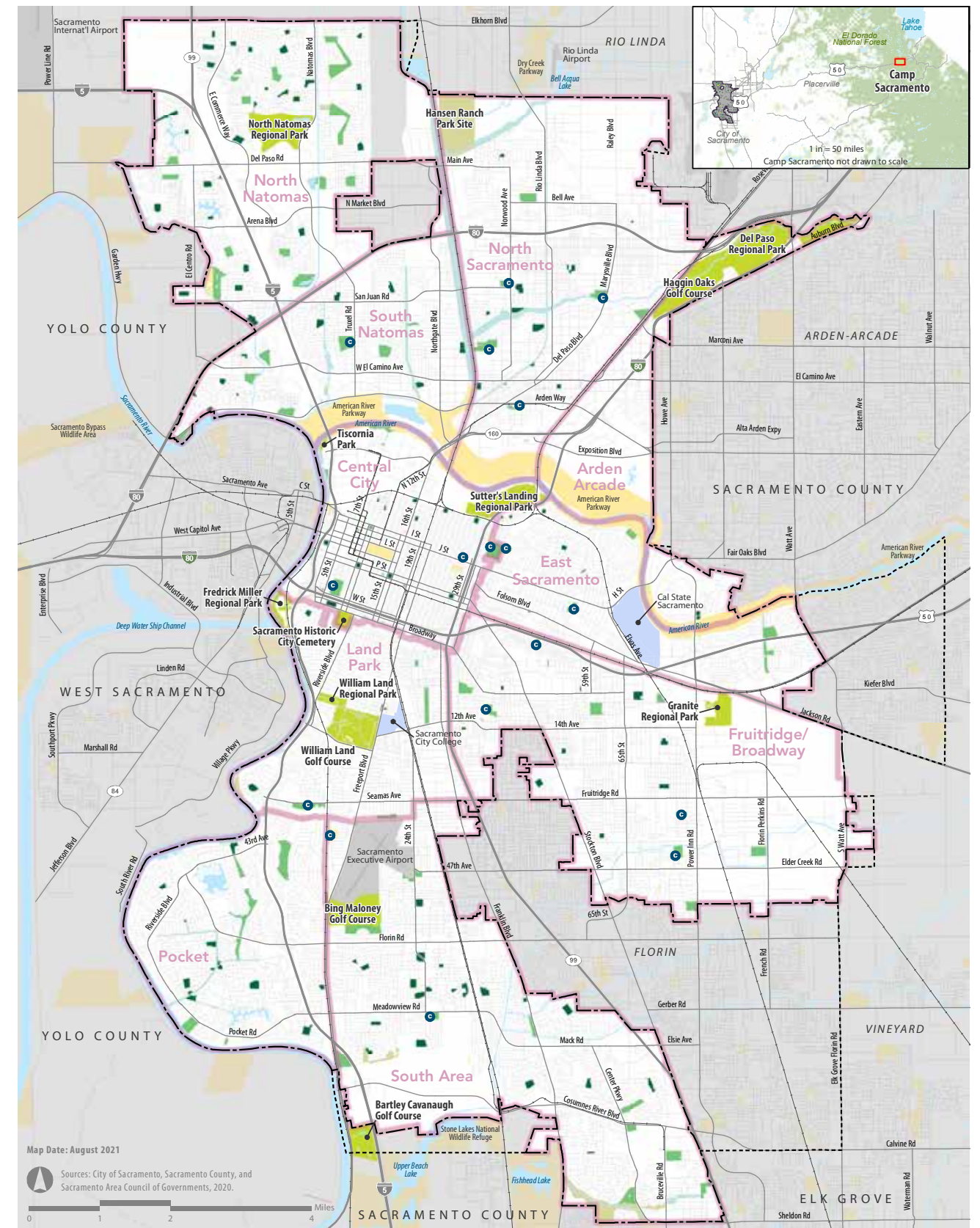


Other Park Providers

In addition to YPCE-managed park sites, Sacramento residents are served by several other parks, recreation sites, and open spaces managed by other providers. These exist inside city boundaries, as well as on the peripheries.

- **Other Parks:** This refers to existing parks owned or managed by other public and private providers. These include Sacramento County Parks, such as the American River Parkway, and State of California's Capital Park.
- **Other Open Space:** This refers to open space, natural areas, and undeveloped greenspace owned or managed by other public and private providers.

Figure 3-5. Existing Park System



RECREATION FACILITIES

In addition to managing and maintaining park land, the City is responsible for providing a variety of recreational facilities and amenities.

Facility Inventory and Classification

The Parks Plan defines park amenities and facilities as follows:

- **Amenities:** Amenities are support features that facilitate the comfort, functionality, and use of parks. These include elements such as restrooms, parking lots, trash receptacles, benches, tables, barbecues, lighting, bike racks, drinking fountains, art, signage, etc.
- **Facilities:** Facilities are outdoor elements or buildings that provide recreation opportunities in parks. Facilities are classified in five categories: athletic and sports facilities (e.g., sports fields and courts); outdoor recreation facilities (e.g., playgrounds, picnic shelters, dog parks); major and specialized facilities (e.g., community centers, pools, and golf courses); gardens and natural features (e.g., community gardens and river access points), and trails.

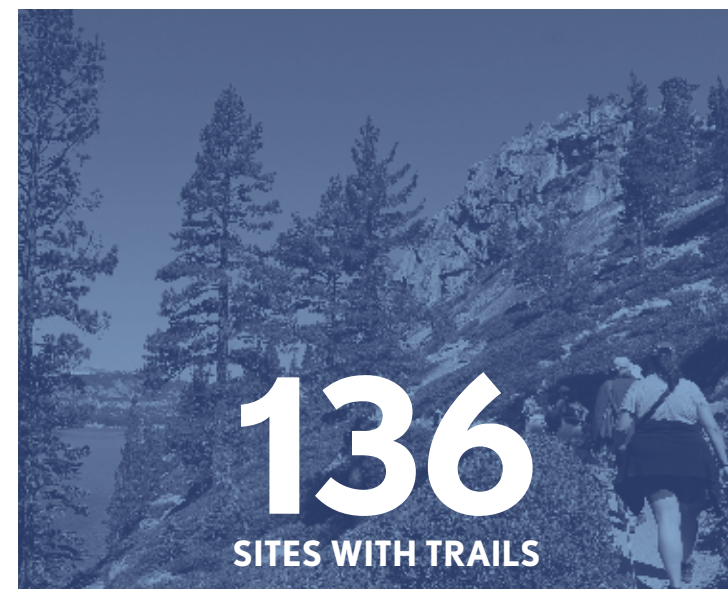
Some facilities are easily tracked by numbers. For example, one park may have four sports fields. Instead of numbers of facilities, some counts (such as river/beach access) reflect the numbers of City parks, parkways, and open spaces where the feature is present. For example, one continuous trail may cross multiple sites, so it is tracked by the number of sites where present.

Major and Specialized Facilities

The City's major and specialized facilities receive added attention given the level of investment required for development, maintenance, and operations. Appendix A provides details on these major and specialized facilities defined below.

- **Major Facilities:** Some recreation facilities that are managed by YPCE or other designated operators require a greater investment in maintenance, operations, staffing, and programming. These are referred to as Major Facilities. They include recreation and community centers, senior centers, clubhouses, golf courses, swimming pools, and wading pools.
- **Specialized Facilities:** Through agreements, the City partners also maintain, manage, and operate other miscellaneous features within parks that are referred to as "specialized facilities." These include elements such as the Sacramento Zoo, Fairytale Town, Funderland, the Marina, Discovery Science Center, Boys & Girls Club, sports fields, concession stands, restaurants, maintenance buildings, and other facilities that require some degree of operations.

Figure 3-6. Numbers of Facilities by Classification and Types



School Agreements

To expand its ability to provide programs even in areas where it lacks facilities, YPCE coordinates with various school districts to leverage indoor and outdoor school space to support recreation and programs. YPCE has joint use agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and other agreements with the Elk Grove, Natomas, Twin Rivers, Robla, and Sacramento City school districts, as well as the Fulton El Camino Park and Recreation District to use school sites for recreation.

Agreements with schools represent a critical way that residents gain access to additional recreation sites in areas that lack park space or are otherwise built out. These agreements with schools have been an effective way for YPCE to provide organized youth programs.

YPCE’s 4th “R” program offers year-round childcare for children (kindergarten through 6th grade) at 18 Sacramento elementary school campuses. In operation since June 1986, these programs introduce children to a variety of recreational activities while providing a well-planned, nurturing environment that promotes healthy development of the child.

Leased Sites and Facilities Managed by Others

YPCE collaborates with several external partners that operate major facilities and specialized facilities within City parks. In many cases, these external partners lease park property from the city to operate their own facilities and programs. These partnerships provide valuable services that the City may be unable to fulfill due to resource and staffing limitations. For example:

- Four of the City’s twenty community centers, clubhouses, and senior centers are leased to partners for operations.
- All four City golf courses are similarly managed by an external operator through lease agreements. The Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course, the Bing Maloney Golf Course, the Haggin Oaks Golf Course, and the William Land Golf Course are all managed by Morton Golf.
- Oak Park Community Center leases to the Women’s Civic Improvement Club for a Headstart program as well as leases to WellSpace. Other specialized facilities are operated by a variety of non-YPCE providers. Examples also include O’Neil Park Futsal and Soccer Fields (operated by Street Soccer USA), and the Sam and Bonnie Pannell Concession Kitchen (operators rotate). Depending on the agreement with the City, the operators have the option to move facility operations to a new location. For example, the Sacramento Zoo is exploring options to move and expand, which would leave vacant parkland that YPCE would need to redevelop.

- Leasing of garden spaces to community groups, such as the Ninos Parkway Pollinator Garden with the Natomas Garden and Arts Club, and the Mirasol Village Community Garden with the Alchemist Community Development Corporation.

For more information on Major Facilities and operators, see Appendix A, Table A-3: Major Facilities and Specialized Facilities in City Parks.

Additional Public and Private Facilities

There are many types of public and private recreation facilities provided by other entities across the city and in the region. These include professional sports stadiums, private golf courses, private recreation facilities, health and fitness clubs, and school and college-based facilities. While YPCE does not track these additional facilities, they influence facility demands and needs.

Figure 3-7. Active Joint Use or MOU Agreement Partners

ELK GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- John Reith Elementary School, for the development and maintenance of Reith Park.
- All schools districtwide, for the shared use of suitable school- and city-facilities outside their intended priority programs/uses.

NATOMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

- All schools districtwide, for the shared use of suitable school- and city-facilities outside their intended priority programs/uses.
- Inderkum High School, for shared use of the 50M pool and ancillary features.
- Witter Ranch Elementary School, for shared use of facilities relating to the 4th R Program.

TWIN RIVERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Regency Park Elementary School, for shared use of facilities and costs relating to the 4th R Program.

ROBLA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- All 5 elementary schools, for Expanded Learning services, shared recreation facilities and development costs.

FULTON EL CAMINO PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

- Babcock School Park (anticipated in future) for shared use of play fields and play equipment.

SACRAMENTO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Bancroft Elementary School, for shared use of facilities and costs relating to the 4th R Program.
- Caleb Greenwood Elementary School, for use of portable buildings for 4th R Program.
- Camelia Park / Elementary School, for shared recreation facilities and development costs.
- Earl Warren Elementary School, for shared community meeting spaces and costs.
- Fr. Keith B. Kenny School / Oak Park Community Center, for shared recreation facilities.
- Genevieve F. Didion School, for city funds, shared recreation facilities, and maintenance responsibilities.
- Goethe Middle School, for shared recreation facilities related to teen services and programs, and costs.
- Harkness Elementary School, for shared recreation facilities and development costs.
- Joseph Bonnheim Elementary School, for shared community meeting spaces and costs.
- Kit Carson Middle School, for shared recreation facilities and development costs.
- Leonardo Davinci K-8 School, for shared recreation facilities and development costs.
- New Technology High School / Argonaut Park, for city bond funds, shared recreation facilities and parkland.
- Sam Brannon Middle School, for Expanded Learning services, shared recreation facilities and development costs.
- Sequoia Elementary School, for shared use of facilities and costs relating to the 4th R Program.
- Sojourner Truth Park / Robbie Waters Library / School of Engineering and Sciences, for shared recreation facilities and development costs.
- Susan B. Anthony School, shared use of play fields and play equipment.
- Washington School Park, for ingress/egress access. For shared recreation facilities.

4th R Programs are organized under separate MOU agreements with school districts, in addition to specific school sites.

Note: Youth Workforce Development and the Sacramento Youth Commission (SYC) have additional agreements with various districts that are not noted in this list. In addition to agreements that allow YPCE programming and/or use of school properties, there also are agreements for school districts to use City parks and facilities. For example, the Natomas School District has an agreement with YPCE to use the North Natomas Aquatics Complex. These are not noted here.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

A healthy and livable community provides recreation, lifelong learning, leisure, and other opportunities for residents. Collectively called community enrichment programs, these events, classes, camps, activities, and services enrich the lives of diverse residents across Sacramento. Not only do these activities provide an opportunity to meet, engage and culturally connect with other members of the community, but they also provide an opportunity for recreation, community support, and civic engagement.

YPCE Programs by Classification

The Parks Plan 2040 introduces a refined classification system that categorizes programs by their primary purpose or intent. Table 3-1 classifies City programs by type. Appendix B provides details on these programs.

Non-YPCE Events and Programs in City Parks

Besides YPCE, there are many other providers of recreational programs across Sacramento. Other City government entities – such as the Mayor’s office and City Council offices – provide programming and community events in city parks. At times, these entities may request YPCE support in staffing and setting-up events, running programs, and/or maintaining facilities for specific activities. For the most part, these programs are not tracked by YPCE, nor accounted for in programming data.

Outside of City providers, there are many other recreational providers including local nonprofits, community-based organizations, California state agencies, Sacramento County agencies, school districts, universities and colleges, faith groups, social service providers, local homeowner associations, and more. These providers offer a variety of recreation services and programs, ranging from sports to outdoor recreation to art classes to historical preservation to after-school programs. Currently, there is no clearinghouse of information or coordination among entities providing programming.



Table 3-1. YPCE Community Enrichment Programs

Recreation and Leisure	Youth Development & Empowerment	Community Services and Resources
Aquatics: Recreational swim, lessons, lifeguard training, aquatics safety programs, and special events.	Academic Enrichment & Expanded Learning: Youth programs provided for academic enrichment (may be offered in community centers or school sites).	Access Leisure: Enhanced inclusive experiences for youth and adults with disabilities.
Arts & Culture: Fine, cultural, or performing arts classes, activities, and events.	Civic Engagement & Leadership: Opportunities for youth to learn about government processes and how to become an active leader in their community.	Adopt-a-Park / Park Cleanups: One-day or short-term stewardship activities led by volunteers to improve parks, trails, and natural areas.
Enrichment & Learning: Classes for continued learning, personal enrichment, and skill-building.	Early Learning: Development and enrichment programs tailored to toddlers and preschool-aged children.	Emergency Response & Sheltering Support: Community centers activating as warming and cooling centers, and clean air centers.
Health, Wellness & Fitness: Organized athletic leagues, sports or fitness classes, and specialized recreation activities.	Licensed Childcare: Licensed care for youth with programs and activities.	Facility and Field Rentals: Scheduling and reservations for major facilities or park amenities for one-time and long-term community use.
Nature & Interpretive Programs (includes Camp Sacramento) Summer nature camps, nature interpretation, environmental education, organized nature-based activities such as kayaking, tree climbing, stargazing, beach trips, etc.	Out-of-School Programs: Camps, before and after school programs, summer, and school break programs for children, youth, and teens.	Healthy Food Initiatives: Community gardening, food distribution, and programs to promote food security, healthy eating, and urban agriculture.
Special Events: Annual or one-time events for youth and families	Youth Workforce Development: Student projects, coaching, job skills courses, work readiness training and work-based learning.	Health/Wellbeing Information and Connections: healthy living programs, health resources and referrals, lifestyle classes, partnerships with health and medical service providers.
Sports & Fitness (Youth, Teens & Adults): Organized athletic leagues, sports or fitness classes and specialized recreation activities.		Licensed Adult Care: Licensed care for adults with memory loss to gather, socialize, and enjoy programs and activities and support caregivers.
Virtual Programs: Guides, tutorials, games, and activities that can be performed at home through online platforms.		Older Adults Services: Support programs, enrichment activities, and services for older adults.
		Outreach & Community Information: Newsletters, neighborhood information and outreach programs for City activities, as well as voting centers.
		Volunteerism: Activities, events, and programs that give individuals or the public an opportunity to give back to their community.



04

COMMUNITY VOICES

This chapter identifies the community's priorities for parks, natural areas, facilities, programs, and services. Individual and group engagement comments are summarized into key themes to inform the Parks Plan 2040.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Thousands of residents, interested persons, recreation and community groups, and city and community leaders shared their diverse insights into the needs, preferences, and priorities for Sacramento’s parks and recreation system. This chapter summarizes the engagement approach, participation, and major themes and priorities that emerged during the Parks Plan 2040 planning and outreach process.



ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The Power to Improve

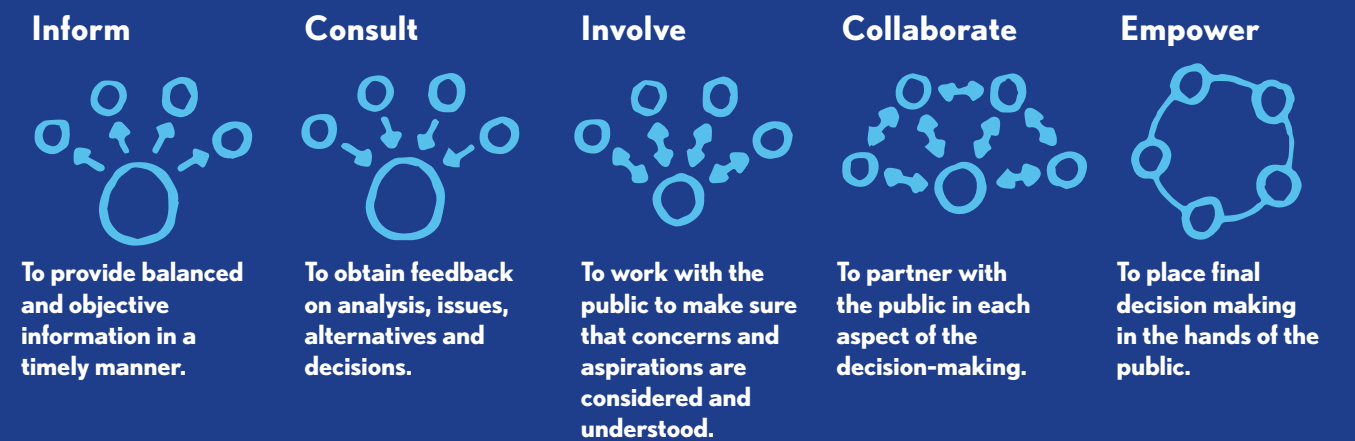
Broad community input is vital to the development and management of a unique, innovative park and recreation system. The Parks Plan 2040 outreach process, initiated at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, assessed community priorities during a time when demand for outdoor recreation options was growing. Parks and other open spaces took on increased value within the community as they became more integral to our physical, mental, and social health.

Outreach to local interested parties and residents highlighted an important asset for creating positive change in the park and recreation system: that of the individual. The engagement program, dubbed “The Power to Improve,” encouraged youth and other residents to become “change agents” in their own neighborhoods and in the wider park system.

Outreach and Engagement Process

The Parks Plan 2040 outreach and engagement process integrated a full spectrum of tools and techniques to expand the outcomes associated with public participation. Modeled after the spectrum of engagement activities championed by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2), the Parks Plan 2040 engaged residents, interested persons, and community groups through information sharing, consultations on public opinion, and collaboration in decision making, thus empowering these parties to enhance the park and recreation system (Figure 4-1).

Figure 4-1. IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



© International Association of Public Participation. <https://www.iap2.org>

The engagement strategy also applied five principles to ensure authentic, diverse, and accessible opportunities to participate (Figure 4-2). The effort intentionally engaged as many people as possible, while staying focused to hear unique individual voices. It mixed representative data collection (e.g., surveying) with activities such as art contests, open-ended online polling, drawing activities, and community focus groups to obtain community data and hear community voices that together helped identify broader, localized, and unique needs.

Figure 4-2. Parks Plan 2040 Principles of Engagement

Engagement also needed to be equitable. The project team evaluated the first input of data and determined if more representation in underserved areas was needed, and therefore, a more directed engagement strategy was required.

Four waves of engagement activities occurred in-person and online to reach a broad range of participants and diverse audiences, and to collect different types of feedback throughout the project (Figure 4-3).



PARKS PLAN 2040 PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT



1. Be Accessible

- In-person outreach was dispersed geographically.
- Virtual activities were captioned for the hearing impaired.
- In-person, on paper, and digital / virtual engagement activities were balanced.
- Initial activities were offered in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Hmong, and Simplified Chinese.
- The timing of activities varied and included after hours and weekends to accommodate students and working families not available during business and school hours.
- Visual information was shared and collected for participants facing communication barriers such as fluency and reading levels.
- Engagement approaches aimed to meet people where they were at.



2. Diversify Participation

- Participation was tracked, considering age, ethnicity, language, income, and geographic location.
- Participation promotion was broad and targeted, ranging from press releases to boosted Facebook posts in Spanish, Vietnamese, Hmong, and Simplified Chinese.
- Community groups and networks were leveraged to involve youth, seniors, low-income communities, people of color, unique needs, and people with disabilities.
- Participation was incentivized to encourage interest in the plan development.
- Participation aimed to empower individual perspectives.



3. Be Authentic and Mirror the Community Narrative

- Previous and concurrent outreach efforts were consulted to be able to dig deeper into known community concerns, opportunities, and issues.
- Focused community group conversations encouraged unique and authentic responses.
- Survey questions were designed to capture individual comments and consolidated community feedback.
- The team aimed to avoid “engagement fatigue” that takes place when multiple city initiatives happen simultaneously with similar groups and overlapping activities.



4. Anticipate the Evolution of Perceptions

- The extended outreach captured different seasonal priorities before, during, and post pandemic.
- Phased activities collected public feedback on technical data uncovered in plan development.



5. Build Constituency and Connections

- YPCE staff met with members of the public directly, building trusting relationships and support for implementation.
- Education and awareness-building were prioritized to build support for park and program investment.
- Open lines of communication were established to share information and resources.
- YPCE staff followed through with members of the public on issues raised during the engagement process.



Engagement Timeline and Phasing



COMMUNITY NEEDS

(June - October 2020)

In the Spring of 2020, the City launched a social media campaign around “The Power to Improve” city parks. Participants and staff at community centers wore their favorite superhero costumes to help kick off the campaign. City residents were invited to identify outstanding parks and programs, as well as those that needed additional attention, improvements, or activities. Website updates, press releases, flyers, and social media posts on Facebook, NextDoor and other forums—some in five different languages—helped invite participation in a multilingual online questionnaire, photo contest, and youth drawing activity to define park and recreation needs.



OUTREACH TO UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

(January - August 2021)

A second wave of outreach targeted historically underrepresented communities and neighborhoods. The team built an extensive database of interested individuals and community organizations, inviting community-based organizations to participate in short meetings, briefings, pop-up events, and discussions. The discussion forums were titled, “Community Connections” and “Community Panels.” From these discussions, arose community and youth liaisons, who helped the project team share the outreach materials within their communities. This was followed by a Youth Art Expo and Contest that invited youth to draw, paint, video, act, describe in poetry or prose, or otherwise share their views and aspirations for City parks, facilities, and programs.



POLICY REFINEMENT AND PRIORITIZATION

(October 2022 - April 2023)

Four groups collaborated in Phase 3 to develop and refine policies around the right services and levels of service for YPCE to provide, including the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission, the Sacramento Youth Commission, the YPCE Executive Team, and the YPCE Project Management Team. Recommendations were discussed with City Council members and cross-checked through a representative, random-sample survey to assess community priorities for action planning and implementation.



DRAFT PLAN REVIEW

(March - May 2024)

Residents, interested persons, recreation and community organizations, Active Net customers, social media subscribers, city department staff, Community Ambassadors, City committees and commissions, Sacramento County, and the Sacramento City Council were invited to review and comment on the Draft Plan, to ensure it reflected community priorities and needs. Comments were incorporated into a community-driven final plan ready for implementation.

Advisory Engagement

As noted in Chapter 1, eighteen different advisory groups provided guidance in developing the Parks Plan 2040. These groups received updates and discussed findings throughout the planning process.



ONGOING YPCE TEAM LEADERSHIP

December 2019 - June 2024

The YPCE Project Management Team (PMT) participated in biweekly project videoconferences to ensure the plan included up-to-date data and reflected the needs of their department. The YPCE Executive Team was consulted at multiple points throughout the process in decision-making videoconferences, discussion meetings, and review of deliverables.



CITY COUNCILMEMBER INTERVIEWS

May 5-7, 2020

Early the planning process, City Councilmembers participated in hour-long teleconference interviews to describe their goals for the planning process, identify issues and opportunities to address, and share thoughts about specific groups to involve in the planning process.



ONGOING COUNCIL, PCEC, AND SYC MEETINGS

December 2020 - May 2024

The Parks and Community Enrichment Commission (PCEC) and Sacramento Youth Commission (SYC) met in each phase in individual or joint meetings to provide overarching direction for plan development. The PCEC, SYC and City Council received staff briefings at critical decision-making points, and City Council members participated in one-on-one briefings to discuss key directions and priority projects. All three groups individually reviewed the Draft Plan to ensure it is ready for adoption.



SPECIALIZED GUIDANCE AND COORDINATION

December 2020 - June 2024

The YPCE PMT coordinated with an Outreach Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee (formed especially for the judging of the youth art contest), General Plan Update Planning Team, the Public Information Offices, and others as needed for specific consultations during the planning process.



DRAFT PLAN REVIEW MEETINGS

March - April 2024

The YPCE PMT presented the Draft Parks Plan to 11 committees and commissions, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, and City Council.

Community Engagement

A variety of creative engagement methods were employed in both virtual and in-person settings. This comprehensive effort allowed community members to express how public spaces and programs impact their daily lives, and how they envision the future of Sacramento’s park system. The following pages provide an overview of engagement activities.



CITY BRIEFINGS, PRESENTATIONS, AND POP-UP EVENTS

April 2020 – November 2020

YPCE staff led several briefings and presentations with many groups to discuss the Parks Plan process (Figure 4-5). At a time when COVID-19 protocols were in place, presentations were held via scheduled videoconferences and phone calls, with limited meetings held as in-person “pop-up” events.



MAPTIONNAIRE SURVEY

August 6 – October 25, 2020

An online map-based questionnaire allowed respondents to describe how they use the Sacramento parks and recreation system, including where they would like to see improvements. Maptionnaire was available in five languages and was promoted via the project website, the City of Sacramento’s social media accounts, and pop-up events. To further encourage participation, an Apple Chromebook laptop was offered as the grand prize in a drawing. The questionnaire received 1,589 unique responses.



PHOTO CONTEST (ALL AGES)

September 7 – October 25, 2020

Sacramento residents were invited to photograph the places in or the aspects of the Sacramento parks and recreational system that they loved most. The photo contest received 36 submissions, and prizes were awarded to the top photos.



YOUTH DRAWING ACTIVITY: “DRAW YOUR FAVORITE PARK”

September 7 – October 25, 2020

To visualize Sacramento youth’s connection to their local parks, City staff asked children aged 5-11 years to submit drawings of their favorite parks. This could be a drawing of an existing park they liked, or their vision of what a great park could include. Many of YPCE’s youth programs participated in the youth drawing activity. The activity received 41 submissions.



COMMUNITY PANELS

October 1 – October 3, 2020

City staff invited 98 community-based organizations to discuss Sacramento parks and recreation programs through an equity lens to gain direct input from communities of color and other underserved groups. Approximately 46 people, representing different organizations, participated in the online community panels.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

October 2020 – March 2021

City staff facilitated conversations with 42 community-based organizations and met with 388 people during these events. These events included a brief presentation outlining the purpose, goals, and objectives of the Parks Plan and led to in-depth discussions about top community concerns. Each event invited participants to share their experiences and perspectives on parks, open space, trails, greenways, programs, and activities, as well as complete a short polling activity. Many of these meetings were held via videoconference, with some facilitated bilingually, and others were held as in person pop-up events during neighborhood association meetings or during special events at community centers.



YOUTH ART EXPO AND CONTEST: “YOUR PARKS, YOUR FUTURE”

June 1 – July 31, 2021

In partnership with the 2021 Summer @ Virtual City Hall Program, the Parks Plan 2040 team invited youth aged 14-24 years old to reflect on their relationship to Sacramento parks and convey their sentiments through an artistic medium of their choice. Participants captured their experiences with park and recreation programs through photos, paintings, short videos, poems, and more.

In addition to coordinating with the Summer @ Virtual City Hall participants, the contest was advertised more broadly in English, Spanish, and Hmong. Open from June 1 to July 31, 2021, the contest collected 61 submissions from three age groups: Ages 14-15 (19 entries), Ages 16-18 (35 entries), and Ages 19-24 (7 entries). A \$300 grand prize was awarded to one winner in each age group, as well as twelve \$50 honorable mentions awards across all age groups. Submissions (both the artwork and the accompanying texts) from Sacramento’s youth demonstrated an acute awareness of the role parks play in individual and community life. A Youth Advisory Committee was formed to judge the art submissions and pick the winners of the contest.



PARKS PRIORITIZATION SURVEY

February 13 - February 20, 2023

A statistically valid bilingual (English/Spanish) survey was conducted by EMC Research to gain representative feedback about community priorities for action planning and implementation. The survey interviewed 600 adult residents of Sacramento via phone interviews (landlines and mobile) and an online survey. There were 75 interviews per council district, which were weighted for representativeness to City of Sacramento resident demographics. Responses helped identify priority projects, programs, and improvements to inform the action and implementation plan.



PARKS PLAN 2040 REVIEW

March 08 - April 08, 2024

The Public Draft Plan was available online and in hard copy form at City community centers for public comment for four weeks in March through early April 2024. The PMT actively solicited response by notifying city commissions and committees, city departments, Community Ambassadors, past Community Panel and Community Connections participants, recreation and community-based groups, residents on the citywide Active Net mailing list, through social media outlets, and by posted flyers at each of the city community centers, libraries, and 4th R locations of the opportunity to comment. An estimated [TBC after Public Draft feedback incorporated] comments were received and used to finalize the Plan.



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTINGS

June 2020 - May 2024

The YPCE Marketing Team and the Public Information Office coordinated to create a website portal and post a series of social media graphics and images to promote the planning process and invite participation. Posts appeared in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Hmong, and Simplified Chinese.

Engagement Participation

[TBC after Public Draft feedback incorporated] members of the public, as well as 56 advisory group members, contributed ideas to inform the Parks Plan. Participants included residents, park visitors, and community and City leaders ages 5 to 65+ representing all eight Council Districts, ten Community Planning Areas, various interests, and diverse demographic backgrounds.

In addition, approximately 1700 people visited the Parks Plan 2040 webpage, in addition to receiving eblasts, social media, or other communications about the project. Figure 4-3 notes participation by activity, and Figure 4-4 illustrates participation by racial and ethnic groups. Of the hundreds of groups invited to participate, Figure 4-5 illustrates the groups that were involved.



36 Submissions

Photo Contest



46 Participants

Community Connections



41 Submissions

Youth Drawing Activity



388 Participants

Community Connections



1,589 Respondents

Map-Based Online Survey



61 Participants

Youth Art Expo and Contest



24 Events

City Briefings, Presentations, Pop-Ups and Advisory Meetings



600 Interviews

Parks Prioritization Survey

Figure 4-3. Parks Plan 2040 Participation by the Numbers

PARTICIPATION BY THE NUMBERS

Project Advisory Groups

- City Council - 10 members, with Mayor and City Manager
- Parks and Community Enrichment Commission - 12 members
- Sacramento Youth Commission - 14 members
- Youth Advisory Committee - 7 members
- YPCE Executive Team - 9 members
- YPCE Project Management Team - 5 members

Other Committees, Commissions, and Boards

- Active Transportation Commission - 11 members
- Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission - 12 members
- Disabilities Advisory Commission - 9 members
- Measure U Community Advisory Committee - 15 members
- Parks Plan Outreach Advisory Committee - 15 members
- Parks Plan Technical Advisory Committee - 28 members
- Planning and Design Commission - 13 members
- Preservation Commission - 7 members
- Racial Equity Committee
- Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission - 9 members

General Engagement

- Maptionnaire Online Survey - 1,589 respondents
- Photo Contest - 36 submissions
- Park and Recreation Survey - 600 respondents
- Draft Plan Review Toolkit - TBC after Public Draft

Targeted Engagement for Youth, BIPOC, and Underrepresented Groups

- Youth Drawing Activity - 41 submissions
- Youth Art Expo and Contest - 61 submissions
- Community Panels - 47 participants
- Community Connections - 388 participants
- Community Briefings, Presentations, and Pop-up Events - 24 events

Project Information and Communication

- Project webpage visits - 1688 visits since 2022
- Social Media posts - 850+ engagements
- Traditional media, flyers, posters, and signage

Figure 4-4. Participation by Race/Ethnicity for Early Activities in Comparison to City Demographics

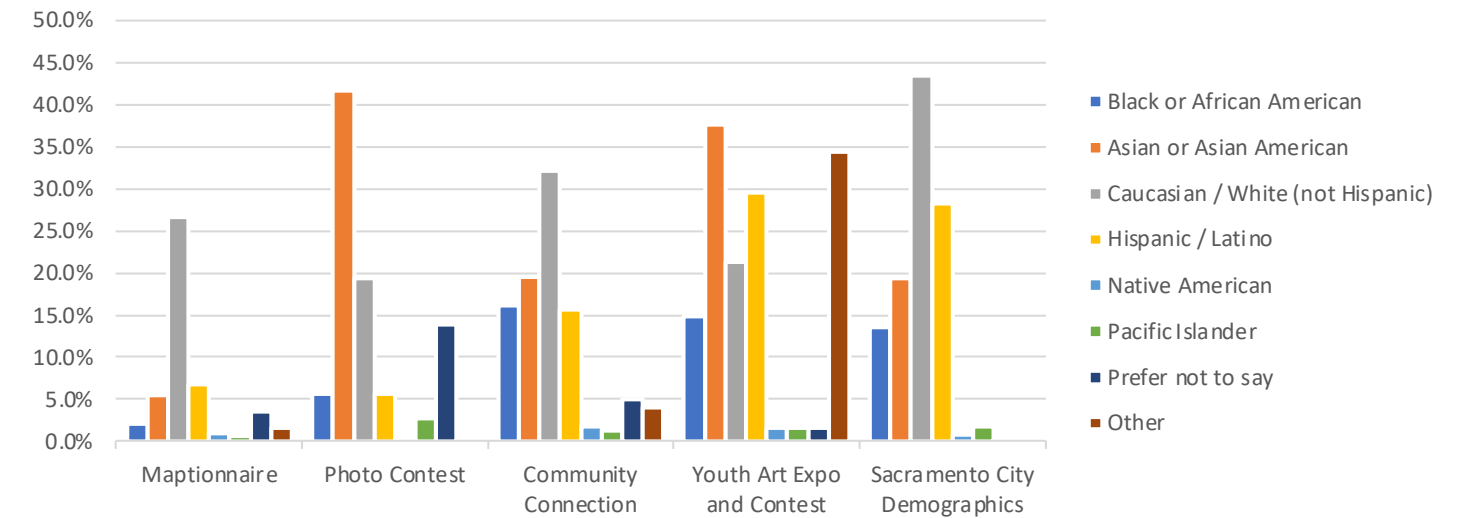


Figure 4-5. Community-Based Organizations Involved in the Parks Plan 2040 Process

**Community Connections
(February - August 2021)**

- AARP
- Asian Community Center (ACC) Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Ben Ali Community Association
- City of Sacramento's ADA Commission
- Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association
- Colonial Village Neighborhood Association
- Commission on Aging
- Deerfield Neighborhood Association
- Del Paso Boulevard Partnership
- Del Paso Heights Community Association
- Detroit Neighborhood Association
- District 1 Youth Action Corps
- Elmhurst Neighborhood Association
- Franklin Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association
- Golf Course Terrace Estates Neighborhood Association
- Hagginwood Community Association
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Hmong Youth and Parents United
- ImpactSac
- Jonnie and Friends Reach for the Stars
- La Familia
- Landscape and Learning
- Liberty Towers Community Center
- Live Well Valley Hi
- Meadowview Neighborhood Association
- Noralto-Neighbors United
- North City Farms
- North Laguna Creek Neighborhood Association
- PRO Youth and Families - High School Seniors
- Rancho Del Paso Neighborhood Association
- Resources for Independent Living (RIL)
- Robla Park Community Association
- Sac Kids First Neighborhood Meeting
- Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission
- Sacramento Disabilities Commission
- Sacramento Tree Foundation
- Sacramento Youth Center
- Senior Center at Sierra 2 Center

- Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association
- South Pocket Homeowners Association
- Stanford Settlement
- Stockton Blvd Partnership Board
- Summer @ City Hall Afternoon Session
- Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association
- The Renaissance Society
- Urban Strategies, Inc.
- Valley Hi Neighborhood Association
- Warmline Family Resource Center

**Community Panels
(October 2020)**

- AARP California
- Alchemist Community Development Corporation
- Asian Resources, Inc.
- California Coalition for Youth
- California Indian Basketweavers Association
- City of Sacramento - Convention and Cultural Services / Office of Arts & Culture
- County of Sacramento Regional Parks
- East Sacramento Community Association

- Franklin Blvd Business District / Franklin Neighborhood Development Corp.
- Friends of East Sacramento
- Greater Land Park Planning Workgroup Sac2040GPU
- Green Technical Education & Employment
- Health Education Council
- Hmong Youth and Parents United
- Juma Ventures
- La Familia Counseling Center
- Land Park Volunteer Corps
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA
- Land Park Community Association
- Mutual Assistance Network
- My Brother's Keeper
- Old City Cemetery Committee
- Resources For Independent Living
- Sacramento Tree Foundation
- Self-Awareness and Recovery
- Sol Collective
- The Center at Sierra Health Foundation
- United Auburn Indian Community
- Urban Strategies Inc.
- Voice of the Youth

**City Briefings
(April 2019 - August 2023)**

- Sacramento Youth Commission #1
- Sacramento Youth Commission #2
- Sacramento Youth Commission #3
- Sacramento Youth Commission #4
- Sacramento Youth Commission #5
- Sacramento Youth Commission #6
- Parks and Community Enrichment Commission #1
- Parks and Community Enrichment Commission #2
- Parks and Community Enrichment Commission #3
- Parks and Community Enrichment Commission #4
- Parks and Community Enrichment Commission #5
- Parks and Community Enrichment Commission #6
- Outreach Advisory Committee #1
- Outreach Advisory Committee #2
- Technical Advisory Committee #1
- Technical Advisory Committee #2
- Technical Advisory Committee #3
- Technical Advisory Committee #4
- Summer @ Virtual City Hall

**Pop-up Event Partners
(September - November 2020)**

- Sacramento Park City Project team
- La Familia
- Sacramento Tree Foundation
- Alchemist Community Development Corp.
- Mangan Park Neighborhood Association
- Robla Neighborhood Association
- Hagginwood Neighborhood Association
- Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association
- Southside Park Neighborhood Association
- Midtown Neighborhood Association
- Meadowview Neighborhood Association
- Pocket/Greenhaven Neighborhood Association

MAJOR THEMES

Through broad engagement and comprehensive community input, major themes and commonalities emerged. Participant responses emphasized a deep appreciation for the Sacramento parks and recreation system, while also calling out critical values, needs, concerns, and aspirations for the future. The following themes helped inform needs, policy updates, and key directions for implementation.

 <p>Park Safety, Condition, & Maintenance</p>	 <p>Equitable Investment</p>	 <p>Culturally Specific Public Spaces & Programming</p>
 <p>Health & Wellness</p>	 <p>Shared Responsibilities & Community Collaboration</p>	 <p>Youth Development & Leadership</p>
 <p>Accessibility & Access</p>	 <p>Connections to Nature, Places, & People</p>	 <p>Communication & Information Sharing</p>

Each theme is described on the pages that follow, with a brief overview, highlights of participant feedback, and a sample of quotes heard from participants during the engagement process.

THEME 1: PARK SAFETY, CONDITION & MAINTENANCE

Park safety, maintenance, and the condition of amenities and facilities contribute to public spaces that feel more comfortable, secure, and welcoming. Throughout the engagement process, participants noted that having safe, well-maintained parks should be a top priority.

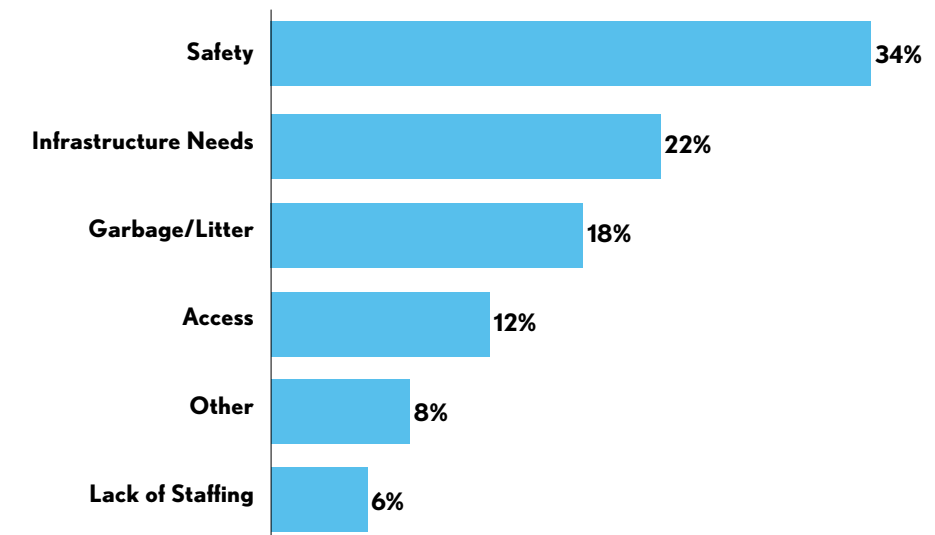
Larger regional parks (e.g., North Natomas and William Land) and community parks (e.g., McKinley and Curtis) were most frequently cited as among the best-maintained parks. Many participants explained that the success of these parks can be attributed to cleanliness, availability of well-maintained bathrooms, the newness and good condition of many facilities, pruned landscaping and greenery, and the presence of people, events, and activities.

Participants value these qualities and would prefer to travel greater distances to reach safe, well-maintained parks than use closer parks that are in poorer condition due to age, wear and tear, or in some instances, factors such as vandalism and homelessness that affect perceptions of safety.

Participants also indicated noticeable differences in park maintenance, condition, and development between various neighborhoods, which affects park use, activation, and even neighborhood identity and aesthetics. They also requested the repair of cracked walkways along pathways in parks to improve park safety.

Figure 4-6. Community Connections Poll Responses on Most Pressing Concerns for Parks (n=290)

What is your most pressing concern for parks in Sacramento? (n=290)



COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

- Improve maintenance activities such as trash collection and restroom cleaning.
- Repair popular amenities, such as basketball hoops, to support play.
- Address undesirable behavior related to homeless encampments and public drug use.
- Focus on parks that are older, outdated, and worn, where playgrounds, shelters, and other features are in poor condition.

“With more staffing and more people around the park, you get better upkeep and people are less likely to commit crimes.”

Green Tech Education (Community Panels)

“The park used to be almost vacant and un-utilized, but then the basketball court got revitalized and has lights, and now you see kids playing all the time, day and night. It’s becoming more of a hub of activity!”

- Community Panelist, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

THEME 2: HEALTH & WELLNESS

Sacramento’s parks and programs contribute to physical health, mental health, and community wellbeing in many ways. Engagement participants noted the ways in which active lifestyles, personal fitness, team sports, social interaction, skill development, peacefulness, the availability of garden-grown vegetables, and nature access are all fostered by parks and greenspace. Especially during the pandemic, many described the significant impact that parks and open space had on community wellbeing.

Many participants said they want the City to invest in parks, trails, greenways, facilities, and programming to support public health. Trails, walking routes, and bike paths were also emphasized as important elements that contribute to community walkability and health. In response to the question, “What kind of park areas do you value most?” participants indicated that places to walk, bike, picnic, socialize, play, and spend time in nature were most valued. Research shows that each of these contributes to our health.

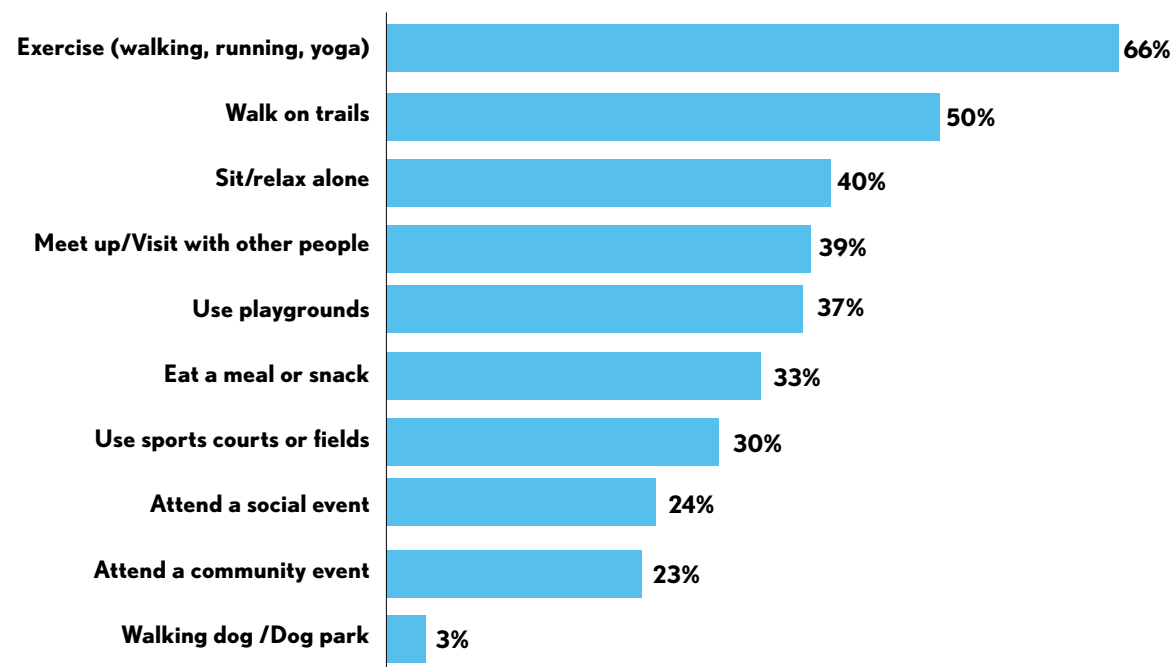
Figure 4-7. Maptionnaire Top Responses on Valued Park Areas

What kind of park areas do you value most?



Figure 4-8. Park Prioritization Survey Responses on Typical Activities in Parks (n=600)

What do you and your household typically do when visiting City of Sacramento parks?



In conversations with youth groups, as well as in findings from the Youth Art Expo & Contest, the mental and physical health benefits of parks were both implicitly and explicitly described. Youth described how parks benefited their mental health by providing fresh air, providing places (including Camp Sacramento and local parks) to experience nature and wildlife, and giving them alternatives to “screentime” (computer and phone use.) They associated parks, trails, the riverfront, and even duck ponds with “de-stressing,” peace, relaxation, and fun. Trees were mentioned as particularly important, for shade, cooling, and visual respite in highly built-out neighborhoods; several participants described Sacramento as the “City of Trees.”

Youth participants spoke of a variety of park amenities and activities that they enjoy. These included running, walking, bike rides, soccer, tennis, volleyball, flag football, softball, baseball, whiffle ball, swimming in the river, rock climbing walls, kite flying, board games, dog parks, skate parks, and water parks. They mentioned that playgrounds, swings, slides, jungle gyms, and monkey bars were important aspects of their childhood memories and sense of well-being.

Even in the representative survey conducted later in the planning process, nearly two-thirds of residents reported using parks for exercising, and half of residents report walking on trails.

“The best thing about Sacramento parks are the greenery and plant life. After having to stay home all of last year and stare at a screen, it’s nice to be able to go to a park and de-stress. The plants and flowers in the parks create a lively atmosphere. It’s a calming, beautiful space to spend time.”

- Youth Art Expo and Contest Participant

“What I would like to see change in our parks is more community gardens. This would help build community while providing a sustainable food supply for those who need it. I personally would enjoy having a community garden as it would allow me to get to know my community better since I don’t get to interact with them often.”

- Youth Art Expo and Contest Participant

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

Provide programs and services that combat health and food insecurities. Support community gardens and local food co-ops to increase access to fresh, healthy food.

Co-locate social services within parks and community centers to improve access and increase use, especially in underserved communities.

Support passive and active recreation to help residents escape daily stressors and the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provide programs and facilities that support sports, fitness, and play for all ages.

Support mental health and respite by supporting access to the river and nature.

THEME 3: ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCESS

People of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds should have access to city parks and programs to be able to take advantage of the benefits they offer. While a few participants commented on the importance of accessible park features (as per standards associated with the Americans With Disabilities Act), more people advocated for universal design principles and universally accessible play equipment to support inclusive use by people of all abilities and to benefit the greatest number of people.

Other outreach participants expressed concerns about the distance to parks, programs, and events, especially for youth that may not have rides to get there.

Many participants spoke of the barriers that made it challenging to get to parks. These included a lack of crosswalks on major roadways, gaps in pedestrian or bike paths, a lack of sidewalks in places, and unsafe roadways that limit public accessibility and mobility. Since shared use paths and sidewalks in the street right of way are not the responsibility of YPCE, participants noted that YPCE could advocate for a coordinated citywide effort to create safer and more accessible routes to and from parks.

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

Design playground structures and amenities that are integrated, universally accessible, and usable for all park visitors.

Prioritize park access by improving signage and wayfinding.

Offer more off-street pedestrian and bicycle paths that connect to parks.

Improve connections to parks for mothers with strollers, drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, skateboarders, joggers, horseback riders, and other forms of mobility.

Make sure larger parks are accessible via nearby bus stops.

Work with Public Works to connect trails that would support access to park destinations, including Del Rio Trail to Pocket Road; Indiana Ave to Steelhead Creek to Gardenland Park; Hagginwood to the golf course; Sutterville Road to Curtis Park; and Hagginwood and Del Paso area to the Sacramento Northern bike trail.

“Gardenland Park is tucked away so wayfinding is really difficult. I didn’t know it was there until I joined [the Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association]. Everyone drives because there is no other way to access it.”

“As a disabled user, it’s the power of invitation. It’s the community saying that we want absolutely everyone here. When we don’t do that, we are essentially saying we don’t want the business, the comradery, the friendship, or the joining of the one in four people in our community who may be older or have special needs.” – Community Connections Participant, Resources for Independent Living / Jonnie and Friends Reach For the Stars

YPCE’s sports and youth programs support fitness, fun, and social connections.



City parks support joy, respite, and physical and mental wellbeing, as illustrated in this Photo Contest submission.



A child examines one of the whimsical playground structures at McClatchy Park

THEME 4: EQUITABLE INVESTMENT

Resources and investments are not equitably distributed across all of Sacramento City parks. As described by engagement and advisory group participants, there are noticeable differences in parks across the city and across neighborhoods. They vary in their level of maintenance, programming, and condition, which affect park use. Many people realized that—given limited funding— it must be challenging to decide what projects to fund so that all communities are served by parks, including low income and underserved areas. However, there clearly were neighborhoods and areas they felt needed more greenspace and improved parks.

The PCEC, SYC, and Community Panel participants identified several priority areas for investment and noted that vulnerable communities have greater economic, health, and safety needs that correlate with higher priority park and recreation needs.

Interviews with Councilmembers revealed that residents regularly report maintenance issues, poor facility conditions, crime, homelessness, uncleanliness, and more broadly, a lack of services and amenities within District 3 (specifically parks like Oak Park, Meadowview, Del Paso, and Valley Hi), but also in Districts 2, 7, and 8. Several Councilmembers hoped the Parks Plan would provide an opportunity to rethink how resources can be better

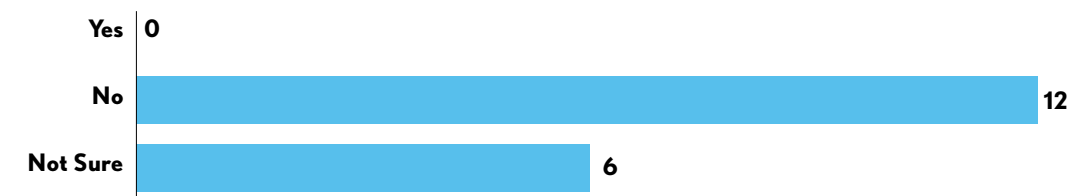
allocated to support park equity. This would require a new citywide approach to direct more resources to parks with pressing deferred maintenance/service needs in the most underserved areas of the city.

Additional participants expressed frustration with how resources are used. For example, a few complained about paying taxes for spaces that are not well-maintained or have outdated, inadequate park infrastructure. Many said they had to travel long distances to reach “good” parks, but not everyone has the time, money, and transportation to be able to do that. In some underserved areas, Community Connections participants described neighborhood groups (such as the Gardenland/Northgate Neighborhood Association and Hagginwood Community Association) that had stepped up to provide park improvements to make up for inadequate public investment. They described a “rundown park,” such as Ninos Park, that they felt had the potential to be “great” with some investment. They also noted how several wealthier areas, such as Land Park and North Natomas, have organized volunteers and partners that provide an extra level of park stewardship. This extra attention is desired in all neighborhoods.



Figure 4- 9. Community Panel Group Responses on Equal Access to Quality Parks and Services (n=180)

Is access to quality parks and services equally distributed in Sacramento? (n=180)



COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

Add programming and amenities in underdeveloped parks to generate interest, increase use, and in turn minimize undesirable activities and nuisance behaviors.

Invest in vulnerable and underserved areas such as Arden Arcade, Del Paso Heights, North Sacramento, Foothill Farms, Fruitridge Road and Stockton Boulevard., Meadowview Road, Oak Park, South Sacramento (Valley High and Florin), and Twin Rivers/River District.

Devise alternative and creative methods to finance parks and programs.

Create a system of accountability to ensure more equitable parks and programs, instead of just investing in new residential areas.

“...there is not equitable access [or] investments in infrastructure, amenities, services, programming. Certain parks might have a pool, but it’s never used because there’s no program there for neighbors. Better lighting, better maintenance, improvements in the parks are, and walkability is needed.” – Community Connection Participant, WalkSacramento

“There is an inconsistency in park investment across the city when it comes to programs and services. We need to make sure there is inclusive access and culturally relevant programs and services in the parks available to our most vulnerable populations and more specifically for our youth—especially right now.”
– Community Panelist, Mutual Assistance Network

“We don’t really get seen.... Why can’t we move the [McKinley Park] development into all our parks to give some type of attraction for people to want to come here.” – Community Panelist, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation

“You can see the clear difference going to District 2 (parks like Del Paso Heights) and District 1. You can totally feel the difference and our youth feel it as well. I don’t think [our parks] are serviced equally.” – Community Panelist, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation

THEME 5: SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES & COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Shared responsibilities and community collaboration are essential to cultivating a sense of pride and accountability for parks and open spaces. Many community members and groups see themselves as park stewards and want clear information on how to coordinate and organize activities to help take care of City parks. Neighborhood groups, such as the Land Park Volunteer Corps, have played a critical role throughout Sacramento, mobilizing volunteers to meet specific service gaps.

To continue engaging the community, participants recommended providing paid and volunteer opportunities for young people, building on partnerships between the following groups: YPCE; Neighborhood Associations; community-based organizations; park ambassadors; and park walk audits.

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

Collaborate with other neighborhood groups or organizations to leverage resources and share work.

Support a long-term community engagement strategy that supports residents in taking initiatives to lead ongoing improvements in their local neighborhood parks.

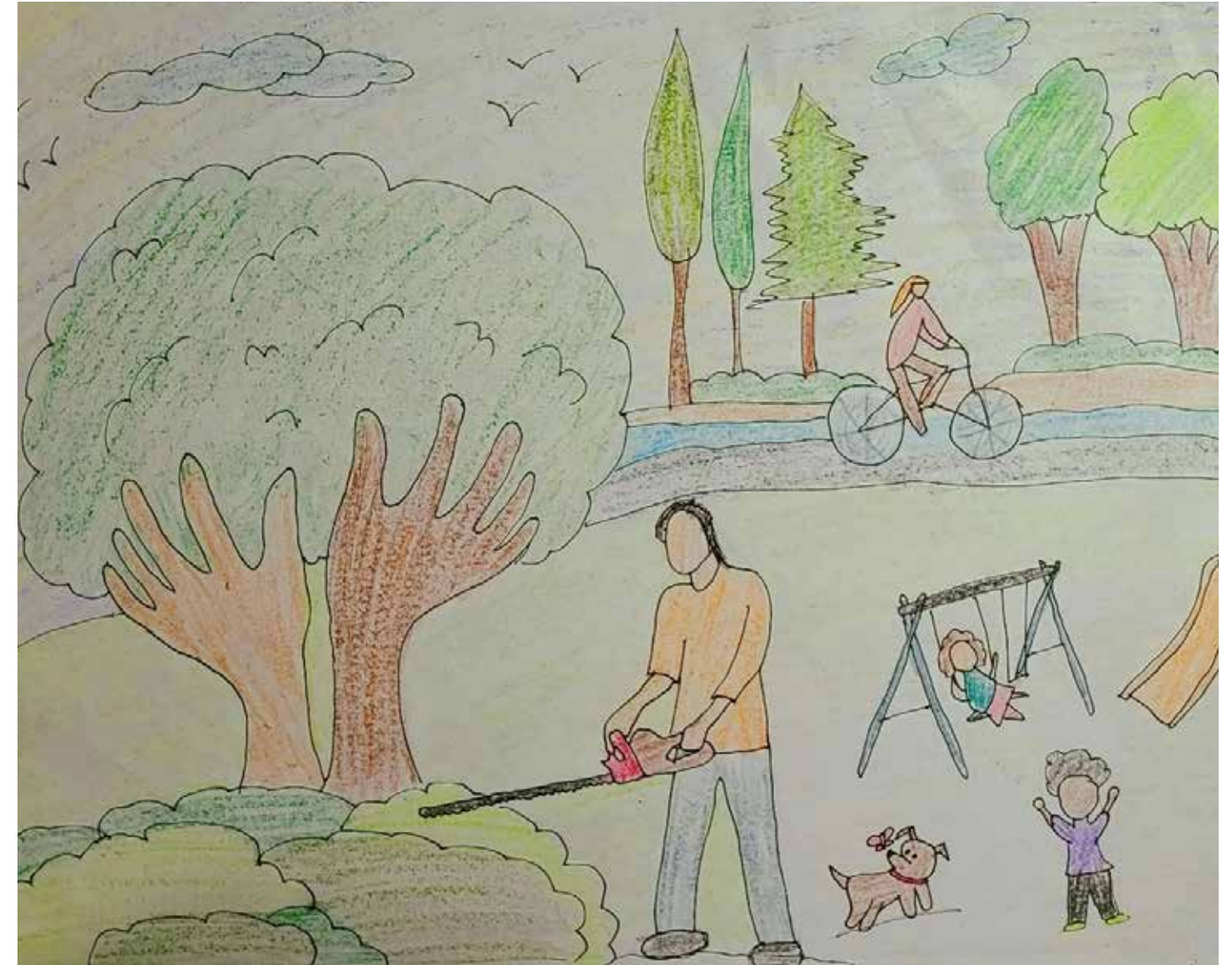
Provide more opportunities, such as park cleanups and adopt-a-park programs, so residents can contribute to the vitality of the parks.

“With the Land Park Volunteer Corps, we have installed BBQ pits, replaced the pony ride fencing and the covers for them, removed graffiti ourselves, and picked up a ton of litter. The volunteers do a tremendous amount.”

– Community Panelist, Land Park Volunteer Corps

“There is a sense of community and an awareness on the importance of keeping our parks clean. The more we get our community involved, the lesser chance people will litter because of the responsibility and connectedness they will feel to the hard work of making the parks of Sacramento great.”

– Youth Art Expo and Contest Participant



A submission to the Youth Art Expo and Contest submission depicts a community that collaboratively cares for, and uses, the park space, to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all.



A Photo Contest submission depicts a community volunteer event at Valley Oak Park.

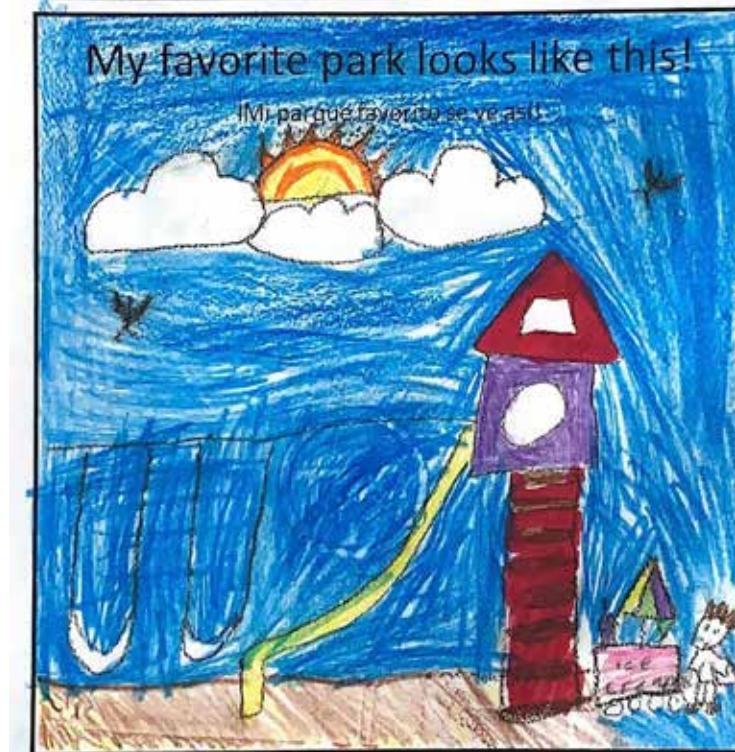
THEME 6: CONNECTIONS TO NATURE, PLACES, & PEOPLE

Connections to the natural environment, our neighborhoods, and community deepens our appreciation for the places where we live, work, and play. Participants expressed that parks play a critical role in fostering these types of connections. Parks provide shared spaces, places, events, and programs, events, that bring people together and foster a sense of community.

Many participants in the engagement process described how parks and programs help deepen relationships between children and parents, family members and care givers and neighbors. Many participants shared that parks and open spaces help them feel connected to their community. When asked why parks are meaningful, many used words such as “bond,” “connection,” and “engage” to describe the ways that parks bring people of all ages and backgrounds together and even “unify” the city.

Participants described many types of features and activities in parks that “attracted” and connected them to these places. In the Youth Drawing Activity, children aged 5-11 years illustrated the importance of play areas, natural features, and a variety of park amenities and facilities. In the Photo Contest activity, which was open to all age groups, the majority of the photos depicted natural features, such as ponds, trees, sunsets, landscaped areas, etc. Emphasizing the connections, many showed friends, family members, or even themselves during important life events (such as in their graduation gown) in parks. In the Maptionnaire Survey, two-thirds of respondents noted how much they value gathering places in parks, including picnic areas and event spaces. This was one of the top-valued amenities regardless of age group, gender, race/ethnicity, and language spoken.

Figure 4-10. Youth Drawings Showing Play, Natural Features, and a Variety of Facilities



COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

Improve amenities to encourage group gatherings, team activities, and shared experiences, such as shaded seating areas, group BBQ grills, longer or grouped picnic tables, and open turf fields.

Design amenities that respond to the interests and needs of the surrounding neighborhood and community.

Invest in parks and recreation programs that foster healthy youth development by connecting youth to their community.

“Parks and recreation programs are meaningful to me because they provide a place for people of all ages to bond and connect with one another. In this technologically advanced society, parks and recreation programs are a way for people to experience nature and connect with one another in a way that social media can’t.”

- Youth Art Expo and Contest Participant

“The best thing about Sacramento parks is the diversity and sense of community.... We see people from different social and economic backgrounds united as one when engaging in parks. It provides a place for children and families to connect with nature.”

- Youth Art Expo and Contest Participant

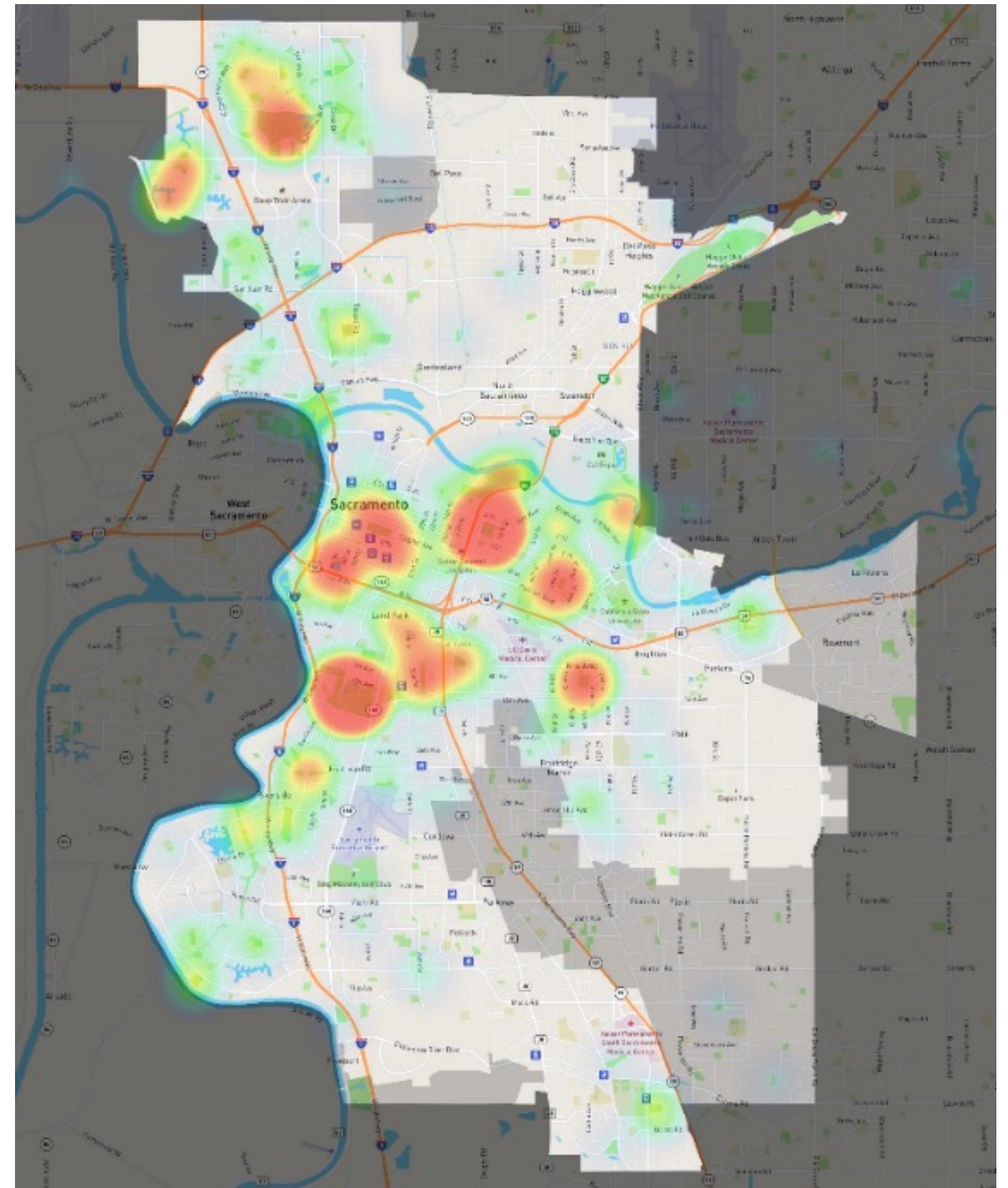
“There are rose gardens, riverbanks, nice walking trails; the playgrounds are more sophisticated, there’s artwork... there is something that draws in a person. You can feed the ducks. The atmosphere creates a lot of energy.”

- Community Panelist, Sol Collective

Photo Contest Submissions Showing Natural Features in City Parks



Figure 4-11. Maptionnaire Heat Map of Respondent's Favorite Gathering Spaces in Parks



THEME 7: CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PUBLIC SPACES & PROGRAMMING

Sacramento is a very diverse city, and residents want culturally specific public spaces and programming that celebrate diversity in the ways that people use, relate to, and value parks. Engagement participants noted that, historically, park and recreation development has not centered the needs of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities, nor prioritized community and neighborhood differences in the way it has designed its parks. By embracing Sacramento’s diverse community and creating spaces that reflect the character and identity of the neighborhood, community leaders want parks that showcase local identity.

They hope that physical design and park programming responds to, and honors, the traditions, customs, art, and achievements of the people it serves.

Many residents described the importance of having a variety of different types of activities and programs in parks. Maptionnaire survey respondents want more community events, gardening and nature interpretation, and arts and culture programming, all of which can feature culturally meaningful activities.

Figure 4- 12. Maptionnaire Survey Responses on Desired Programs



“Having the culturally responsive and relevant programs and services available for the neighborhood [is critical to] understanding the historical context and the cultural and linguistic needs of that neighborhood.”

- Mutual Assistance Network Program

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

Honor Indigenous American heritage by inviting Indigenous communities to participate in land stewardship, ancestral activities, and public education.

Prioritize collaboration, rather than making assumptions about what is needed/wanted by specific communities.

Facilitate programming that is created and led by people in the community.

Create communication and outreach materials that meet the cultural and linguistic needs of diverse community members.

THEME 8: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP

Youth development and leadership gives young adults opportunities for new experiences, interactions, and personal growth. Through experience-based learning, many community leaders and advisory groups noted that YPCE has a unique position to engage youth via camps, workforce training, recreation programming, mentoring, and career connections.

Experience-based learning within parks was offered as a way to expose children and youth to new people, environments, and social situations with which they may not be familiar or visit frequently. Through these experiences, they foster a deeper understanding of, and respect for, these types of public spaces. Youth development and leadership provides safe, educational, and personal growth opportunities to create a foundation for a better future.

Some Community Panelists noted that social and physical development is intimately tied to play, and Sacramento’s parks and programs for children and youth are critical to support this growth. Consistent with this, Maptionnaire survey results showed “play” as the most common activity that attracts people to parks. Survey results also indicated that three of the four most desired programs were youth-focused, including a youth workforce training and civic engagement program, a youth sports and fitness program, and a teen program or classes. The fourth most desired program targeted older adult sports and wellness programs.

Figure 4- 13. Maptionnaire Survey Responses on Desired Programs



Maptionnaire survey results indicated 3 of the 4 most desired program increases were youth focused. The fourth focused on older adult services and programs.

“I would like to see more programs that take kids out into the community after school with mentors... take them on trips around the city just to get them out the neighborhood. Some kids never leave their neighborhood.” - Community Panelist, Green Tech Education

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

Improve maintenance activities such as trash collection and restroom cleaning.

Repair popular amenities, such as basketball hoops, to support play.

Address undesirable behavior related to homeless encampments and public drug use.

Focus on parks that are older, outdated, and worn, where playgrounds, shelters, and other features are in poor condition.

THEME 9: COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SHARING

Communications and information sharing ensure accountability and transparency when implementing the Parks Plan. Many community members want to stay informed and involved in the City’s process for prioritizing projects and park improvements.

Community Panel and Community Connection participants noted that effective communications also builds trust between the community and the City, strengthens partnerships, and allows the City to both request and share resources that may

help provide more park services. Several expressed optimism that YPCE staff had reached out directly to them for this planning process, and they wanted to keep those connections. Engagement finding noted that some residents do not participate in City park programs, because they do not know where parks are or what programs are available. However, many participants noted that YPCE does a good job of posting and publishing information about parks and programs.

Figure 4-14. The Come Out & Play Recreation Catalogue Provides Information on YPCE Classes, Programs, and Events



“[Youth] Programs are good, but a lot of them aren’t really out there for people to notice....I know that the majority of people my age don’t go to programs like this. They really don’t hear about them....They are good programs, but we can’t find them.” – Community Panelist, Green Tech Education

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

Improve channels of communication and information sharing between City departments, staff, and the community.

Publicize community-wide events, including youth programs and services.

Maintain ongoing communications when prioritizing and implementing projects.

Continue to collect public input so that residents can easily notify staff about park opportunities and issues or help identify potential new projects and programs.

OVERARCHING PRIORITIES

While the major themes mix individual voices and anecdotal evidence together with questionnaire and polling activities to describe community preferences for enhancing the park and recreation system, the Park Prioritization Survey offers clear, statistically representative data on park priorities.

SURVEY FINDINGS

In the survey conducted by EMC Research in February 2023, the following findings were highlighted as statistically significant.

- A total of 90% of residents rate parks and recreation as important to the overall quality of life.
- More residents (60%) prefer allocating funding equitably (where neighborhoods get money according to need) rather than equally (where all neighborhoods get the same amount of funding). After receiving additional information about the disparity in parks, preference for equitable funding goes up to 70%.
- Most residents give a generally positive rating to a variety of park features, although that feeling is somewhat soft, with few responding in an intensely positive way. The number and variety of parks and recreation programs (59% positive), access to parks within walking distance (56% positive), and the role of the parks in supporting health and wellness for all ages (55% positive) are the highest rated features.

This section presents survey findings as well as selected results to showcase various priorities. The data are clear that residents value parks and consider a greater investment in parks and programs to be the utmost funding priorities.

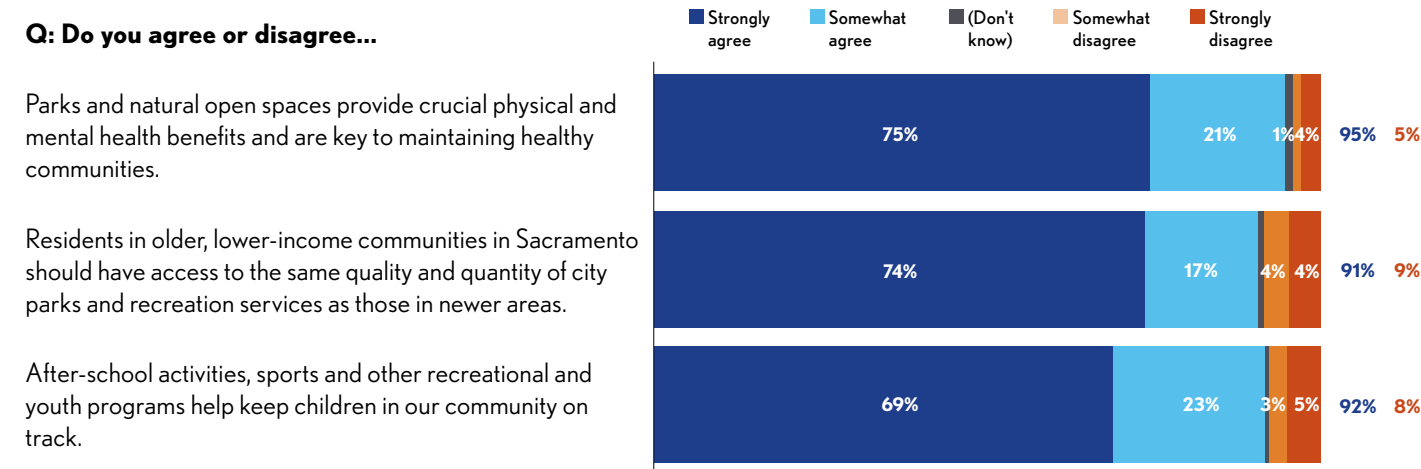
- Safety and cleanliness of park facilities are top concerns for residents, with 28% giving the safety of parks and recreation facilities a poor rating, and 22% giving a poor rating for the maintenance and cleanliness of facilities. In addition, crime, homelessness, and accessibility are the top concerns for parks in an open-ended question.
- Residents considered every potential park and recreation enhancements that was tested to be a priority, even though the priority level varied from “somewhat” to “extremely” important.
- Residents generally favor improvements to safety and maintenance over investments in new programs or features.
- Improving the safety of parks and parks facilities is the top priority, both overall and in intensity, followed by fixing or replacing old, broken, or worn parks equipment and improving maintenance and cleanliness of parks.
- Residents use parks frequently, with 76% of residents report visiting parks, open space, or trails in Sacramento a few times a month or more, and more than a third saying they visit more than once a week. Nearly 25% use community centers or youth programs monthly or more often.



SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

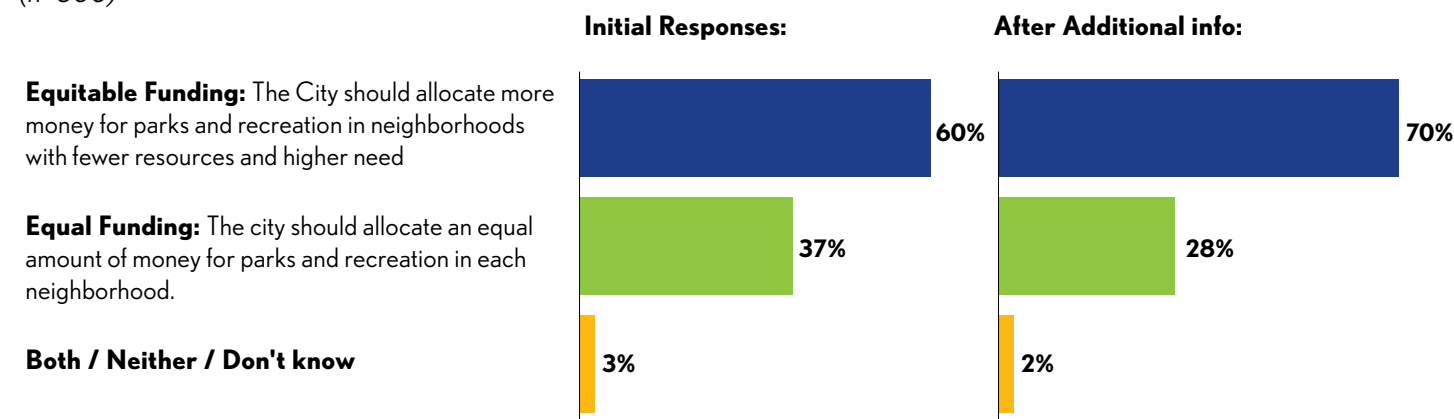
Most residents strongly or somewhat agree that parks and recreation are important to community health (95%), to residents in lower-income communities (91%), and to children and youth (92%).

Figure 4-15. Parks Prioritization Survey Level of Agreement (n=600)



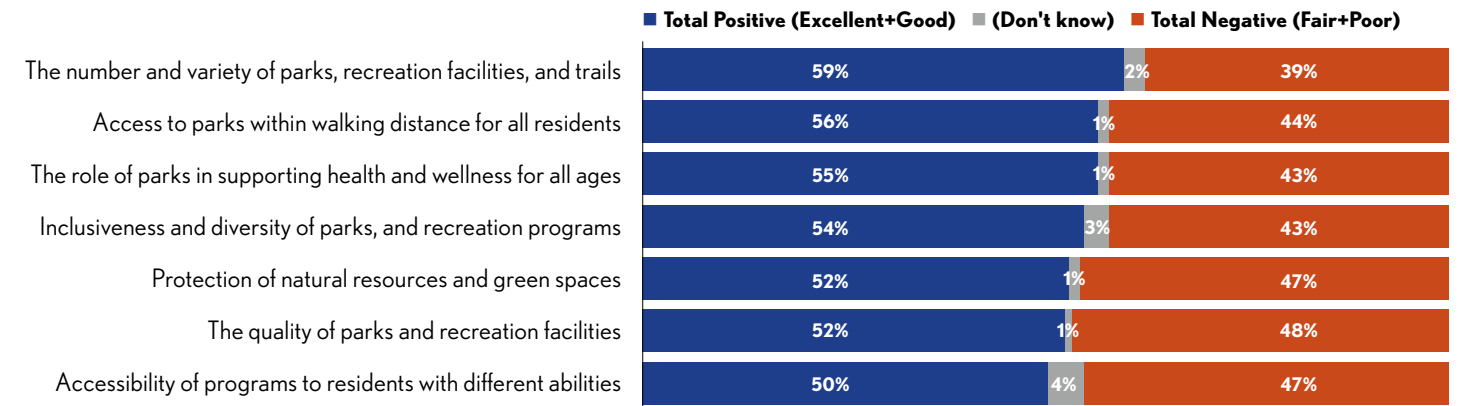
Most residents believe funding for parks and recreation should be based on need, rather than distributed equally across the city. After receiving additional information on the topic, preferences for equitable park funding increased.

Figure 4-16. Parks Prioritization Survey Preference for Equitable vs. Equal Funding Allocations (n=600)



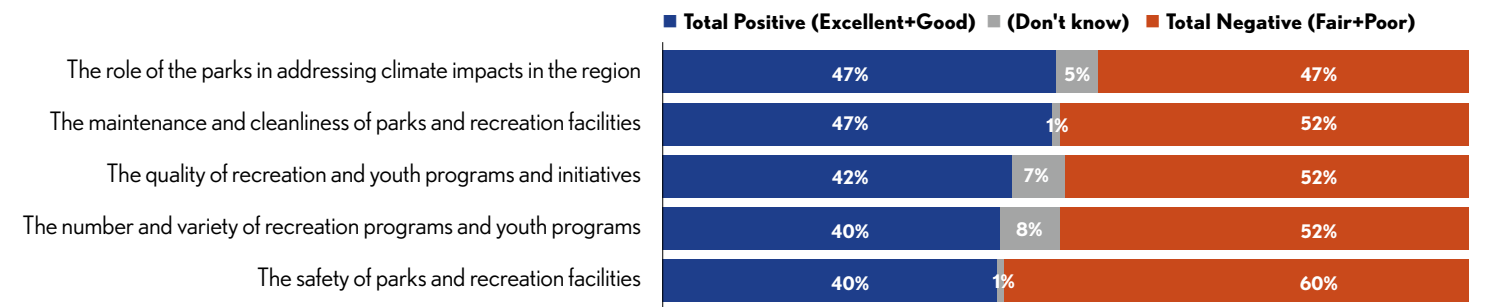
Residents rated most YPCE service as mediocre in most categories—meaning neither strongly positive nor negative. The number of parks was rated the highest, but park safety was rated the lowest. YPCE services with over 50% positive ratings (Excellent and Good) are shown below.

Figure 4-17. Parks Prioritization Survey Service Ratings (Highest) (n=600)



YPCE services with more than 50% negative ratings (Fair and Poor) are shown below.

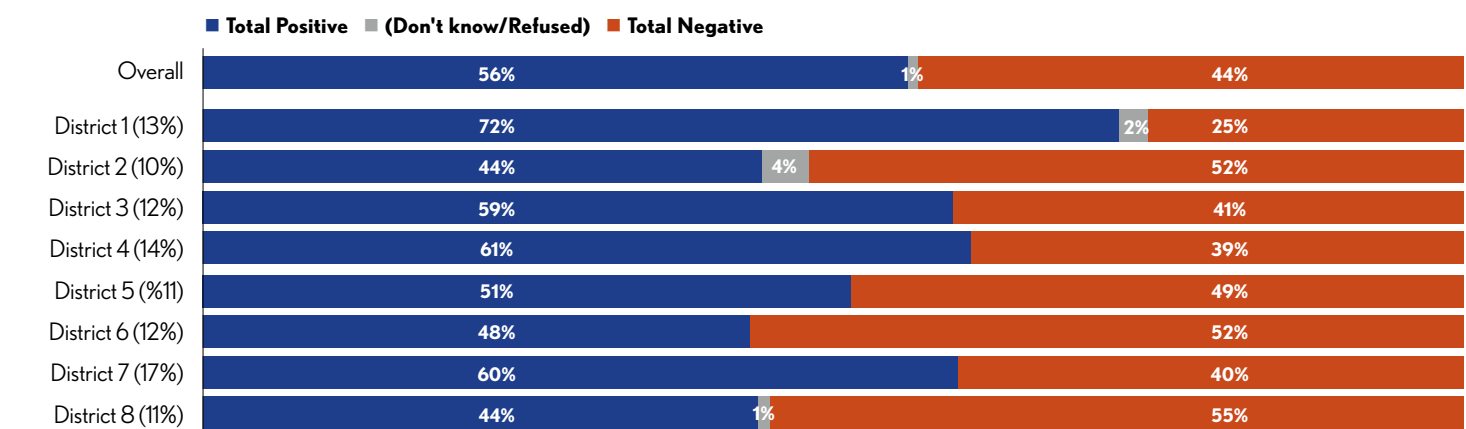
Figure 4-18. Parks Prioritization Survey Service Ratings (Lowest) (n=600)



Residents in Council Districts 1 and 4 rate their access to parks highest in the city. Residents report that improved access to parks is most needed in Council Districts 2, 8, and 6. "Adding more parks to your own neighborhood" is rated as important by almost three-quarters of District 2 residents.

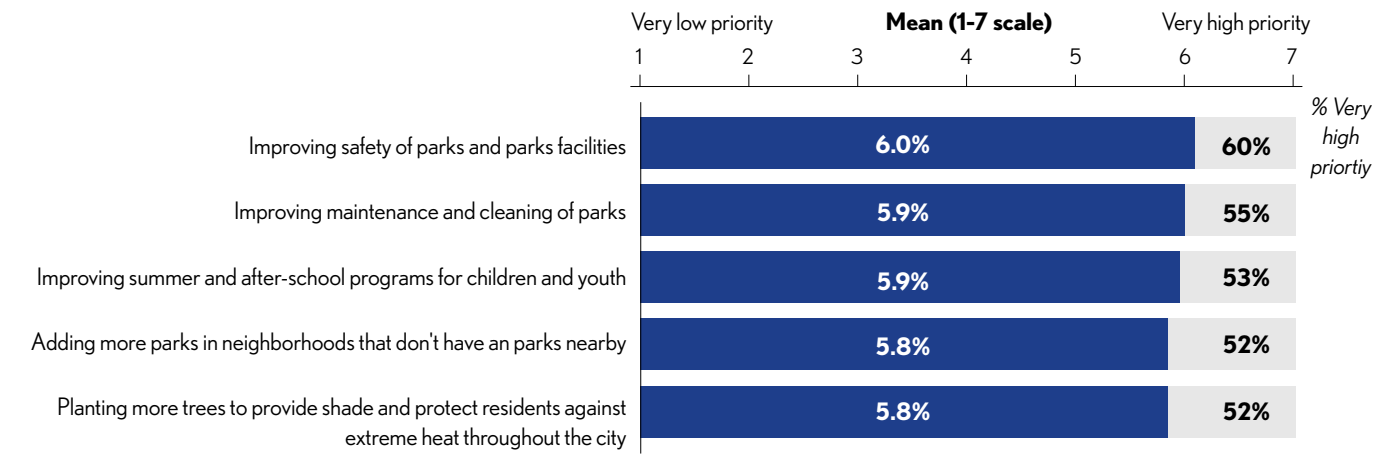
Figure 4-19. Parks Prioritization Survey Park Access Ratings by Council District (n=600)

Q: Rate the access to parks within walking distance for all residents in Sacramento



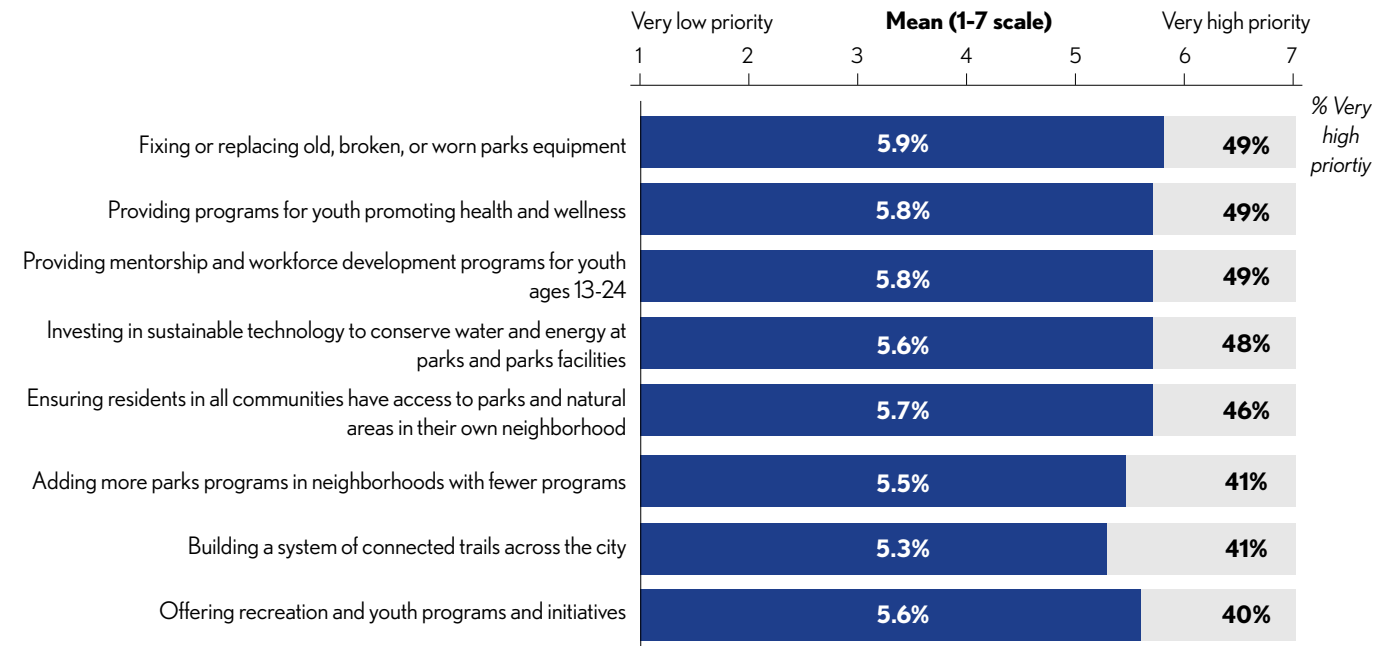
Top investment priorities include improving safety and maintenance, improving youth programs, adding parks to unserved neighborhoods, and providing shade.

Figure 4-20. Parks Prioritization Survey Top Investment Priorities (n=600)



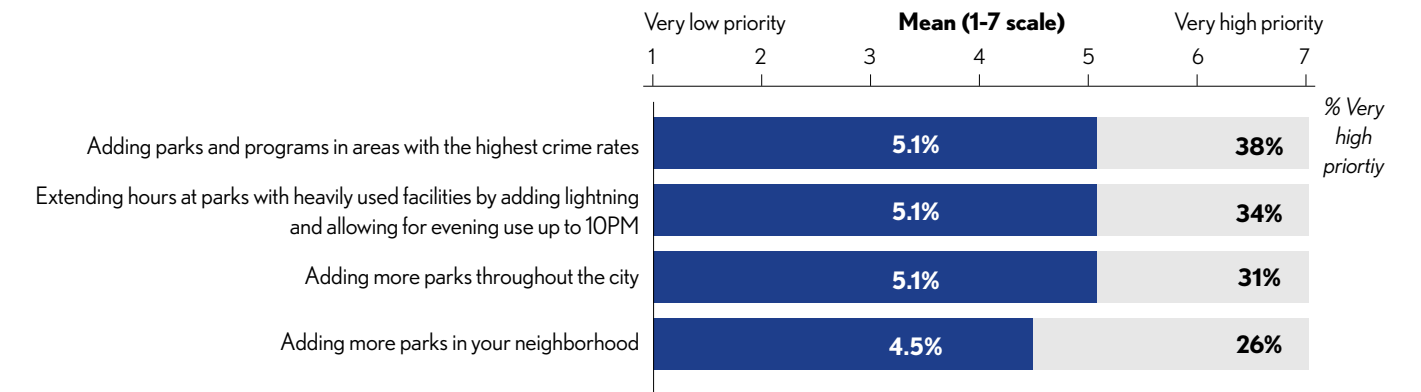
Moderate priorities include maintenance, youth engagement, equitable access and sustainability. Between 40 to 49% of residents still feel that these are very high priorities, and all scored well above a mean score of 3.5, speaking to their relative importance.

Figure 4-21. Parks Prioritization Survey Moderate Investment Priorities (n=600)



Low priorities include adding parks/programming in areas with high crime rates, extending operating hours, and adding parks throughout the city. Between 26 to 38% of residents still feel that these are very high priorities, and all scored well above a mean score of 3.5, speaking to their relative importance.

Figure 4-22. Parks Prioritization Survey Lower Investment Priorities (n=600)





05

PARK ACCESS AND EQUITY

This chapter presents a series of maps and statistics that show the distribution of parks, service gaps and deficiencies to identify areas of greatest needs.

PARK ACCESS AND EQUITY

Everyone deserves a great park. Regardless of age, race, income, and ability, all Sacramento residents need safe, high-quality, enjoyable green spaces and recreation opportunities.

As noted in the last chapter, residents and careholders identified many neighborhoods that lack parks. They pointed out that while some neighborhoods do have parks, the parks may be smaller, underdeveloped, with facilities that are old, worn, or in poor condition. Also, needs vary, depending on factors such as neighborhood density, income, vulnerability, and the ability to walk, bike, drive, or take transit to parks.

To better understand park needs and these disparities in park access, the Parks Plan included a spatial analysis of demographic characteristics and park distribution across the city. The data provide decision-makers with detailed insights into community needs for park development and improvement.

From an equity perspective, the analysis recognizes that—over time—land annexation, development patterns, politics, real estate economics, city financing mechanisms, and lack of available green space have all affected the size, number, and quality of existing parks and facilities within a city. If City standards for park access are applied equally, that creates a big challenge. Some areas of the City historically have not had equal opportunities for park development, leading to substantial and unequal park deficiencies.

YPCE will not be able to remedy all these deficiencies at once. Community characteristics and data, along with information about the availability of other public and private parks citywide and just beyond city limits, can help identify the areas of greatest park needs.

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS AND PARK NEEDS

Park needs are influenced by many factors, such as population characteristics, residential density, neighborhood demographics, travel distances, park distribution, park size, and the quantity and quality of amenities and facilities. To better understand equity and access within the Sacramento park system, this chapter presents a series of maps and data that explore the following community characteristics and park needs.

Community Characteristics: Population density, racial distribution, the distribution of vulnerable populations, crime in parks, and homelessness in parks.

Park Needs: Existing park access and gaps, future (forecasted) park access and gaps, park gaps in vulnerable areas, park size and level of development, and park needs.



POPULATION DENSITY

Residential population density influences park needs in several ways. Higher-density areas have more people, which places a greater demand on nearby parks. These areas also tend to have less greenspace, which heightens the importance of parks and open space nearby. In contrast, residents in less-densely developed areas, such as neighborhoods of mostly single-family homes, may already have landscaped yards with recreation amenities such as play equipment, pools, or gardens. Consequently, there tends to be less demand on parks in lower-density residential areas.

To better see how population density affects park needs in Sacramento, Figure 5-1 illustrates the number of city residents living in Sacramento per square mile. Shades of orange show variations in density, ranging from 0 residents to more than 10,000 residents per square mile. The darkest orange shows the highest density areas.

The map and additional park and population data allow us to gauge park needs by Council District. While council districts are created with roughly similar populations, park acreage may vary significantly across different districts. This discrepancy results in uneven levels of service (LOS). LOS is a metric that is expressed as a ratio of the amount of park acreage per 1,000 people. By Council District, the level of service ranges from 3.36 acres per 1,000 people (in Council District 6) to 14.69 acres per 1,000 people (in Council District 1). This is one measure of the disparity in park access.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

High, medium, and low-density residential areas exist across all Council Districts. The demand on parks varies substantially across the city.

As the population continues to grow, urban infill development will likely occur in city core and downtown areas. This will increase demands on existing parks, especially in areas converted to higher density multi-family areas. Limited open land and rising acquisition costs will make it increasingly difficult to meet park acreage to resident standards.

Even if residents have access to a park within walking distance, higher density areas will need more parkland to adequately serve residents.

Table 5-1. Park Acreage, Population, and LOS by Council District

	Council District 1	Council District 2	Council District 3	Council District 4	Council District 5	Council District 6	Council District 7	Council District 8
Park Land Acreage	933.17	911.24	493.70	376.80	303.14	231.09	749.29	311.77
Population	63,532	62,400	62,168	66,443	66,337	68,701	68,549	68,390
Level of Service (acres per 1,000 people)	14.69	14.60	7.94	5.67	4.57	3.36	10.93	4.56

Source: Final Sacramento Council District Map (adopted by SIRC on Dec 16, 2021)

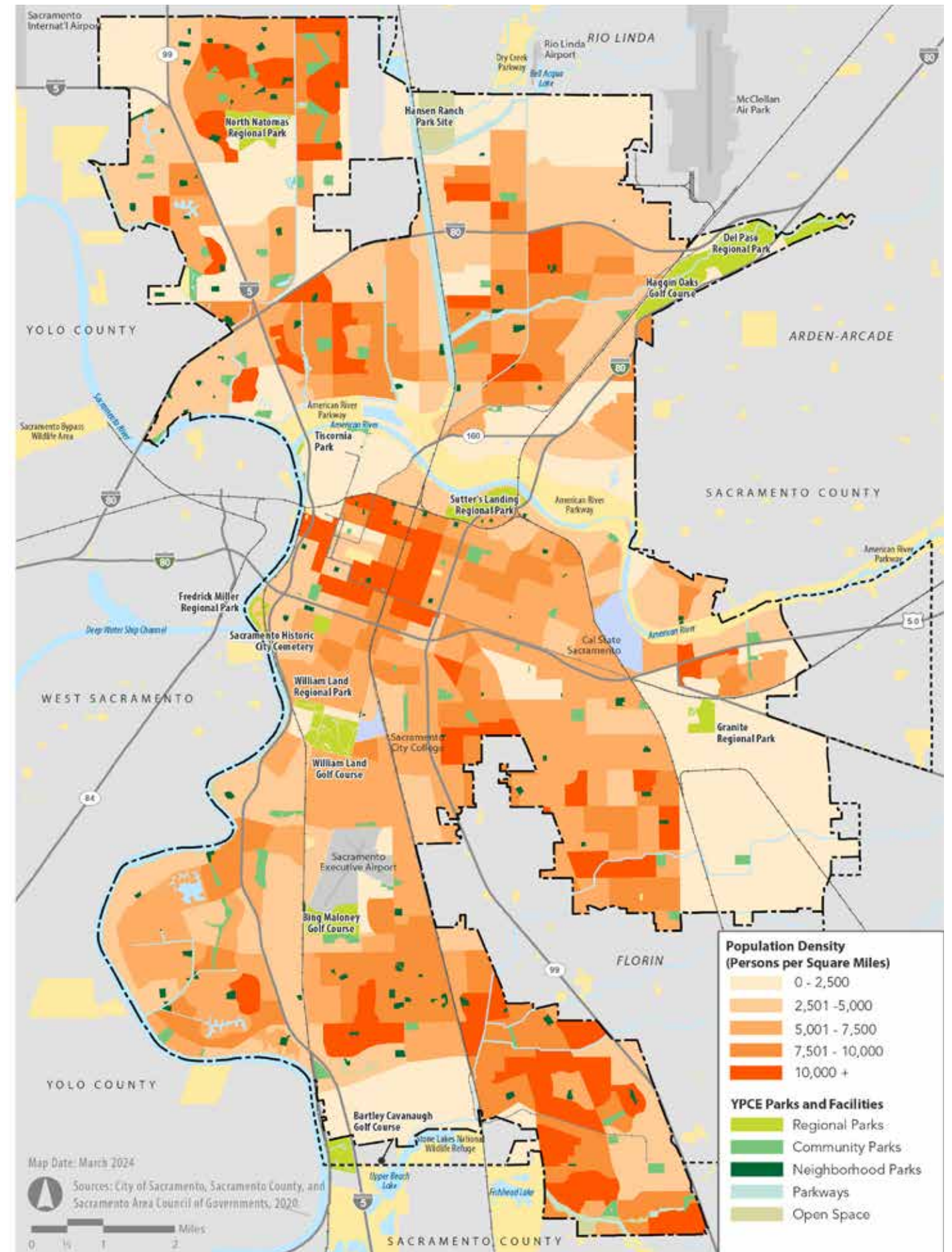


Figure 5-2. Racial Distribution (non-White, Hispanic and Latino)

BIPOC POPULATIONS

The City of Sacramento is highly diverse, with residents representing multiple racial and ethnic groups and speaking many different languages. Communities of color often have unique needs that are influenced by different cultural perceptions, uses, and priorities for parks. Not all neighborhoods with a majority non-white population are economically disadvantaged or facing health vulnerabilities. Here, data on race and ethnicity are documented to suggest potential cultural differences. Understanding where concentrations of Black, indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC) live in comparison to park distribution helps identify areas where the City may consider unique recreation and park needs.

Figure 5-2 maps the percentages of non-white, Hispanic, and Latino populations across Sacramento. Building on the demographic data presented in Chapter 2, Table 5-2 breaks down self-identified racial-ethnic identity by Council Districts.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Council Districts 3 and 8 have high non-white population percentages (76% and 89% respectively) and no regional parks.

Community Parks are generally distributed throughout the Council Districts, with fewer located in Council District 2 and 8.

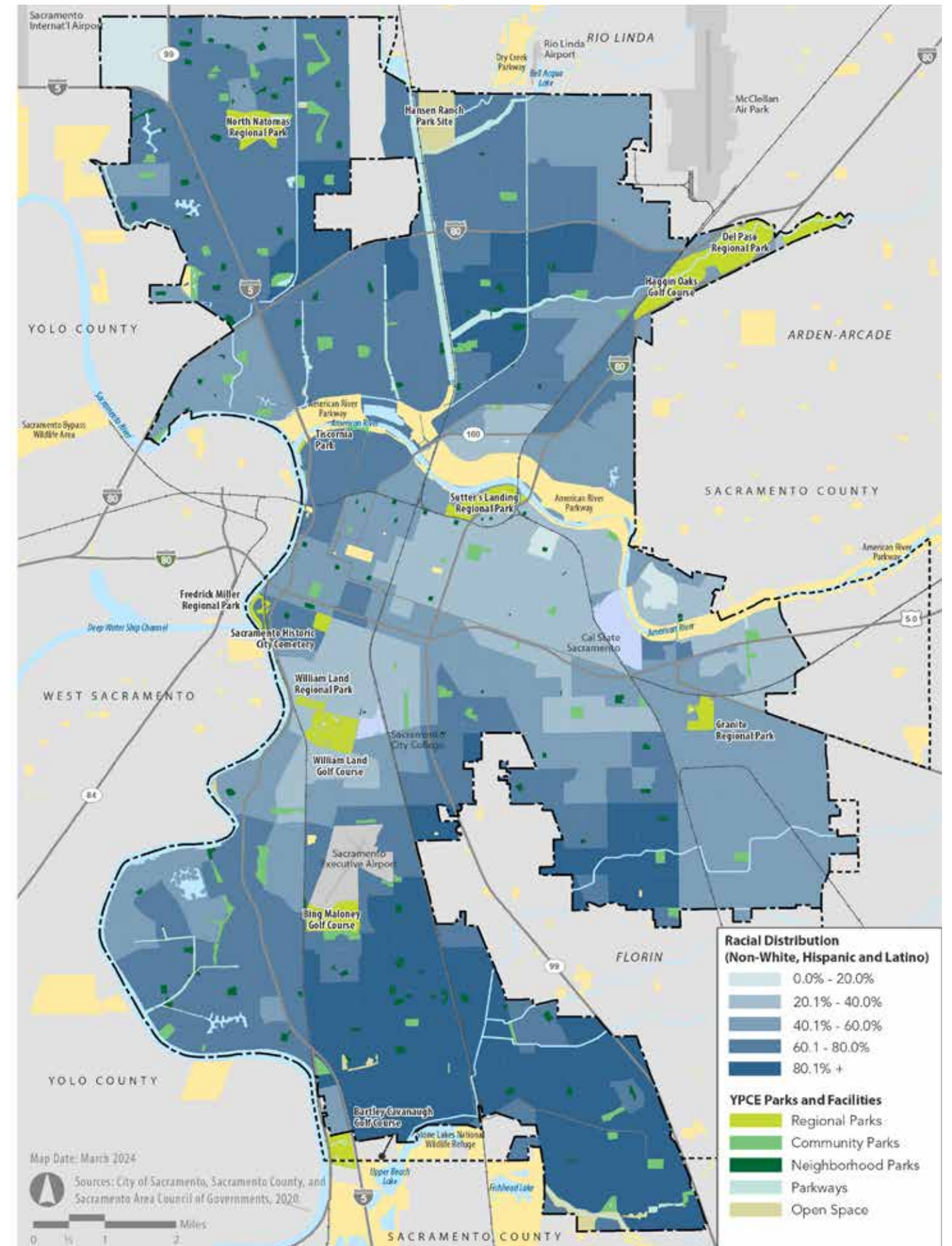
Council District 4 has the highest percentage of white residents, at 55.5%. This district also has the highest number of parks (44 in total). However, it does not have the most park acreage.

The areas with the most park acreage are Council Districts 1 and 2, with 933.17 acres and 911.24 acres, respectively. Both districts have relatively high non-white populations, at 73% and 75%.

Table 5-2. Race/Ethnic Demographics by Council District

Council District	Population	White	Black	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian	Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Hispanic	Two or More Minority Races
CD 1	63,532	27.0%	13.9%	0.3%	28.4%	1.1%	0.7%	22.0%	6.6%
CD 2	62,400	25.0%	14.0%	0.7%	13.7%	1.7%	0.6%	38.9%	5.4%
CD 3	62,168	24.5%	14.7%	0.5%	17.1%	1.5%	0.8%	34.8%	6.1%
CD 4	66,443	55.5%	8.3%	0.6%	8.3%	0.4%	1.0%	18.7%	7.2%
CD 5	66,337	20.1%	16.0%	0.5%	18.1%	2.3%	0.7%	37.0%	5.2%
CD 6	68,701	35.6%	7.2%	0.5%	18.3%	1.4%	0.6%	31.2%	5.3%
CD 7	68,549	42.4%	9.4%	0.3%	21.5%	0.5%	0.6%	17.8%	7.5%
CD 8	68,390	10.9%	18.7%	0.4%	29.6%	3.6%	0.7%	30.7%	5.5%

Source: Final Sacramento Council District Map (adopted by SIRC on Dec 16, 2021)



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Access to parks and recreation is important for all citizens. However, there are populations that may have heightened needs and/or challenges in taking advantage of park and recreation opportunities due to adverse circumstances that make them more vulnerable.

Figure 5-3 shows vulnerable populations as defined by the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (“SMUD”) Sustainable Communities Sensitivity Analysis. The analysis identified areas with high sensitivity to social, economic, and environmental burdens. Overall, the analysis incorporated environmental justice, climate change, health needs, medical services, and poverty, as well as external assessment designations such as Senate Bill 535 Disadvantaged Communities, Sacramento Promise Zones, and Opportunity Zones. The intent of this data is to highlight areas of significant need.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

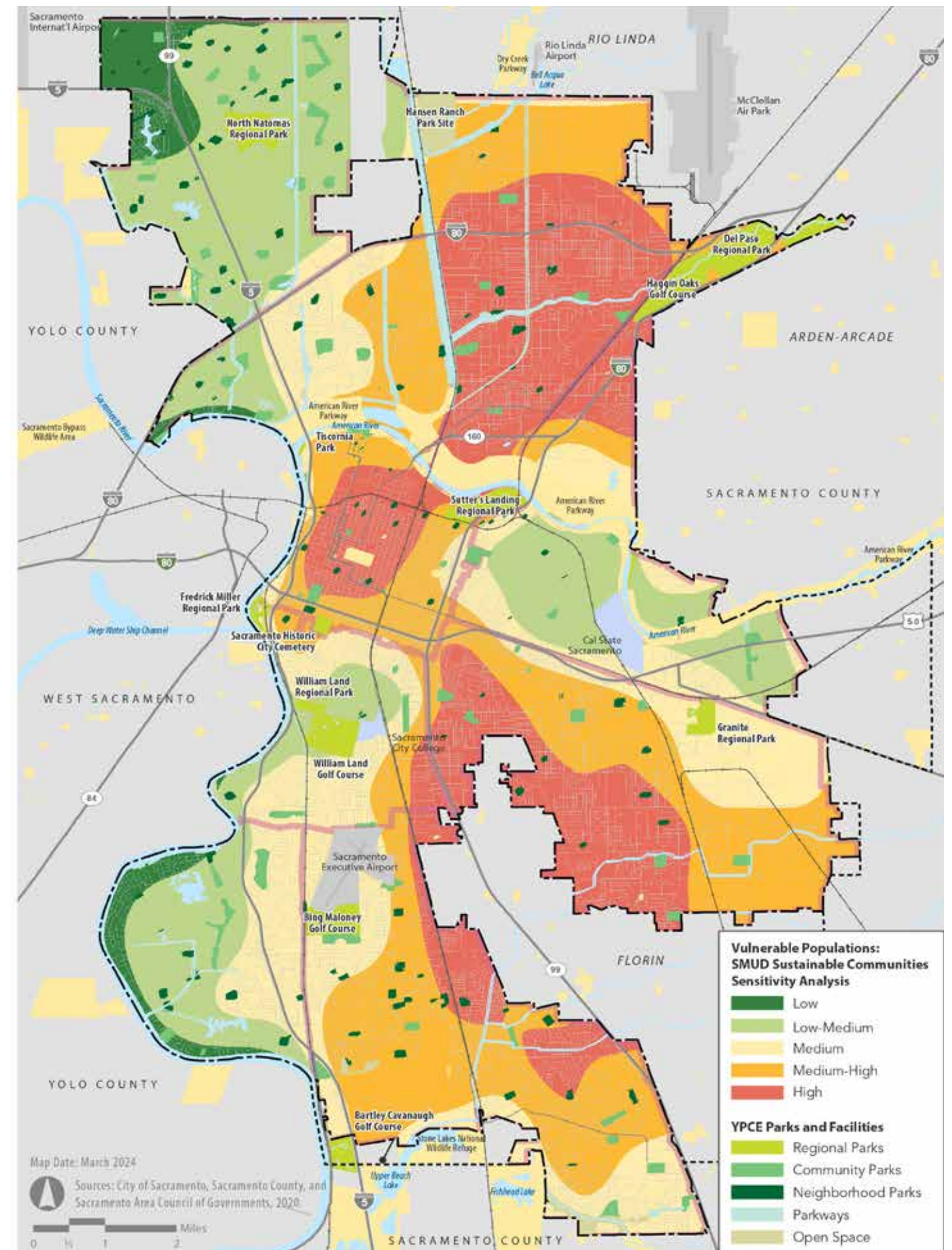
Council District 2, in the northern part of the city, is host to a large and highly vulnerable area, where the SMUD ratings for the entire district are medium or higher. District 2 has evidence of pollution, socioeconomic barriers, and poor health indicators. It also has multiple “Disadvantaged Community” areas as designated by CalEPA’s CalEnviroScreen Assessment Tool.

Downtown/Central Sacramento, located in District 4, has high exposure to pollutants, elevated rates of poverty and unemployment, and a number of residents with asthma, cardiovascular disease, and low-birth weight infants. These factors all contribute to a high SMUD rating.

Portions of Council District 5 and 6 – namely around the city boundary and the unincorporated communities of Lemon Hills, Fruitridge Manor, and Florin – have high SMUD ratings. This rating reflects medically underserved areas that exist largely outside city limits, as well as a high rate of poverty.

Areas identified with highly vulnerable populations correspond with Sacramento’s “Promise Zone,” as designated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. As one of 16 urban Promise Zones in the nation, Sacramento’s Promise Zone encompasses 22 square miles hosting 127,000 residents, of which 34% are living in poverty, 19% are unemployed and 63% of third graders are reading below grade level.

Areas of medium-high and high vulnerability have greater needs for parks, programs, and services for the physical health, mental health, social and resource benefits they provide. Communities facing socio-economic disadvantages typically face more barriers to park and program access, including transportation, cost/affordability, lack of recreation equipment or apparel, insufficient parental or caretaker support, safe routes to parks, a lack of nearby positive opportunities after dark, and others. A variety of interventions, including accessible, close-to-home recreation opportunities, are often most needed in communities that are most vulnerable.



CRIME IN PARKS

Crimes committed within parks have far-reaching effects beyond the individuals who are involved. When a person commits a crime in a public space, especially a place intended to cultivate health and happiness for the community, the act erodes public perceptions of safety. Both the presence of or perception of unsafe conditions can be a barrier to park use.

In collaboration with the Sacramento Police Department, the Sacramento Park Ranger program provides park visitors and neighbors with a safe and trouble-free environment through "service, safety, and preservation." Park Rangers respond to reports of many non-violent crimes taking place in parks. From 2018 to 2022, YPCE tracked and categorized these Park Ranger calls. The data was collected around the time the Department of Community Response was formed, which provided a channel for community feedback.

Data reveal that the top ten most frequent types of issues reported to Park Rangers included:

- Camping and Camping without a Permit
- Disturbing the Peace
- Domesticated Animals not on a Leash
- Reckless Driving
- Operation of a Vehicle w/o a Permit
- Indecent Exposure
- Loitering between Sunset and Sunrise
- Suspicious Person or Circumstances
- Narcotic Activity
- Suspicious Vehicle Occupied

Table 5-3 and Table 5-4 categorize the number of incident reports to show which sites have the most reports or most reports per acre, to account for the fact that larger parks may have more incidences. Figure 5.4 maps these reports to show parks with higher incidences. It's important to recognize that these data do not include violent crimes. They are also based on numbers of reports, not actual numbers of non-violent crimes. Site visibility, local resident sensitivity, and different reactions to non-violent crimes may skew these data.

Table 5-3. Parks with the Most Incident Reports (Park Ranger Services 2018-2022)

Park Name	Park Type	# of Incident Reports
Del Paso Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	341
Fredrick Miller Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	296
William Mckinley Park	Multi-use Community Park	229
Southside Park	Multi-use Community Park	191
Hagginwood Park	Multi-use Community Park	176
William Land Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	173
Tahoe Park	Multi-use Community Park	163
Sutter's Landing Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	162
Granite Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	150
Sacramento Northern Parkway	Parkway	147

Figure 5-4. Crime Reports via Park Ranger Program (2018-2022)

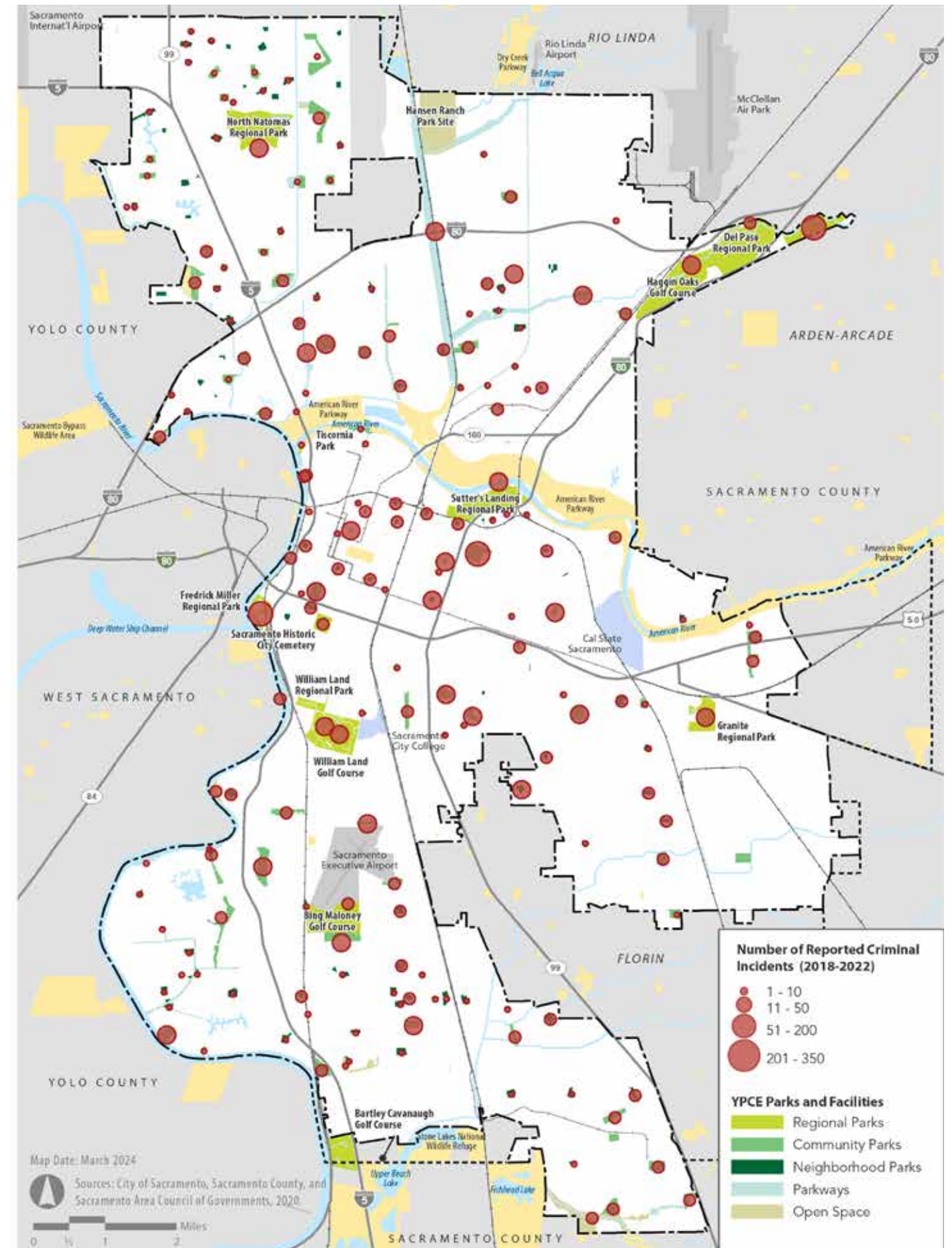


Table 5-4. Parks with the Most Incident Reports per Acre (Park Ranger Services 2018-2022)

Park Name	Park Type	Acreage	# of Incident Reports	# of Incident Reports per Acre
James W. Marshall Park	Special-use Community Park	2.5	87	34.7
Albert Winn Park	Multi-use Neighborhood Park	2.6	87	34.0
Jack Rea Park	Neighborhood Play Lot	0.3	9	26.5
East Lawn Childrens Park	Neighborhood Play Lot	0.3	8	24.2
Cesar E. Chavez Plaza	Special-use Community Park	2.5	54	21.3
Lawrence Park	Multi-use Neighborhood Park	5.1	103	20.3
John Fremont Park	Neighborhood Play Lot	2.6	46	18.0
J. Neely Johnson Park	Multi-use Neighborhood Park	1.0	16	16.7
Leland Stanford Park	Multi-use Neighborhood Park	2.8	44	15.9
Colonial Park	Multi-use Neighborhood Park	2.2	34	15.7

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Council District 4, especially in the Downtown area, sees more reports of non-violent crimes. There is also a large number of reports in District 2.

Many larger parks, such as regional and community parks, receive more reports. This is expected because these parks tend to receive more use. The reports per acre suggest that several smaller neighborhood parks see a concentration in nuisance uses.

The presence of people who are homeless or marginally housed may account for a number of reports. Given the rise during the pandemic in the proportion of people who are experiencing homelessness, this is worth evaluating separately. (See next section.)

The data are not that significant by themselves. However, in areas such as District 4, which has less park acreage per 1,000 residents, high density, highly diverse residents, high population vulnerability, and high incidences of non-violent crimes, it adds to a pattern of high needs and significant barriers to park use.

As shown on the map, Districts 2, 4, and 6 also have several sites with a relatively high number of crime reports—and no other parks in the vicinity. In these instances, residents do not have other nearby alternatives if a specific park is considered “unsafe.”

HOMELESSNESS IN PARKS

Like other California cities, Sacramento is facing a rise in homelessness, exacerbated by rising rents, pandemic-related job losses, and changing employment conditions. Parks are public spaces that are open to a variety of visitors, including people who lack housing or who are marginally housed. However, homelessness can correlate to various health/sanitation concerns, mental health issues, and nuisance behaviors that have an impact on other park visitors. For this reason, the City faces both opportunities and challenges in the ways it addresses people experiencing homelessness and parks.

Parks - as public spaces that may provide restrooms, water fountains, trash receptacles, nighttime lighting, and other features – often draw unhoused people to take refuge within their borders. In some cases, parks offer safe spaces for people experiencing homelessness. In other cases, parks become magnets for illegal encampments and dangerous behaviors that either stem from, or target, homeless populations.

The Sacramento City Council partners with YPCE, the Department of Community Response, and the County and State to implement a variety of programs and supportive services located in parks, recreation centers, and community centers. In August of 2023, the park ranger division became a part of the City’s Incident Management Team (IMT) lead by Department of Community Response. Through the “rapid response” model set forth by the IMT, rangers work on a collaborative approach between other departments to respond to calls for homeless, facilitate outreach, and coordinate removal of trash, debris, and environmental hazards from parks/park land.

A Sacramento Local Homeless Action Plan, created through a partnership between the City and Council of Sacramento in early December 2022, helps define collaborative roles and responsibilities to address homelessness in the region. Targeted services and programs, such as those listed in Table 5-5, are necessary to keep city parks safe and welcoming for all users.

Table 5-5. Supportive Services and Programs for People Experiencing Homelessness

Provision of Services / Facilities	Design for Safety and Comfort	Design for Safety and Comfort
Mobile toilet/shower facilities	Barrier removal for improved visibility	Barrier removal for improved visibility
Water bottle filling stations	Automatic restroom locking	Automatic restroom locking
Free Wi-Fi	Strategic nighttime lighting to allow improved visibility for observation	Strategic nighttime lighting to allow improved visibility for observation
Solar-powered charging stations for personal electronics	Shade structures and tree Plantings to mitigate urban heat	Shade structures and tree plantings to mitigate urban heat
Sharps disposal boxes	Facility improvements / upgrades	Facility improvements / upgrades
Personal belonging storage	Installation of security cameras	Installation of security cameras
Bicycle racks	Front counter safety improvements	Front counter safety improvements
Bicycle repair stations along the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
Social Services (roaming) in Recreation Centers		
Warming and cooling centers at Community Centers		
Pet drinking fountains in dog parks		

PARK ACCESS AND EQUITY

Looking again at the Park Ranger Services incident report data, three categories of data may relate to homelessness. These include camping / camping without a permit, loitering between sunset and sunrise, and occupying a suspicious vehicle. Camping and loitering in parks at night are common activities for the unhoused population. Occupying or residing in one's vehicle as a form of housing became more common during the pandemic resulting from the loss of traditional housing. Table 5-6 and Figure 5-5 show sites with high percentages of these types of reports. While homelessness is not a crime, detrimental or dangerous activities stemming from encampments require significant city resources. It is important, therefore, for the city to better understand the type, severity, and location of activities so that they can better allocate resources to best support populations in need while continuing to provide safe and enjoyable public park and recreation spaces for all.

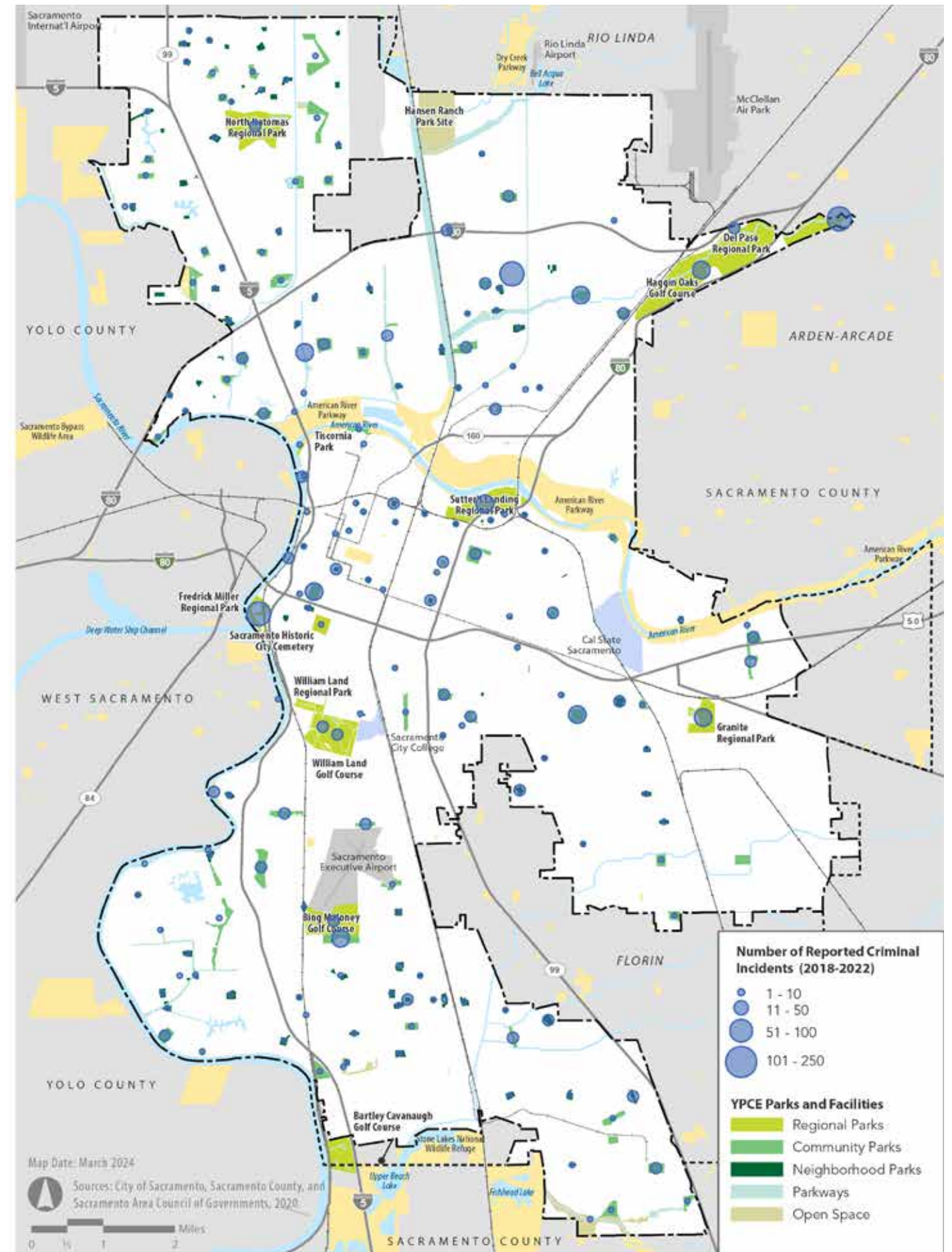
In *Martin v City of Boise*, it was ruled that, “[s]o long as there is a greater number of homeless individuals in (a jurisdiction) than the number of available beds (in shelters), the jurisdiction cannot prosecute homeless individuals for involuntarily sitting, lying, and sleeping in public. ...[A]s long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoor, on public property...”

At present, there are a greater number of people experiencing homelessness in the City of Sacramento than there are beds in shelters. However, the *Martin v City of Boise* ruling is limited in its scope. Ordinances can be passed that prohibit sitting, lying, or sleeping outside at particular times or in particular locations. Ordinances may also be passed to prohibit obstructing public rights of way (like sidewalks) or the erection of certain structures (like encampments).

Table 5-6. Select Parks with a High Number of Potential Homelessness-Related Reported Incidents (Park Ranger 2018-2022)

Park Name	Park Type	# of Potential Homelessness-Related Incidents	% of Total Incident Reports
Del Paso Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	232	66%
Fredrick Miller Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	144	49%
Sacramento Northern Parkway	Parkway	103	70%
Haggin Oaks Golf Complex	Regional Recreation and Cultural Attraction	98	87%
Granite Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	89	59%
Sutter's Landing Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	75	46%
William Chorley Park	Multi-use Community Park	71	60%
Bannon Creek Park & Parkway	Parkway	66	76%
Hagginwood Park	Multi-use Community Park	66	38%
Reginald Renfree Park	Multi-use Neighborhood Park	66	64%
Southside Park	Multi-use Community Park	55	29%
Tahoe Park	Multi-use Community Park	51	31%
C.k. McClatchy Park	Multi-use Community Park	50	47%
Walter S. Ueda Parkway	Parkway	50	78%
William Mckinley Park	Multi-use Community Park	49	21%
Lawrence Park	Multi-use Neighborhood Park	43	42%
William Land Regional Park	Multi-use Regional Park	43	25%
Magoichi Oki Park	Multi-use Community Park	37	77%
Oak (Community Center) Park	Multi-use Community Park	34	30%
Carl Johnston Park	Multi-use Community Park	32	70%

Figure 5-5. Incident Reports with High Correlation to Homelessness



EXISTING PARK ACCESS AND SERVICE GAPS

The sufficiency of parks can be measured in a variety of ways. In addition to the amount of park acreage, the size and a variety of parks, and the condition of facilities, many cities—Sacramento included—strive to provide parks within walking distance of most residents. To achieve this, parks must be distributed throughout residential areas to ensure close-to-home access. Barriers to access, such as major roads and interstates, railroads, rivers and drainage canals, and private property, must also be factored in. Most people do not have a straight-line walking path to parks. They must follow sidewalks, trails, or roadways to park entry points.

In Sacramento, park access is measured as one’s ability to reach a park within a 0.5-mile distance, which is approximately 10 minutes for a pedestrian walking at average speed. Figure 5-6 maps the “service area” or area served around the park that is located within a 10-minute “walk” of a park entry. (Some parks are accessible on all sides; others have fences and other impediments that limit how

and where a person can enter.) The areas shaded in green are considered served by the park. The areas outside of the service areas are considered unserved. Unserved residential areas are shaded in brown to call attention to the lack of nearby parks. These are sometimes called service gaps in the Parks Plan.

As seen on Figure 5-6, the majority of Sacramento is served by at least one YPCE park. However, there are still many residential areas that have service gaps. The map only assesses YPCE city parks and parkways. Non-city parks, schools, and private parks/facilities are not included in the analysis. Taking into account all public and private parks, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) estimates that 84% of Sacramento residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. This is higher than the median of 100 most populous U.S. cities (74%) and higher than the median of all urban cities and towns in the United States overall (55%).¹

KEY TAKEAWAYS

TPL estimates that only 16% of Sacramento residents lack access to a park within a 10-minute walk.

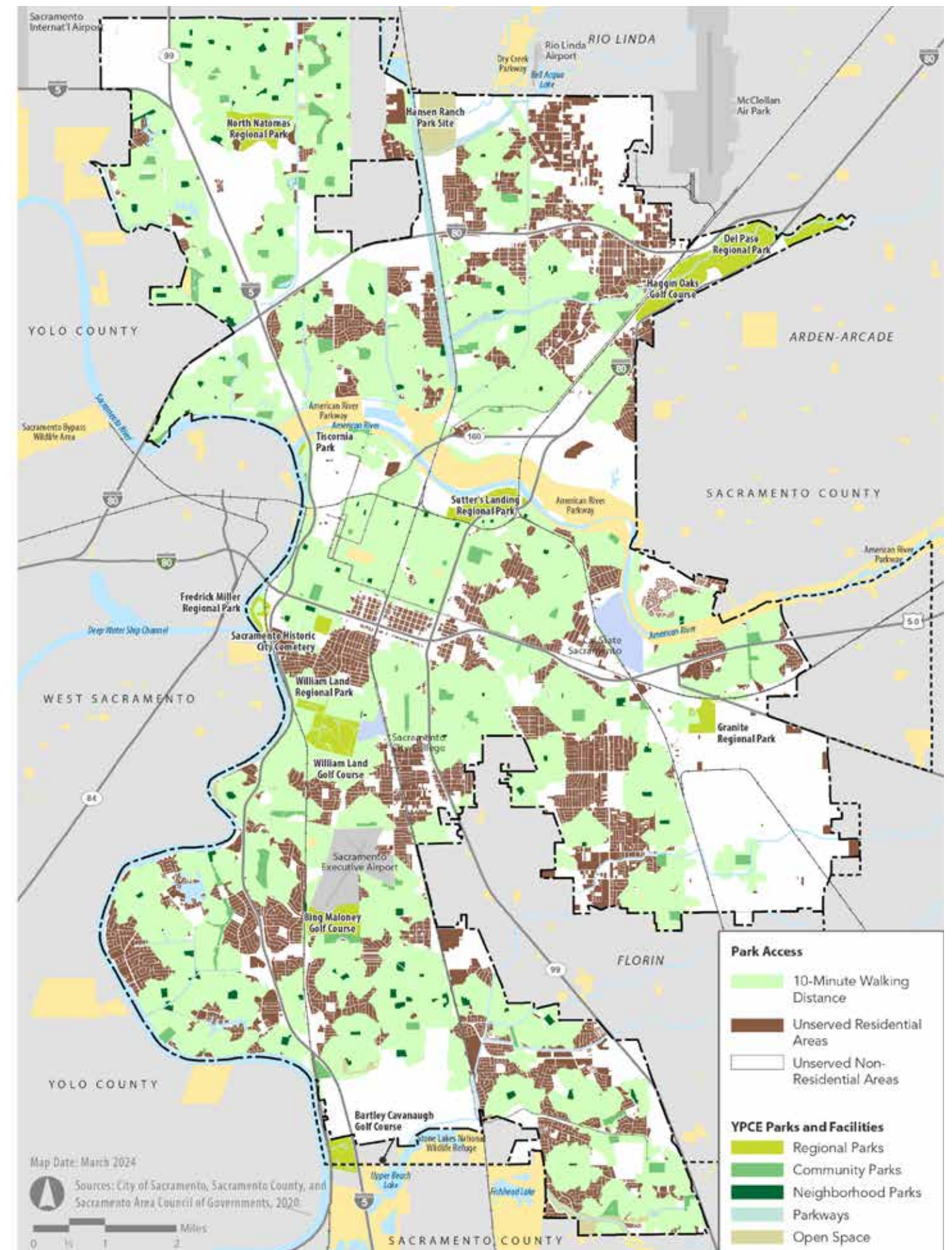
Much of the existing city is served by a city park. Some of these “gap” areas may be served by alternative park and recreation facilities, such as schools or private parks.

Many service gaps are in non-grid neighborhoods, where the pattern of streets and private property limits parks access. Suburban non-grid neighborhoods tend to be car-oriented in their designs, and often have more yard space. The park needs in these areas may not be the same as in higher-density developments where car ownership is less prevalent.

While grid development patterns better support park access, the Central City and North Sacramento areas include grid residential areas that are unserved by parks.

Some older neighborhoods that were formerly part of Sacramento County and were annexed into the City lack park access (see District 2). Because these areas were built under different park standards that provide far less green space, they lack park land today.

Figure 5-6. Current Park Access and Unserved Gap Areas



¹ Sacramento ParkScore® Ranking, 2023. <https://www.tpl.org/city/sacramento-california>

FUTURE PARK ACCESS AND SERVICE GAPS

The Parks Plan 2040 is a long-range plan that forecasts park needs over the next twenty years. While it's valuable to know where existing park gaps are, new residential areas will continue to be added. These areas will need new parks as well. The City already tracks the general locations of anticipated "future parks." Figure 5-7 maps the location of future parks and recreation facilities in conjunction with forecasted residential areas. The map illustrates that many (but not all) new parks are intended to serve new residential developments. Of the new parks planned for future development, 24 will be neighborhood parks, 13 will be community parks, five will be regional parks, and four will be parkways.

New parks are planned in all Council Districts except for Council District 5. The majority of new parks will be developed in Council District 4 (19 new parks). However, the most park acreage will be secured in Council District 6 (100 acres), Council District 8 (92.88 acres), and Council District 1 (86.63 acres).

Incorporating planned future parks into the service area analysis decreases the number of gap areas. However, as seen on Figure 5-7, even with the incorporation of planned future parks, there are still many unserved areas within the city, many located in residential service gaps.

The challenge YPCE faces is that while funding mechanisms exist to develop parks in new residential areas, YPCE lacks a dedicated funding source to support the development, renovation, and maintenance of parks in built-out or infill areas of the city. The Quimby ordinance and park impact fees (PIFs) require developers to provide land or in-lieu fees to offset the demand caused by new growth. It is much more difficult to obtain funding to provide parks in built-out areas. This exacerbates the "equity issue" when it comes to parkland.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The map of planned future parks shows that some new parks will be built in areas that already have access to a park within a 10-minute walk. These may be needed to provide sufficient park acreage and different types of recreation opportunities, or developers may do this to provide a higher level of service.

Some existing gap areas will be served by new parks, but others will continue to be unserved.

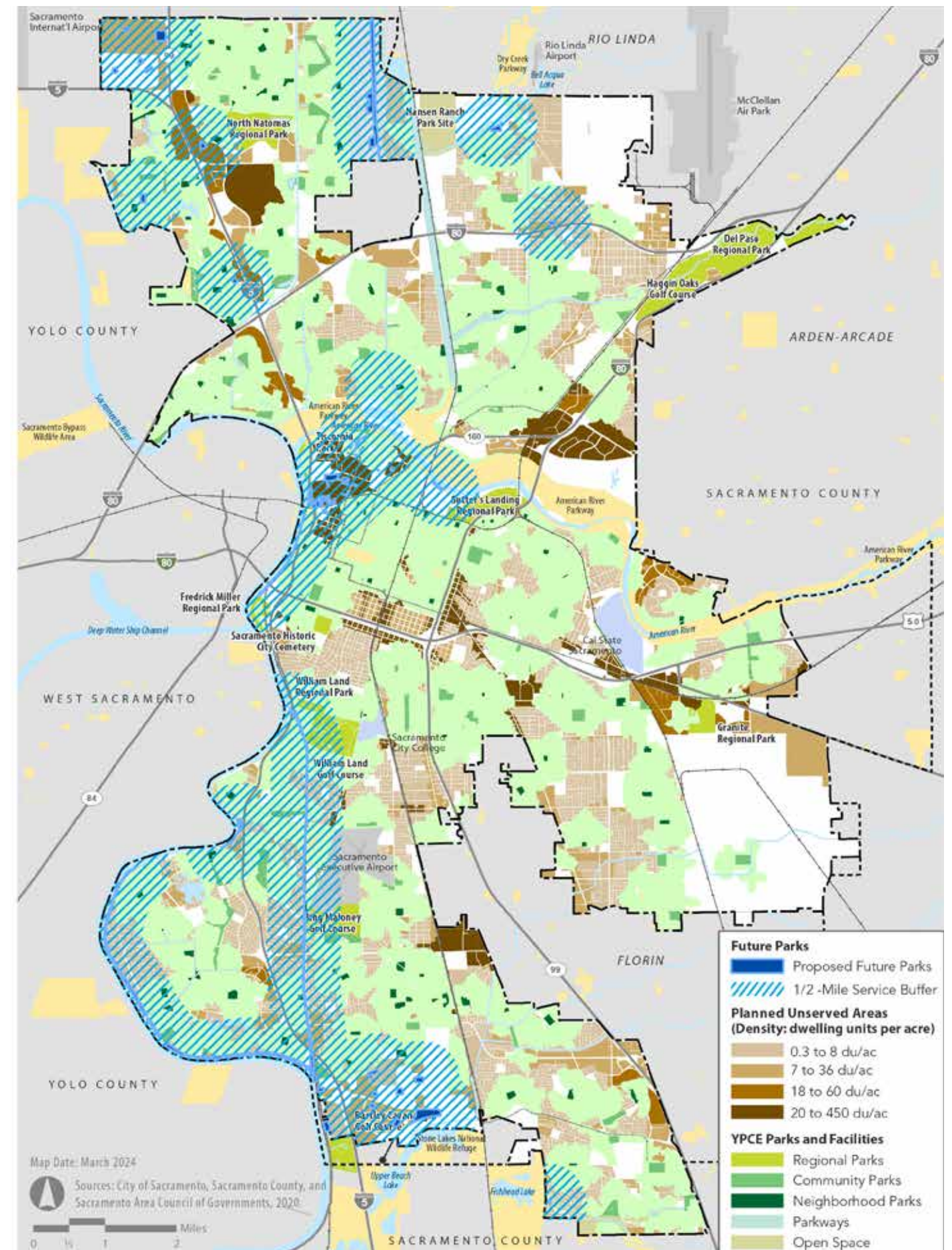
If the city is reliant on new development to procure funding/land for new parks and facilities, they will continue to lack funds to address the service gaps in older established neighborhoods.

From an equity perspective, the City will need to think of alternative funding and development strategies to ensure that built-out areas are provided the same opportunities for park and recreation activities as their suburban counterparts.

Table 5-7. Planned Future Parks per Council District

	CD 1	CD 2	CD 3	CD 4	CD 5	CD 6	CD 7	CD 8
Existing Parks Count	38	22	34	44	19	19	34	23
Existing Park Acreage¹	933.17	911.24	493.70	376.80	303.14	231.09	749.29	311.77
Planned Future Park Count	15	2	2	20	0	2	2	20
Planned Future Park Acreage²	102.01	8.24	2.79	105.83	0.00	104.12	58.98	262.23

1. Walter S. Ueda Parkway spans Districts 1, 2, and 3. The acreage for the parkway (493.5 acres) was split evenly across respective districts.
 2. Sacramento River Parkway (Planned future) is expected to span Districts 4 and 7. The acreage (100 acres) is split for estimated calculation.



PARK SERVICE GAPS IN VULNERABLE AREAS

Previous maps show that both population characteristics and park service varies across Sacramento. All residents in service gaps need and deserve great parks. Some park land needs will be fulfilled by planned future parks in residential areas.

People in unserved gaps must walk further, drive, or risk traveling on unsafe routes to reach a park. In some neighborhoods with large yards and personal cars, residents may find it easier to drive to parks. That is not an option for all residents. In Sacramento, it's estimated that approximately 19,800 households do not have access to a vehicle; renter-occupied households tend to have less vehicle access compared to owner-occupied housing. Unequal park distribution has a disproportionate impact on residents without cars. Without convenient access, residents will not reap the full health, social, and economic benefits of city parks. These individuals risk lower physical activity, poorer mental health, disconnections to community events, and potentially lower property values.

While all gaps represent park-deficient areas, the population characteristics within gaps also vary across the city. Differences such as lower incomes, higher pollution exposure, age, and health vulnerabilities all contribute to increased park needs and present greater barriers to park use.

Figure 5-8 combines the SMUD community vulnerability data (Figure 5-3) with the future park service area analysis (Figure 5-7), to show areas that are simultaneously more vulnerable and unserved by city parks. The overlaying of data helps the City prioritize the most critically underserved areas where residents are less likely or able to travel farther to parks. This geographical analysis can assist the City in targeting remediation to highly vulnerable service gaps.

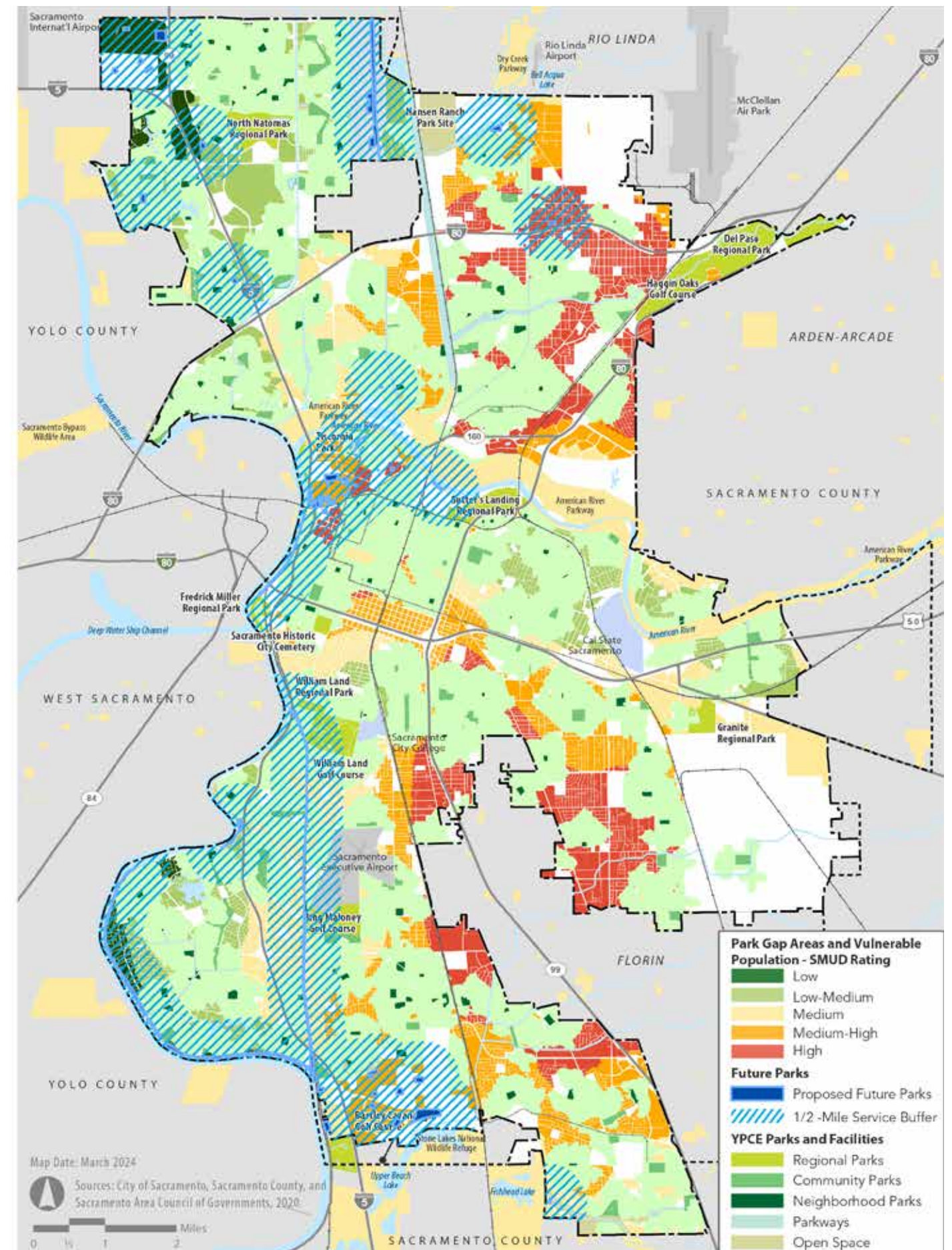
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Identified areas within Council Districts 2, 5, and 6 have park gaps with the highest population vulnerability.

Most new future parks will serve areas with a lower population vulnerability within Council Districts 1, 3, 4, 7, and 8.

If conducted as planned, proposed future park development will exacerbate equity issues.

All people—regardless of their vulnerability—deserve access to parks. From a funding standpoint, however, the City cannot continue to invest its limited funds in the provision of new parks in less vulnerable, new residential areas. If it does, it will not have funds to support new parks in older, highly vulnerable areas. In other words, park impact fees and Quimby land dedication requirements must cover the needs associated with new growth. The City must find other resources to serve other gaps, including several with a high population vulnerability.



EXISTING PARK SIZE AND DEVELOPMENT

Not all parks are created equal. Some parks are larger sites, with quality amenities, a greater level of development, and a greater variety of recreation facilities and greenspace. Some parks are small vacant green spaces. A dense urban neighborhood with a 0.1-acre parklet may technically have access to a park, but this site would not be sufficient to fulfill the health, social, and recreation needs of all nearby residents.

Table 5-8 and Figure 5-9 identify park size and the number of amenities in City parks as a proxy for the overall quality of parks and recreation services provided. It shows this information over the population vulnerability data. This helps determine if there is a correlation between vulnerable areas and parks that are considered deficient. Parks over three acres in size have sufficient space for a variety of activities, if these sites are well developed.

Small and medium-sized parks tend to be concentrated within the city center and downtown areas. Council District 4 has, by far, the greatest number of small parks (<= 1 acre). Larger parks, which also typically host more amenities, tend to be closer to natural features like riverways, and on the periphery of the city where land is more plentiful and likely to be developed. Council Districts 1 and 3 have the majority of the City's larger parks (>3 acres). In fact, the highest number of large parks are located in Council District 1 – a reality that reflects suburban growth, availability of land, and higher-income demographics.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Larger, well-developed parks tend to be located in newer residential areas of low vulnerability.

Where small, underdeveloped parks are mixed with larger, multi-use parks, the smaller park may be intended to augment greenspace in a neighborhood. This is seen in District 1, the North Natomas area. These small parks are not a concern, because residents are served by other parks.

District 2 has parks near Del Paso Boulevard, Arden Way, and the northeast side of Marysville Boulevard that are small and under-developed (in term of amenities). These sites are located in a highly vulnerable population area that also lacks other nearby parks. These are critical areas for improvements.

The downtown area within District 4 also has underdeveloped, undersized parks. However, this area is targeted for future new park development that will help offset this need.

For residents in park gaps, it is essential that nearby parks are sufficient in size and level of development to warrant traveling a greater distance to get there. If that is not feasible, then it becomes a priority to identify ways to address those park gaps.

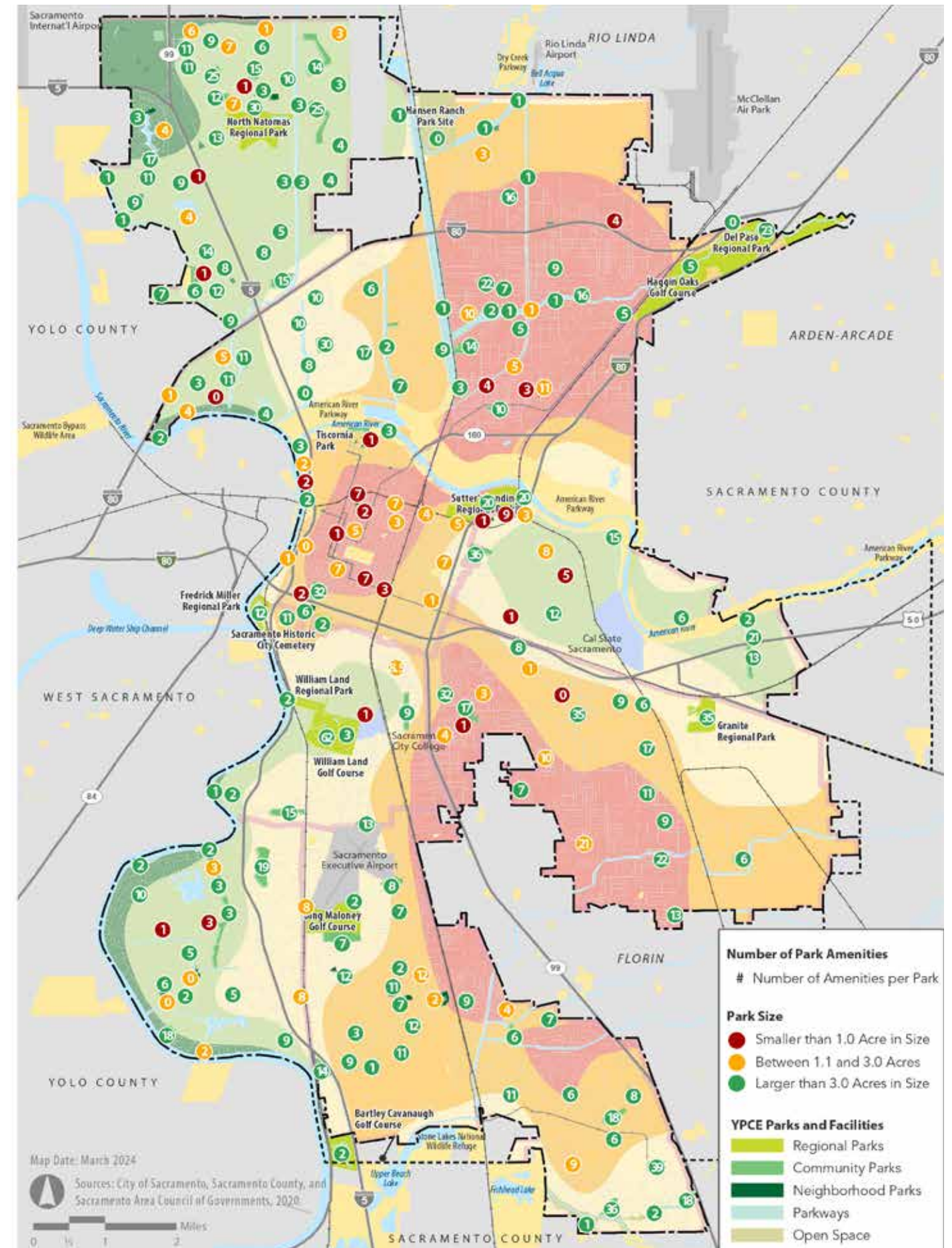


Table 5-8 Park Size by Council District²

	CD 1	CD 2	CD 3	CD 4	CD 5	CD 6	CD 7	CD 8
Population¹	63,532	62,400	62,168	66,443	66,337	68,701	68,549	68,390
# of Parks Citywide²	38	22	34	44	19	19	34	23
Percentage of all Citywide Parks	16.3%	9.4%	14.6%	18.9%	8.2%	8.2%	14.6%	9.9%
# of Parks <= 1 acre	2	4	5	16	3	0	4	0
Percentage of all Citywide Parks	0.9%	1.7%	2.1%	6.9%	1.3%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%
# of Amenities in parks <=1 acre	2	13	11	58	3	0	3	0
# of Parks 1.1-3 acres	9	3	3	18	4	3	4	3
Percentage of all Citywide Parks	3.8%	1.3%	1.3%	7.7%	1.7%	1.3%	1.7%	1.3%
# of Amenities in parks 1.1-3 acres	40	25	11	97	20	39	21	27
# of Parks >3 acres	27	15	26	10	12	16	26	20
Percentage of all Citywide Parks	11.5%	6.4%	11.1%	4.3%	5.1%	6.8%	11.1%	8.5%
# of Amenities in parks >3 acres	334	152	249	179	133	235	229	229

1. Council District populations are sourced from the California Statewide Database Official 2021 Redistricting Data.
 2. Table does not include Walter Ueda Parkway (split across Districts 1, 2, and 3), or Camp Sacramento (no district).



CLOSING THE GAPS

The City of Sacramento’s park and recreation system is expansive, health-promoting, and reflective of the region’s natural features. According to the Trust for Public Land, 84% of Sacramentans have access to a park. However, there is an equity issue. Many residents in the most vulnerable areas do not have access to a nearby park; they may also have to travel farther to get to a park that is deficient in size and development. Worse, future new parks are planned only for new residential areas. Most of these new parks will serve residents of low vulnerability.

Appendix C: Park Gap Analysis presents a detailed analysis of the 85 gaps that are outside the service areas of existing and proposed future parks. These gaps were inventoried and analyzed using a series of qualifiers based on residential density, population vulnerability, and the presence of other public or private park and recreation opportunities. The gaps include:

- 4 gaps in Council District 1
- 15 gaps in Council District 2
- 10 gaps in Council District 3
- 10 gaps in Council District 4
- 13 gaps in Council District 5
- 15 gaps in Council District 6
- 8 gaps in Council District 7
- 7 gaps in Council District 8

Note: A handful of gap areas span multiple districts, namely districts 4, 5, 6 and 7. These gaps were thus counted in both districts.

Of the 85 total gap areas:

- 12 gaps have high residential density.
- 48 gaps have a population majority of non-White or Hispanic/Latino populations.
- 46 gaps are entirely (100%) flagged as having high or medium-high vulnerability.
- 9 gaps are partially (<50%) flagged as having high or medium-high vulnerability.
- 12 gaps have a park, parkway, or open space site that is not operated by YPCE.
- 32 gaps have a public school within or adjacent to the gap boundary. Public schools pose potential joint-use recreation opportunities for the public.

The analysis suggests that new parks will be needed in areas that: 1) are not already served by a public or private park provided by another jurisdiction; or 2) cannot be served by improving access or removing barriers to a nearby park. To close all gaps, the City would need to provide 66 new parks (in addition to the 45 planned future parks) to serve the entire city. A total of 111 parks would be needed. They would be needed across all Council Districts, with the majority located in Council District 2, Council District 5, and Council District 6. Figure 5-10 shows the locations of these new parks.

Of all the gap areas, Table 5-9 shows that nine have maximum need based on density, race and ethnicity, and high SMUD vulnerability rating. Park development in each of these nine areas would thus have significant benefit for residents in these areas. (See Figure 5-10 for the locations of these sites.)

Finally, based on their small size, insufficient level of development, and lack of nearby parks, 14 sites have been noted as Potential Sites for Priority Enhancement. These sites are candidates for expansion and/or added amenities and facilities. These priorities may change if a new park is developed nearby.

PARK ACCESS AND EQUITY

Table 5-9. Gap Areas with Highest Need

Unserved Gap Areas		Severity of Need within Gap Area			Adjacencies	
Gap ID	Council District	Is there high density?	Is the population majority non-White or Hispanic / Latino?	Is there high or med-high vulnerability levels?	Are there other parks and open spaces (non-YPCE)?	Are there public schools?
1	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
2	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
5	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
6	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
7-8	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
11-12	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
13	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
18	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
46	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Additional parks are needed across the City. From an equity perspective, parks are most needed in Districts 2, 5, 6, and 8. New future parks are planned mainly for Districts 1, 4, and 8.

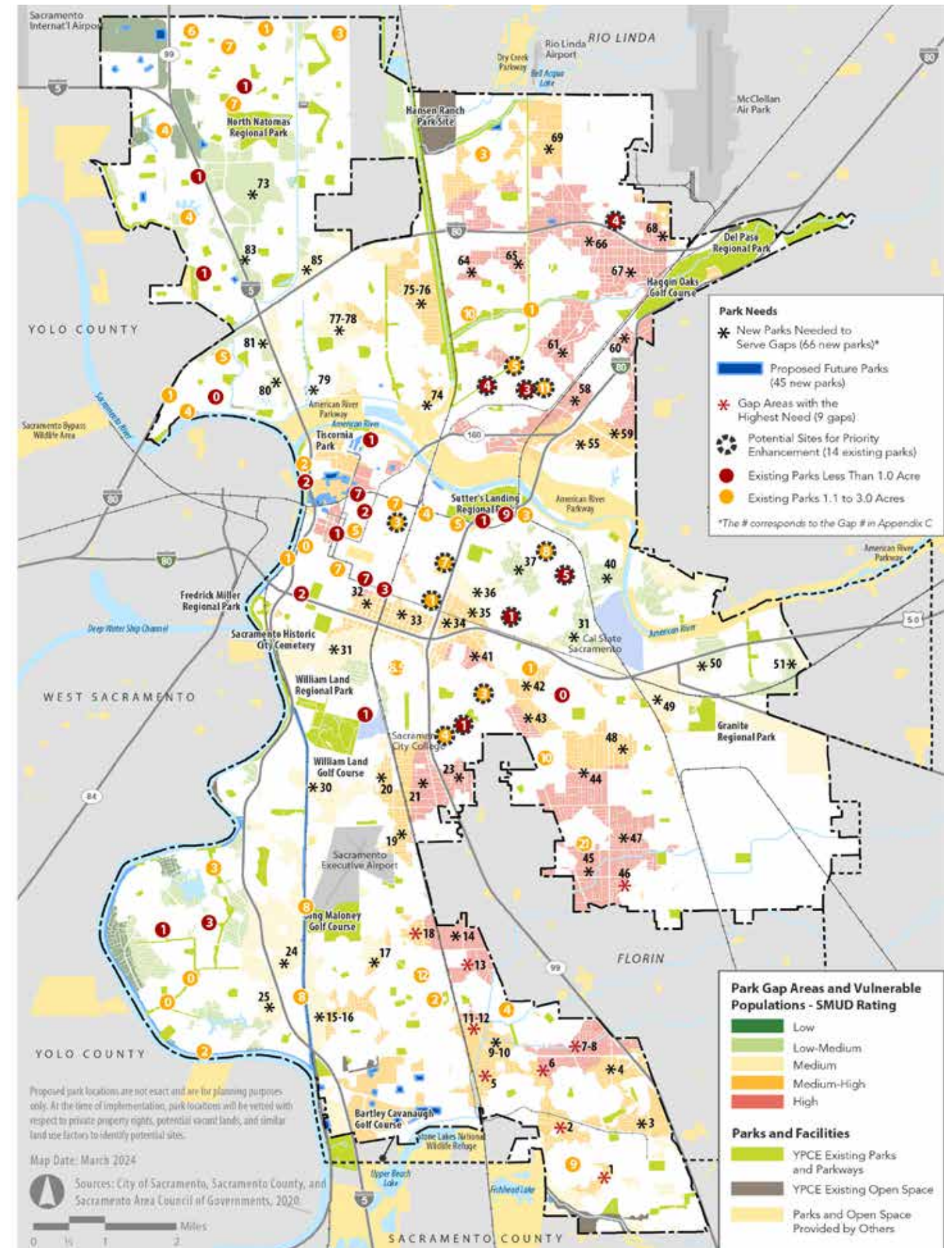
Highest need sites for park development are located mainly in Southern Sacramento in Districts 5, 6, and 8.

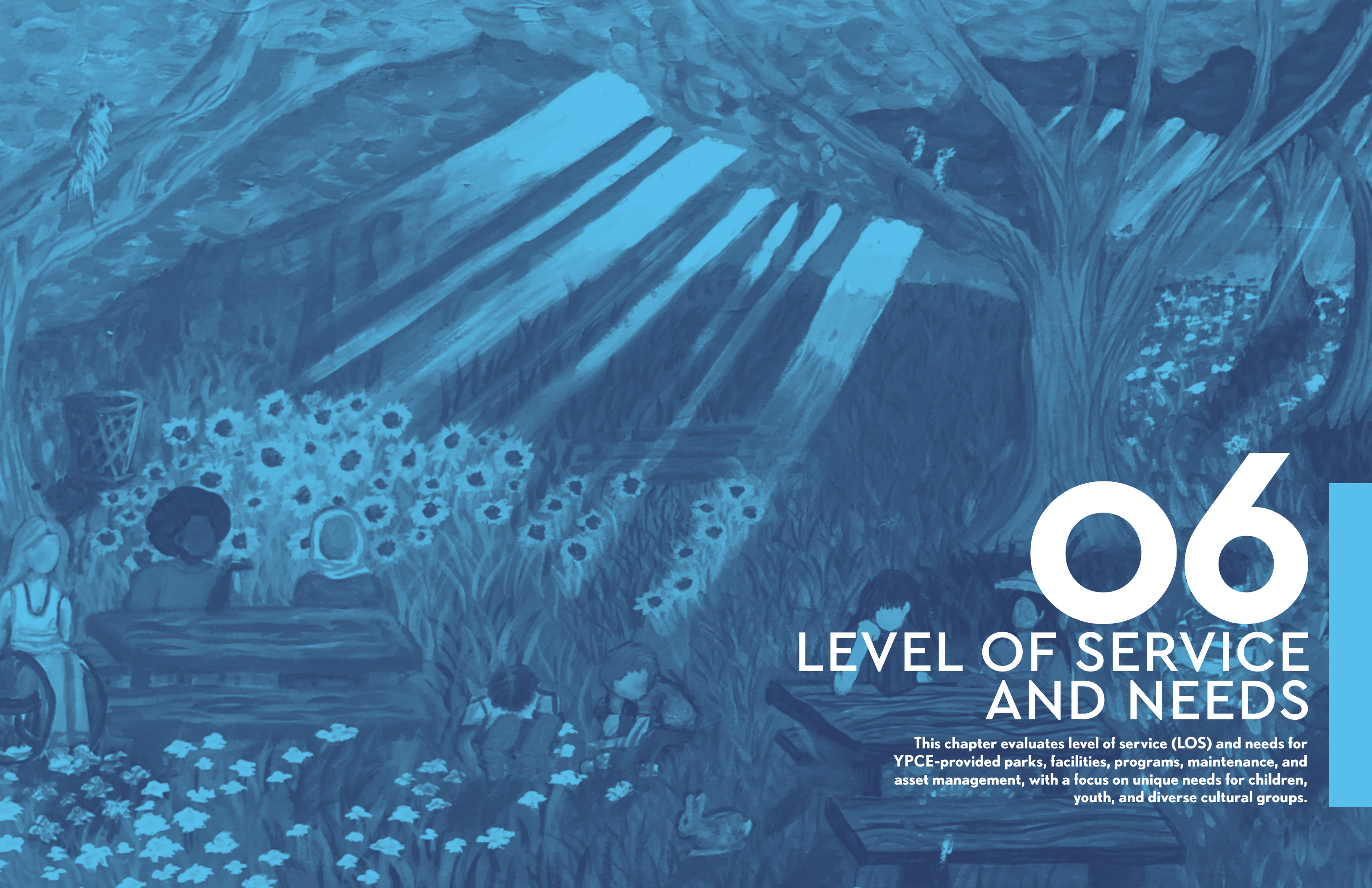
Sites that are potential priorities for enhancement are in Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5.

If the City wishes to provide all residents with walkable access to parks and recreational facilities, it will need to provide more parks and/or amenities than it currently has funding to do so. It will need to change its investment strategy to ensure that new development covers the costs of new parks, and new funding sources are identified to address equity-based park needs in service gaps.



Figure 5-10. Park Needs Map





06

LEVEL OF SERVICE AND NEEDS

This chapter evaluates level of service (LOS) and needs for YPCE-provided parks, facilities, programs, maintenance, and asset management, with a focus on unique needs for children, youth, and diverse cultural groups.

LEVEL OF SERVICE AND NEEDS

A park system is a vital source for City identity, recreation, social wellbeing, placemaking, and environmental health. While Chapter 5 focused on needs for access to quality parks and facilities, Chapter 6 addresses needs by discussing the amount, sufficiency, and types of parks, facilities, programs, and other support services to provide. It considers needs for evolving and increasing recreation opportunities through 2040 to respond to a growing urban population and changing recreation trends.

Given the many benefits that park and recreation systems provide, YPCE can be pulled in different directions as the

Department responds to the community’s demands and needs for services. Thus, this chapter evaluates parks, facilities, programs, maintenance, and asset management needs by asking the question: What is the right level of service to provide?

Level of service (LOS) is a metric that describes the amount, magnitude, or quality of services provided. It is measured differently for land, facilities, programs, and services. However, it must be realistic and achievable to match staffing, funding, and resources available to meet these needs.

PARKLAND NEEDS

As Sacramento’s population grows, more parkland will be needed to accommodate the increase in population. To support this long-range planning, cities can measure their provision of park acreage and facilities in comparison to their populations to ensure they are adequately meeting the needs of their residents and addressing new growth areas. This standardized measurement is referred to as the Level of Service (LOS), and it compares the amount of land (in acreage) or facilities (in units) to the population.

The LOS number helps cities track their performance and provides a useful quantitative measurement of how well populations are being served. Cities will often set a parkland level of service that will guide land acquisition and park impact fees as the city grows. Cities will determine a LOS standard that is most appropriate to their locality based on their existing level of service, their anticipated growth, community desires and needs, and comparisons with other cities.

Sacramento’s Existing LOS

Parkland level of service (LOS) is described in these terms: parkland acreage per 1,000 residents.

It typically distinguishes between an existing level of service, which is based on the current acreage and population, versus a proposed level of service that is desired in the future. The City of Sacramento’s existing level of service is 9.16 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents, as shown in Table 6-1 (Note: the existing level of service is based on 2023 parkland acres and 2018 population numbers). Also shown on the table are the level of service standards and park impact fee (PIF) standards in Sacramento’s recent past.

- Sacramento is not meeting the standards it adopted for parks in 2010 with the Parks and Recreation Plan 2005-2010.
- The City’s parkland standards and existing LOS both greatly exceed what the City is asking developers to provide in new residential areas.
- To achieve the City’s goals for parkland, YPCE has been asked to fund more than 60% of the cost of new parks, while developers fund approximately 40% through Park Impact Fees (PIFs). That approach has not been feasible.
- The City needs to right-size both its parkland standard and park impact fee requirement to be able to achieve its parkland goals.

Table 6-1. Comparison of Existing Parkland LOS to YPCE Park Standards

2018 Population¹ : 472,693

2040 Projected Population² : 638,433

Park Classification	Existing Park Acreage ³	Existing LOS	2010 Adopted LOS Standards ⁴	2017 LOS Citywide Standards in PIF Study ⁵	2017 LOS Central City Standards in PIF Study ⁶
Regional Parks⁶	1,626.13	3.44	8.00	1.5	1.50
Community Parks	928.45	1.96	2.50	1.75	1.75
Neighborhood Parks	449.92	0.95	2.50	1.75	
Parkways	854.14	1.81	None	None	
Open Space	470.57	1.00	None	None	
Total	4,329.20	9.16	13.0	5.0	3.25

1. The 2018 population source is the U.S. Census Bureau 2018, as provided in the Sacramento 2040 Plan (General Plan Update). The City uses this number to approximate its “current” population.

2. The 2040 population source is SACOG 2021.

3. Park acreage includes the total existing acreage for each site, including developed, undeveloped, and natural areas.

4. The 2010 LOS Standards come from the Parks and Recreation Plan 2005-2010.

5. The 2017 Park Impact Fee (PIF) Study separated out the City into two areas (“Central City” and “Remaining City”) to reflect the difficulties and higher costs of acquiring and developing parkland in the Central City (downtown Sacramento). Totals shown in the table above are for the Remaining City. This included the LOS shown for Community and Neighborhood Parks, plus 1.5 acres for Citywide Parks, which includes Regional Parks, Parkways, and Open Space.

6. In the 2017 PIF Study, the Central City PIF standards were based on a combined LOS of 1.75 acres/1,000 for neighborhood and community parks, plus 1.5 acres for citywide parks, which includes Regional Parks, Parkways, and Open Space.

Parkland Comparisons

Chapter 5 showed that Sacramento exceeds national averages in the percentage of residents that have access to parkland. To see how Sacramento compares in its amount of parkland, its LOS was compared to Park Metrics data provided by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), as well as to various cities from across the nation using data provided by the Trust for Public Land.

According to NRPA Park Metrics, the median LOS for park departments serving cities with more than 250,000 residents is 10.1 acres/1,000 residents. Sacramento’s existing LOS of 9.16 acres/1,000 is slightly lower than this average.

Sacramento's parkland LOS is lower than the median across the nation for large cities. It is slightly higher than the LOS provided by comparable cities.

Using data from the Trust for Public Land (TPL)¹, all public parkland in Sacramento was compared to six cities that are generally similar in terms of density and/or population size, including Cleveland, Portland, Stockton, Pittsburg, Chula Vista, and San Jose. Table 6-2 shows that Sacramento provides a parkland LOS that is in the middle of these cities. The levels of service range from a low of 3.7 acres per 1000 people (Stockton, CA) to a high of 22 acres per 1,000 people (Portland, OR). In comparison to the average LOS of the six communities, Sacramento provides slightly more than average.

These comparisons suggest that YPCE’s previous standards were high, expecting the City to provide a higher LOS than is the norm across the nation. However, YPCE’s existing LOS is in line with the norm. This calls into question the level of service that the City of Sacramento should provide.

Table 6-2. 2023 Trust for Public Land Parkland Comparisons

Comparable Cities ¹	Population Density (people / acre)	2022 Population	Adjusted Land Area (acres)	Total Acres of Park ²	Parkland Level of Service	Parks as % of City Area	Walkable Park Access ³
Portland, OR	8.1	665,438	82,228	14,662	22.0	18%	90%
Pittsburgh, PA	8.6	305,298	35,353	4,975	16.3	14%	92%
San Jose, CA	9.0	1,018,924	112,666	15,221	14.9	14%	80%
Sacramento, CA	8.6	534,959	62,439	6,747	12.6	11%	84%
Cleveland, OH	7.9	371,562	46,894	3,311	8.9	7%	83%
Chula Vista, CA	8.8	278,609	31,767	2,482	8.9	8%	73%
Stockton, CA	8.2	323,593	39,378	1,199	3.7	3%	76%

Source: 2023 Trust for Public Land City Parks Facts Data. <https://www.tpl.org/2023-city-park-facts>
 1. Comparable cities were selected based on similar population densities, not overall population.
 2. Acreage data used by the Trust for Public Land differs from YPCE’s data and includes all public parks.
 3. These figures represent the percentage of residents living within a 10-minute or half-mile walkable route of park.

The data used by the Trust for Public Land differs from City reported numbers. It includes all public park acreage provided by any jurisdiction within the Sacramento city limits, along with a different population forecast.

Sacramento's New Park LOS Standard

The Parks Plan 2040 proposes new standard for parkland acquisition through the year 2040. This standard factored in the following, which was discussed with the YPCE Project Management Team, the YPCE Executive Team, the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission, and the Sacramento Youth Commission:

- The City would like to maintain its current level of service as it grows, which is about average nationally, but it has not had the funding to do so equitably.
- From an equity standpoint, the City would like to address unserved park gaps to ensure all residents have access to parks.
- The City has invested so much in parkland that it has lacked sufficient funds for park maintenance, asset replacement, park development, and activation.
- The City’s park impact fees (PIFs) have supported less than half of what City standards have required.
- Even with an increase in PIFs, the City must balance the amount of parkland it provides with other park and recreation needs.

The Parks Plan proposes decreasing the City’s level of service standard to 8.5 acres per 1,000 residents. This decrease reflects the reality of increasing costs, deferred maintenance, public priorities to improve existing sites, and a citywide commitment to sustainable growth.

The shift in LOS standards by classification reflect the City’s commitment to equity. As shown in Table 6-3, YPCE will strive to increase the amount of parkland provided as close-to-home neighborhood parks.

The standard for neighborhood parks would address the need for 66 new neighborhood parks in gap areas, plus the new planned future neighborhood parks (as noted in Chapter 5). The new standards keep the service level for community parks the same. However, the standards decrease service levels for regional parks, parkways, and open space.

Because the City’s population is growing, the City would still need to acquire more parks of all types to serve its 2040 projected population. An additional 1,097.5 acres will be needed to achieve these LOS goals. Table 6-3 shows the proposed LOS and acreage needs by classification, in comparison to its own forecasted land acquisitions. The table shows:

- The City will need significantly more community parkland than currently planned.
- It will need to invest more in neighborhood parks.
- YPCE will make strategic investment in parkways and shared use paths.
- The City has planned for more regional park acreage than needed. If acquired as planned, the City may not have sufficient resources to address citywide needs for close-to-home parks. Unless funding for parks increases substantially, this most likely means the City will not have the resources needed to provide parks in service gaps—areas that are park deficient and unserved.

The City will decrease its total parkland level of service to have the resources needed for facility development, maintenance, asset management, and programming.

Table 6-3. Parkland Level of Service

2018 Population¹: 472,693

2040 Projected Population²: 638,433

Park Classification	Existing Park Acreage ³	Existing LOS	Proposed LOS Standards	Net Future Need	Planned and Forecasted Future Parks
Regional Parks	1,626.13	3.44	2.75	129.6 acres	204 acres of regional parks are planned.
Community Parks	928.45	1.96	2.00	348.4 acres	70 acres of community parks are planned.
Neighborhood Parks	449.92	0.95	1.50	507.7 acres	86 acres of neighborhood parks are planned, and 330 acres are proposed for gaps.
Parkways	854.14	1.81	1.50	103.5 acres	169 acres of parkways are planned.
Open Space	470.57	1.00	0.75	8.6 acres	14 acres of open space are planned.
Total	4,329.20	9.16	8.50	1,097.5 acres	

1. The 2018 population source is the U.S. Census Bureau 2018, as provided in the Sacramento 2040 Plan (General Plan Update).
 2. The 2040 population number is from SACOG 2021.
 3. Park acreage includes the total existing acreage for each site, including developed, undeveloped, and natural areas.

Equitable LOS within Council Districts

While parkland LOS is applicable citywide, it can also be evaluated by Council District (CD) since that is how funds and projects have been prioritized. Calculating the LOS per Council District reveals where, geographically, parks and recreational resources are being spent, and where they are lacking. Variation in the LOS for neighborhood and community parks between Council Districts is indicative of inequitable services. Since regional parks are intended to serve residents citywide—beyond the district where located, they are not factored into this comparison.

As shown in Table 6-4, Sacramento’s eight Council Districts (CD) have parkland service levels that range from 1.8 acres per 1,000 residents (CD 4) to 3.9 acres per 1,000 residents (CD 1). This twofold increase in the provision of park area reflects an inequitable imbalance of services.

Demographics and population vulnerability vary by Council District. Therefore, environmental, health, and socioeconomic factors compound these disparities in parkland. For example, CD 4 has the lowest amount of parkland per 1,000 residents, yet the population vulnerability is mild relative to other districts. CD 2, 5, and 6, however, all have a lower parkland level of service as well as high population vulnerability. Conversely, CD 1, 3, and 7 provide relatively high parkland and are less vulnerable than other district populations. This cross-comparison of data is useful when prioritizing park and recreation projects in order to fulfill the City’s commitment to equity.

Table 6-4. Level of Service by Council District

■ Better Conditions ■ Worse Conditions

	Total Population ¹	2023 Existing Neighborhood Park Acreage ³	2023 Existing Community Park Acreage ³	Existing LOS (Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks)	CalEnviroScreen Average Score ²
Council District 1⁴	63,532	91.36	156.12	3.90	13.63
Council District 2⁴	62,400	34.75	84.83	1.92	34.33
Council District 3⁴	62,168	72.58	155.20	3.66	24.95
Council District 4	66,443	38.96	82.32	1.83	27.35
Council District 5	66,337	34.06	93.78	1.93	33.42
Council District 6	68,701	37.25	106.17	2.09	35.50
Council District 7	68,549	66.60	170.07	3.45	21.47
Council District 8	68,390	74.37	79.97	2.26	26.64
Grand Total⁵	526,520	449.92	928.45		

1. Council District populations are taken from the California Statewide Database Official 2021 Redistricting Data as adopted by the City of Sacramento.
 2. Certain census tracts across all districts are missing score data, thus these numbers should only be used as general proxy for weighing vulnerability.
 3. Total acreage includes developed and undeveloped acres.
 4. Walter S. Ueda Parkway spans Districts 1, 2, and 3. The acreage for the parkway (493.5 acres) was split evenly across respective districts.
 5. Camp Sacramento is not assigned to a Council District, and thus is left out of these calculations.
 Note: The color coding shows districts that have a greater or lesser level of service and greater or lesser vulnerability.



CalEnviroScreen

CalEnviroScreen is a data tool developed by the CA Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). It uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 applies 19 indicators to characterize pollution burden and population characteristics.

Higher scores represent more vulnerability. Lower scores represent less vulnerability.

RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

Community needs for recreation facilities factor in level of service guidelines, park design and development guidelines, and specialized needs for accessibility, youth, and diverse cultures.

Facility LOS Standards and Needs

The calculation for facility level of service compares the population to the number of facilities. It is represented as this ratio: the number of people served by one facility. A lower number means fewer users per facility, which signifies a higher level of service. A higher number represents a lower level of service.

Cities strive to provide enough facilities to meet the demand, plus the right variety of facilities to diversify recreation experiences. If cities provide more facilities than they have resources to sustain, this compromises the quality and safety of facilities. As noted in Chapter 3, the City of Sacramento provides 1,170 facilities. Most are in good condition for their age, but some are facing deferred maintenance issues. A pool is an example of a high demand facility that requires multiple sources of funding to sustain. These issues are reminders facility service levels are influenced by more than the ability to build new facilities in parks.

As the City looks ahead to its future recreation system, it will need to add facilities to respond to population growth. However, changing trends, participation patterns, and desires for different types of facilities affect the level of service the City should provide moving forward. Appendix E. Park Development and Renovation Guidelines forecasts minimum facility level of service guidelines. These needs are summarized in Table 6-5.

Facilities such as pickleball courts, water mister / spray areas, and community gardens have gained popularity in recent years and have been highlighted by the public as desired features. The level of service for these will increase.

For other facilities, decreasing public interest corresponds to a reduction in the level of service guidelines. This is the case in some areas for tennis courts. While tennis play is still strong in many communities, sports courts development in other areas leans towards a variety of futsal, pickleball, badminton, and multi-use courts.

When discussing major facilities such as pools and golf courses, unsustainable maintenance and operations costs suggest the City will need to decrease their level of service moving forward. This does not mean closing existing facilities. It means building fewer or no new ones as the City grows over the next 20 years. Notably, the City intends to convert all 14 wading pools into spray areas, which offer similar cooling opportunities without high maintenance costs. Recreation Centers and Community Centers, of which there are currently 23, are also slated for consolidation for better operational and financial efficiencies.

Some facilities that the City does not currently provide are desired by the community. These include challenge features for teenagers (such as climbing walls, ziplines, etc.), dedicated event space, and bike pump tracks. These items have been added to the City’s level of service standards and park development and renovation guidelines

Park Design Guidelines and Needs

While Table 6-5 summarizes recreational facility needs based on minimum LOS guidelines, many decisions about the numbers and types of facilities in parks are determined through park design. The design process – whether for a new park or an existing site facing substantial renovation—often includes localized community outreach, design alternatives, and considerations of unique community needs, and site needs and opportunities based on topography, site size, adjacencies, and access. Appendix E: Park Development and Renovation Guidelines consolidates these guidelines. (These are introduced in more detail in Chapter 8.)

Table 6-5. Summary of Recreational Facility Needs based on minimum LOS Guidelines

Per new minimum LOS guidelines, the below facility types are suggested to increase by 2040:	
Group Picnic Area	●●●●
Playground / Play Area	●●●●
Basketball Court (outdoors - full and half size)	●●●
Baseball / Softball	●●
Fitness Equipment (count by pieces)	●●
Pickleball Court	●●
Soccer Field	●●
Volleyball Court	●●
Sports Court Variety (i.e., badminton, shuffleboard, bocce ball, etc.)	●●
Dog Park	●●
Water Mister / Spray Area	●●
Community Garden	●●
Cricket Field	●
Futsal Court	●
Tennis Court	●
Challenge Feature (i.e., climbing wall, zipline)	●
Dedicated Event Space	●
Bike Pump Track	●
Skate Park	●
Stage (Outdoors) / Amphitheater	●
River / Beach Access	●
Per new minimum LOS guidelines, the below facility types are not suggested to increase by 2040:	
Disc Golf Course	No new facilities required
Community Center / Senior Center / Clubhouse	No new facilities required
Golf Course	No new facilities required
Community Pool	No new facilities required

Key:

- = 51-100 new facilities
- = 31-50 new facilities
- = 11-30 new facilities
- = 1-10 new facilities

SPECIALIZED FACILITY NEEDS

Community outreach noted the community’s interest in several specialized or unique facility needs. These relate to equity and accessibility, multi-generational, and diverse communities and cultures. These are featured in the next several pages.

Facility Needs: Accessibility, Equity, and Inclusion

In response to a greater awareness of and interest in providing facilities that support Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Safety and Accessibility, YPCE will consider the facility needs such as the following when designing, developing, and renovating parks. Appendix E: Park Development and Renovation Guidelines includes more guidance.

ADA Accessible Facilities and Paths: California park agencies are required to remove physical barriers that limit facility accessibility and adhere to guidelines in the 2019 California Building Code, 2010 Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Standards, and the 2015 Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Outdoor Developed Areas Standards. However, many cities are exceeding these standards, recognizing that more accessible features support greater facility use. For example, wider pathways support a range of uses, such as two people speaking in sign language, parents with strollers, families of multiple ages and mobilities, seniors with walkers, and even people on bikes, scooters, and skateboards that want to be able to safely pass others.

Universal, All-Inclusive Playgrounds: All YPCE playgrounds are accessible. The City also offers six playgrounds with poured-in-place rubber playground surfacing; most include access ramps onto the play structure and several other accessible play amenities are listed for each park. As the City adds new regional and community parks, it should consider providing a destination play area uniquely designed for all ages and abilities. Universal play areas support stimulation for multiple senses (tactile/touch; auditory/hearing; visual/sight; gustatory/taste; olfactory/smell; proprioception [body awareness]; vestibular processing [understanding changes in location, orientation in space, and balance]; and interoception. Parallel play elements with different levels of challenge for abled, differently abled, and disabled visitors should be provided.

The play area should include special features and quiet spaces for children on the autism spectrum. The facility should include seating, shade over both activity and seating areas, and nearby restrooms.

Water Mister/Spray Area: Spray areas and misters have been increasingly introduced in parks to help residents stay cool in the summer. In contrast to pools and wading pools, these water play features are more inclusive in that they are typically free, accessible, easier to operate (i.e., with no standing water that requires staffing to prevent drownings), and cheaper to build, operate, and maintain than traditional wading pools. These facilities should offer nearby shade, restrooms, and seating.

Dedicated vs. Drop-In Facilities: In the past, many cities created user agreements that gave scheduling rights or offered dedicated use to sports leagues that were willing to maintain and improve sports fields and courts. It was an effective way to support sports programming while using volunteer labor to reduce sports field maintenance costs. However, this practice also made these facilities inaccessible to people who could not afford or did not have time for league play. To be more inclusive, Sacramento will retain scheduling rights to fields and vary field use times to maximize community play and sports.

Park and Facility Lighting: Most cities have park use and lighting restrictions that discourage park use after dark. Typically, field or facility lighting is only provided in community and regional parks, which are accessible within a driving distance. More recently, cities are realizing that in Environmental Justice areas, this approach minimizes the availability of safe, positive places and activities within walking distance to attract young adults after dark. In specialized cases where light pollution and evening activities do not impact nearby neighbors, the City may selectively consider lighting park’s path of travel and sport court or field facilities.

Varied Tables and Seating: In the past, most cities integrated standardized benches and picnic tables in parks. These amenities are frequently anchored so that they cannot be moved or removed. Recently, more inclusive seating arrangements are the norm, including picnic areas with mixed and varied table sizes (seating from two to 10+); long, family style tables; “plop” benches with space for a parent and several young kids (and toys or food); circular seating that encourages socializing; or movable tables and chairs.

Family-Style and Gender-Neutral Restrooms: Moving towards having more accessible, gender-neutral restrooms and changing rooms better supports families, disabled individuals and their caretakers, and people who prefer gender neutrality. Instead of men’s and women’s unisex restrooms, both in parks and facilities are moving towards gender neutral stalls.

Multi-Use, Multi-Generational Recreation Centers: In the previous 2005-2010 Parks and Recreation Plan, YPCE’s standards called for the development of one small community center of less than 30,000 square feet for every 50,000 residents to serve several neighborhoods. City standards encouraged stand-alone centers and clubhouses for teens, seniors, and neighborhoods. For greater cost-efficiencies and to add recreation value, the new standard is to create resiliency and health and wellness hubs that leverage indoor and outdoor programming opportunities and support active recreation and social activities for all ages in larger buildings. Recreation facilities typically combine gymnasiums, fitness studios, multipurpose banquet rooms / event space (with a kitchen and stage), flexible classrooms and meeting rooms for programming and reserved community uses, arts and cultural space, social space, potentially dedicated spaces for seniors or childcare, and even drop-off zones for accessible entry. These are located in larger parks that can accommodate indoor/outdoor programs.



Facility Needs: Youth and Children

To support Sacramento’s youth and children, facilities are needed to support social and physical enrichment programs, development, and empowerment opportunities, including facilities that accommodate at-risk and special needs youth. Recreation facilities should be appealing and accessible to children and youth ages 0-25, with features and amenities relevant for different age groups. YPCE has been a leader in this regard, yet the Department is still striving to diversify park experiences to support youth in the following types of activities.

Play: Well-designed, well-managed play environments provide children with developmental opportunities for physical activity and motor skill development, decision making, learning, dramatic play, social development, and fun. While play equipment typically is designed for age groups 2-5 and 5-12, research shows that play provides benefits for all ages. Trends favor integrating multi-generational play places with parent-child opportunities, challenge options for teens and young adults, and elements that support playful interactions for all ages. Manipulative play settings are essential tools for play, encouraging interaction and exploration. Examples include playable music features in parks, “diggers” that allow children to dig up sand or pea gravel. Unique play areas that incorporate topography and unique themes also encourage more creative play. The City will support a higher quality of play by mixing features and equipment to achieve this. The City should develop more thematic play, nature play, adventure play, and play apparatus for older teens and young adults to support these benefits. Unique climbers, hill slides, inclusive group spinners, and other elements, along with shade, should be added.

Sports: Diverse sports fields and courts support many benefits for children and youth, such as improved coordination, physical fitness, learning to work with a team, enhanced socialization skills, and even how to compete, win and lose gracefully. Many sports are now played year-round (instead of traditional seasons), which has increased the demand for facilities that are available for drop-in use, recreation programs, and competitive league play. Soccer is rapidly growing in Sacramento, and as the City courts a Major League Soccer team, it is simultaneously looking at opportunities to develop a youth soccer field complex to support competitive play and build community interest in soccer. In addition, participation is increasing nationwide in a greater variety of sports –including activities such as cricket, pétanque, dodgeball, smashball, and Quidditch—to involve more people in sports. The City will look to expand the numbers and variety of sports fields, sports courts, and specialized or learn-to-play features such as batting cages, tracks, Quick Start golf, etc.

Challenge Features: While past park development tended to focus on the needs of younger children, there is a demand for more challenging play options for teens and young adults. These provide appropriate risk-taking opportunities, create opportunities to socialize, and recognize that youth need physical activities beyond field and court sports. Sacramento will continue to integrate features such as climbing walls/spires, bike skills areas, pump tracks, disc golf, zip lines, parkour, skate parks, skate plazas, BMX tracks to address these needs.

Water Play: Water is a powerful multi-sensory play attractor, especially for children. Water play opportunities are also recognized as important cooling features for residents who may not have air conditioning to stay cool as summer heat increases. While water play presents challenges for maintenance, staffing, and safety, spraygrounds are emerging as a more cost-effective alternative to swimming pools. However, aquatic facilities are also needed to provide learn-to-swim programs, teach water safety, support water fitness, and recreational pool use. Sacramento will phase out older wading pools because of safety and health concerns, but it will dramatically increase the provision of spraygrounds. Best practices in water play include providing hand pumps and water channels, along with participant-activated water features that operate on a short timer.

Learning: To support youth education and encourage lifelong learning, cities are creating outdoor “thinkscapes” as well as indoor and outdoor interactive, informal learning spaces (e.g., educational mobile games where people of all ages can learn about the natural, cultural, and historic resources at city parks). Outdoors, amenities and facilities may include outdoor classrooms for nature programming support (e.g., shelter, seating, cabinets, tables, utilities), little libraries, free wi-fi and shaded outdoor tables in parks, game tables, and interactive interpretive signage and features that connect to additional online curricula. Indoors, community centers are being constructed to support preschools and reading readiness programs, DIY labs; STEAM educational resource rooms; and computer rooms for education, job seeking, and resume development.



Social Spaces: For children, playing with others provide an important opportunity to develop social skills. Even teens want to “see and be seen” as a type of social exploration and self-validation. Sacramento can introduce specific facilities that foster these social opportunities. For example, indoor esports game stations and cafés integrated in multi-generational spaces are replacing older models of isolated teen rooms. Outdoors, elements such as giant Adirondak chairs, fun art installations, treehouses, and raised viewpoints create awe-inspiring social spaces and selfie-moments (e.g., a designed photogenic space that appeals to social media).

Childcare and Teencare Facilities: YPCE plays an important role in providing childcare programs, which require dedicated indoor space with adjacent outdoor play space. The Department also takes advantage of partnerships with schools to offer afterschool programming and teen activities there. Because these facilities are expensive to build, operate and maintain, the City will continue to focus childcare and teencare facilities in vulnerable communities and utilize school facilities through partnerships.

Nature Access: Research shows it is important that children have daily experiences with trees, plants, and natural areas, so they have an intuitive appreciation of the natural world. Plants, trees, and open space stimulate exploration and discovery, providing a wide variety of exploratory and open-ended developmental opportunities.

Camp Sacramento is a fabulous example of a nature camp that facilitates this access, but more integrated nature connections are needed within the city. To do this, Sacramento can continue integrating features such as urban river access, urban group camps, nature trails in urban open space, community gardens, and interpretive signage explaining pollinator patches, bioswales, wildlife viewing options, etc. It may designate “naturehood” parks, where children and youth can walk to sites that include more accessible natural areas than manicured park spaces, where they can dig holes, pick plants, catch bugs, climb trees, play in dry-creek channels, and engage in similar activities that are typically discouraged in manicured parks.



Facility Needs: Diverse Communities and Cultures

Past practices in park development tended to standardize park facilities to “American” norms, targeting traditional families with younger children and traditional park facilities such as post and platform play equipment, basketball courts, and dispersed picnic tables that seat six people. In diverse communities such as Sacramento, there is a greater awareness and interest in providing facilities that inspire recreation among residents of different cultures, nationalities, languages, family configurations, and recreation interests. While YPCE must find the right balance between traditional/flexible and trending/specialized spaces, the following provide examples of recreation facilities that are seeing increased development and use across the United States and the world. They may be considered in design processes for new or renovated parks.

Cricket: Originating in England, cricket is a popular bat-and-ball sport played on a large grass field (typically oval in shape) ranging in diameter from 360-500 feet. The sport spread through colonial territories, and gained popularity in South Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Southern Africa, the West Indies, and the UK, as well as within global diasporas from those regions.

Futsal: The game of futsal comes from South America, and in recent years, has quickly gained attention as a companion to soccer. However, compared to soccer, futsal uses smaller teams, a denser low-bounce ball, and a smaller court, typically around 130 ft x 65 ft. Given its smaller footprint, the game requires different skills in ball control, navigation, and technique. The sport is regulated by AMF and FIFA, with large organizations supporting the growth and development of the sport worldwide, including across the U.S. Similar to soccer, futsal is globally popular and is played by all age groups.

Bocce: Bocce is a ball sport originating from Italy, that is commonly played in Europe, Australia, North America, and South America. As a non-contact game that requires more skill than strength, the sport offers more accessibility to different age groups and physical abilities, and has become a main sport of older adult communities and the Special Olympics. Bocce courts are typically outdoors, rectangular in shape (approx. 90 ft x 10 ft), with natural soil or asphalt.

Pétanque: With French origins, Pétanque is another ball sport that involves tossing/rolling their balls towards a target ball for closest proximity. The game is not frequently seen in the United States, but is played in Europe as well as regions of past French colonialism such as Laos, Vietnam, and some parts of Africa. The sport needs a flat open space, typically 15 ft x 50 ft, and is best played on loose gravel, decomposed granite, or similar material. Pétanque is a game of precision and focus, and can be played by most ages and abilities.

Padel: Originally from Mexico, padel (or padel tennis) is a racket sport typically played with doubles. Similar to squash, padel courts have walls against which the ball can be hit using solid stringless bats. Padel courts are enclosed and smaller than a traditional tennis court – one tennis court can hold three padel courts. This sport is popular in South America, Europe, and Oceania. The U.S. Padel Association was founded in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1993.

Badminton: Beginning in England, badminton is a racquet sport played on a rectangular court with a high net. The sport has a global fanbase, but in recent years has grown popularity in Asia, namely China. The sport requires agility, precision, and aerobic stamina, and is played by all ages. The equipment - long stringed racquets and a shuttlecock – are lightweight, resulting in a game that is relatively very quiet.



Sepak Takraw: Sepak takraw is a team-based foot volley sport from Malaysia that involves a plastic or rattan ball being volleyed over a net using feet, knees, shoulders, chest and head only. Similar to badminton, the game has two teams separated by a high net on a 44 ft x 20 ft court. Sepak Takraw is a national sport of Malaysia but is played across Asia and North America, as well as is played at the Asian Games. In the U.S., the sport is more commonly seen in areas with large Asian communities, namely Lao, Hmong, and Thai communities.

Adult Soccer: Soccer is one of the most globally popular sports, with significant world attention, investment, and operations. Relative to other parts of the world, the U.S. soccer scene is relatively behind, but demand is steadily growing across the county for more opportunities to play in this team sport. While youth soccer leagues are common, there is increasing interest in furthering opportunities for adult soccer play for exercise and socialization. To support regulation play, a soccer field must be at least 330 ft x 210 ft. Portable goals may be used, and fields must be level without holes or mounds. Soccer fields may also be used for other sports, such as ultimate Frisbee, rugby or football.

Tai Chi: Based in Chinese philosophy, tai chi is an art form that blends physical martial combat, mental meditation, and spiritual practice. Tai chi is aimed at strengthening the whole of the body and generating internal “chi”, or energy sourced from the living earth. Marked by a pattern of slow, deliberate movements, tai chi is practiced both individually and in groups. In recent years, tai chi (and the similar activity of Qigong) have gained popularity globally for holistic body strengthening, stretching and flexibility, calming and meditation, and connections to nature. Traditionally, individual or group practitioners will search out quiet locations near nature (amongst trees, adjacent to a stream, etc.), where there is more vital qi energy.

Yoga: Originating from ancient India, yoga has gained international popularity for its physical and mental health benefits. Traditionally used to augment spiritual connections by bringing harmony between mind, body, and spirit, the practice of yoga has skyrocketed across the world especially in Europe and North America. Yoga can be practiced individually or in group settings. It requires a flat open space area (indoors or outdoors), ideally in a quiet peaceful setting.

Group Public Dancing: Plazas and open space areas are increasingly being used for coordinated group dancing or aerobics, such as Zumba or other choreographed dances. While the style of dance and music differs around the world, this activity is typically used for fitness and socialization, and may attract a particular demographic as a “social club” activity. As examples, group dancing is highly popular in China amongst older women, as are public Zumba classes in North and South America. Fitness dancing may be more popular in the early morning or evening (avoiding work hours), whereas social group dancing is common in evenings. With these activities, there are noise considerations and, at times, conflicts between dancing activities and adjacent businesses/residences.

Public Karaoke / KTV: Another form of socialization, especially amongst older Asian communities, is karaoke (KTV) sung in public using a mobile karaoke machine. This is often done in parks, plazas, or open space areas, especially in the evenings. There are noise considerations with this activity.

Chess: Chess is an internally popular game, with a long history and multiple variations based on geography. An abstract strategy board game, Chess can sometimes be seen in public parks as built-in boardgame tables with seating for two players. As an example, New York City parks commonly have such built-in chess/checkers tables and are popular sites for game players to spend time, socialize, meet new people, and hone their game skills. Players bring their own chess pieces, and when the tables are not in use for chess they function as additional seating / rest points for park visitors.

Go: Similar to the game of chess, Go is an abstract strategy board game that involves two players carefully collecting their opponent’s pieces. Understood to be the oldest board game still in play, Go originated in China and gained popularity across Asia. While still relatively unknown in the U.S., Asian and non-Asian communities can be found playing and teaching the game of Go. As an example, the San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden hosts the local Go Club on a weekly basis to promote and teach the game.



Mahjong: Originating in China, Mahjong is a tile-based game that doesn't require a particular board. Ideally played on a square table, the three-to-four players cycle through series of hands to which tiles are added or omitted. The game requires skill, strategy, and luck, and allows socialization and company while also at times requiring quiet and focus. As an example, this game is played in Columbus Park in New York Chinatown, and often draws onlookers who enjoy watching the game unfold.

Suwe: With origins in Nigeria, the game of Suwe is a physical activity requiring balance and stamina. Similar to hopscotch, the game court is typically drawn on a flat surface using chalk, but also incorporates items (pebbles or other) that are tossed onto the drawn court.

Kite Flying: Kite flying is known globally, but it has particular popularity within certain areas of the world, such as Asia and the Middle East. Often, large open space is required, with no overhead barriers or risk of tangle/impact. While easy to learn, kite flying can increase in complexity and challenge with factors such as racing or competition, multiple kites or multiple strings, shape and material, and more. As a niche activity in the U.S., often locales will have affinity groups or clubs who meet on a regular basis to fly together. As an outdoor, affordable, and easy-to-access activity, this also appeals to families and people with differing abilities and resources.

Shinrin-yoku: This activity, also known as "forest bathing", originates from Japan and refers to the practice of immersing oneself outdoors to reconnect with nature using multiple senses. Basic actions include walking slowly and mindfully, being aware of one's senses, wandering to the pace of nature, silencing technology, and more. Practice locations do not need pristine nature or primitive wilderness but could also include urban forests or parks.

Fishing: Fishing is popular and familiar to all cultures around the world and provides a recreational activity and opportunity to connect with nature. Cities that are looking for ways for residents to engage with the natural environment might consider creating avenues for people to access water bodies, such as designated areas or platforms for fishing, rules and regulations for safety and conservation, maps and educational information, and fish stocking with appropriate fishery partners.

Plant Harvesting: Engaging with nature can go beyond merely viewing it, and instead create opportunities for people to touch, grow, and take designated plants or fruit. While community gardens are usually individual plots, cities could explore more communal landscapes where visitors can harvest, grow, contribute, and be educated about specific plants such as native species, fruit, vegetables, etc.



PROGRAM AND SERVICE NEEDS

YPCE provides camps, programs, activities, events, and social services to support youth wellbeing, lifelong recreation, enrichment, and community cohesiveness. As noted in Chapter 3, it delivers a broad range of quality programs and events to support three key program areas: 1) recreation and leisure; 2) youth development and empowerment; and 3) targeted community services and resources.

Within these categories, YPCE delivers a full spectrum of activities that include community events, sports, fitness, enrichment and learning, arts and cultural activities, nature programs, youth development and childcare, youth leadership and workforce development, youth engagement, access leisure, adult and senior services, community gardening, and volunteerism. Taken together, the City’s programs reflect the unique interests, needs, diversity history, cultural background, and socioeconomic makeup of the City of Sacramento.

Appendix D: Policies describes the services and strategies targeted for the provision of programs.

Target Program Outcomes

YPCE provides programs and services that promote:

Health and wellness	Fun and leisure
Social connections	Community cohesion
Lifelong learning	Skill development,
Youth development	Youth empowerment
Safe places to play	Personal enrichment
Civic engagement	Volunteerism
Connections to nature	Positive relationships

Program Management Needs

The changing availability of facilities, new funding sources, and the evolution of City programming over time will affect needs for program management over the next 20 years.

Community Center Oversight: In the recession of 2008, YPCE faced dramatic cuts in funding and staffing. The organization made some difficult but smart investment decisions to consolidate and focus resources on selected core services. For example, it handed off management responsibilities for several community centers to other organizations to be able to keep these buildings open. Many community centers were leased to other entities that made all decisions on staffing, programming, and management. This is a different from contracting out operations, where the Department would keep a voice in determining what types of programs and services the organizations offered.

Today, six of the 19 City’s community centers are leased out. (See Appendix A: Tabel A-3 for an inventory of leased facilities.) The leasing of the City’s indoor spaces limits City staff to implement the programming recommendations in this Parks Plan. Indoor facilities are anticipated to grow in importance over the next 20 years and beyond, as increasing urban heat, storms, and smoke from wildfires due to climate change are forcing more people to recreate indoors, particularly during the summer and particularly in vulnerable communities. Given the investment needed in maintenance and deferred park maintenance, YPCE has not had the additional resources that are needed or would be needed to take over facility management.

Two strategic moves are needed going forward:

- First, to make sure this arrangement works successfully and offers the benefits and quality of services the community desires, the City needs to continue to monitor and assess programming and management at leased City facilities. This includes having the right operational and programming guidelines in place, as well as standardized tools to evaluate the management, staffing and programming of leased facilities.
- Second, as the City increases its investment in youth programs and services, it will need to consider whether the organizations that control the six community centers are in position to increase youth programming or whether the additional funding should support YPCE’s management of targeted indoor facilities to expand youth programs and services. (See the discussion of Expanded Youth Programs and Services below.

Sports Field Management: One of YPCE’s core services is supporting sports for all ages. In limited situations, YPCE leases out sports fields (soccer, futsal, baseball, etc.). This is currently done at four of its sites. Entering into lease agreements with third parties allows improved maintenance in exchange fo primary or priority use by the lease. To diversify youth sports programs as well as sports for all ages, YPCE realizes it will need to identify more space for sports and invest in recreation staff to support scheduling, management and programming of increased sports fields. Going forward, it has an opportunity to diversify and offer more learn-to-play and recreational sports classes, camps, and leagues. This may mean less field time for competitive sports.

The caveat is that there is a citywide initiative to increase professional sports, sports tourism, and regional competitive participation specific to soccer, which is a strongly growing sport across many cultures. Programming at a competitive soccer field complex would require an entirely different management philosophy, marketing, maintenance, and cost recovery goals than the City’s existing fields. However, new fields would help meet the sports programming demand in the city and help YPCE be able to pivot the programming of lower quality fields to recreation play and drop-in uses.

Wading & Swimming Pool Staffing and Programs: Swimming pools are known as high-subsidy facilities that require tremendous financial and staffing resources to build, maintain, and operate. Still swimming programs are typically among the most popular offered. Besides being fun, these programs are also critical for promoting water safety and health. Wading pools were once seen as a lower cost alternative to swimming pools. However, the shallow standing water still requires staff monitoring for water quality and drowning prevention. Across the United States, the pandemic also brought unexpected disruptions to some services. One of the unexpected challenges has been the difficulty in hiring lifeguards.

As noted in the description of facility needs, YPCE is at a crossroads where aging wading and swimming pools, operational and deferred maintenance challenges, plus the opening of the North Natomas Aquatic Complex is forcing the realignment of resources. This includes closing some wading pools at the end of their lifecycles and decreasing the City’s guideline for the provision of new pools. With regards to programming, this suggests that YPCE pool programs will be reduced or shifted as well. Going forward, YPCE should prioritize learn-to-swim programs, recreational swim opportunities (including pool events), followed by water fitness and lap swimming as the community grows. It may lose the opportunity to support competitive swimming, sports such as water polo, swim training, and specialty classes such as water ballet, paddleboarding, kayaking, and water basketball.

Program Participation Tracking: As the City takes some facilities offline and provides new and different types of programmable facilities, YPCE will need to track, monitor, and report program participation data to measure the quality of programs and support decisions on the types of programs to provide. This makes it a priority to continue to maintain updated registration software, apply criteria to assess the success of new pilot programs, and periodically assess program delivery systems to ensure programs and services reflect current interest.

Program Service Needs

New recreation trends, changing demographics, and the desire for more inclusive, culturally responsive and health-focused programs will affect needs programs and services over the next 20 years.

Note: Youth programming needs will expand dramatically; these are described in a separate section below.

Expanded School Joint Use Agreements: The park analysis identified 85 neighborhoods that currently lack access to a City park within a 10 minute walking distance. Of those, 66 have no public parks nearby, but 32 have a public school within or adjacent to the gap boundary. Public schools pose potential joint-use recreation opportunities for the public. Since the City does not anticipate having funds to build parks in all of these areas, increased coordination with schools may be the best opportunity to serve several gaps. Schools may be willing to ensure their facilities are publicly accessible, but they are more likely to enter use agreements and/or support school parks where the City is able to bring additional resources to the partnership, such as improving, expanding, diversifying, or maintaining school outdoor recreation facilities. The City will need to prioritize this investment to help meet the unserved neighborhood’s park needs.

Mobile Recreation Programs and Events: In addition to school agreements, YPCE will need to expand its mobile recreation program to take programs to people who lack program and park access. This includes providing recreation activities and neighborhood events in targeted neighborhood parks located in disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, as well as hosting opportunities within park gaps.

There are several ways to do this:

- Invest in a diverse fleet of mobile units. The traditional mobile recreation van typically offers games, sports, and activities for youth in parks. In addition to these, more advanced mobile programming fleets feature different activities to make it easier to target specific topic-appropriate events and age groups, plus rotate programs to increase interest. For example, some cities have vans with trained staff and equipment to support nature programs, healthy living (e.g., fitness in parks; healthy food tastings), recreational sports, lifelong learning (e.g., with lending libraries, play robotics, and STEAM programs), and arts/music/cultural activities. By doing this, the City does more than support youth play. It introduces and inspires residents to visit parks and recreation spaces to partake in a variety of programs.
- Create a “portable facilities and parklets” program. Sacramento has temporary facilities such as movie screens and stages that can be set up periodically in parks for special events. It may explore offering more diverse options such as swings, climbing spires, youth-sized soccer goals, colorful tables/chairs, pianos and musical play equipment, etc., with trailers to haul these facilities to dispersed locations where residents do not have easy access. These can be set up in conjunction with mobile programs, that typically last several hours. They can also be provided in parklets—temporary programmed spaces that last several days or weeks – that convert a space such as a corner of a parking lot or a vacant grass area into a temporary park.

Programming for Diverse Cultures: As part of its commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) programs, YPCE will develop and provide programs that meet the unique recreation participation patterns and preferences of various ethnic, cultural, and language groups. It will strive to provide opportunities respectful of local Native American heritage and culture. To do this, there will be a need to increase the following types of programs:

- Arts, culture and recreation programs and events are needed to target unique cultural interests.
- Cross-cultural events and celebrations are needed to introduce residents to a variety of ethnic foods, music, arts, and interests to foster community cohesion.
- English language learning programs for non-native speakers, interpretation, and translation services are needed to support linguistically isolated communities in Sacramento.
- Recreation programs should be offered in multiple languages by diverse staff.

Expanded Health, Wellness, and Fitness Programs: To support its goals and respond to community priorities, YPCE will need to encourage personal fitness and community health through recreation programs and leisure services that support physical and mental health, exercise, and wellbeing. This includes increasing indoor and outdoor fitness programs (e.g., yoga and boot camps in parks, learn-to-play sports such as pickleball or bocce, and caretaker-child play programs). It also include organizing and hosting events and activities such as races, walkathons, walking groups, and 10,000 step challenges—in addition to sports leagues, camps, and classes for all ages. In conjunction with Environmental Justice strategies, YPCE will also increase indoor and outdoor healthy food initiatives by expanding community gardening programs, healthy cooking, and healthy eating programs.

Expanded Community Events: Sacramento residents want a greater variety of special events in City parks and parkways. To meet this need, YPCE will continue to partner to facilitate events,

but also expand events that it hosts aligned with the City’s core recreation and community services, such as those supporting health, sports, arts and culture, aquatics, nature interpretation, as well as community celebrations. Where City Council members, partners, and others are interested in funding or coordinating events in parks or indoor facilities (including large group activities, special events, parades, processions, or assemblies), YPCE will need clear processes, protocols, and defined responsibilities to facilitate and permit events. This includes identifying fees and charges associated with any direct costs (e.g., utilities, materials), staff time (e.g., set-up, clean-up), and facility use (e.g., to offset long-term facility renovation or replacement). These processes will ensure that “facilitated” events do not take staff time or recreation funds away from other programs, unless YPCE has identified a reason to partner and take on these added costs.

Expanded Nature-Based Programming: City residents expressed a desire for increased opportunities to connect with nature. In general, there is a lack of resources given toward nature-based connections within YPCE parkways and open space areas. In lieu of providing physical connections to nature, YPCE can continue its Camp Sacramento program and bring other nature-based programs, classes, and trips to residents supporting outdoor adventure, environmental education, nature interpretation, and outdoor skills. For example, it could host stargazing programs, tree-climbing, non-motorized boating, wildlife and river studies, creek clean-up days, tree-planting programs, park restoration programs, wildlife counts, tree and species inventories, and similar activities.

Community Care, Inclusive Services, and Resources: The Parks Plan and the concurrent 2040 General Plan update identified a need to increase YPCE’s role in social service programs, particularly in Environmental Justice areas or for targeted citywide activities, such as the Special Olympics, and initiatives, such as Title 9 programs for gender equality. YPCE offers many successful programs such as Access Leisure, food programs, and adult care programs. Increasing these and adding additional programs will require more funding support.

Expanded Youth Programs and Services

With support from the mayor and the merger with Office of Youth Development (OYD), YPCE and the rest of the city of Sacramento has been increasing youth programming over the last five years. The passage of Measure L, the Sacramento Children and Youth Health and Safety Act, voters will redirect significant fundings to enhance services for children, youth, and young adults under the age of 25. Increased services will especially target mental health, violence intervention, youth workforce development, youth summer and afterschool programs, early childhood education, and support services. A new strategic planning process will determine how best to apply those funds.

YPCE has long supported youth health and wellbeing, as well as workforce development, through its recreation and youth programs. Even in its role as facility provider, YPCE supports site programmatic enhancements and maintenance that support youth. In addition to expanding youth facilities, YPCE has an opportunity to redefine its core services for children, youth, and young adults. This service realignment will help it achieve its goal to create and help navigate critical pathways for youth development, safety and health.

YPCE programs will continue to support youth health and wellbeing by encouraging fitness, fun, inclusiveness, skill development, team building, social opportunities, and community cohesion. Through facilitation, collaboration, and the provision of selected services, YPCE will also support the health, mental health, and wellbeing of at-risk children and youth.

To help achieve the goals of Measure L, YPCE can strengthen its role in supporting the following:

- Recreation, Sports, and Enrichment Programs (For Ages 0-25)
- Childcare and Out-of-School Programs
- Child Development and Educational Support
- Support for At-Risk and Special Needs Youth
- Youth Empowerment, Civic Engagement, and Leadership
- Workforce Development
- Family Empowerment to Support Youth

Figure 6-1 illustrates the variety of programs that could be expanded to support youth.



Figure 6-1. Children and Youth Programs and Services for Ages 0-25



Recreation, Sports, and Enrichment Programs

- Aquatics and Water Play
- Arts, Graphic Arts, Music and Culture
- Enrichment and Skill-building
- Esports
- Health, Wellness, and Fitness
- Nature Interpretation and Education
- Sports, Gymnastics and Martial Arts
- Healthy Lifestyle Programs
- Teen Social Events, Trips, and Activities
- Special Events and Fairs
- Virtual Programs



Childcare and Out-of-School Programs

- Before and After School Programs
- Summer Camps
- Winter/Spring Break Camps
- Childcare



Support for At-Risk and Special Needs Youth

- Adaptive and Therapeutic Recreation
- Food, Meal, and Snack Distribution
- Enrichment Opportunities for Foster Children and Homeless Youth
- Mental Health Resources
- PAL Partnerships
- Shuttle and Transportation Programs
- Volunteer Credits for Recreation
- School and Life Resources Distribution
- Haircuts and Personal Support
- Health Checks
- Support for Special Olympics



Child Development and Educational Support

- Preschool
- Reading Readiness Programs
- Homework Help & Tutoring (in Afterschool Programs)
- English Language Learning for Non-Native Speakers
- Wi-Fi-Based Educational Centers



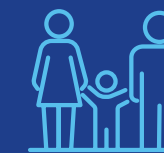
Youth Empowerment, Civic Engagement, and Leadership

- Youth Volunteerism
- Youth Ambassadors
- Youth Commission
- Summer@City Hall



Youth Workforce Development

- Computer Skills Training
- Resume Writing and Job Application Support
- Internships
- Paid Work Programs (Landscape and Learning, Junior Lifeguards, Junior Park Ranger)



Family Empowerment and Support

- Caretaker-Child Activities and Events
- Caretaker-Child Play Groups
- Parenting, Babysitting, and Childcare Training
- Mother Nutrition and Pregnancy Exercise
- Family Resource Centers
- Health & Wellness Resource Referrals

PARK MAINTENANCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT NEEDS

YPCE is tasked with maintaining their parks and facilities to ensure clean, safe, and enjoyable recreational spaces. This includes the regular day-to-day care known as “routine” maintenance, as well as “preventative” maintenance tasks such as monitoring and inspections. It also includes natural resource stewardship tasks such as tree care and invasives removal. The Department also must repair and/or replace old and worn facilities at the end of their lifecycles.

While park maintenance is an ongoing operational task and asset replacement is typically a one-time or periodic project, the two are frequently described together. A deficiency in maintenance will accelerate facility aging, wear, and tear to the point where a major repair or facility replacement is needed. For this reason, these types of capital projects are described as “deferred maintenance.” This plan refers to the combination of deferred maintenance and regular facility replacement together as asset management. The safety and condition of park amenities depends on service levels for maintenance and asset management.

Maintenance Service Levels

Park and facility maintenance has been an ongoing concern in Sacramento since the 2005-2010 Parks and Recreation Plan was adopted, when maintenance was falling below acceptable levels. Fortunately, the passage of Measure U in 2012 and 2018 allowed the City to normalize a baseline level of maintenance, which was described as the “lowest acceptable level of citizen satisfaction.”

In 2023, YPCE redefined its maintenance core services, levels of service, and task frequencies. The baseline level remains and is defined as the current level of service. The Park Maintenance Division provides its core services to all parks as same level regardless of classification--meaning Neighborhood, Community, and Regional parks all receive a basic level of maintenance, defined as Level 3. However, two higher maintenance levels are defined, in case maintenance resources increase. There are considered “aspirational” levels of service, defined as Levels 1 and 2.

Core Services describe tasks that are considered YPCE maintenance responsibilities:

Mowing and General Landscape Maintenance; Automated Irrigation Programming; Irrigation Repair; and Clean Up and Inspection (e.g., restroom cleaning, waste pick up and removal, playground monitoring, inspection for hazards and vandalism, etc.)

Non-Core Services describe tasks are only addressed if additional funding or partnership/volunteer support is provided:

Specialized Turf and Landscape Maintenance (e.g., fertilization, turf renovation, athletic field preparation, etc.)





Level 1:

Very high level of service. Maintenance at this level exceeds the expected level of citizen satisfaction. Parks are consistently monitored and cleaned with very high frequency, turf is mowed, and edged; turf is maintained throughout the year so that brown spots, weeds, over irrigated areas are greatly reduced; staff is more visible in parks and readily accessible to provide customer service to the park patrons; safety issues like vandalism and graffiti, if any, have minimal impact on the public.

Gaps: None



Level 2:

Higher level of service. Maintenance at this level frequently exceeds the expected level of citizen satisfaction. Park conditions are improved due to increased frequency of core tasks; trash and litter are picked up with greater frequency (multiple times a day, as necessary); mowing, edging, and other detail-oriented core tasks (e.g., frequent mulching of non-turfed planter areas) are performed with greater frequency and improve overall park appearance.

Gaps: Preventive and regular maintenance of park amenities is delayed. "End of Life" replacements are generally delayed; Fertilization, over-seeding, aerification of sports fields are performed below recommended intervals.



Level 3:

Current level of maintenance and service based on existing funding. Maintenance at this level is the lowest expected level of citizen satisfaction. Core tasks are regularly completed; litter can be found in the parks but is regularly picked up (daily); restrooms are serviced at minimum of daily; turf is in generally good condition, but there are some seasonal issues with brown spots and tall grass; graffiti and vandalism is remediated as soon as practically possible; annual mulching of selected areas; weeds in shrub beds occur from time to time; customer complaints are minimal.

Gaps: Preventive and regular maintenance of park amenities is severely delayed. Reactive maintenance occurs frequently. "End of Life" replacements are severely delayed or non-existent; Fertilization, over-seeding, aerification of sports fields is performed only in selected areas as funding supports.

Table 6-6. Park Maintenance Service Levels for Core Services

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3 (Current)
Mowing			
Mowing	Every 4 days	Every 5 days	Every 7 days
Edging (mechanical)	Weekly	Weekly	Monthly
Chemical Application	5x per year	4x per year	2x per year
Hand Mowing	Every 4 days	Every 5 days	Every 7 days
Weed Trimming (mechanical)	Every 2 weeks	Every 3 weeks	Every 4-5 weeks
Irrigation			
Irrigation Programming	Weekly	Weekly	Seasonally
Irrigation PM / RM	Weekly	Monthly	Reactive Maintenance
Clean-Up & Inspection			
Restrooms	3x per day	2x per day	1-2x per day
Hazards & Vandalism	Daily	Daily	Daily
Park Amenities	Daily	Daily	Daily
Play Areas	Daily	Daily	Daily
Picnic Areas	2x per day	Daily	Daily
Tennis / Basketball Courts	Daily	Daily	Daily
Hardscape / Walkways	Daily	Daily	Daily
Waste Pick-Up			
Waste Pick-up & Removal	More than 2x per day	2x per day	1-2x per day
Landscape Maintenance			
Fertilization	2x per year	1x per year	0-1x per year
Turf Renovation (major)	Every 3 years	Every 5 years	Per Available Funding
Turf Renovation (minor)	Every 1 year	Every 1 year	Per Available Funding
Aerification	Every 1 year	Every 2 years	Per Available Funding
Shrub Bed Maintenance	3x per year	2x per year	1x per year
Ground Cover Maintenance	3x per year	2x per year	1x per year
Leaf Removal (seasonal)	1x per day	1x per day	1x per day
Tree Pruning	1x per 5 years	1x per 5 years	1x per 5 years

Asset Management Needs

Parks better serve the public when their amenities are in good condition. Cities must apply effective asset management strategies to address preventative and routine maintenance needs, plus the ongoing asset management required to address the wear, aging, and damage of park assets and landscaping. The funding and staffing shortage that followed the 2008 Recession affected YPCE’s ability to maintain, repair, and replace old and worn facilities. Since some facilities were newer at that time, the quality of parks and condition of amenities differs tremendously across Sacramento.

In 2014, YPCE began a Deferred Maintenance Study to provide a comprehensive evaluation and accounting of the condition of all park amenities. YPCE staff assessed improvement costs and scored each amenity in three categories:

- Safety:** Assessed the amenity’s safety of use or potential to create a safety hazard.
- Code:** Identified if the amenity violated any codes and to what degree.
- Operations:** Evaluated how well the amenity functioned compared to when it was first installed and assessed the amenity’s aesthetic appearance.

The Deferred Maintenance Study found that more than \$140.5 million worth of repairs and improvements were needed for over 5,000 park amenities. The amenities with the worst average scores were restrooms, stages, park lighting, and water mister areas. Paved areas and parking lots were also identified for improvement. The Council Districts with the worst average scores included Council Districts 2, 3, and 4.

When projects were prioritized, Council District 1 had the greatest number of “highest priority” projects for implementation, even though its parks were in the best condition overall. This was because staff and Councilmembers were able to choose the top priorities for implementation so that each Council District ends up with the same number of funded projects. The asset condition scores only partially influenced this selection. This process helped distribute projects geographically, but not equitably. The result was that parks with the worst safety, code, and operational scores were not necessarily ranked as the highest priorities for improvements.



Park and Project Ranking and Prioritization

Since then, YPCE has continued to re-evaluate deferred maintenance projects and has gradually completed some. Even with Measure U funding, it has not been able to complete all projects.

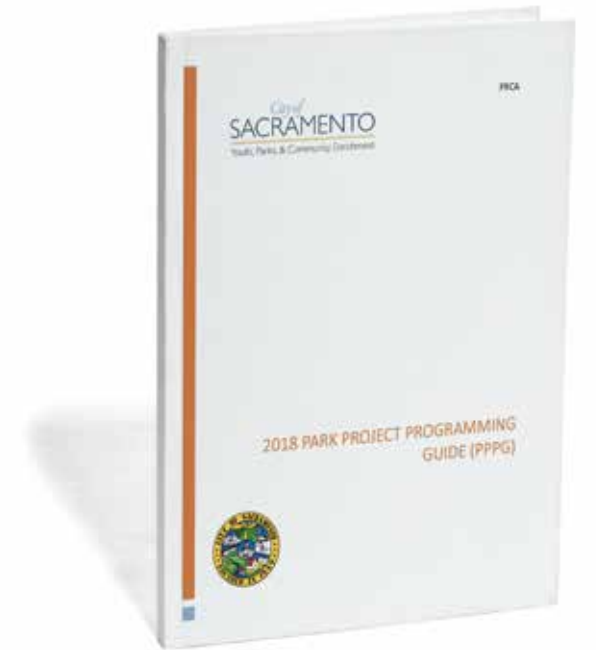
The City uses a process to prioritize projects that is outlined in its Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG). The 2018 PPPG prioritizes improvements based on costs, amenity condition, and/or community needs. The point system used to identify priority projects includes these factors:

- Maintenance funding availability
- Neighborhood, community, and/or regional need
- Site significance/public priority or public use
- Location in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood
- Health and safety/legal mandates
- Land availability
- Cost offsets/partnerships

While this approach improved YPCE’s prioritization process and allocation of funding, the PPPG scoring system still contains inconsistencies that leave some projects with more severe deferred maintenance issues off the priority list. This speaks to the need for a revised prioritization tool and process to determine which projects to advance when funding allows. The tool should factor in equitable project needs. (See Chapter 8 and Appendix G for recommendations related to a new implementation tool.)

Deferred Maintenance Prioritization and Needs

YPCE needs a new prioritization tool and process to provide an equitable, more transparent, and data-driven approach to evaluating and prioritizing park improvements. This will help focus investment in the sites that need it most.





07

KEY DIRECTIONS

This chapter defines YPCE's values, vision, and mission. Recognizing that Parks Plan identifies more "needs" that YPCE can meet, it also introduces and summarizes the highest priority directions for plan implementation.

KEY DIRECTIONS

The City of Sacramento's 2040 General Plan's vision for Sacramento, is that the City of Sacramento will be a national model of sustainable, equitable growth and community development. The City's parks, recreation programs, and enrichment opportunities are integral to achieving this vision. As shown in the last three chapters, the community's needs for parks and programs are extensive, and the community desires a greater investment in the park and recreation system.

To guide YPCE staff in meeting these needs, this chapter identifies the values, vision, and mission that guide the department efforts. It also describes YPCE's integral role achieving the City's overarching vision for its future. This planning framework provides context for nine Key Directions introduced in this chapter. These implementation directions are intended to focus YPCE efforts in enhancing parks and recreation infrastructure and services over the next twenty years.

VISION

In 2040, the City of Sacramento will be a national model of sustainable, equitable growth and community development.



2040 VISION

The new 2040 General Plan for the City of Sacramento provides a policy roadmap for community livability. It identifies a guiding Vision for the City of Sacramento, which was adopted by the City Council in November 2019 following extensive community input. The Vision is supported by broader statements—of which excerpts are noted here—showing how integral YPCE’s efforts are toward providing equitable parks, recreation, parkways, programs, and services play in achieving the City’s vision for the future.

- Sacramento will continue to be a dynamic regional center of culture, diversity, jobs, food, and beautiful parks and trees, and will cultivate inclusive access to opportunity and healthy living.
- Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit options will be prioritized over automobiles. Every resident will feel the freedom to walk and bike safely and comfortably.
- Every neighborhood will be a desirable place to live, with safe streets, extensive tree canopy, a range of housing choices, mixed-use neighborhood centers, great schools, parks and recreation facilities, and convenient connections to jobs, services, and nature.
- Through its continued progress toward Sacramento’s 2045 climate neutrality goal, the city will also achieve other, interconnected goals: healthy, climate-safe homes, green spaces and tree canopy for all, an efficient zero-emissions transportation system, clean air, and a thriving, sustainable economy.
- Recognizing the future challenges of climate change, Sacramento will build resilience for all its communities, especially the most vulnerable.
- Sacramento will invest in its aging infrastructure and prioritize carbon-neutral transport, and will have clean air, water, and “complete” streets.
- Sacramento will also invest in its human capital today, prioritizing investment in youth, the adults and leaders of 2040.
- Sacramento will ensure the just and equitable treatment of all neighborhoods and people, address historical inequities, and ensure broad community participation and ownership in public processes, as well as accountability in implementing plans.
- Sacramento will continue to celebrate its cultural and ethnic diversity and will foster the arts, protect historic, cultural, and natural resources, and cultivate its extensive urban forest, parks and riverways.



YPCE VALUES, VISION, AND MISSION

In the Fall of 2018, YPCE released a 2018-2023 Strategic Plan that represented a comprehensive blueprint to guide future departmental action. It was the seminal document marking the transformation of the previous Department of Parks & Recreation into the Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment. To ground their five-year strategy, the YPCE defined their department’s values, vision, mission, which is carried forward through this Parks Plan.

Figure 7-1: YPCE’s Values, Vision, and Mission



OUR VALUES are the characteristics and ideals that guide the department and shape staff culture; they are the characteristics and ideals that inspire our work.

Enjoyment & Fun

Safety

Stewardship

Customer Service

Excellence

Innovation

Collaboration

Inclusiveness & Equity



OUR VISION describes our desired future. It is what motivates our day-to-day work and our long-term planning.

Our beautiful parks and enriching programs create a thriving community with healthy, strong, and cohesive neighborhoods.



OUR MISSION describes our purpose and the type of work that we do. It reflects the business of our department.

Together we empower our youth, strengthen neighborhoods, and provide life-enriching programs for a beautiful livable community.

PARKS PLAN KEY DIRECTIONS

From this planning context, as well as from community priorities and the technical analysis of needs, nine key directions emerged that will change the way YPCE manages, develops, and enhances parks, facilities, and programs. These key directions reflect the recommended focus areas for the strategic use of YPCE resources to enhance parks and recreation over the next 20 years. The Key Directions each include priority action items to implement the Parks Plan.

Figure 7-2. Parks Plan 2040 Key Directions



KEY DIRECTION 1: PROVIDE SAFE, WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS AND FACILITIES

The community’s desire to focus on park safety, condition, and maintenance emerged as one of the top themes across all public engagement activities. To improve park safety, condition, and maintenance, YPCE should focus on the following recommendations:

- Adopt a new project prioritization tool and process.
- Ensure adequate maintenance funds, staffing, and resources are available for all parks.
- Continue YPCE’s Parks Ranger Program and community safety initiatives.

ADOPT A NEW PROJECT PRIORITIZATION TOOL

As noted in Chapter 6, the current prioritization tool and process as defined in the PPPG has not equitably prioritized projects in areas where parks and facilities are in the poorest condition. The PPPG should be updated to adopt a new tool and refined process, as guided by the recommended implementation tools presented in the Parks Plan 2040. This will support park safety and improved park conditions. (See Chapter 8 and Appendix G.)

ENSURE ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE RESOURCES

YPCE must balance the maintenance needs of new and existing parks, and it will need more resources to do so. As noted in Chapter 6, all existing parks currently receive a baseline level of maintenance. All sites are maintained at this same level. This lowest level is reactive, not proactively taking care of park assets. Even with the investment of Measure U funding, YPCE has lacked sufficient funding to take care of sports fields and facilities at their end of their lifecycle. It also is unable to provide the enhanced level of maintenance needed at high use sites and sites with specialized facilities.

The Parks Plan recognizes the current maintenance funding is deficient. This maintenance deficiency will grow as the City develops new parks to meet the standards set in this plan. It’s critical to identify existing resources before new parks and facilities are brought online.

To better understand true maintenance costs and needs, YPCE should apply updated maintenance cost assumptions to inform annual budgeting processes and identify sites where an enhanced level of maintenance is needed to keep up with a higher level of park use. (See Chapter 8 and Appendix F for new cost estimates that can be used to support accurate costing.) This new approach to maintenance should factor in the needs of sites that do not have community facility districts in place to help fund park maintenance. YPCE must fully account for and identify new sources of funding to maintain all existing and new parks, plus support the necessary ongoing capital replacement (asset management). For existing parks, annual budgets plans must address the true costs of park management caused by increasing park use, crime, homelessness, and storm damage in recent years.

CONTINUE YPCE’S PARKS RANGER PROGRAM AND SAFETY INITIATIVES

YPCE has a number of initiatives that support improved park aesthetics and safety. Given the important role played by the Park Ranger Program and citywide Incident Management Team, these services will require additional investment to expand as park use and the number of parks continue to grow. YPCE will also continue to increase efforts to host park clean-ups such as Adopt-a-Park and the new and improved VIP volunteer programs. The increased presence will help increase park safety and positive park behaviors. This park activation will require more resources.

KEY DIRECTION 2: PROVIDE QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS

Every resident in Sacramento deserves a great park and quality programs that support a high quality of life. YPCE should prioritize the following to ensure the City continues to provide high quality parks, facilities, programs, and services.

- Adopt and implement the new park policies, guidelines, and standards.
- Develop minimum requirements for neighborhood parks.
- Target investment in “deficient” sites.
- Pursue accreditation by the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) to demonstrate quality park and program management and services.

ADOPT PARK POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

The Park Plan 2040 proposes detailed policies and strategies to guide level of service, park acquisition, development, renovation, programming, maintenance, and management. The policies are intended to guide YPCE in supporting its core services, including:

- **Parks, Parkways & Open Space:** Provide well-designed, high-quality parks, parkways, and open space that are accessible to all City residents.
- **Recreation Facilities:** Diversify recreation facilities to support active and passive, indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- **Programs, Events, and Services:** Promote youth wellbeing, lifelong recreation, enrichment, and community cohesiveness through inclusive programs, events, and services for all residents.

- **Maintenance & Stewardship:** Strategically maintain and manage assets and natural resources to support park use, stewardship, sustainability, and resilience.
- **Administration and Management:** Ensure success through administrative, operational, and organizational excellence.
- **Financial Investment:** Support the investment needed to sustain the park and recreation system by diversifying funding, ensuring the wise use of financial resources, and cultivating economic impacts.

Presented in Appendix D, these policies and strategies were integrated and refined from eight different sources, so that YPCE would have consolidated direction for their core services.

The Parks Plan also recommends new parkland level of service standards, which are defined in Chapter 6 and Appendix D. These were established through community input, as well as collaboration with and guidance from the YPCE Project Management Team, the YPCE Executive Team, the Parks, and Community Enrichment Commission, and the Sacramento Youth Commission.

In addition, the Parks Plan updates YPCE’s guidelines for park planning, acquisition, site selection, design, development, sustainability, resiliency, and facility development. Presented in Appendix E, the new Park Development and Renovation Guidelines introduce new JEDI design considerations and target guidelines for each park type by classification. The new guidelines will apply to existing and new parks provided by either the City or by developers building neighborhood and community parks within residential subdivisions.

Vetted through advisory group guidance, all of these new policies, standards and guidelines should be adopted and implemented to guide the provision of parks, facilities, programs, and services.

DEVELOP MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Given the City’s desire to provide parks within walking distance of all residents, the Parks Plan 2040 conducted a detailed analysis of park service areas and gaps. It recognized that the City’s existing neighborhood parks vary widely in their size, condition, level of development and recreation value. For this reason, the Parks Plan began distinguishing three types of neighborhood parks: the multi-use neighborhood park, the pocket park, and the neighborhood playlot.

The Plan introduces new standards that require new neighborhood parks in new or unserved residential areas to be multi-use neighborhood parks. These sites will support a mix of play, picnicking, sports, and leisure activities for nearby neighbors that live within walking or biking distance. Typical facilities would include playgrounds, unlighted sport fields or sport courts, individual or small group picnic areas, smaller outdoor facilities, open lawn areas, and amenities to support local use. Some neighborhood parks may also include additional natural open space or joint use detention features.

Exceptions may be made to provide playlots and pocket parks either 1) in unserved areas where no sufficient vacant land is available for a multi-use neighborhood park; 2) where there is remnant land available for redevelopment; or 3) in new developments as a way to supplement or exceed park requirements. Appendix E defines these new park guidelines and sets minimum sizes for new parks. This will help ensure that YPCE is able to provide quality parks and does not receive small, left-over remnants of land for new park development.

TARGET INVESTMENT IN “DEFICIENT” SITES

Chapter 5 evaluated park sites that were too small or underdeveloped to meet minimum requirements for multi-use neighborhood parks. Of these, 14 Potential Sites for Priority Enhancement were defined based on their small size, insufficient level of development, and lack of nearby parks. These sites are candidates for expansion and/or added amenities and facilities because residents do not have access to quality parks anywhere in the vicinity. YPCE should prioritize providing added amenities, facilities, or other sites enhancements in these sites where feasible. If expansion or additional development is not feasible, YPCE should consider bringing mobile recreation programming to these neighborhoods.

PURSUE CAPRA ACCREDITATION

NRPA’s Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) delivers quality assurance and improvement to accredited park and recreation departments throughout the United States. The CAPRA operational management system improves infrastructures, increases efficiency in all activities, and demonstrates accountability. CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation departments and is a valuable measure of a department’s overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community. In time, YPCE should pursue CAPRA accreditation to demonstrate quality park and program management and services. Achieving CAPRA accreditation is the best way to demonstrate that YPCE staff and the City of Sacramento provide the community with the highest level of service possible.

KEY DIRECTION 3: ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS

The desire for improved park accessibility and access, along with a more equitable investment in parks, emerged as key themes heard during the community engagement process. YPCE should prioritize the following recommendations to ensure equitable access to parks and programs.

- Provide parks within walking distance of homes in new residential areas.
- Triage park development and services in existing unserved “gaps.”
- Adopt a new project prioritization tool and process.
- Ensure universal access to parks for all abilities.

PROVIDE PARKS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF NEW HOMES

The Parks Plan 2040 sets a standard to provide a neighborhood park, community park, or regional park within a 10-minute walk (approximately a half mile) of all residents. Chapter 5 maps and evaluates the proposed locations of planned future parks in comparison to the City’s forecasted population to determine where additional parks will be needed. YPCE will continue to coordinate with developers to provide these new parks, using the Park Development and Renovation Guidelines in Appendix E.

TRIAGE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES IN UNSERVED GAPS

In Chapter 5, the Parks Plan identifies 66 gaps where residents are unserved by parks. All of these residents deserve quality parks. The residents in more than 46 gaps are considered highly vulnerable or medium-highly vulnerable, which makes these gaps a priority to provide some type of park or recreation opportunity within walking distance. Since the City lacks the resources to remedy these gaps immediately, it should triage services and solutions. Solutions to strategically increase access or greenspace in park deficient areas and gaps are noted in Appendix D. Going forward, YPCE should:

- Invest in a mobile recreation fleet to bring varied staff-led recreation activities, programs, facilities, and equipment to unserved and park deficient areas. YPCE should rotate the activities so that residents have access to and can explore a variety of recreation options. (See Chapter 6.)
- Focus park acquisition efforts in the nine gap areas of the highest need. These are gaps in high-density residential areas; where the majority of the population is non-White, Hispanic, or Latino; the community is described as having high or medium-high vulnerability levels; and there are no other public parks or open spaces nearby. (See Chapter 5.)
- Meet with school districts to discuss opportunities to expand joint-use agreements, especially in gaps. As noted in Appendix C, 32 gaps have a public school within or adjacent to the gap boundary.
- Explore opportunities to provide small footprint facilities on partner sites and small park properties where larger parks are not feasible. These can leverage small existing greenspaces, such as unused lawn or space around schools, libraries, fire stations, utility corridors, etc. They can also be added to new or former playlots and pocket parks. (See Chapter 6.)
- Explore other options for park acquisition or development, including incentivizing private providers to offer public-accessible private open space or recreation opportunities. (See Appendix D.)

ADOPT A NEW PRIORITIZATION TOOL AND PROCESS

Key Direction #1 describes the need to update the PPPG and adopt a new prioritization tool and process to focus improvements on sites in the poorest condition. The revised tool should also factor in health, density, population vulnerability especially focusing on the youngest of our residents to our older adults, underserved groups, diversity, access, resiliency needs, urgency and ease of implementation to help prioritize projects that support equitable access to new or existing parks, recreation facilities, and programs or remedy barriers and other access issues. The GIS equity dashboard, created as a way to help evaluate park improvements, should be expanded and used to inform the new prioritization process. (See Chapter 8 and Appendix G.)

ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PARKS FOR ALL ABILITIES

YPCE will continue to meet or exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) to provide accessible parks, facilities, and paths that support greater facility use by people of all abilities. As the City develops new regional and community parks, it should explore options to provide a destination universal, all-inclusive play area that supports stimulation for multiple senses; provides parallel play elements with different levels of challenge for abled, differently abled, and disabled visitors. It will also explore options to add smaller universal play elements in neighborhood parks.



KEY DIRECTIONS

KEY DIRECTION 4: SUPPORT HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR ALL

The public engagement process noted a strong desire among residents to invest in parks and programs as ways to support individual and community health. Post-pandemic, the value of park and recreation system in supporting health and fitness is more widely understood and appreciated. YPCE should implement the following recommendations to support health and wellness:

- Increase the number of spray areas across the city.
- Provide facilities, programs, and resources to support physical and mental health, fitness, and wellbeing.
- Support cultural identity and diversity.

INCREASE SPRAY AREAS ACROSS THE CITY

Chapter 6 and Appendix E introduce new guidelines for the provision of water misters, spray areas, and spray features. These are critical in supporting affordable, accessible water play options to support cooling and community health. Going forward, YPCE will convert wading pools at their end of their lifecycles into spray areas to offer similar cooling opportunities without high maintenance and operations costs. The Department will also reduce its level of service for swimming pools. This means that the City will not add new pools as its population grows. As existing pools age over the next 20 years and/or reach the point where they are inoperable without significant renovations, these pools should be evaluated for their return on investment before renovations are made. When pools and aquatic facilities are renovated or replaced, YPCE will re-evaluate swimming needs, pool utilization, as well as opportunities to develop destination spray areas that attract people from throughout the city.

SUPPORT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, FITNESS, AND WELLBEING

Recreation and leisure services are intended to support relaxation, inspiration, play, and rejuvenation—all of which lead to individual and community physical and mental health benefits. In addition, research shows that park greenery, time spent outdoors, and connections to nature also have broad health benefits. YPCE will continue to prioritize these outcomes through park design, development, maintenance, and programs. In addition, YPCE will expand programs associated with Community Care, Inclusive Services, and Resources. Initially, these programs will target youth (see Key Direction #5). The youth process for resource allocation will create a model to expand health resources and services for all ages, including seniors. (Note: Appendix D includes strategies for YPCE to help implement the recommendations in the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan.)

SUPPORT CULTURAL IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY

Chapter 6, Appendix D, and Appendix E provide guidelines for the development of parks, facilities, and programs that are welcoming to diverse audiences across different age groups, cultures, languages, and lifestyles. While balancing traditional, trending, and diverse programs, YPCE will initiate pilot programs each year to introduce a minimum of one new cultural celebration or event, two new culturally diverse programs, and two varied facilities targeting diverse communities and cultures.



KEY DIRECTION 5: SUPPORT YOUTH SAFETY, WELLBEING, AND DEVELOPMENT

With the passage of Measure L, targeted youth programs will receive a strong investment to support mental health, violence intervention, youth workforce development, youth summer and afterschool programs, early childhood education, and support services. YPCE should prioritize the following to enhance services for children, youth, and young adults under the age of 25:

- Complete the Five-year Strategic Investment Plan to prioritize Measure L funding.
- Support Sacramento Children’s Fund and implementation of the Five-Year Strategic Investment Plan.
- Provide a range of recreation and enrichment programs for toddlers, children, youth, tweens, teens, and young adults.
- Expand programs and services to support youth health, special needs, educational programs, childcare, youth development, workforce/volunteer training, and family support.



IMPLEMENT THE YOUTH STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

The City of Sacramento, Sacramento Children’s Fund Planning and Oversight Commission and the Sacramento Youth Commission (SYC) are collaborating to complete a strategic investment plan to guide the use of the Sacramento Children’s Fund (SCF). SCF, the amendment to Sacramento Children and Youth Health and Safety Act, raises important questions about the ways in which the City and Youth Development team together will collaborate w to better support youth mental health, violence intervention, and support for homeless youth. However, it also will uncover the fact that YPCE’s own efforts to provide, maintain, and manage facilities and programs for youth ages 0-25 have been stymied by a lack of funding. This strategic plan should raise—and answer—questions on how best to invest in activities and services that support youth health, mental health, and wellbeing. In light of the merger, it should clearly define YPCE/OYD’s combined roles and responsibilities in youth services, within the context of other providers.

DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN RECREATION ASSETS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Chapter 6 of the Parks Plan describes facility needs for youth ages 0-25 years. Additional policies in Appendices D and E provide additional guidance to ensure that new and renovated parks diversify opportunities for younger children, youth, teens, and especially younger adults. The Parks Plan 2040 recommends the following:

- Diversify play experiences. Traditional play equipment serves children ages 2-5 and 5-12. YPCE should diversify play to inspire more creativity and youth development, by providing more thematic play, destination play, and nature play areas. It should include multi-generational/all ages play options.

- Expand challenge features. Add more engaging facilities indoors and outdoors that attract use by youth and young adults, such as climbing walls/spires, bike skills areas and pump tracks, disc golf, zip lines, parkour, skate parks and plazas, non-motorized boat launches, Esports venues and DIY/STEAM/technology labs. These facilities will challenge youth, teens, and young adults physically and mentally, while supporting other benefits.
- Proceed with a sustainable approach to water play and swimming. YPCE will replace wading pools with spray areas and focus pool opportunities on learn-to-swim and recreation swim programs as it changes the ways in which it supports cooling and water play.
- Expand sports, fitness, and health. (See Key Direction #4.)
- Increase maintenance resources for programed park spaces rather than maintaining all park types equally. (See Key Direction #1.) This will support safe and healthy youth programming.

PROVIDE A RANGE OF RECREATION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

YPCE provides recreation programs and activities for toddlers, children, youth, tweens, teens, and young adults. It has prioritized its limited funding on providing programs in target areas only but sees an opportunity to expand services across the city. Immediately, YPCE should continue to focus on programs in youth-dense areas, in vulnerable communities, and in Environmental Justice areas. However, it should track program participation to see what ages groups (toddlers, children, youth, tweens, teens, and young adults) are well served and which need broader programs and opportunities.

EXPAND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

As part of the Five-year Strategic Investment Plan, to be implemented July 2024 through June 2029, YPCE will determine how it can fund and support expansions in the following types of programs and social services:

- Introduce programs and services serving at-risk and special needs youth.
- Facilitate childcare services and educational support.
- Facilitate youth empowerment through skill development, mentorship, workforce training, civic involvement, and volunteerism.
- Empower families to support their children’s healthy development.



KEY DIRECTION 6: FOSTER NATURE AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS

As noted in Chapter 4, community outreach priorities favored fostering connections to nature, as well as to other people, parks, programs, and places via trails and social opportunities across Sacramento. Specifically, to support trail and nature connections, YPCE should implement the following recommendations:

- Collaborate to improve trail connections.
- Expand nature-based recreation facilities and programs.

COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE TRAIL CONNECTIONS

As noted in Appendix D, YPCE will continue to coordinate and collaborate with Public Works, other City departments, Sacramento County, and other agency partners to improve trail connections to parks, parkway use, and recreation via trails. While YPCE is not the primary provider of the City’s shared use paths, the Department brings an important perspective to conversations regarding priorities for shared use paths that support recreation and park access in addition to active transportation. Going forward, YPCE will proceed with the development of planned future parkways, especially where these provide access to rivers, connect missing trail links, and provide access to new parks and neighborhoods.

EXPAND NATURE-BASED RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Chapter 6 identifies opportunities to bring residents closer to nature through park development and programming. While some open space areas are inaccessible and restricted from development, YPCE will inventory and evaluate natural resources to determine where it is appropriate to improve 1) river access; 2) nature exploration in parks; 3) nature interpretation without damaging sensitive natural areas; 4) environmental education programming; and 5) environmental stewardship. While continuing to manage and maintain Camp Sacramento, YPCE will develop an outdoor classroom, water trail take-out points, at least two nature play and two adventure play areas, and a nature-based event space within the city. The new facilities will require expanded nature programming that should target youth but include all ages.

KEY DIRECTION 7: INCORPORATE RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The development of Sacramento’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) called attention to the significant role that YPCE plays in promoting climate resiliency and sustainability through park facilities, maintenance and management. For example, the provision of resiliency hubs—community centers that serve as respite and emergency centers—is one way that YPCE will continue to support community preparedness. While there are many additional actions that YPCE can and will take to support the CAAP, it should prioritize the following recommendations:

- Promote urban cooling.
- Provide sustainable parks across the city.
- Mitigate climate impacts and enhance the ecological function of parks.

PROMOTE URBAN COOLING

As summer temperatures continue to climb, YPCE will play an increasing role in supporting urban cooling. YPCE will continue to provide shade and plant trees in parks to help minimize the heat island effect. It will provide other types of shade sails, structures, umbrellas, and canopies in parks and especially over playgrounds. It will strategically change its approach to waterplay to make spray areas more accessible to all (see Key Directions #4, #5, and #9).

PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE PARKS ACROSS THE CITY

Appendices D and E introduce new policies to support sustainability and resiliency, throughout the entire park system and in individual parks. Over the next 20 years, YPCE should support community aesthetics, conserve natural resources, and invest in green infrastructure with appropriate plantings, efficient irrigation, and species protection. This includes incorporating into new and renovated parks native plantings, a sustainable tree canopy, low-maintenance landscaping, low maintenance turf, and drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California’s Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELo).

MITIGATE CLIMATE IMPACTS AND ENHANCE THE ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION OF PARKS

The Parks Plan advises conserving and protecting the open space the city has now by integrating and restoring natural areas in parks for their recreational and ecological benefits. As the climate continues to change, YPCE should design and restore parks to support stormwater drainage, flood control, air and water quality, pollution reduction, carbon sequestration, pollinator health, wildlife habitat, and similar environmental and ecological outcomes.



KEY DIRECTION 8: STRENGTHEN YPCE'S LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

Improved communication and information sharing was called out in outreach and engagement tasks as a priority for YPCE. There are many citywide initiatives underway, and as shown earlier in Chapter 7, where YPCE can help the City achieve its 2040 Vision. To do this, YPCE will implement the following recommendations:

- Define YPCE's role and expand its leadership in City initiatives.
- Evaluate community centers leases to and operated by others in City parks.
- Expand connections and communication with School Districts, partners, facility operators, community leaders and volunteers.

EXPAND YPCE'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN CITY INITIATIVES

As noted in Chapter 2, YPCE is an innovative organization that has found ways to stretch resources to respond to the top trends in parks and recreation. However, there are several citywide initiatives on the horizon that will play an outsized role in expanding the impacts and positive benefits that YPCE provides. In addition to Youth Safety and Wellness (see Key Direction #5), the redevelopment of the River District with its vibrant ribbon of parks along the river's edge creates an opportunity to support the City's identity through the provision of parks as regional and local attractions. Here, there is an opportunity to integrate river access and river view opportunities, permanent and temporary art installations, music and cultural facilities and programs, multi-lingual signage, gender-neutral restrooms, universally accessible pathways, revenue-generating services, and public-private facilities and services that leverage resources to create park innovations that showcase the City's diversity, quality, and identity. YPCE should help lead conversations on what these parks and parkways include and how they are activated going forward.

EVALUATE LEASED COMMUNITY CENTERS

As noted in Chapter 6, a few of the City's community centers are leased to other providers that have decision-making authority over facility use and programming. Recognizing that leasing limits the breadth of participation and the outcomes YPCE's programs can provide. Forecasted climate change impacts suggest that the demand for indoor cooling centers and health and wellness hubs may increase over the next 20-50 years. Going forward, YPCE should evaluate the quality and diversity of programming and services offered in these facilities in comparison to the new policies and directions defined in the Parks Plan. The Department will need detailed infrastructure and recreation assessments to determine what types of renovations these buildings will need. Together this information will help determine the return on investment if YPCE changes its management approach to one or more leased facilities.

Long-term, a similar process may apply to other leased facilities in parks. As inventoried in Appendix A, there are many providers leasing City park and facility space. As the facilities in these lease agreements age, YPCE should make sure that the lease includes clear terms and conditions for facility improvements, capital replacement, and/or the dismantling of substantially old and worn facilities if the lessee no longer wants to (or can afford) to operate at this site. That way, YPCE and the City are solely responsible for site renovation and reuse.

EXPAND CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Through the Parks Plan engagement process, especially in conjunction with the Community Connections made, YPCE began forging and strengthening communications with diverse community-based organizations, the School Districts, park friends' groups, partners, facility operators, community leaders, and volunteers. YPCE leaders need a dedicated Community Coordinator to continue to foster these relationships.

Beyond soliciting volunteers and coordinating on potential program partnerships, the Community Coordinator will be crowdsourcing new resources for park improvements, negotiating shared use agreements to increase community benefit, and identifying ways that YPCE can invest in public-private and public-public partnership to advance Parks Plan policies, directions, and associated projects. Parks Plan implementation will require continued collaboration and community group empowerment to obtain the resources, joint use agreements, and voter support needed.



KEY DIRECTION 9: REALIGN THE CITY'S PARK INVESTMENT

To fully achieve the Parks Plan recommendations, the City would need to realign funds for investing in the park system. Specifically, YPCE should implement the following:

- Right-size the park system to support equitable investment.
- Update Quimby and Park Impact Fee requirements.
- Dedicating funding for park maintenance, operations, and asset repair/replacement.

RIGHT-SIZE THE PARK SYSTEM TO SUPPORT EQUITABLE INVESTMENT

Previously, the City had adopted much higher standards for the provision of parkland and major facilities such as swimming pools. The Parks Plan 2040 proposes reducing the level of service for parkland and pools (see Chapter 6). This will help save resources for the increased investment that is needed in routine maintenance, renovations to address deferred maintenance, asset management, and unmet needs in park gaps—particularly highly vulnerable communities and Environmental Justice communities. This right-sizing of land and facilities includes a realignment of priorities to provide a higher level of service for neighborhood parks and community parks. This can be achieved if the City reduces its investment in regional parks. As opportunities arise, it will need to carefully consider these priorities, so other factors influence the prioritization decision making.

UPDATE QUIMBY AND PARK IMPACT FEES

YPCE relies on both the Quimby Act for land dedication and Park Impact Fees (PIFs) that support the Park Development Fund. These funding mechanisms ensure that new residential development pays all or a portion of the costs of the new park infrastructure needed. Current rates are set far lower than the funds needed for park development at current Level of Service goals. This is especially true now, as inflation and prices have climbed dramatically over the last three years. The result is a severe funding deficiency for new park development.

Because impact fees are currently so low, the City has spent existing funds and used grant funding to support new park development in new growth areas. That takes money away from other urgent funding needs, such as from park maintenance and from building parks in older, unserved or park deficient neighborhoods.

In addition, past PIF rates have set a lower PIF standard for the Central City, which allowed developers to provide less acreage and funding there. However, smaller parks – especially those in more dense areas such as the Central City – require more funding for the intense development needed to meet local demands. PIF policies should ensure that Central City residential units contribute more.

To address these issues, the Parks Plan 2040 recommends the following:

- Evaluate and update the Quimby requirements for land dedication and in-lieu fee area valuation, setting requirements (if feasible) to the maximum of 5 acres per 1,000 residents. Because this will not address all land dedication needs, the City must also continue to apply both Quimby and a portion of PIF requirements towards land dedication.

- Update the PIF Nexus Study. Identify appropriate rates that 1) increase requirements for the Central City; 2) increase LOS requirements for Regional Parks, Parkways, and Open Space; and 3) increase fees to be in line with current prices. Ideally, PIF LOS requirements would be raised to 8.5 acres per 1,000 residents to match the City's new proposed standards, unless specific credits are warranted. If set lower, City leaders must recognize that spending other City funds on these new parks will reduce the City's ability to achieve its park equity goals.
- Evaluate opportunities to charge impact fees associated with non-residential development to offset the impacts associated with employee and visitor use of major facilities within regional parks, and access to waterfronts and nature preserves.

DEDICATE FUNDING FOR PARK MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS, AND REPLACEMENT

Parkland acreage has increased since the previous Parks & Recreation Plan was adopted. However, the amount of funding that YPCE spends per acre on parks maintenance has decreased over the last 15 years. The amount acres taken care of by each staff person has increased. While Measure U funds were intended to support park improvements and maintenance staff, some of these funds supplanted General Fund dollars that YPCE typically receives, resulting in less funding overall than expected. The City needs more maintenance dollars.

To address these issues, the Parks Plan 2040 recommends the following:

- Create a dedicated annual funding allocation for progress on deferred maintenance.
- Ensure that funding is earmarked for the repair, replacement, and renovation of old or worn amenities, facilities and landscaping in parks when needed or at the end of their lifecycles.
- Prior to developing new parks, ensure that additional funds are obtained to address park maintenance, operations, and programming. Identify a long-term dedicated funding source for ongoing maintenance, operations, and asset management, especially in areas without Community Facilities Districts to fund park maintenance.
- Ensure that new funds do not displace General Fund allocations. Consider applying any annual surplus of Measure U funds to deferred maintenance projects.



08

IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter discusses how to put this Parks Plan into action, including what tools are available for implementation of Key Directions, policies, and guidelines.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Parks Plan 2040 provides new standards, guidelines, directions, policies, and implementation actions to guide the City's investment in parks, recreation facilities, programs and services. It offers a decision-making framework to guide the long-range strategic enhancement of the park and recreation system. It also offers new tools that will support the development of YPCE's annual workplan and budget to guide implementation.

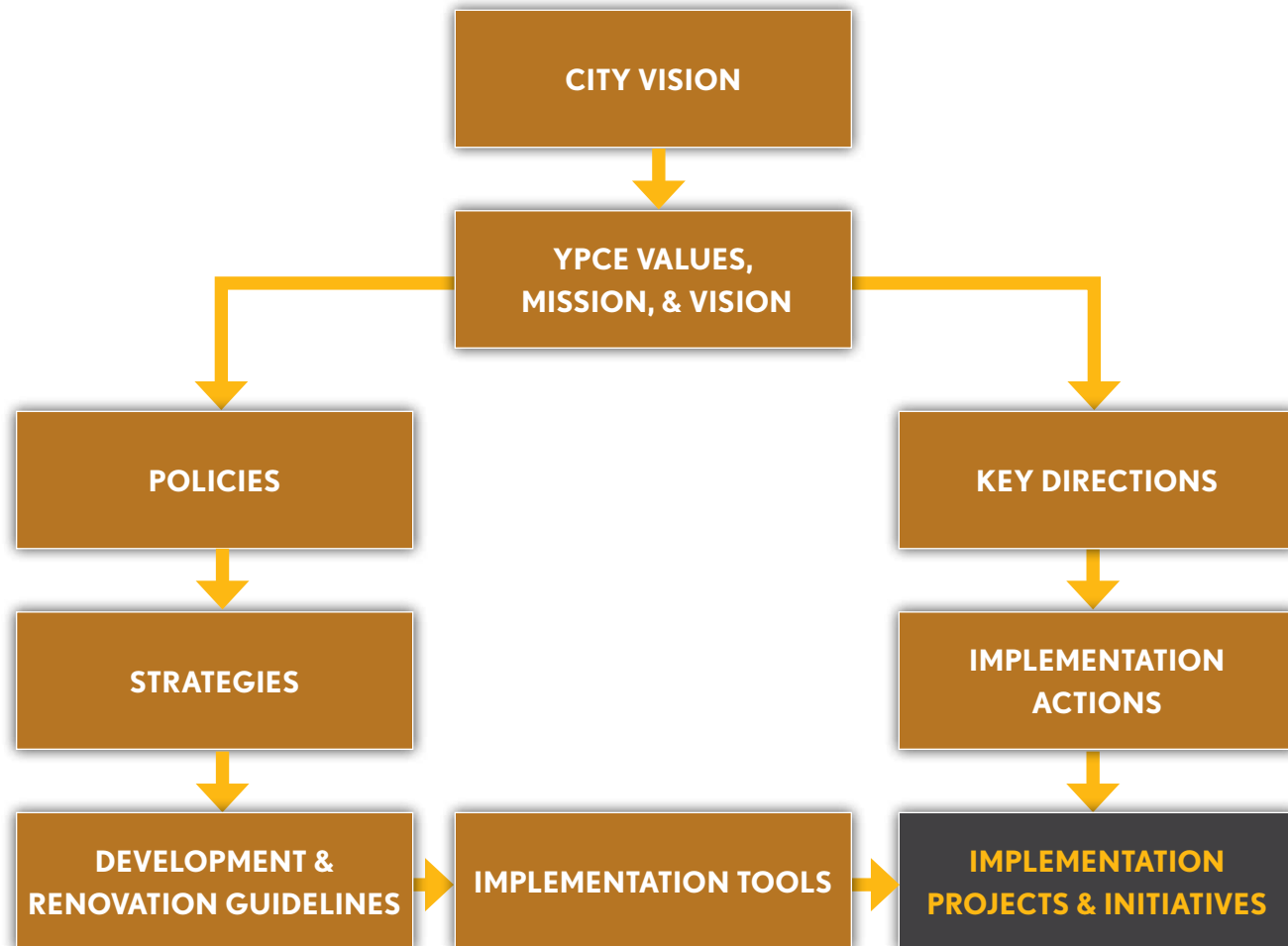
To achieve the community's vision and priorities, this chapter introduces five tools and defines the implementation process.

It highlights the desired outcomes that will be achieved as YPCE staff, City leaders, partners, community organizations, and residents all work together to implement the Parks Plan over the next 20 years.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Building on the citywide vision and YPCE's own values, vision, and mission, Parks Plan 2040 provides both the directions and policies that guide strategies and actions for implementation. The implementation tools will help vet potential projects and initiatives for implementation (Figure 8-1).

Figure 8-1. Parks Plan Policy and Implementation Framework



OVERVIEW OF NEW TOOLS

As part of the Parks Plan 2040, a series of tools have been developed to help the City make decisions through clear, standardized, and transparent processes. These items provide resources and methods of evaluation for park design, costing, project prioritization, project requests, and funding, in order to assist the sustainable growth and long-term management of Sacramento’s park and recreation system.

Park Development and Renovation Guidelines (Appendix E)

The Park Development and Renovation Guidelines (Appendix E) is intended to be used to guide park acquisition, design, development, and renovation through the year 2040. These guidelines will ensure the equitable provision of quality parks throughout the City, which includes consideration of available funds and resources, as well as styles and scale of amenities, facilities, and landscaping. Guidelines are also intended to help Sacramento create parks that reflect their local culture and values to avoid “cookie-cutter” parks. The tool includes standards and guidelines to be applied at a systemwide level and a park type level.

Capital and Maintenance Cost Assumptions (Appendix F)

The Capital and Maintenance Cost Assumptions Tool (Appendix F) is intended to inform budgeting, project prioritization, and financial planning for park development, site enhancement or renovation, and park maintenance. The tool includes per-unit planning-level cost estimates for capital projects and maintenance, presented as a cost range. The range is aimed at capturing differences based on site size, location, topography and setting, facility quality and detail, supply and demand for labor and materials, etc. A cost range is provided for a list of park features, including athletic/sports features (e.g., cricket field, futsal court), outdoor recreation features (e.g., dog park, playground), indoor/specialized features (e.g., stage, community pool), gardens/nature features (e.g., river access, community garden), trails (both hard and soft surfaced), and other amenities (e.g., bike rack, drinking fountain). This tool may also inform an update of the City’s Park Impact Fee Nexus Study, which was last completed in 2017.



Figure 8-2. Systemwide and Park Type Guidelines



Systemwide Guidelines are applicable to the citywide park and recreation system.

They aim to address:

- Long-Range Planning
- Acquisition and Site Selection
- Parkland Dedication
- Just, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusionary Design Considerations
- Site Planning, Design, and Development
- Sustainability and Resiliency
- Recreation Facility Development
- Additional Site and Facility Specifications



Park Type Guidelines discuss what should be considered per each park type to ensure suitable use of space, visitor comfort, intended activities and use, and investment levels.

They aim to address:

- Level of Service
- Service Area
- Site Character
- Size and Configuration
- Park Access
- Prioritized Recreation Elements
- Prioritized Support Amenities
- Landscaping and Vegetation
- Additional Considerations per park type

Project Prioritization Tool (Appendix G)

The Project Prioritization Tool (Appendix G) is intended to help identify which park and recreation projects should be prioritized for implementation when funds are available. This tool updates YPCE’s current prioritization process—described in their Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG)—and introduces a new scorecard for rating projects based on an expanded set of criteria.

Having a standardized evaluation tool helps the City prioritize projects consistently, and with a transparent and efficient process.

It also ensures selected projects align with the mission, vision, and values of the City and Department, as well as the needs of the community at-large. Prioritized projects are intended to be funded in the order of their ranking score as funds become available.

The tool is organized into three steps, each which contain their own set of criteria and weighted scores. A benefit of this three-step process is that the City can emphasize certain major objectives, such as alignment with the Parks Plan 2040 Key Directions, serving underserved areas, funding opportunities, and equitable park system development. Figure 8-3 summarizes the three-step process.

Figure 8-3. Three Step Prioritization Process



PPPG Project Request Form (Appendix H)

The Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG) includes a project proposal form, which acts as an intake form for community groups, council members, City leaders, and residents to request new parks and recreation projects. A revised Project Proposal Form (Appendix H) clarifies and simplifies the questionnaire for ease of use by the applicant as well as YPCE upon submittal.

The new form has clearer questions with simplified language, a reorganized structure for better information flow, more opportunity for general park feedback, ease of collection and filing upon receipt, and regular updating for accuracy and relevancy.

Similar to the Project Prioritization Tool, this tool should be reviewed when updating the PPPG to ensure alignment of questions and categories.

Funding Sources (Appendix I)

Appendix I. Funding Sources is intended to discuss funding sources for YPCE to expand, improve, and maintain their park and recreation system. The document covers three categories of funds: 1) currently budgeted funds; 2) existing supplemental funds and support resources; and 3) potential funding sources.

Currently Budgeted Funds: These include the funds that currently feed YPCE projects and services, including the General Fund, Measure U, Quimby Act, Park Development Fees / Impact Fees, Special Funds, Community Facilities Districts (CFDs), assessment districts, and others.

Existing Supplemental Support: These resources (funding and volunteerism) provide periodic support for YPCE projects and services. They include trust funds for specific sites, federal grants, partnerships, sponsored facilities and events, etc.

Potential Funding Sources: YPCE will have to expand and diversify funding to implement the plan. It should explore opportunities to take advantage of new funding sources for citywide parks and program investment and/or for specific projects. Municipal bonds, special districts, and private land donation are examples of potential funding sources.

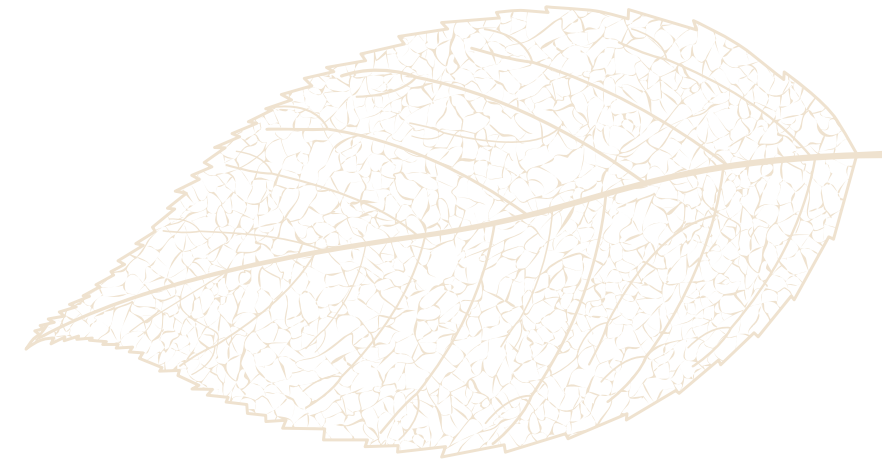
Key takeaways from the review of funding sources:

- The YPCE annual budget (actual and approved) has steadily increased over the past four years. This increase reflects the fact that the City is still rebounding from the 2008 Recession and returning to a sufficient funding level to successfully provide and sustain assets and services.
- Measure U has increased the overall annual budget of YPCE, but not as much as anticipated. Along with an increase in the annual budget from Measure U, there was a simultaneous decrease in General Fund allocations. In effect, Measure U funds supplanted the General Fund dollars that typically funded park and recreation services, rather than augmenting them.
- Additional funds will be available through Measure L, also known as the Sacramento Children’s Fund. It is unclear how these will be divided between YPCE and other providers of youth services in the city.
- Impact fees are currently set much lower than needed to build new parks. An update to the City’s Park Nexus Study is critical to reset these rates.
- Additional sources of funding will be needed for future growth, maintenance, and operations.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

A clear project intake and prioritization process for both capital projects and programming initiatives will be vital for efficient and effective decisions regarding investments into the park and recreation system. Below are the steps that YPCE will take in the short term (0-5 years) to begin identifying and prioritizing projects and initiatives.

Longer term, YPCE will conduct a technical update to the Parks Plan in 10 years and fully revisit and revise the Parks Plan in 20 years to ensure that its policies and standards reflect the evolving needs of its diverse community and varied parks, facilities, programs, and services.



PPPG Update and Review of Opportunities

Update the PPPG to formalize the project review process.

Review project opportunities that have already been identified through the Parks Plan, the General Plan update, the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, the Urban Forest Plan, the capital improvement plan, and the PPPG intake process. Compile opportunities into the PPPG database.



Evaluation and Prioritization

Evaluate all opportunities and project proposals in PPPG database using the Project Prioritization Tool.

Create short-list of prioritized projects and initiatives.



New Project Intake

Solicit additional project proposals via the PPPG Project Request Form.

Receive, document, and integrate proposals into the PPPG database.



Funding Identification

Review existing and potential funding sources for project implementation.

Pursue additional funding opportunities, such as grants, partnerships, and donations. Update the City's PIF Nexus Study and Quimby Valuation. Strategize on voter-approved funding to support future projects.

Add funded projects to annual budgets and work plans for implementation.

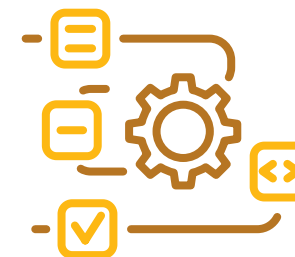


Planning-Level Costing

Calculate the planning-level costs for project.

Identify any capital costs as well as operations costs and staffing impacts.

Consider the return on investment (ROI) in comparison to the urgency of implementing the project.



Strategic Planning and Monitoring

Complete the Youth Five-year Strategic Investment Plan to prioritize Measure L funding.

Update YPCE's Strategic Plan now and every five years to identify phasing and lead parties responsible for implementing new projects and initiatives.

Establish performance measures and set up a monitoring process to gauge YPCE's effectiveness in implementing the Key Directions, reporting on these within each budget cycle.

ACHIEVING OUR SHARED VISION

The community-driven, data-driven Parks Plan 2040 is the culmination of the significant collaborative effort among YPCE, other City staff, the Sacramento City Council, the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission, the Youth Commission, and many community organizations and residents. It provides the directions needed to strategically invest in Sacramento’s parks, facilities, programs, and services. The Parks Plan reflects the City’s desire to be responsive to community priorities, equitable in the provision of quality parks and programs, and sustainable in the management of City assets and use of resources.

By implementing this plan, YPCE strives to increase the benefit-based outcomes that parks and recreation provides Sacramento residents and the City overall. Figure 8-4 summarizes these benefits and desired outcomes.

Some say you can tell the health of a community by the condition of its parks. However, the successful implementation of the Parks Plan 2040 will extend way beyond parks into many aspects of community livability. The Parks Plan notes the many ways that community health, youth development, and Sacramento’s quality of life are contingent on the sound and sufficient investment in quality parks, programs, and services. If the City of Sacramento is to be a national model of sustainable, equitable growth and community development by 2040, then the implementation of the Parks Plan is critical to achieving the City’s vision for the future.



Figure 8-4. Desired Outcomes for Parks, Recreation, and Community Services



Personal Benefits

- Physical and Mental Health
- Child and Youth Development
- Lifelong Learning and Enrichment
- Opportunities to Play and Socialize
- Connections to Nature



Environmental Benefits

- Climate Resiliency and Sustainability
- Active Transportation
- Air Quality and Urban Heat Island Mitigation
- Stormwater Management and Water Quality
- Ecosystem Biodiversity Support



Social Benefits

- Community Cohesion, Engagement, and Involvement
- Expressions of Diversity and Cultural Identity
- Public Health and Wellbeing
- Public Safety and Crime Reduction
- Social Support and Belonging



Economic Benefits

- Asset Management
- Business and Workforce Attraction
- Recreational Tourism
- User Fee and Participation Revenues
- City Branding and Local Pride



Urban Benefits

- Neighborhood and Community Livability
- Park and Greenspace Access
- Walkable and Bikeable Communities
- Placemaking and Cultural Identity
- Beauty and Aesthetics



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APPENDIX **A**

APPENDIX A: PARK AND FACILITY INVENTORY

The park and facility inventory documents the amount and types of park land, amenities and facilities managed by Sacramento’s Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE). The inventory includes five tables:

- **Table A-1:** YPCE Parks, Recreation Amenities, and Facilities by Classification
- **Table A-2:** YPCE Proposed Future Parks by Classification
- **Table A-3:** Major Facilities and Specialized Facilities in City Parks
- **Table A-4:** Facilities With Hot Spot Programs
- **Table A-5:** Joint-Use Detention Basins in YPCE Parks

This document presents preliminary definitions for inventory terms. It also introduces General Plan terms for parks and open space to provide context for YPCE’s park classification system.

Parks vs. Open Space

The Sacramento 2040 General Plan distinguishes parks from open space using the following definitions:

- **Parks:** All publicly owned and operated parks that are used, operated, or maintained for recreational purposes. [Parks are a type of open space.]
- **Open Space:** Natural areas that are set aside for one or several of the following reasons: for preservation of natural resources (e.g., vegetation communities, fish wildlife, and associated habitats); for conservation of

the managed production of resources (e.g., agriculture lands, rangelands, woodlands, aggregate deposits); for outdoor recreation; for public health and safety (e.g. water quality basins, flood easements, river levees); for public services (e.g., utility easements, community gardens); for urban form/ scenic resources (e.g., community separation/gateways, greenways/highway corridors, and urban reserves).

Three different types of open space are noted:

- » *Open Space, Common:* Open space that is reserved for the shared use of adjacent tenants or property owners. Common open space includes landscaping, roof gardens, atriums, natural water features (e.g., ponds), and other amenities used for outdoor use.
- » *Open Space, Private:* Open space that is reserved for the use of a single tenant or property owner. Private open space includes balconies, decks, and porches.
- » *Open Space, Public:* Open space that is provided for public use.

The General Plan also proposes a broader use of the term parkways to refer to trail corridors and transportation corridors.

- **Parkways:** Similar to open space areas because they also have limited recreational uses. They are used primarily as corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, linking residential areas to schools, parks, and trail systems. Parkway are typically linear and narrow and may be situated along a waterway, abandoned railroad, or other common corridor. Parkway can also describe other types of transportation corridors without recreational use.

YPCE uses these terms slightly differently. The Parks Plan uses the term park land generally to refer to all parks, parkways, and open space areas managed by YPCE. While most of the sites in the inventory support recreation, YPCE manages a few lands, such as the Bannon Creek Preserve, that provide open space but are not intended for recreation. In addition, YPCE has a narrower definition for parkways (see below).

Other City departments, such as Utilities and Public Works, as well as Sacramento County and private conservancies, such as the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, play a larger role in protecting open space and natural resources.

Parks Plan 2040 Classifications

The Parks Plan 2040 includes an inventory of City parks that defines parks by classification, type, and status. This document uses the terms City parks or City park land to refer to lands (including infrastructure and facilities on those lands) managed by YPCE for recreation and/or greenspace.

These City parks are differentiated by their purpose and function. YPCE classifies parks as Regional Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Parkway, and Open Space. Most park classifications are subdivided into types of parks. Each is defined below:

- **Regional Park:** Regional parks are large parks that protect unique natural or cultural features and/or provide major recreation facilities that attract visitors from across the entire City and beyond. Designed for intensive use, these parks include on-site parking, restrooms, and similar support amenities for longer visits. They may include concessions or other revenue-generating activities and infrastructure, including facilities managed by other City Departments or leased to community groups.

The City provides two types of regional parks:

- » *Multi-use regional parks (RP)* are large parks that provide greenspace, natural areas, and a mix of specialized recreation and cultural facilities such as recreation and aquatic centers, beaches, marinas, museums, multi-field sports complexes, destination play areas, amphitheaters, and event spaces.
- » *Regional recreation and cultural attractions (RCA)* are single-purpose major recreation facilities or cultural venues that serve as citywide attractions. They may include venues not located in larger parks, such as golf courses, cemeteries, and Camp Sacramento that offer specialized recreation or cultural opportunities.

- **Community Park:** Community parks are mid-size parks that provide recreation opportunities to serve a portion of the City or several neighborhoods within driving distance. The City provides two types of community parks:

- » *Multi-use community parks (CP)* are medium to large sites, typically 10-40 acres in size, that provide a mix of recreation facilities, greenspace and large group gathering space. Typical facilities include playgrounds, sports fields, sports courts, picnic areas, skate parks, dog parks, community gardens, community centers, senior centers, swimming and wading pools, open lawn areas, natural areas, and looped trails. These parks include on-site parking, restrooms, shade, and similar support amenities for longer site visits.
- » *Special-use community parks (SU)* are single-purpose sites that vary in size and support specialized uses such as urban plazas, stand-alone community centers, gardens, skate parks, disc golf, single-use sports complexes, and other sites with community appeal. They may have minor supplemental facilities, along with support amenities such as on-site parking, restrooms, shade, and similar support amenities for longer site visits.

- **Neighborhood Park:** Neighborhood parks are small parks that provide greenspace or recreation opportunities for nearby neighbors within walking or biking distance. The City provides three types of neighborhood parks:
 - » *Multi-use neighborhood parks (NP)* are small to medium sites, typically 1-8 acres, that support a mix of play, picnicking, sports, and leisure activities for nearby neighbors that live within walking or biking distance. Typical facilities include playgrounds, unlighted sport fields or sport courts, individual or small group picnic areas, smaller outdoor facilities, open lawn areas, and amenities to support local use. Some neighborhood parks may include additional natural open space.
 - » *Pocket parks (PP)* are small sites, typically less than 2 acres in size, that provide manicured greenspace for nearby neighbors. Sites may support neighborhood aesthetics and leisure, with amenities such as art, benches, or a picnic table. Some are located as rest stops adjacent to trail corridors.
 - » *Neighborhood play lots (NPL)* are small sites, typically less than 2 acres in size, that support single-use recreation opportunities for nearby neighbors. Examples include tot lots, play elements for all ages, multipurpose sports courts, and small footprint recreation facilities.
- **Parkways:** Parkways are linear parks designed primarily for trail use and secondarily for passive recreation, open space, wildlife habitat, and flood control. Most include hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists, linking residential areas to schools, parks, and trail systems. These corridors may be situated along waterways, abandoned railroads, transportation or utility corridors or other linear features. Parkways may be landscaped, turf, native plantings, or natural landscaping.

- **Open Space:** YPCE manages several open space areas to provide river access, ensure access to other natural features, or protect habitat, conserve natural resources, and promote urban greening and ecological functions. While most sites provide accessible greenspace, passive recreation opportunities, and/or trails, some open space areas do not have any recreation amenities and are not intended for public access. Unlike multi-use parks (which may include natural resources, beaches, marinas, and habitat areas within them), these stand-alone parks are managed primarily as greenspace.

The classification and park types above refer to YPCE-managed sites. Other public and private providers manage parks and open space within the city limits. The Parks Plan 2040 refers to those additional sites using the following terms:

- **Other Parks:** This refers to existing parks owned or managed by other public and private providers.
- **Other Open Space:** This refers to open space, natural areas, and undeveloped greenspace (as defined in the General Plan) that is owned or managed by other public and private providers.

Park Status

The status of YPCE’s park land is described using the following terms:

- **Existing Parks:** City-owned parks that have been acquired, developed, and currently function as parks, parkways, and natural areas are collectively referred to as “existing” parks.
- **In Progress Parks:** “In progress” parks are currently under development and anticipated to be open to the public by the time the Parks Plan is completed. “In progress” parks are counted in the existing park inventory.

- **Proposed Future Parks:** These undeveloped sites are planned for future park development and transition to the City of Sacramento when the surrounding area is developed. These sites are classified as the type of park they will become when acquired and developed. Their proposed classifications are noted. The type of development is not yet defined and will be confirmed through site master planning and design closer to the time of construction.

Existing parks are noted on Table A-1. Planned and proposed future sites are included in Table A-2.

Facility Terms and Categories

In addition to managing and maintaining park land, the City is responsible for providing a variety of recreational facilities and amenities. These elements are noted by park in Table A-1. Additional details on Major Facilities and Specialized Facilities are provided in Table A-3.

- **Facilities:** Facilities refer to outdoor elements or buildings that support recreation and gatherings in parks. Table A-1 notes facilities in the following categories:
 - » *Athletic/Sports* includes various types of sports fields and sports courts.
 - » *Outdoor Recreation* includes playgrounds, sports fields, sports courts, picnic shelters, dog parks, skate parks, community gardens, etc.
 - » *Major/Specialized* includes community centers, swimming and wading pools, and similar elements with a specialized use. See definitions below.
 - » *Gardens/Natural Features* includes various types of intentional gardens as well as natural characteristics in parks that affect recreation uses (such as river access, detention basins, and a pond or lake).

» *Trails* includes hard- and soft-surfaced (jogging) trails for recreation or non-motorized transportation. These trails are typically part of a larger network and do not include sidewalks or access paths at the edge or within a park.

- **Major Facilities:** Some recreation facilities that are managed by YPCE or other City Departments require a greater investment in maintenance, operations, staffing, and programming. These are referred to as Major Facilities. They include recreation and community centers, senior centers, golf courses and clubhouses, swimming pools, wading pools, marinas, etc.
- **Specialized Facilities:** The City or partners also maintain other miscellaneous facilities. These include sports stadiums, concession stands, maintenance buildings, and other facilities that require some degree of operation.
- **Amenities:** The term “amenities” is used to describe the support features that facilitate the comfort, functionality, and use of parks. These include elements such as restrooms, parking lots, trash receptacles, benches, tables, barbecues, lighting, bike racks, drinking fountains, art, signage, etc.

Table A-2: YPCE Proposed Future Parks by Classification (Continued)

Park Site P1 Delta Shores Future	7	2.96
Park Site P11 Delta Shores Future	8	8.68
Park Site P3 Delta Shores Future	7	6.02
Park Site P4 Delta Shores Future	8	1.32
Park Site P5 Delta Shores Future	8	0.66
Park Site P6 Delta Shores Future	8	4.64
Park Site P7 Delta Shores Future	8	1.76
Park Site P9 Delta Shores Future	8	6.08
Park Site Sn4	3	0.23
Skylark Park	3	2.56
Stone Beeltand Park 1	8	3.84
Stone Beeltand Park 2	8	3.28
Subtotal Count: 26 sites		85.80
Proposed Parkways		
Delta Shores OS7	8	0.52
Delta Shores OS1	8	1.83
Delta Shores OS2	8	1.72
Delta Shores OS3	8	3.21
Delta Shores OS4	8	1.23
Delta Shores OS6	8	0.43
Delta Shores OS5	8	0.39
Innovation Parkway	1	4.57
Kaiser Promenade at the Railyards	4	0.77
Lot 32 Museum Plaza	4	0.88
Morrison Creek Parkway	6	4.12
Ninos Parkway at the Panhandle	1	48.00
Paseo	4	0.25
Sacramento River Connection	4	0.55
Sacramento River Parkway	4, 7	100.00
Setzer Run at the Mills	4	0.06
Vista Connector To 4-Way at the Railyards	4	0.42
Subtotal Count: 17 sites		168.95
Proposed Open Spaces		
Delta Shores OS9	8	0.52
Innovation Park Parcel B	1	4.57
Stone Beeltand Open Space	8	8.64
Subtotal Count: 3 sites		13.73
Total Count: 63 sites		542.19

Table A-3: Major Facilities and Specialized Facilities in City Parks

Facility	Council District	Square Footage	Park Location	Operator	Operations Agreement
Community Centers, Senior Centers, and Clubhouses					
Belle Cooledge Community Center	7	3,500	Belle Cooledge Park	YPCE	
Clunie Community Center	4	24,704	William McKinley Park	YPCE	
Coloma Community Center	6	38,180	Coloma Park	Access Sacramento (4 rooms only)	Lease
East Portal Park Club House	4	1,236	East Portal Park	YPCE	
Elmo Allen Slider Clubhouse	6	1,300	Max Baer Park	Bridge Network	Lease
Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center	4	11,988	James W. Marshall Park	YPCE	
Evelyn Moore Community Center	5	2,660	Argonaut Park	YPCE	
George Sim Community Center	6	9,632	George Sim Park	Gateway Charter (3 rooms only)	Lease
Hagginwood Community Center	2	14,825	Hagginwood Park	YPCE	
Johnston Community Center	2	4,400	Carl Johnston Park	YPCE	
North Natomas Community Center	1	15,000	North Natomas Regional Park	YPCE	
Oak Park Community Center	5	21,530	Oak Park	YPCE	
Robertson Community Center	2	13,184	Charles Robertson Park	Mutual Assistance Network	Lease
Sam & Bonnie Pannell Meadowview Community Center	8	29,297	Pannell/Meadowview Community Center Park	YPCE	
Shepard Garden & Arts Center	4	6,564	William McKinley Park	YPCE	
Sierra 2 Center for the Arts & Community	7	37,812	Sierra 2 Park	Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association	Lease
South Natomas Community Center	3	17,435	South Natomas Community Park	YPCE	
Southside Clubhouse	4	2,100	Southside Park	YPCE	
Woodlake Clubhouse	2	6,534	Woodlake Park	Single Moms Strong	Lease
Subtotal Count: 19 sites					
Golf Courses					
Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course	7			Morton Golf	Lease
Bing Maloney Golf Course	5			Morton Golf	Lease
Haggin Oaks Golf Course	2			Morton Golf	Lease
William Land Golf Course	7			Morton Golf	Lease
Subtotal Count: 4 sites					
Swimming Pools/Aquatic Facilities					
Cabrillo Pool	8		John Cabrillo Park	YPCE	
Clunie Pool	4		William McKinley Park	YPCE	
Doyle Pool	3		Northgate Park	YPCE	
Hall Pool	4		Glenn Hall Park	YPCE	
Johnston Pool	2		Carl Johnston Park	YPCE	
Mangan Pool	5		James Mangan Park	YPCE	
McClatchy Park Pool	5		C.K. McClatchy Park	YPCE	
North Natomas Aquatic Complex	1		North Natomas Regional Park	YPCE	
Oki Pool	6		Magoichi Oki Park	YPCE	
Pannell Meadowview Pool	8		Pannell/Meadowview Community Center Park	YPCE	
Sim Pool	6		George Sim Park	YPCE	
Southside Pool	4		Southside Park	YPCE	
Tahoe Pool	6		Tahoe Park	YPCE	
Subtotal Count: 13 sites					

Table A-3: Major Facilities and Specialized Facilities in City Parks (Continued)

Facility	Council District	Square Footage	Park Location	Operator	Operations Agreement
Wading Pools (standalone)					
Bertha Henschel Play Pool	4		Bertha Henschel Park	YPCE	
Colonial Play Pool	6		Colonial Park	YPCE	
Mama Marks Play Pool	2		Margarette "Mama" Marks Park	YPCE	
Robertson Play Pool	2		Charles Robertson Park	YPCE	
William Land Play Pool	7		William Land Regional Park	YPCE	
Subtotal Count: 5 sites					
Other Specialized Facilities in YPCE Parks					
Army Depot Park Baseball Field	6		Army Depot Park	East Sac Babe Ruth and Sac Men's Senior Baseball League	Lease
Billboards on Business 80			Sutter's Landing Regional Park	Marquee Media	Lease
Boys and Girls Club	8		Shasta Community Park	Boys and Girls Club of Greater Sacramento	Lease
Café in Chavez Park	4		Chavez Park	La Cosecha	Lease
Equestrian Facility	2		Del Paso Regional Park	Sacramento County Horsemen's Association	Lease
Fairytale Town*	7		William Land Regional Park		
Funderland*	7		William Land Regional Park		
Glenbrook Park Ballfields	6		Glenbrook Park	College Glen Little League	Lease
Granite Regional Park	6		Granite Regional Park	Regional Park Land Holdings LLC	Lease
Hopkins Park Parcel	8		Hopkins Park	SETA	Lease
McClatchy Park Concession Stand	5		McClatchy Park	Oak Park Youth RBI	Lease
McClatchy Park Concession Stand	5		McClatchy Park	Oak Park Little League	Lease
McClellan Boat Dock	3		lease agreement with National Park Service	Drowning Accident Rescue Team	Lease
McKinley Library - Clunie CC	4		Clunie Park	Sacramento Public Library	Lease
Miller Regional Park Yard Maintenance Bldg	4		Fredrick Miller Regional Park	Latino Center for Arts and Culture	Lease
Mirasol Village Community Garden	4		Mirasol Village Community Garden	Alchemist Community Development Corporation	Lease
Ninos Parkway Pollinator Garden	3		Ninos Park	Natomas Garden and Arts Club	Lease
Northgate Park Concession Stand	3		Northgate Park	Natomas Youth Soccer Club	Lease
North Natomas Regional Park Concession Stand	1		North Natomas Regional Park	North Natomas Little League	Lease
Oak Park Clinic Building	5		Oak Park	Wellspace Health	Lease
O'Neil Park Futsal and Soccer Fields	4		O'Neil Field	Street Soccer USA	Lease
Sacramento Marina*	4		Fredrick Miller Regional Park	Public Works	
Sacramento Softball Complex Restaurant	2		Del Paso Regional Park	La Rosa Sports	Lease
Sacramento Zoo*	7		William Land Regional Park		
Sam & Bonnie Pannell Concession Kitchen	8		Pannell/Meadowview Community Center Park	(leasee rotates)	Lease
St. Rose of Lima Park - 711 K St. - Ali Yousseffi Square	4		Saint Rose Of Lima Park	Sequoia Investments L.P.	Lease
Sutter's Landing Regional Park Yard and Landfill*	4		Sutter's Landing Regional Park	Solid Waste Division (Public Works)	
Subtotal Count: 27 sites					
Total Count: 68 sites					

Note: This table notes buildings and other major facilities located in YPCE parks that require operations. These facilities may be operated by YPCE staff, contract staff, partners (through MOU or JUA) other *These facilities are not managed by YPCE. Administration is handled by another department or the City Manager's Office even though they are located in a city park.

Table A-4: Facilities with Hot Spot Programs

Facility	Council District
Coloma Community Center	4
George Sim Community Center	6
Joe Mims-Hagginwood Community Center	2
Oak Park Community Center	5
Pannell-Meadowview Community Center	8
Southside Clubhouse	4
Total Count: 6 sites	

Table A-5: Joint-Use Detention Basins and Reservoirs in YPCE Parks

Park Name	Council District	Address
Danny Nunn Park	6	6920 Power Inn Road
Del Paso Regional Park	2	3565 Auburn Boulevard
Del Paso Regional Park/Haggin Oaks GC	2	3645 Fulton Ave
Emil Bahnfleth Park	7	950 Seamas Ave
Franklin Boyce Community Park	5	7698 Franklin Boulevard
Gateway Park	2	3250 Norwood Avenue
Granite Regional Park	6	8181 Cucamonga Ave.
Hampton Park	8	7510 Waincott Way
Jacinto Creek Parkway	8	8695 Bruceville Road
John Mackey Memorial Park at Kenwood Oaks	2	1910 Kenwood Street
Joseph Reichmuth Park	7	6305 Gloria Drive
Mae Fong Park	6	3004 Redding Ave
Meadowview Estates Open Space East	8	1900 Expedition Way
Meadowview Estates Open Space West	8	520-0100-940-0000
Mirasol Village Park	4	12th Street, South of Richards Blvd
North Natomas Community Park	1	1839 Bend Drive
North Natomas Park Nature Area	1	5151 Crest Drive
North Natomas Regional Park	1	4989 Natomas Boulevard
Ray Eames Park	7	
Regency Community Park	1	5500 Honor Parkway
Richardson Village Park	2	2995 Altos Ave
River Birch Park	3	2000 Terracina Drive
Robert Brookins Park (Nuevo Park - old name)	2	510 Hayes Avenue
San Juan Reservoir Park	3	3320 Witter Way
Southside Park	4	2115 6th Street
Steve Jones Park	8	2331 Casa Linda Drive
Tanzanite Community Park (incl Basin 6A)	3	2220 Tanzanite Way
William McKinley Park	4	601 Alhambra Boulevard
William Land Park	7	3800 Land Park Drive
Total Count: 29 sites		



APPENDIX **B**

APPENDIX B: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES MATRIX

Appendix B. Programs and Services documents the types of programs and community services provided by Sacramento’s Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE). These include programs offered by City staff or by contracted staff in City facilities and parks. This does not include programs offered by other operators in leased facilities within City parks, such as golf courses, leased community centers, and the Sacramento Zoo.

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City Programs and Services

Three YPCE divisions provide and administer programs, activities, events, classes, and sports leagues:

- Youth Division
- Community Enrichment Division
- Park Maintenance Division

In addition, Sacramento’s Office of Youth Development (OYD)¹ and several City Council members offer additional events or programming for residents within their districts, to augment the enrichment programs offered by YPCE. Because YPCE supports these services, these programs are noted here.

To better understand the variety of programming initiatives and sites that are programmed, Table B-1 describes all YPCE recreation, leisure, and enrichment programs by service area. For each programming area, it notes:

- **Provider:** Which divisions are involved in providing programs;
- **Location:** Whether the program is offered at a city park or site provided by another entity;
- **Type of Facility/Space:** What type of facility or space is programmed; and
- **Targeted Participants:** What age or demographic group the program is intended to serve.

Broadly speaking, YPCE provides programs in three distinct service areas. Table B-1 reflects these serviced areas and program categories (see Chapter 3).

- Recreation and Leisure
- Youth Development & Empowerment
- Community Services and Resources

¹ The Office of Youth Development is being integrated within YPCE; it is recognized separately here for context.

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Table B-1: YPCE Programs and Services Matrix¹

YPCE Program Service Area	Program Examples	Provider		Location Where Offered														Type of Facility / Space										Targeted Participants										
		Program Provider		City Parks							Parks / Facilities							Facilities by Type										Populations Served										
		Community Enrichment Division	Youth Division	Park Maintenance Division	Office of Youth Development (OYD)	City Council District	Regional Parks	Community Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Parkways	Other City-Owned Site	Schools	College/Community College	County Parks	Private Park or Facility	Other	Sports Field, Court or Complex	Natural Area	Other Outdoor Space	Outdoor Event Venue/Stage	Community Center	Senior Center	Youth or Teen Center	Golf Course	Swimming Pool	Nature/Interpretive Center	Other Specialized Facilities Operated by YPCE	Other	Preschool	Youth	Teens	Adults	Older Adults	People with Disabilities	People from Diverse Cultures	Families / Multi-Generational		
Recreation and Leisure																																						
Aquatics - recreational swim, lessons, lifeguard training, aquatics safety programs, and special events	Recreation Swim, Swim Lesson, Swim Team, Lap Swimming, Water Aerobics, Lifeguarding Training, Jr. Lifeguarding, Aquatic Special Events	•					x	x	x	x											x																	
Arts & Culture - fine, cultural, or performing arts classes and activities hosted by the City (may include dance, music, arts and crafts, and acting)	OnStage Theatre Arts, Sac Show Biz, piano lessons, Ballet Tap & Jazz, Ballroom Dance, singing lessons, Journey to You, Movie Nights, First Fridays, Jazz in July, cultural dances, Taiko Drumming, art classes	•	•		•		x	x									x			x	x	x																
Enrichment & Learning - continuing learning classes, personal enrichment, and skill-building	Community support groups, Dog Obedience Training, Life History Writing, Great Books Discussion Group, trips and tours, sewing classes, arts and crafts classes/workshops	•						x		x									x	x	x																	
Health, Wellness & Fitness - emphasis on physical, mental, emotional well-being activities and support, and nutrition. Organized adult athletic leagues, sports, or fitness classes in addition to specialized recreation activities such as skateboarding, skate parks, shuffleboard, walking clubs, and futsal	Adult Mens, Womens, and Co-Ed Softball Leagues, Tennis Classes, Drop In Floor Hockey, fitness/wellness/dance classes, fitness centers, Meals on Wheels	•					x	x	x		x	x		x			x				x	x	x	x				Coloma CC										
Nature & Interpretive Programs - summer nature camps, outdoor recreation, and environmental education programs	Overnight full-service family summer camp program at Camp Sacramento focused on environmental education and awareness. Offered activities include: guided hikes, archery, crafts, campfires, field trips and special events	•								x	x					x		x	x							x	x	El Dorado National Forest		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Special Events - community and division annual or one-time events	Citywide Youth Job & Resource Fair, Egg Hunts, Fall and Winter Festivals, Family Nights	•	•		•		x	x	x		x	x								x	x	x																
Sports & Fitness (Youth, Teens & Adults) - organized youth and adult athletic leagues, camps, sports, or fitness classes in addition to specialized recreation activities such as skateboarding, skate camps, shuffleboard, walking clubs, and futsal	Youth and Teen Basketball & Flag Football Leagues, Futsal classes and leagues, Open Gyms, SK8 Camp, Skate Park drop-in, Junior Giants, Hoop It Up, Hot Spot,	•	•				x	x	x		x						x	x	x	x	x		x					Genevieve Didion Gym			x	x				x	x	
Virtual Programs - guides, tutorials, games and activities that can be viewed or read on online platforms and performed at home	Physical Activity Resources, indoor Scavenger Hunt, Arts, crafts, and education, basketball drills and practice tips	•	•													x												Remote		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	



APPENDIX **C**



APPENDIX C: PARK GAP ANALYSIS

Appendix C. Park Gap Analysis examines the gap areas identified through the access and vulnerability analysis in relation to size of gap, access barriers, severity of need, population characteristics, and alternative opportunities.

The analysis applies to the gaps noted in Figure C-1: Park Gap Analysis Map. A total of 85 parks gaps are identified. These are numbered for reference only and are not in priority order. Each gap was evaluated in terms of its Severity of Need and Adjacencies and Alternate Park Opportunities, as defined in Table C-1. Knowing that the City’s funding is insufficient to address all needs, the purpose of the analysis was to identify:

- Any areas that were already served by another park (so a City park may not be needed);
- Sites where needs could potentially be met through a partnership with schools;
- Gaps with barriers where two parks may be needed; and
- Areas where needs are the greatest based on density, race and ethnicity, population vulnerability and the absence of other nearby park or recreation opportunities.

All gap areas were recommended for development of a new park, with these exceptions:

- No parks are needed for gap areas that are served by other non-YPCE parks and open spaces.
- No parks are needed for small gap areas that may be alleviated with better connections to nearby park sites.
- Two parks are needed for large gap areas with barriers that would impede access to one site.

Of the 85 gap areas, a total of 66 new parks are needed. These are presumed to be multi-use neighborhood parks that would serve unserved neighborhoods. In implementing this plan, the City should evaluate these areas in detail. It may determine that only a smaller parklet or playlot is feasible for acquisition and development.

The 66 sites are needed in addition to the 45 new parks planned for future development, of which 24 are anticipated to be neighborhood parks, 13 community parks, four regional parks, and four parkways.

In total, 111 new parks will be needed through build-out to serve the entire City within a 10-minute or half-mile walk.

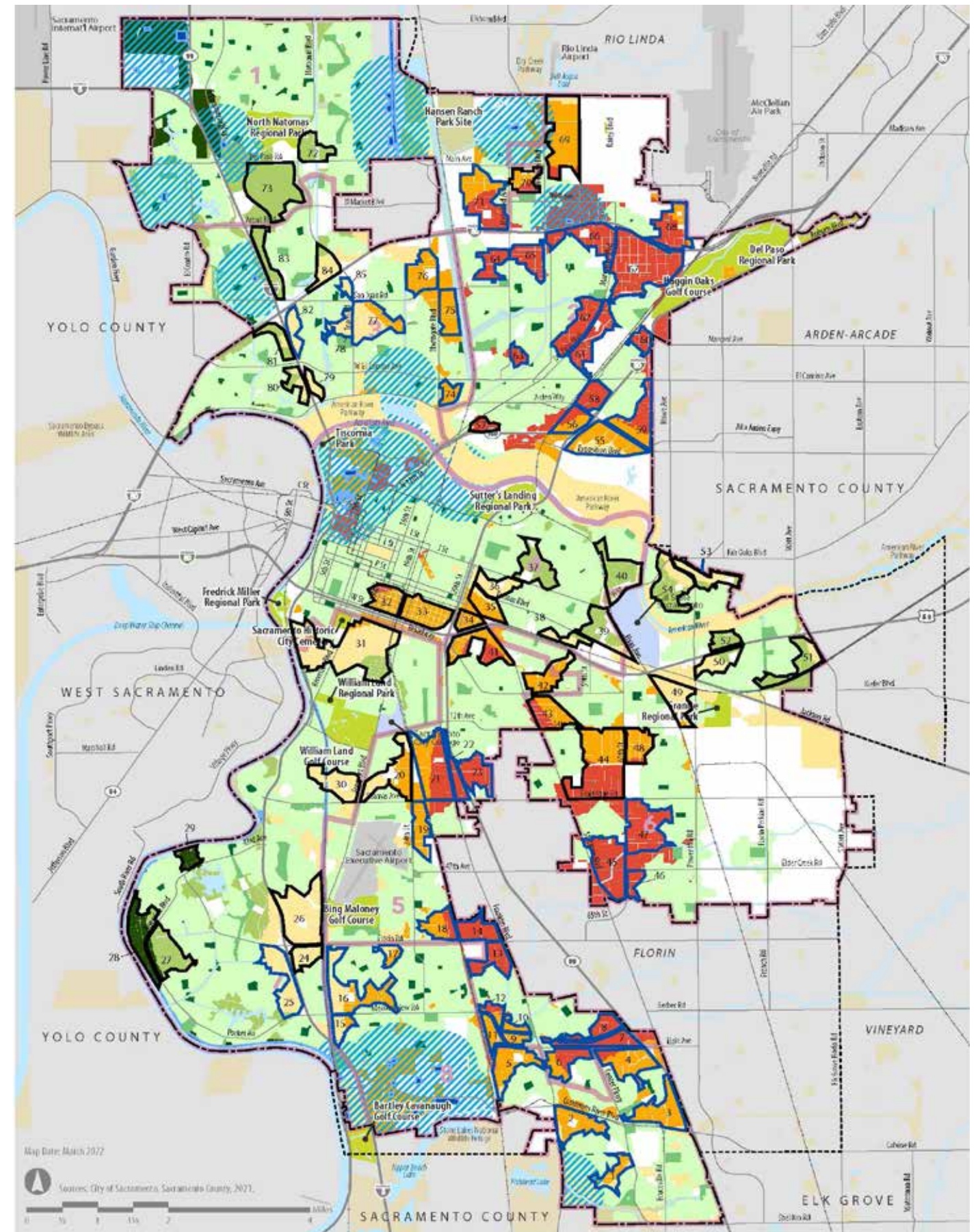


Table C-1. Characteristics for Park Gap Analysis

Unserviced Gap Areas	
Gap ID	Gap IDs were provided for all 85 gap areas.
Council District	Gap areas may span one or multiple Council Districts.
Severity of Need within Gap Area	
Is there high density?	Areas with a population density of 7,501 persons per square mile or greater are considered a high-density population area. Population counts were collected from the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, and Sacramento Area Council of Governments.
Do a majority of residents identify at Black, Indigenous, or People of Color?	Populations with a racial distribution of Non-White or Hispanic/Latino that is 61% or greater.
Is there high or med-high vulnerability levels?	Vulnerability is based on the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) Sustainable Communities Sensitivity Analysis. The analysis identified key indicators that identify and target communities with a greater sensitivity to social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities. These indicators include disadvantaged communities (SB535), Environmental Justice - CalEnviroScreen 3.0, social vulnerability to climate change, Healthy Sacramento Coalition - Health Equity, medically underserved areas, poverty areas, Sacramento Promise Zone, and opportunity zones.
Adjacencies and Alternate Park Opportunities	
Are there other parks and open spaces (non-YPCE)?	An existing park, parkway, or open space area is provided by another public or private agency, such as the County, within or adjacent to the gap identified. These were not included in the 10-minute walk analysis but are factored in here.
Are there public schools?	Public school with facilities within the boundary of an identified unserved area.

Table C-2. Matrix of Gap Area Needs and Park Proposals

Unserviced Gap Areas		Severity of Need within Gap Area			Adjacencies		Proposed Parks	
Gap ID	Council District	Is there high density?	Do a majority of residents identify at Black, Indigenous, or People of Color?	Is there high or med-high vulnerability levels?	Are there other parks and open spaces (non-YPCE)?	Are there public schools?	# of parks	Opportunity to Serve Gap Area
1	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
2	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
3	8	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
4	8	Partial	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
5	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
6	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
7-8	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
9-10	5	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
11-12	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.

Table C-2. Matrix of Gap Area Needs and Park Proposals (Continued)

Unserviced Gap Areas		Severity of Need within Gap Area			Adjacencies		Proposed Parks	
Gap ID	Council District	Is there high density?	Do a majority of residents identify at Black, Indigenous, or People of Color?	Is there high or med-high vulnerability levels?	Are there other parks and open spaces (non-YPCE)?	Are there public schools?	# of parks	Opportunity to Serve Gap Area
13	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
14	5	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
15-16	8	Partial	Yes	Partial	No	Yes	2	Add 2 new parks, and an access connection across the major road.
17	8	Yes	Yes	Partial	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
18	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
19	5	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
20	5	No	No	Partial	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
21	5	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
22	5	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	0	No new park suggested. Small gap area. Instead, facilitate access to nearby areas.
23	5	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
24	7	No	Yes	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
25	7	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
26	7	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	0	No new park suggested. Gap area has other provider of park / open space.
27	7	No	Partial	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
28	7	No	No	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
29	7	No	No	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
30	7	No	Partial	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
31	4, 7	No	No	No	No	Yes	2	Large gap area intersected by a major road. Add 2 new neighborhood parks.
32	4	No	No	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
33	4	Partial	No	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
34	4	Partial	No	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
35	4	No	No	Partial	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
36	4	No	No	No	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
37	4	Partial	No	No	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.

Table C-2. Matrix of Gap Area Needs and Park Proposals (Continued)

Unserviced Gap Areas		Severity of Need within Gap Area			Adjacencies		Proposed Parks	
Gap ID	Council District	Is there high density?	Do a majority of residents identify at Black, Indigenous, or People of Color?	Is there high or med-high vulnerability levels?	Are there other parks and open spaces(non-YPCE)?	Are there public schools?	# of parks	Opportunity to Serve Gap Area
38	4	No	No	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
39	4	No	No	No	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
40	4, 6	No	No	No	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
41	5, 6	Partial	No	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
42	6	No	No	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
43	6	No	No	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
44	6	No	Partial	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
45	6	Partial	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
46	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
47	6	Partial	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
48	6	No	No	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
49	6	No	No	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
50	6	Partial	Partial	No	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
51	6	No	No	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
52	6	No	No	No	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Location is adjacent to the American River.
53-54	6	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	0	No new park suggested. Gap area has other provider of park / open space.
53-54	6	No	No	No	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Location is adjacent to the American River.
55	2	No	No	Partial	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
56	2	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Location is near to the American River.
57	2	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Small gap area. Improve access to the American River.
58	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
59	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
60	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
61	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.

Table C-2. Matrix of Gap Area Needs and Park Proposals (Continued)

Unserviced Gap Areas		Severity of Need within Gap Area			Adjacencies		Proposed Parks	
Gap ID	Council District	Is there high density?	Do a majority of residents identify at Black, Indigenous, or People of Color?	Is there high or med-high vulnerability levels?	Are there other parks and open spaces(non-YPCE)?	Are there public schools?	# of parks	Opportunity to Serve Gap Area
62	2	Partial	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Gap area has other provider of park / open space.
63	2	Partial	Yes	Yes	No	No	0	No new park suggested. Small gap area.
64	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
65	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
66	2	Partial	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
67	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
68	2	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
69	2	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
70	1	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Gap area has other provider of park / open space.
71	1	Partial	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Gap area has other provider of park / open space.
72	1	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Gap area has other provider of park / open space.
73	1	No	Yes	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
74	3	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Location is adjacent to the American River.
75-76	3	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park. Explore partnership opportunities with public school.
77-78	3	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	1	Add 1 new park and improve access across major intersecting road.
79	3	No	Yes	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
80	3	No	No	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
81	3	No	No	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
82	3	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	0	No new park suggested. Gap area has other provider of park / open space.
83	3	No	Yes	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
84	3	No	Yes	No	No	No	1	Add 1 new park.
85	3	Partial	Yes	No	No	No	0	No new park suggested. Small gap area.
66 TOTAL NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS NEEDED								



APPENDIX **D**



APPENDIX D: POLICIES

Appendix D. Policies identifies the systemwide policies that will guide Sacramento’s Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment (YPCE) core services in the provision of parks, recreation facilities, programs, and related services through the year 2040.

The policies are organized into six categories and are defined as follows:

- 1. Parks, Parkways & Open Space:** Provide well-designed, high-quality parks, parkways, and open space that are accessible to all City residents.
- 2. Recreation Facilities:** Diversify recreation facilities to support active and passive, indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- 3. Programs, Events, and Services:** Promote youth wellbeing, lifelong recreation, enrichment, and community cohesiveness through inclusive programs, events, and services for all residents.
- 4. Maintenance & Stewardship:** Strategically maintain and manage assets and natural resources to support park use, stewardship, sustainability, and resilience.
- 5. Administration and Management:** Ensure success through administrative, operational, and organizational excellence.
- 6. Financial Investment:** Support the investment needed to sustain the park and recreation system by diversifying funding, ensuring the wise use of financial resources, and cultivating economic impacts

The categories and corresponding policies within each category are numbered for ease of reference; they do not appear in priority order. In some cases, strategies (noted as a, b, c, d, etc.) provide clarifying details regarding the policies. The policies and strategies presented here—and particularly the standards and guidelines—are intended to apply to YPCE, even though other City departments also play a role in providing open space, trails, youth services, and community facilities and programs.

Table D-1. Policy Implementation by YPCE Division

YPCE Divisions	Policy Categories					
	Parks, Parkways & Open Space	Recreation Facilities	Programs, Events, & Services	Maintenance & Stewardship	Administration & Management	Financial Investment
Youth Development Division		•	•			
Community Enrichment Division		•	•			•
Park Maintenance Division				•		
Park Safety Division					•	
Park Planning & Development Services Division	•	•				•
Administration Division					•	•

Policy Sources and Integration

Policies are integrated and refined from several key sources, including:

- Sacramento 2040 General Plan (2023 Public Review Draft), including:
 - » Youth, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element (YPRO)
 - » Environmental Resources and Constraints Element (ERC)
 - » Environmental Justice Element (EJ)
 - » Community Plan Areas
- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) (2023 Public Review Draft)
- Urban Forest Plan (UFP) (2023 Public Review Draft)

- Age-Friendly Community Action Plan (AFCAP) (2024)
- 2018-2023 YPCE Strategic Plan (2018)
- YPCE Park Project Programming Guide (2018)
- Citywide Youth Development Plan (2017)
- 2005-2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009 Update)

Supplemental to the policies in this appendix, comprehensive guidelines relating to park acquisition, design, and development are presented in *Appendix E: Park Development and Renovation Guidelines*.

To cross-reference this information with other Parks Plan 2040 chapters, Table D-1 notes how YPCE Divisions will be involved in implementing these policies. Table D-2 shows how each of the nine Key Directions recommended in Chapter 7 intersect various policy categories.

Table D-2. Policy Integration within the Key Directions

Key Directions	Policy Categories					
	Parks, Parkways & Open Space	Recreation Facilities	Programs, Events, & Services	Maintenance & Stewardship	Administration & Management	Financial Investment
1. Safety and Maintenance			•	•	•	
2. Quality Parks	•	•		•		
3. Equitable Access	•	•	•			•
4. Health and Wellness	•	•	•	•	•	
5. Youth Safety, Wellbeing, and Development		•	•		•	
6. Nature & Trail Connections	•	•	•	•		
7. Resiliency & Sustainability	•	•		•		
8. YPCE Leadership & Communications			•		•	•
9. Park & Program Investment	•	•				•

1: PARKS, PARKWAYS & OPEN SPACE

Provide well-designed, high-quality parks, parkways, and open space that are accessible to all City residents.

Integrated Park and Open Space System

1.1 Continue to provide an integrated network of parks, parkways, and open space as critical components of community livability and the citywide open space system. (YPRO)

1.2 Provide a range of parks and recreational facilities that support different types of recreational experiences. (YPRO)

- a. Adopt the new classification system proposed in this Parks Plan to distinguish parks by classification and type.
- b. Apply the guidelines associated with this function-based classification system when developing new parks and renovating existing sites to diversify recreation opportunities. (See Appendix E)

Parkland Service Standards

1.3 Strive to provide a parkland level of service of 8.5 acres of parks, parkways, and open space per 1,000 residents. (YPRO)

- a. Apply the park guidelines by classification in Table D-3 to achieve the level of service desired and diversify park opportunities and experiences.
- b. Balance the provision of parkland by increasing the level of service for neighborhood and community parks and decreasing the level of service for other park types, including regional parks and parkways.

1.4 Strive to provide a publicly accessible park within a 10-minute walk, or approximately one-half mile, of all residents (homes in residential areas). (YPRO)

- a. Distribute neighborhood, community, and regional parks to support close-to-home access.
- b. Augment close-to-home parks with parkways and shared-used paths that support recreation and access to other types of parks.
- c. Do not count parks and open space that are not intended for public access in meeting this standard.

1.5 Strive to provide larger parks with specialized recreation opportunities within three miles of all residents (homes in residential areas).

- d. Distribute community or regional parks across Sacramento to be accessible to all residents via a reasonable driving or transit time.

1.6 Ensure the provision of quality parks by implementing the updated park and facility acquisition, design, development, and renovation guidelines in the Parks Plan. (Appendix E)

1.7 Ensure that City parks meet or exceed other State and Federal requirements for parks.

- a. Strive to exceed ADA standards for physical access to all park and recreation areas and facilities.
- b. Ensure natural areas within parks adhere to environmental regulations related to sensitive species, environmental quality, etc.

Table D-3. YPCE Parkland Level of Service Guidelines by Classification

Park Classification	LOS Guideline (acres/1,000)
Regional Parks	2.75
Community Parks	2.00
Neighborhood Parks	1.50
Parkways	1.50
Open Space	0.75
Total Parkland Standard	8.50 acres/1,000 residents

Note. See Chapter 6 for 2040 parkland needs.

Table D-4. YPCE Parkland Access Guidelines by Classification

Desired Access	Desired Access Time (Distance)	Qualifying Park Classifications
Access to parks within walking distance	10-minute walk (½ mile)	Neighborhood or community park ¹
Access to specialized recreation opportunities	Reasonable driving or transit time (3 miles)	Community parks or regional parks

¹The City's goal is to provide access to a neighborhood or community park within walking distance. However, residential areas that have access to regional parks within that travel distance are considered served.

Park Acquisition, Design and Development

1.8 Acquire parkland to achieve Parks Plan standards, improve park access, and serve park deficient areas. (See Chapter 5 for a map of park deficient areas and Appendix E for parkland acquisition guidelines.)

- a. Acquire, lease, or otherwise obtain rights to the use of lands for parks following Parks Plan acquisition guidelines.
- b. Site parks to ensure functionality based on classification, taking into account residential density, multi-modal access, adjacent uses, site character, natural opportunities, and required and desired uses.
- c. Co-locate parks with other greenspace and facilities (e.g., schools, libraries, cultural facilities, and stormwater detention basins) to leverage existing resources, offset operations and maintenance costs, increase use, and enhance habitat and ecological functions. (YPRO)

d. Explore creative solutions to provide greenspace and recreation amenities in areas where traditional parks are not feasible.

1.9 Implement the Parks Plan Development and Renovation Guidelines (Appendix E) to ensure new park development and existing park improvements address the following principles:

- a. **Inclusivity:** Ensure parks are welcoming and engaging for residents and visitors of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, and incomes. Support multigenerational opportunities for recreation. (YPRO)
- b. **Diversity:** Provide a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities to serve a variety of recreation and cultural interests. Balance busy, programmed active use sites with spaces designed for contemplation and quiet social gatherings.

- c. **Universal, All-Inclusive Access:** Meet and where possible exceed the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide parks and facilities that accommodate all ages and abilities, including people with mobility issues, sight and hearing impairments, allergies, and other special needs. Integrate and consider all options of modality and accessibility.
 - d. **Safety:** Implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies and enhance park safety through playground design, crime prevention technology, night lighting, natural surveillance, and unobtrusive landscaping. (YPRO)
 - e. **Community Culture and Heritage:** Integrate community heritage, history, culture and identity through thematic site design, the use of materials, the inclusion of public art and interpretive elements, programmatic connections to Indigenous tribal and/or local history, and choice of recreation elements and support features.
 - f. **Neighborhood and Demographic Context:** Create context-sensitive local parks that reflect the demographics and needs of surrounding neighborhoods.
 - g. **Park Greening and Native Plantings:** Protect green space in parks by balancing the use of native plantings, turf, trees, and landscaping to promote recreation, connect people to nature, reduce stress, and improve site ecological function.
 - h. **Resilience:** Design and landscape parks to adapt to climate change impacts, including increasing heat, extreme weather, wildfires, droughts, etc.
 - i. **Tree Canopy and Shade Equity:** Plant and protect native or large canopy trees to provide shade, windbreaks and urban cooling, while also supporting carbon sequestration and air quality, particularly in disadvantaged neighborhoods.
 - j. **Noise and Light:** Minimize noise and light pollution by buffering lighted facilities and noise-producing activities from sensitive receptors.
 - k. **Continuity in Furnishings:** Establish and integrate a consistent site furnishing palette systemwide for ease of maintenance (including items such as seating, light fixtures, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc.), but allow for variations in the City's most visible, high-use parks to emphasize a unique park theme or identity.
 - l. **Maintenance:** Involve maintenance staff in park design to incorporate maintenance efficiencies in parks, including wider paths for maintenance vehicles.
 - m. **Sustainability:** Incorporate sustainable landscaping and facilities that limit water usage and energy consumption, such as drought-resistant landscaping and low impact development.
 - n. **Flexibility of Use:** Allow for a variety of programmed and self-directed activities to occur by not precluding activities with unnecessary physical constraints or regulations.
 - o. **Adaptability:** Design multi-use spaces and facilities to be easily adaptable to address changing community needs over time.
- 1.10** Manage site-specific planning, design, and capital improvement processes to create a quality park and recreation system.
- a. Involve community members and stakeholders in park planning, design, and programming decisions. Ensure the representation of youth, seniors, people of color, and traditionally underrepresented groups.
 - b. Adopt and regularly update the Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment (YPCE) Parks Plan to provide policy recommendations toward meeting the city's parkland and facility level of service goals; incorporate design guideline standards for park and recreation facilities; and strengthen access to parks and recreational facilities. Incorporate key priorities, implementation actions, and funding mechanisms. (YPRO)

- c. Update the Park Project Programming Guide to incorporate a performance-based system to equitably prioritize parks and recreation investments that links facility improvement priorities to safety standards, funding availability, disadvantaged communities, public health, and recreational goals through a ranking scale that includes public health outcomes. (YPRO)
- d. Coordinate Park development guidelines with parkland dedication and fee-in-lieu requirements. (See *Policy Category: Financial Investment*).

Park Equity and Access

- 1.11** Pursue the equitable provision of parks—in terms of park safety, quality, level of development, and park condition, investing in unserved and underserved areas to bring sites up to a minimum standard of excellence.
- a. Utilize the Park Development and Renovation Guidelines to identify and improve sites not meeting City guidelines for park quality.
 - b. Prioritize park projects in identified disadvantaged, environmentally vulnerable, and child-dense neighborhoods.
 - c. Prioritize park enhancements and improvements in areas with underdeveloped parks, amenities, and facilities in poor condition, and/or an existing deficit of high-quality, specialized facilities.
 - d. Seek additional park acreage in areas where small parks or the lack of parkland limits the types of recreation opportunities available to nearby residents. Acquire green space in unserved neighborhoods and infill development target areas.
 - e. Employ creative design and flexible overlays within small park spaces that encourage diversity of uses and user groups.

1.12 Strategically increase recreation access and/or greenspace in park deficient areas.

- a. Explore options to acquire land through purchase, land dedication, easements, and land leases that would allow for permanent or temporary use of land for recreational opportunities.
- b. Expand joint use agreements with schools and educational institutions to ensure access to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- c. Improve walking and bicycling access to existing parks to leverage existing resources when providing parks within walking distance.
- d. Improve bicycling and walking access by adding entry points to existing parks to make parks more accessible within walking distance.
- e. Improve navigable routes to and from park areas by collaborating with other City departments in the removal of physical barriers to nearby sites (ex: fences), installation of new or improved multi-use shared paths, crosswalks, sidewalks wayfinding signage, as well as enhancements to public transit.
- f. Leverage parkways to improve park access, such as by developing small footprint recreation facilities in parkway corridors, removing fencing and gates, adding trail access points where feasible, and extending trails to improve connections between parkways and existing parks. (YPRO)
- g. Partner to add recreation amenities to appropriate (publicly accessible) non-park sites in prioritized park deficient areas, such as fire stations, libraries, churches, utility corridors, and street rights-of-way. This partnership may take the form of joint investment to add new amenities and facilities, YPCE investment in recreation facility improvements or facility maintenance at non-City sites, shared use agreements to ensure shared public use of recreation facilities, etc.

- h. Consider non-traditional, creative, and flexible solutions to provide greenspace and recreation activities in neighborhoods where traditional parks are not feasible. (Appendix E)
- i. Invest in and expand YPCE’s mobile recreation program to bring staff, equipment, recreation activities, and small portable facilities (such as climbing walls, movie screens, sports goals, play equipment, etc.) to support recreation in areas that lack parks.

1.13 Provide access to quality parks in new residential areas by adhering to Parks Plan standards and guidelines.

- a. Ensure that the costs and staffing impacts created by new parks are borne by new development, so that parks funding is not diverted from meeting equity needs in existing unserved and disadvantaged areas.

Access to Nature and Waterways

1.14 Enhance, restore, and protect natural resources in parks.

- a. Inventory rivers, lakes/ponds, creeks, native vegetation, wildlife corridors, sensitive habitats, and detention basins in YPCE parks, parkways, and open space.
- b. Locate, design, and maintain parks to serve as a transitional buffer between natural areas and urban development.
- c. Target acquisition of new parkland that protects existing natural resources, supports urban greening and aesthetics, and promotes ecological functions.
- d. Ensure compatible park and recreation uses adjacent to natural resources.
- e. Develop “nature parks” within the city to support access to nature-based recreation while protecting natural resources.

- f. Protect and preserve native trees, woodlands, native species, and riparian areas in parks in recognition of their ties to the area’s natural history, ability to sustain ecosystems, and natural climate adaptation. (UFP)
- g. Continue to maintain and program Camp Sacramento to support access to nature.

1.15 Improve waterfront access, recreation, and management through collaboration. (YPRO)

- a. Increase and/or formalize informal access points to river parkways, particularly focusing on residential areas that lack park access within a 10-minute walk.
- b. Work with regional partners, State agencies, non-profit and community groups, private landowners, and land developers to manage, preserve, improve, and enhance use and access to the Sacramento and American River Parkways, urban waterways, and riparian corridors to increase public access for active and passive recreation and habitat values.
- c. Continue to collaborate with State agencies, private landowners, business districts, civic institutions, and other stakeholders to manage, preserve, improve, and enhance recreation and access along the Sacramento River waterfront from Tiscornia Park to Frederick Miller Regional Park. (CPA)

1.16 Collaborate with City and regional partners to support the safety and use of the American River and Sacramento River parkways. (YPRO)

- a. Coordinate with Public Works to ensure the repair and replacement of water access facilities such as the marina, docks, and water access spots.
- b. Collaborate with regional partners to expand recreation facilities and uses along the river, including but not limited to picnic areas, water viewpoints, and ADA-accessible water access points for fishing, non-motorized boating, and water/beach access.

- c. Designate river water trails with nonmotorized boat access through dispersed put-in and take-out points at regular intervals via YPCE and partner sites.
- d. Collaborate with regional partners to provide support amenities along riverfront parkways—including signage, trash receptacles, seating, bike racks—that are consistent in distribution and quality. Identify appropriate locations for water access points with parking, restrooms, and drinking fountains.
- e. Work with regional partners to increase parkway and trail maintenance, litter pickup, and ranger patrols in river corridors.

Trail and Parkway Connectivity

1.17 Coordinate with other City departments and regional providers in creating an interconnected shared use path system.

- a. Collaborate with other City departments, partners, adjacent cities, and regional entities to provide an interconnected system of regional and local shared use paths to support recreation, active transportation, and park and program access.
- b. Coordinate with respective City Departments when planning, constructing, and maintaining the shared-use paths and bikeways.
- c. Coordinate with Public Works to ensure consistent wayfinding and signage throughout City’s trail system.
- d. Encourage multi-modal circulation through construction and improvement of shared-use paths for recreational, commuting, and sustainability purposes.
- e. Condition all new development entitlements with shared-use paths as allowed by the City.

1.18 Ensure City trails support recreation and access to parks.

- a. Ensure that community and regional parks are connected to City’s Bikeway Master Plan.
- b. Advocate for on- and off-street trail connections between parks, parkways, and other public facilities and key destinations within the city and throughout the region.
- c. Expand parkway connectivity by identifying and developing new parkway corridors for recreation, natural resource protection, greenspace, flood protection, and trail use. Consider the City’s levee system, retired railroad rights-of-way, utility corridors, freeway buffers, and other linear corridors where these connect to existing parkways or provide multiple benefits.

Park Space Protection

1.19 Ensure the City’s code prevents a net loss of park land to other uses.

- a. Ensure that public parkland converted to non-recreational uses is replaced to serve the same community, consistent with California’s Public Park Preservation Act of 1971.
- b. Establish land use provisions in the Municipal Code that prevent a net loss of public parkland in the City, requiring at least a 1:1 replacement if there is any loss of public parkland due to public or private development.
- c. Ensure that any replacement parkland is vetted for suitability and meets YPCE’s minimum guidelines for site selection, acquisition, design, and development. (See *Appendix E*.)

2: RECREATION FACILITIES

Diversify recreation facilities to support active and passive, indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Diverse Recreation Facilities

2.1 Provide a variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of the community, including residents and visitors, all ages and abilities, and diverse interests.

- Provide a variety of amenities and facilities to support active and passive recreation, indoor and outdoor recreation, as well as traditional and trending activities.
- Diversify recreation experiences by providing a mix of major facilities operated by staff, specialized facilities that support unique recreation opportunities, as well as facilities that support sports, play, social gatherings, nature-based recreation, trail use.
- Balance the provision of facilities for residents and visitors, giving preference to City residents for facilities that require an investment subsidy. Emphasize facilities for visitors to Sacramento where these generate revenues (recover greater than 100 percent of costs) to reinvest in the park system.
- Test or pilot options for new or expanded facilities as defined in the Parks Plan.

2.2 Plan quality parks that integrate amenities and recreation facilities to meet community needs.

- Apply Park Development and Renovation Guidelines (Appendix E) and facility level of service standards to guide programmatic decisions on the numbers and types of facilities to include in new and renovated parks.

- Complete site-specific plans that consider site size, topography, natural resources, and other site conditions that will affect the numbers, types, and style of amenities and facilities to provide in parks.
- Consider trends and changing needs before making like-for-like replacements of old, worn, or damaged facilities. Ensure that best practices and current and future recreation needs are addressed.

Equitable Facility Distribution

2.3 Ensure the equitable distribution of high-quality facilities in parks throughout Sacramento.

- Expand the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the Park Amenities Equity Dashboard to guide the equitable installation, renovation, and replacement of facilities considering such factors as:
 - Quality of Service (QoS):** Evaluate each facility based on its condition and level of maintenance. Award additional points to sites that have more support amenities, such as parking, restrooms, and field lighting.
 - Child-Density Ranking:** Note the population density of children (ages 18 and under) in the census tract where a target facility is or will be located.

- Community Ranking:** Apply CalEnviroScreen data to identify communities that are disadvantaged as identified based on socioeconomic population characteristics and environmental pollution. This information could be supplemented by focusing on the Environmental Justice communities identified in the General Plan.
 - Partner Agreements:** Identify facilities that receive extra investment, preparation, or maintenance by volunteers or partners through use agreements.
- Consider the distribution and the location of existing facilities when adding new facilities to improve access and equitable use. (Appendix E)
 - Address facility needs in underserved areas, where small parks or a lack of park development frequently limit the types of recreation opportunities provided.
 - Ensure that residents have access to active recreation and sports, large and small group gathering and events spaces, leisure facilities, and arts and cultural elements.
 - Maintain GIS database of park facilities as new parks are added to the park inventory and older facilities are removed or replaced.

2.4 Develop and maintain quality facilities to support children and youth--particularly in disadvantaged communities--to ensure opportunities for youth development, recreation, social development, skill building, exploration, and wellness. (YPRO)

- Support the needs of youth of all ages by investing in facilities suited in size, scale, and development level for toddlers, preschoolers, school-age children, 'twens, teens, and young adults.
- Prioritizing the needs of youth between the ages of 10 and 24, by providing active recreation and challenge facilities such as multi-field and multi-court sports complexes, skateparks, pump tracks, and challenge courses for a variety of organized and recreational sports.

2.5 Identify and support unique park and facility needs in disadvantaged areas and vulnerable communities.

- Explore options to add facility lighting to community parks to provide positive places within walking distance to recreation after dark.
- Ensure that active recreation facilities (e.g., sports fields and courts, tracks and trails, mountain biking trails, challenge elements such as zip lines, climbing walls, and obstacles courses) are available within walking distance of residents in disadvantaged areas to support health and fitness.
- Explore additional options to support urban cooling, such as drinking fountains, shade shelters, shaded play areas, covered sports courts, and an enhanced tree canopy. Provide cooling centers and respite centers in high priority locations throughout the City where at-risk populations may need to cool down. (CAAP)
- Create additional "nature parks" within the city to make nature-based recreation facilities (e.g., nature walks, canoeing/kayaking, nature interpretation and habitat viewing, day group camps) more easily accessible to residents in disadvantaged areas.
- Explore ways to facilitate swimming pool and community center access for residents in disadvantaged areas, especially for youth, through transportation programs, joint-use agreements with the school districts, or expanded access to nearby facilities.
- Provide mobile recreation programming with sports equipment and temporary facilities in park deficient areas and disadvantaged areas to introduce residents to new recreation options and expand opportunities for residents less likely to drive to community parks to use similar facilities.

Major Facilities (Community Centers, Aquatic Facilities, and Golf Courses)

2.6 Strive to distribute community centers, arts and cultural facilities, senior centers, swimming pools, and similar major facilities that require staffing and operations to ensure that recreation programs are accessible to all residents.

2.7 Continue to activate cooling centers at existing community centers, aquatic centers, and water spray parks to help residents cope with higher temperatures. (CAAP)

2.8 Strategically invest in the renovation, expansion, or development of major facilities to meet community priorities and financial sustainability goals.

- a. Prepare business and operations plans prior to developing or renovating major facilities to help identify the optimal size, amenities, location, programming, revenue-generating strategies, cost recovery, and operating model for facilities with high operating costs.
- b. Evaluate economically efficient alternatives to major facilities before developing new or expanding existing facilities. For example, replace wading pools with spraygrounds; decrease the number of swimming pools as per level of service guidelines while increasing other types of cooling and waterplay options.
- c. Reduce the numbers of community centers/senior centers/clubhouses long term by consolidating buildings to invest in multi-purpose, multi-generational community and recreation centers that address a variety of indoor needs, including active recreation and fitness, arts and culture, community meetings and social gatherings
- d. Avoid investing in smaller single-purpose or limited use buildings, such as neighborhood centers, senior centers, teen centers. Design facilities such as nature centers with flexible use space to support other types of programs, rentals, and reservations.
- e. Provide flexible spaces and programmable spaces with revenue-generating capacity.

- f. Ensure that facility design, development and operations factor in best practices and costs for routine/preventative maintenance as well as longer-term asset management.
- g. Evaluate options for joint-use partnerships to use or improve existing facilities prior to building new ones. Consider the involvement of equity partners, operating partners, and sponsors when planning and designing major facilities, including aquatic facilities and recreation centers.
- h. Evaluate short term and long-term costs before acquiring and repurposing any existing building or facility for recreation uses. Factor in the return on investment, balancing renovation and ADA accessibility costs with the building's recreation or social gathering value, recognizing any limitations the building may have to desired functionality.
- i. Consider whether smaller buildings or facilities should be phased out, repurposed, or leased to other operators, especially if uses can be incorporated into a larger, multi-purpose facility that better accommodates programs.

2.9 Optimize existing City-owned community centers and facilities for use as resiliency centers that provide resources related to climate change impacts. (CAAP)

- a. Identify strategies to improve facilities and associated programs to support cooling and warming, enhanced air filtration (protection from wildfire smoke), and flood and fire rescues.
- b. Identify and invest in the supportive programming and services, as well as resources needed to support facility operations (e.g., onsite solar power and backup storage).
- c. Evaluate cost-benefits, infrastructure feasibility, and funding opportunities, and prepare a list of priority facilities and projects needed to retrofit facilities as resilience centers. Prioritize efforts that support vulnerable populations regionwide during climatic events.

2.10 Designate targeted community centers as health and wellness hubs that prioritize health programming, as well as other recreation and leisure services.

- a. Consider including a family and health resource center or space where partners can provide health counseling, health information and referrals, and health education.
- b. Offer healthy living and healthy eating programs, along with fitness opportunities.
- c. Consider indoor/outdoor synergies, such as pairing an outdoor community garden at a site with an indoor learning/teaching or commercial kitchen to support healthy eating programs.
- d. Consider the full spectrum of health benefits that could be supported, such as gymnasiums and fitness space to support exercise, respite/quiet rooms to support mental health, social spaces to help reduce social isolation, etc.

2.11 Operate the City's municipal golf courses collectively as financially self-sustaining enterprise facilities.(YPRO)

- a. Generate revenues to sustain facility maintenance, operations, and asset management, while remaining competitive in the marketplace and encouraging play.
- b. Consider market conditions and return on investment while enhancing or renovating the City's golf courses.

Specialized Facilities in YPCE Parks

2.12 Facilitate the provision of specialized facilities in City parks to diversify recreation experiences and opportunities.

- a. Inventory and track all specialized facilities, including those operated by YPCE and others on City park land. These include facilities such as concessions, restaurants and cafes, equestrian facilities and zoos, sports stadiums or sports complexes, recreation centers, boat docks and marinas, museums and discovery centers, maintenance buildings and landfills, botanical gardens, urban farms, and specialized sites such as Fairytale Town and Funderland.
- b. Track and monitor any investment related to specialized facilities in City parks to take account of the return on investment of these facilities.

2.13 Document roles, responsibilities, and cost-sharing agreements for the provision of specialized facilities managed by other operators.

- a. Regularly review and update lease and operating agreements for specialized facilities provided by others in City parks. Categorize and manage agreements as:
 - i. Partner agreements, where YPCE allows a non-profit facility operator to use park space and/or a major facility free of charge in exchange for the provision of programs and services that match City standards for quality services. YPCE may agree to partner (co-invest) in site improvements.
 - ii. Lease agreements, where the operator pays the City for use of the land/facility and assumes all responsibilities for facility operations, repair, and replacement.
- b. Identify operator responsibilities upon the closure of a specialized facility.
- c. If a specialized facility relocates out of a City park, involve the public and stakeholders in creating a site vision and design concept for site reuse to maximize public benefit.

Play, Sports, Outdoor Recreation, and Interpretive Facilities

2.14 Diversify play, sports, and outdoor recreation facilities in parks as per park design guidelines and level of service standards.

- a. Sustain service levels for traditional features such as play equipment, picnic shelters, basketball courts, and dog parks.
- b. Increase facilities that support diverse cultural groups, such as cricket fields and futsal courts.
- c. Increase sports facilities that support growing areas for participation, such as pickleball and soccer.
- d. Provide a greater variety of sports courts (e.g., badminton, shuffleboard, bocce ball, etc.) and active use facilities (e.g., bike pump tracks, skate parks, outdoor fitness equipment, etc.)

- e. Increase event space in parks to support large gatherings and community events, festivals, and celebrations.
- f. Provide activity hubs in parks, such as game tables, outdoor chess and table tennis, concrete skate spots, etc.

2.15 Provide innovative play opportunities for all ages and abilities.

- a. Diversify play options in community and regional parks by incorporating thematic play, nature play, adventure play, imaginative play, and water play opportunities into play areas.
- b. Provide universal, all-inclusive play areas distributed in each planning area to facilitate parent-child play and play for all abilities, or at a minimum inclusive play elements integrated into other play areas.
- c. Increase adventure play and challenge opportunities for older children and teens, adding facilities such as challenge courses, zip lines, parkour, rope swings, net climbers, and climbing spires.
- d. Consider recreation needs of caretakers watching children at play areas intended for ages 2-5 and 5-12, such as by pairing outdoor fitness equipment near play areas.

2.16 Increase and diversify trails and trail-related recreation experiences in parks, parkways, and accessible open space areas. Consider the following types of trails:

- Looped trails in parks
- Nature trails (with interpretive features)

- Soft-surfaced walking and jogging trails
- Big wheel and tricycle tracks
- Shared use paths, skills areas, pump tracks
- Art walks

2.17 Provide interpretive and nature-based facilities to enhance connections to nature-based recreation, history, art and culture.

- a. Increase community gardens in parks.
- b. Install interpretive signage and information kiosks to provide land acknowledgements of Indigenous and tribal ancestral history and contributions, as well as to highlight the ecological function, local and environmental history of parks.
- c. Use QR codes, augmented reality (AR) and technology to connect park users to additional digital information about parks through signage, site maps, interactive displays and exhibits, arboretum plant identification plates, and memorials.
- d. Provide a network of natural classrooms for children to learn about the region's diverse ecosystems. These may range from small, informal rustic amphitheaters to shelters with interpretive elements to nature centers.
- e. Identify opportunities to increase river and beach access by providing facilities to support fishing, boating, wading, sunbathing, and beach use.

Support Amenities

2.18 Provide sufficient support amenities in parks to support inclusive park use, comfort, and longer stays.

- a. Incorporate amenities that invite the use of park facilities by all community members. Provide seating, accessible park paths and facilities, shaded seating, pathway lighting and restrooms that make it easier for older adults and families to enjoy the facilities.
- b. Use universal interpretive signage to educate the public and promote awareness of City parks and open spaces natural resources.

2.19 Design and amenitize parks to support the dignity of all park and facility users, including people who are homeless and marginally housed, disadvantaged, disabled or differently abled, and of different genders and family configurations.

- a. Increase the numbers of gender-neutral and family-style restrooms in parks.
- b. Provide signage in braille.
- c. Integrate auditory as well as visual cues to indicated park hazards.
- d. Use multi-lingual signage or pictographs and symbols where feasible to increase universal understanding of signage for non-English speakers.
- e. Provide wide paths to support accessible use by parents with young children or strollers, people in wheelchairs, space for communication via sign language, and opportunities to pass other users safely.
- f. Consider providing lockers, day use showers/washing stations, sharps (needles disposal), and similar amenities in selected parks in areas serving significant unhoused populations.

Joint-Use & Private Facilities and Partnerships

2.20 Provide joint-use school and community facilities to leverage community resources.

- a. Develop and periodically update standards for the development of joint-use school and community facilities.
- b. Ensure reciprocal benefits for school district use of parks and YPCE use of school facilities for recreation programming.
- c. Pursue joint-use agreements in park deficient areas to allow community use of school playgrounds, sports fields, and outdoor sports courts to improve park access to surrounding neighborhoods.
- d. Explore partnerships with schools, colleges, and potentially private churches and homeowners' associations to provide access to sports fields to increase access to recreational spaces for residents and community groups.
- e. Explore joint-use agreements with local high schools for the joint development of aquatics facilities or for increasing school or public access to existing pools.
- f. Encourage local colleges, medical centers, health providers, and others to publicize and offer campus events to the larger community.

2.21 Co-locate City facilities with other public facilities (e.g., schools, libraries, drainage facilities, utility providers) so that multiple services may be delivered from an individual location.

2.22 Encourage the development of private commercial recreational facilities, such as fitness centers, yoga, dance and martial arts studios, and rock-climbing gyms, to help meet recreational interests of Sacramento's residents, workforce, and visitors.

3: PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND SERVICES

Promote youth wellbeing, lifelong recreation, enrichment, and community cohesiveness through inclusive programs, events, and services for all residents.

Comprehensive Programs and Services

3.1 Deliver a broad range of quality programs and events to support recreation and leisure, youth development and empowerment, and targeted community services that reflect the unique interests, needs, diversity history, cultural background, and socioeconomic makeup of the City of Sacramento.

- Diversify programs within these three key service areas: recreation and leisure, youth development and empowerment, and community services.
- Provide a full spectrum of activities that include community events, sports, fitness, enrichment and learning, arts and cultural activities, nature programs, youth development and childcare, youth leadership and workforce development, youth engagement, access leisure, adult and senior services, community gardening, and volunteerism, catering to the interests of the community.
- Provide programs and services that promote health and wellness, fun and leisure, social connections and cohesion, lifelong learning, skill development, youth development and empowerment, safe places to play, personal enrichment, civic engagement and volunteerism, connections to nature, and positive relationships.

3.2 Provide programs throughout the year and at varied times throughout the day and evenings to encourage a wide variety of people to participate. (YPRO).

3.3 Provide recreation programs and targeted community services through various mechanisms including direct programming by City staff or contracted staff, partnerships, and collaborations.

- Organize, host, and staff programs that support YPCE's core service areas.
- To the extent feasible, avoid outsourcing facility operations and programs that are essential to YPCE's core service areas. Leverage community resources to continue to provide these activities and programs.
- Diversify activities by considering alternate service delivery options and partnerships with community-based organizations, businesses, and other entities.
- Diversify events in parks by coordinating with community-based organizations, school districts, private entities, and businesses to support year-round community events in City parks. Permit events that are open to the public, geared toward families and youth, and aligned with City and YPCE goals and values (e.g., health and wellness, diversity, arts and culture, etc.) (YPRO)
- Avoid subsidizing community programs that are not aligned with YPCE's core services and when community resources exist to provide a higher level of service and address program shortages.

3.4 Distribute programs and activities across the City to make participation convenient and accessible, ensuring that events and venues are accessible by multiple transportation modes.

3.5 Focus events and programs within City parks and facilities, considering secondarily partner sites and facilities to expand reach to marginalized communities—and in rare cases considering sites outside of the city.

- Prioritize the activation of City parks and facilities through self-directed, drop-in activities as well as organized programs and events, targeting regional and community parks and major facilities.
- Provide programs such as mobile recreation and neighborhood events in targeted neighborhood parks located in disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, where bringing activities to local residents is warranted.
- Consider youth and community services outside the City (i.e., 4th R, START, and Access Leisure) where there are limited or no similar services available, based on the following considerations:
 - » When programs need a larger population base to benefit Sacramento residents;
 - » There is significant cost effectiveness to a broader operation;
 - » The City has unique leadership and/or organizational ability to provide the programs;
 - » There is no direct City General Fund impact; and/or
 - » The services do not detract from the provision of services in the City.

3.6 Track, monitor, and report program participation data to measure the quality of programs provided and support decisions on the types of programs to provide.

- Maintain updated registration software to facilitate program registration, facility reservation and data tracking to help ensure the best customer service possible.
- Utilize criteria to assess program delivery systems and ensure programs and services reflect current interest, are easily accessible and safe, attract appropriate numbers of participants, and are financially sustainable.

- Test new programs that are aligned with core services when gaps or needs exist, and resources are available to support them.
- Request information from any partner operators of City facilities to track and monitor the quality of operations, programs, and facility use.

Program Access & Equity

3.7 Continue to provide equitable and inclusive programming that meets the unique needs of priority populations including children, teens, older adults, and persons with disabilities or special needs. (YPRO)

3.8 Target programs and services in communities and neighborhoods that are vulnerable or disadvantaged, providing events and programs in locations that are accessible by alternate modes.

3.9 Develop and provide programs that meet the unique recreation participation patterns and preferences of various ethnic, cultural, and language groups. Opportunities should be taken to incorporate local Native American heritage and culture.

- Provide arts, culture and recreation programs and events that target unique cultural interests and are suited to the demographics near the sites where provided.
- Offer programs in multiple languages.
- Offer cross-cultural events and celebrations to introduce residents to a variety of ethnic foods, music, arts, and interests to foster community cohesion.
- Continue to provide English language learning programs for non-native speakers, interpretation, and translation services, and assistance in accessing community services and programs as part of an effort to endeavor to empower linguistically isolated communities in Sacramento. (YPRO)

3.10 Equitably invest in recreation facilities, programs, and services from a gender-perspective to adhere to Title IX requirements, support the athletic interests and abilities of all genders, and introduce youth and residents to non-stereotyped, gender-neutral programs.

3.11 Develop a fee philosophy for programs and services that ensures affordability and enables access for all segments of the population.

- a. Offer activities and services such as facility reservations with a range of pricing from free to full price based on the level of individual and community benefit the program or service offers.
- b. Charge market prices based on the fee philosophy, while offering scholarships, credits for volunteerism, and reduced prices to offset costs for vulnerable and disadvantaged residents, as well as targeting groups with special needs.

3.12 Identify and support facilities in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities or disadvantaged and vulnerable areas that may need added support for operations.

- a. Ensure sufficient resources to sustain and program community gardens to avoid abandoned or poorly maintained facilities.
- b. Identify and forecast the programming and resource needs of major and specialized facilities in (EJ) communities or disadvantaged and vulnerable areas, where facility operations may require additional subsidies for effective and robust programming.

Recreation and Leisure Services

3.13 Provide recreation and leisure programs that support the following core service areas (see Ch. 3 Park Assets and Services for more information):

- Aquatics
- Arts and culture
- Enrichment and learning

- Health, wellness, and fitness
- Nature and interpretive programs (including Camp Sacramento)
- Special events
- Sports

3.14 Provide aquatics programs focused on swimming lessons, water safety, water fitness, as well as leisure swimming and pool activities that support health, cooling, and fun.

3.15 Provide arts, performing arts, music, and cultural programs and events that honor, interpret, and celebrate the diversity, history, cultural heritage, and traditions of Sacramento.

3.16 Continue to support a variety of enrichment programs for all ages that support continued learning, personal enrichment, and skill-building.

3.17 Encourage personal fitness and community health through recreation programs and leisure services that support physical and mental health, exercise, and wellbeing. (YPRO)

- a. Ensure that active recreation and fitness opportunities are available to residents within walking distance by providing facilities (e.g., outdoor fitness equipment, sports courts, play equipment, community gardens) and/or programs (e.g., yoga and boot camps in parks, mobile learn-to-play sports, caretaker-child play programs).
- b. Diversify sports and activities that support health and fitness, offering active and low-impact fitness programs that serve all ages and varied abilities.
- c. Increase outdoor programs and events that support health, wellness, and fitness, such as races, walkathons, walking groups, boot camps, outdoor yoga, and tai chi, and 10,000 step challenges—in addition to sports leagues, camps, and classes for all ages.

3.18 Host and support a variety of special events in City parks and parkways.

- a. Distribute events in regional and community parks across the city to ensure easy access to City residents, while attracting regional visitors where appropriate.

- b. Organize and host events aligned with the City’s core recreation and community services, such as those supporting health, sports, arts and culture, aquatics, nature interpretation, etc.
- c. Develop clear processes, criteria, and protocols to evaluate, facilitate, and permit events provided by others in City parks and facilities, including large group activities, special events, parades, processions, or assemblies. Identify City roles and responsibilities in facilitating these events, including fees and charges associated with any direct costs (e.g., utilities, materials) staff time (e.g., set-up, clean-up) damage, and facility use (e.g., to offset long-term facility renovation or replacement.)

3.19 Foster connections to nature for all residents by providing programs, classes, and trips supporting outdoor adventure, environmental education, nature interpretation, and outdoor skills.

- a. Facilitate environmental education programs geared towards youth.
- b. Support organized nature-based activities in parks.
- c. Support collaborative efforts with area elementary, middle, high schools, and colleges to expand environmental education programs at City parks, including botanical and art programs, wildlife and water studies, and creek clean-up days.
- d. Coordinate with partners including scouts, educational institutions, environmental organizations, friends of parks, and others to organize and host tree-planting programs, restoration project interpretive facility and trail-building activities, invasives removal, wildlife counts, tree and species inventories, etc. in City parks, parkways, and open space.

3.20 Diversify sports programs, camps, classes, and league play to support a variety of traditional, trending, and non-conventional athletic activities for all ages and abilities.

Youth Development and Empowerment

3.21 Provide youth development and empowerment programs, services, and events that support the following core service areas:

- Academic enrichment and expanded learning
- Civic engagement and leadership
- Early learning
- Licensed childcare
- Out-of-school programs
- Youth workforce development

3.22 Engage youth to participate in youth development and empowerment programs, as well as recreation and leisure programs and events, ensuring that youth from lower income areas and communities of color have opportunities to participate. (YPRO)

- a. Increase youth participation through outreach, promotional activities, and subsidized or free program spots.
- b. Add new recreation and youth development programming to diversify the list of programs that are offered.
- c. Involve youth— particularly from disadvantaged communities - in the planning and implementation of youth-centered events that develop confidence and leadership skills while also building community connections.

3.23 Expand “educational” enrichment for youth.

- a. Provide recreation programs that contribute to the health, social and physical development of children ages 0-5 so that they are prepared for school.
- b. Coordinate with partners or contract providers to expand science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) programs and camps, as well as music and performing arts programs, nature interpretation and environmental education.

- c. Include opportunities to learn new skills and foster youth development through YPCE’s licensed childcare programs.
- d. Offer youth homework support in afterschool programs.

3.24 Develop and implement a targeted strategy to improve the overall health, well-being, and safety of children, youth, and young adults.

- a. Provide programs that support youth developmental assets, as well as opportunities to be part of team, play outdoors, swim, and engage in nature-based activities that disadvantaged urban youth often miss.
- b. Expand access to programs and services that support youth development, safety, and health, including childcare, out of school programs, and teen activities that provide positive day and nighttime activities.
- c. Coordinate with partners to facilitate programs that empower youth caretakers and families to engage in and support their children’s healthy development.

3.25 Expand youth job skills through workforce programs, trainings, and classes.

- a. Assess the feasibility of expanding youth workforce programs to hire and train youth for seasonal work at City parks and recreational facilities throughout the year.
- b. Identify new opportunities to involve youth in program planning and work within recreation programs to provide employment and life skills training and to strengthen connections between youth and their community.(YPRO)

Community Services and Resources

3.26 Provide community services and resources programs, services, and events that support the following core service areas:

- Access leisure
- Healthy food initiatives
- Emergency response and sheltering support

- Facility and field rentals
- Health information and connections
- Licensed adult care
- Older adult services
- Outreach and Community Information
- Volunteerism (including the Adopt a Park program)

3.27 Support access leisure and adaptive programs for youth, adults, and seniors with disabilities.

- a. Continue to offer program accommodations and enhanced inclusive experiences through the City’s Access Leisure program.
- b. Expand the use of City parks and facilities for programs such as Special Olympics and therapeutic recreation, either led by City staff or partners.

3.28 Designate targeted community centers as health and wellness hubs and resiliency centers that support health and resilience goals and offer sheltering support. (See 2.9 and 2.10.)

3.29 Continue to support the reservation and rental of park space, recreation facilities, and indoor spaces in YPCE’s major facilities to support community gatherings, parties, and meetings for local community-based organizations.

3.30 Support healthy food initiatives through City programs, services, and sites such as community gardens, parks, and community centers. (EJ)

- a. Coordinate with other City departments, partners, and agencies in the assessment, design, and implementation of City healthy food initiatives. Participate in cross-departmental and inter-agency coordination, program administration, and community relations.
- b. Support the community gardens program which helps to promote healthy habits, nutrition education, and responsible stewardship of land resources. Continue to emphasize the value of community gardens in providing recreation, community building, productive landscape, sustainability, and educational opportunities.

- c. Continue to provide food, meal, and snack programs to disadvantaged youth, seniors, and other residents in City facilities.
- d. Integrate cooking, food preparation, and healthy food tasting programs in City facilities.
- e. Ensure that vending machines and concessions in City facilities offer healthy food and drink options.
- f. Continue to allow the use of community center kitchens for food distribution programs, such as Meals on Wheels, etc.
- g. Explore options, in conjunction with other City departments and partners, to provide food-anchored resiliency hubs for urban agriculture and social entrepreneurship, youth mentorship, and farmer training to create increased access to living-wage green jobs, youth employment opportunities, affordable organic produce, and a variety of educational opportunities on organic farming, sustainability, culinary arts, and health.

3.31 Develop emergency response protocols and offer “sheltering” support programs at facilities designated as “resilience centers.”

3.32 Provide health information and connections—in conjunction with YPCE healthy living programs and activities—to all ages, with a focus on youth, seniors, and vulnerable residents.

- a. Provide healthy lifestyle programs that educate residents on ways to achieve health and wellness.
- b. Collaborate with multidisciplinary health partners in developing or facilitating programs that support improved physical activity, health, and well-being.
- c. Develop programs that assist families with understanding the importance of healthy nutrition and physical activity as it impacts personal health and well-being.
- d. Provide information and promote courses, seminars, and informational resources about health and healthy lifestyles at City facilities, including community centers, senior centers, parks, and recreational facilities.

- e. Partner with public agencies, advocacy groups and local businesses to organize programming and events that promote healthy lifestyles, food choices, and work environments. Events may include health challenges, bike-to-work days, and sponsored lunchtime events.
- f. Explore opportunities to work with medical service providers or an organization such as Sacramento County Department of Health Services that could provide mobile health services, healthy food, or healthy lifestyle classes in parks, community centers, and senior centers in disadvantaged communities. (YPRO)

3.33 Engage older adults and seniors in quality programs that support senior care, social connections, safety, and lifelong learning. (AFCAP)

- a. Diversify the spectrum of activities, programs, and support offered for older adults, fit seniors, frail seniors, and caretakers that support seniors and/or people with special needs.
- b. Establish focal points for self-directed or organized aging activities, programs, and services in all senior centers, community centers, and community parks.
- c. Evaluate current City-organized events and programs aimed at families or youth, with the goal of identifying opportunities to include older adults in these activities, and where beneficial, creating new events and programs specially tailored to older adults.
- d. Implement programs and trainings that foster senior safety and mobility, such as the Neighborhood Walk Program or a training series on the safe use of navigation apps and ride-sharing apps.
- e. Provide programs that introduce adults and seniors to new technology, social media, and apps that support virtual communications and social connections.
- f. Offer, facilitate, and collaborate with local organizations to promote age-friendly active recreation and fitness opportunities, such as Silver Sneakers classes, yoga, bicycle riding events, and low impact sports such as pickleball.

- g. Seek partnerships with local schools and community-based organizations to hold an annual intergenerational event centered around age-friendly activities that aim to foster mutual respect, understanding, and appreciation among people of different ages.
- h. In conjunction with potential City efforts to create “villages” in Sacramento neighborhoods with high concentrations of seniors who wish to continue living independently, ensure the availability of greenspace nearby and access or transportation to sites offering senior programs.
- i. Provide information at City senior centers and community centers aimed at increasing the registration of older adults who have dementia with local law enforcement, so that if they are found and unable to communicate, officers can access home address, special care instructions, and other information to aid in their safe return.
- j. Conduct a comprehensive training series for City staff on best practices for serving older adults, including an understanding of ageism, information on the aging process, and education on accommodations and communications for older adults.

3.34 Continue to facilitate community outreach, information, and communication.

- a. Facilitate ongoing opportunities—including but not limited to planning processes—for public engagement and input into parks and recreation maintenance and design, including identifying needs for park improvements and prioritizing funding for amenities, facilities, programming, and improvements. (YPRO)
- b. Employ innovative methods to reach and involve individuals and groups across all segments of the community.
- c. Gauge the park and recreation users’ satisfaction with parks, programs and services and collect input on desired programs and services to inform the planning and management of services and facilities.

- d. Promote participation and civic engagement and recruit diverse residents—including youth, people of color, low-income residents, and traditionally underrepresented populations—to participate in formal and informal advisory groups for parks and recreation services. (EJ)
- e. Coordinate efforts with other public agencies and community-based organizations to increase public awareness, interpretive opportunities, and community stewardship of open space and its natural resource values.

3.35 Facilitate a strong volunteer program to leverage support for YPCE programs and services, while helping residents connect socially across generations, cultures, neighborhoods, and the city. (YPRO)

- a. Expand opportunities and encourage residents, stakeholders, neighborhood groups, businesses, schools and youth, social organizations, and public agencies to volunteer or provide resources and support in the development, maintenance, and activation of City parks, recreation facilities, and programs.
- b. Continue to engage residents, businesses, and community-based organizations in the stewardship and maintenance of parks, open space, and facilities through the Park Volunteer Program, Earth Day, Adopt-a-Park, Creek Week programs and other collaborative partnerships and initiatives.
- c. Expand and promote volunteerism as a leisure activity, encouraging residents to dedicate their time and talents to contribute to personal and community health, wellbeing, and quality of life.
- d. Collaborate with community associations, park volunteer corps, friends’ groups, and other community groups willing to plan, coordinate, organize, and provide tools and resources for park and facility improvements projects and development. Ensure appropriate oversight and direction to maintain and develop sites or add amenities consistent with YPCE standards.
- e. Improve relationships and communication with partners and volunteers by providing dedicated staff time for volunteer/partner recruitment, coordination, and recognition.

4: MAINTENANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Strategically maintain and manage assets and natural resources to support park use, stewardship, sustainability, and resilience.

Quality Park Maintenance

4.1 Maintain parks, facilities, equipment, and grounds to provide a safe, clean, well-functioning, and attractive parks and recreation system.

- a. Proactively anticipate and schedule routine maintenance tasks, task frequencies, and staffing needed to take care of City parks and facilities.
- b. Develop a maintenance management plan to guide the long-term maintenance of parks and facilities. This plan will identify the maintenance tasks, frequencies, staffing, and resources needed to manage and maintain facilities and landscaping. The plan will identify task frequencies to vary maintenance levels based on factors such as the amount of park use, visibility, and the presence of specialized amenities and facilities.
- c. Regularly update maintenance standards for interpretation, protection, and management of natural resources.
- d. Use triage system to address “urgent” maintenance and park needs, such as safety concerns, vandalism, or hazardous conditions. Consider a roving maintenance staff person to address priority tasks without pulling maintenance staff from their regular assignments.

4.2 Invest in park maintenance and facility condition as vital to the City’s environmental, social, and economic health.

- a. Ensure that funding, staffing, and other resources are sufficient to maintain existing parks and facilities, as well as new ones when added to the park and open space system.
- b. Protect and invest in the parks and recreation system’s infrastructure, including all turf, landscaping, buildings, and other physical elements/improvements.
- c. Prioritize maintenance efforts such as graffiti removal, illegal dumping cleanup, broken window repair, repair or replacement of damaged facilities and equipment, and clean-up of drug paraphernalia to ensure park safety and support park use. This may require coordination with other City Departments and Divisions, such as Code Enforcement.
- d. Train or keep a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) on staff to evaluate and ensure playground safety for youth.
- e. Continue to selectively use pesticides and herbicides to maintain specialized recreation greenspace, such as sports fields.
- f. Prioritize maintenance tasks such as sanitation, janitorial care, trash and litter pickup, debris removal, and human and pet waste removal in parks.
- g. Provide quality park maintenance, prioritizing highly programmed, high use sites that attract visitors, generate revenues, and support greater economic impacts for the city.

Deferred Maintenance/Asset Management

- 4.3** Enhance the condition of parks and facilities by implementing an asset management plan.
- a. Regularly assess the physical condition of all key City park and recreation system infrastructure elements, identifying deferred maintenance projects, deficiencies, repairs, and replacements needed, including cost estimates.
 - b. Prioritize improvements for parks in fair to poor condition as well as parks in disadvantaged communities.
 - c. Include facility improvements in the Capital Improvement Program.
 - d. Coordinate with City Council and the City Manager to establish a regular, annual dedicated funding allocation to address deferred maintenance needs.

- e. Continue to track deferred maintenance and unfunded repairs.
- f. When replacing facilities, track facility lifecycles using technology such as GIS, to have funding on hand for when the replacement of old and worn facilities is needed.
- g. When replacing facilities, consider future trends, changing demographics, and evolving park needs. Use the Parks Plan design and development guidelines, facility level of service standards, and recommendations to guide decisions in facility replacement.

Natural Resource Stewardship & Management

- 4.4** Protect and integrate natural resources in parks through effective planning, training, and management.
- a. Update and regularly maintain a comprehensive inventory of all park trees and natural resources.
 - b. Evaluate the development of a natural resource maintenance and management plan for YPCE parks, parkways, and open space.
 - c. Support development of integrated management plans for water corridors that meet multiple goals such as natural resource protection, sustainability, security, flood control, and maintenance.
 - d. Manage parklands and waterways in accordance with established regulatory mandates and management guidelines, while considering issues such as public access, maintenance levels and costs, revenue generation potential, and aesthetic enhancement of the community.
 - e. When designing parks, plan for trees and other natural resources as a part of park infrastructure.
 - f. Train staff in best practices for tree canopy and natural resource maintenance, keeping a certified arborist on staff.
 - g. Utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) protocols such as composting, natural mulching, and intelligent companion planting to minimize chemical use in controlling insects, plant diseases, weeds, and other pests.

4.5 Enhance the tree canopy within City parks, parkways, and open space.

- a. Protect, expand, maintain, sustain, and enhance trees in YPCE parks, parkways, and open space to help maximize the benefits of the urban forest and assist in City efforts to achieve 25% urban canopy cover by 2030 and 35% by 2045. (UFP)
- b. Prioritize tree planting and tree maintenance within parks, parkways, and open spaces located in target areas with the lowest average tree canopy cover and explore strategies to reduce barriers to tree planting in disadvantaged areas and improve tree health. (UFP)
- c. When plantings trees in parks, select species from the City’s recommended tree palette to ensure all trees are suitable for changing climate conditions, to promote biological diversity in tree species and age, and to support tree health and resilience. (UFP)
- d. Provide forested parkway corridors to facilitate adaptation and migration of native tree species and wildlife. (UFP)
- e. Identify dedicated long-term funding to expand the tree canopy in parks, perform associated care and maintenance, and support urban forestry services and programs. (UFP)

4.6 Steward the tree canopy and natural resources in parks, parkways, and open space to support community safety, aesthetics, habitat, and ecological functions.

- a. Perform regular maintenance on City trees to improve the health, longevity, safety, and functional capacity of the urban forest.
- b. Encourage appropriate water and irrigation practices to minimize needed water use and support healthy tree plantings and growth. (UFP)
- c. Prune trees tree and maintain natural resources according to City risk management policies, procedures, and practices to minimize risk of injury and property damage.
- d. Enforce tree protection standards to protect parks from loss of existing trees.

- e. Evaluate the establishment of a natural areas program as per the ECOS Campaign.
- f. Consider conversion of underutilized turf space -- into natural areas with native plantings, pollinator patches, and habitat to reduce maintenance needs and increase ecological and natural resources value.
- g. Utilize compost and mulch for application to City-owned trees and planters to increase the carbon sequestration potential of tree plantings.

Sustainability

4.7 Support the reuse and wise use of resources in parks. (YPRO)

- a. Integrate energy-efficient fixtures, building design and maintenance efficiencies, and sustainable development practices to reduce water use and energy consumption in facility design and department operations.
- b. Implement the City’s 2021 Climate Implementation Work Plan to address sustainable workplace practices.

4.8 Reduce water use and support water conservation in parks.

- a. Continue to implement the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) each year, collaborating with the Community Development Department and the Department of Utilities to submit the MWELo Implementation Report each January. (CAAP)
- b. Investigate the feasibility of watering parks and landscapes with recycled water. Evaluate the use of non-potable reclaimed water from regional sanitation for irrigation. (CAAP)
- c. Implement environmental design practices such as integrating drought tolerant or native plantings, trees, bioswales, and other natural and green infrastructure at targeted sites to support sustainability, reduce water and maintenance costs, and sustain natural resources.

TYPICAL FACILITY LIFECYCLES (IN YEARS)

- Shade Shelters, **20**
- Bike Racks, **20**
- Backstops, **20**
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment, **15**
- Playground Equipment, **15**
- Benches and Picnic Tables, **15**
- Trash Receptacles, **15**
- Skatepark, **15**
- Asphalt Parking, **15**
- Irrigation Equipment, **12**
- Drinking Fountain, **10**
- Sports Court Surfacing, **10**
- Splashpad, **10**
- Path (Decomposed Granite), **10**
- Barbecues, **10**
- Interpretive Signage, **5**

- d. Integrate and track low water use landscapes (native and drought tolerant plants) for new park development. (CAAP)
 - e. Continue to evaluate the existing watering/irrigation schedule and determine what water reduction strategies can be implemented. Examples include reducing the number of watering days and watering in the evening to reduce evapotranspiration. (CAAP)
 - f. Optimize the efficiency of irrigation control systems by training staff how to correctly use them. YPCE will inventory EPA WaterSense certified Smart Irrigation Controllers and host trainings to ensure that the appropriate staff learn how to operate each controller to improve the management, use, reporting, and data analysis of the irrigation control systems. (CAAP)
 - g. Evaluate existing park turf areas for conversion to low water use landscapes using non-irrigated, drought tolerant, or mulched landscaping. (CAAP)
 - h. For passive recreation areas, continue to reduce landscape water usage through landscape design that emphasizes drought tolerant plants, composting, and mulch areas. (CAAP)
- c. Increase parkland tree plantings in passive landscape areas, especially in under-canopied neighborhoods. Ensure park trees are resilient and prepared for the biotic and abiotic impacts of climate change necessary for the longevity and success of the city's trees.
 - d. Provide heat-reducing public amenities such as drinking fountains, water mister/spray areas, and shade structures will continue to be installed and maintained to mitigate urban heat island effects. (See 2.5.) (CAAP)
 - e. Optimize existing City-owned community centers and facilities for use as resiliency centers that provide resources related to climate change impacts. (See 2.9.)
 - f. Support the implementation of relevant drainage projects that have been identified in the City's Drainage Master Plans and have been prioritized on a Basin Master Planning and Improvement Projects priority list, such as adding detention basins and acquiring lands to support stormwater draining. (CAAP)
 - g. Support the implementation of the City of Sacramento's Comprehensive Flood Management Plan, considering YPCE's role in supporting the 200-year floodplain ordinance and developing parks/parkways, and protecting open space areas adjacent to levees. (CAAP)
 - a. Construct water resiliency projects to respond to climate change, including drought, heat, and storms. (See 4.8.)

Resilience

- 4.9** Integrate long-term climate adaptation strategies to prepare parks, parkways, and open space for future climate change, including increased extreme weather, warmer temperatures, wildfires, and droughts. (YPRO)
- a. Establish guidance and procedures for the consideration of climate impacts in all YPCE infrastructure and capital projects. (CAAP)
 - b. Develop landscape standards to mitigate urban heat island effects. Such standards could include a climate appropriate planting palette and recommended plant mix, targets for street tree canopy, shade structure coverage, and asphalt paving coverage.

5: ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Ensure success through administrative, operational, and organizational excellence.

Staffing and Workforce

5.1 Develop an effective, inclusive organization and a skilled and empowered workforce.

- a. Recruit, hire, train, develop, recognize, competitively compensate, and retain a diverse and high-quality workforce.
- b. Assign a variety of work duties to provide experience to promote individual growth, share expertise across the organization, and prepare future organizational leaders.
- c. Maintain clear and measurable staff performance expectations and provide staff with continuous feedback.

5.2 Continue to ensure that YPCE's staff reflect the diversity of the community.

- a. Hire based on qualifications, providing for hiring for select programs from the neighborhood(s) to be served by those programs.
- b. Diversify staff recruitment to increase bilingual staff, people of color, and staff representation from traditionally underrepresented groups.

5.3 Increase the numbers of staff to support administration, planning, maintenance, programming, and park safety as new parks, recreation facilities, and programs are added to the park and recreation system.

Customer Service

5.4 Provide high-quality park and recreation services and customer service by integrating effective protocols and processes.

- a. Continue training and feedback for all Department employees to provide excellent customer service.
- b. Build long-term customer loyalty and relationships; reassess regularly to ensure continued customer satisfaction.
- c. Apply consistent, clear, and customer-friendly communications, facility reservation processes, fee and use systems, policies, and procedures.
- d. Encourage all staff who have customer contact (including maintenance, administrative and recreation staff) to participate in customer service, cultural diversity, and anti-harassment training to strengthen staff's ability to deliver a positive, welcoming experience for all customers.

Inclusion and Accommodations

5.5 Support inclusion, reasonable accommodation, and respectfulness in employment, at facilities, in programs, at public meetings, and in information dissemination.

5.6 Per the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, remove physical and programmatic barriers to the park and recreation system.

5.7 Promote the availability of the City multi-lingual services and Sac City 311 (single point of contact for City of Sacramento government services) for the public.

Marketing and Communications

5.8 Improve external communication regarding parks, facilities, and programming opportunities.

- Provide dedicated staff time to enhance public information, marketing, and promotions regarding park and recreation activities, programs, and services to increase participation and park and facility use.
- Regularly update the Department's webpage and social media to communicate information related to City parks, recreation events and activities, programs, policies, and services.
- Collect contact information for people who would like to be on mailing lists to receive updates about programs, events, and services.
- Continue to offer communication support in multiple languages to diverse groups. In the long term, continue to monitor needs to provide information, signage, and materials in different languages.
- Explore the feasibility of producing a separate printed program guide for older adults and seniors without access to technology. Use larger print for legibility. Consider options to integrate information about recreation, education, and health programs offered by others. Collaborate with non-profit groups, service organizations, and other community partners to distribute the guide to a broad swath of older adults.

5.9 Promote and advocate for City parks and recreation services.

- Identify and communicate the unique identity of YPCE parks and programs through marketing, media, art, and park design. Continue to promote the Department's identity and positive image in all publications and activities.

- Articulate the benefits/value of the Department's services to residents, community groups, and businesses in promotional materials.
- Maintain consistent and professional use of the Department logo as applied to letterhead, marketing materials, signage, promotional materials, and advertising.
- Encourage residents to provide testimony on the value of City parks and programs at City meetings.

5.10 Collect regular feedback from internal and external customers to improve parks, facilities, programs, and operations in response. (See 3.33.)

Partnerships and Collaboration

5.11 Collaborate with residents, partners, sponsors, City departments, community-based organizations, and other entities to increase Department influence, support, and quality of services.

- Develop a comprehensive partnership policy to guide protocols for establishing park and recreation partnerships with public, private, and non-profit entities.
- Document all partnerships in written partnership agreements, memorandums of understanding, or joint-use agreements that outline roles, responsibilities, and terms of agreement.
- Explore formal public/public and public/private partnerships with equity investors or contracted operators for major facility planning, development, operations, and reinvestment.
- Collaborate with and support community-based organizations and neighborhood groups to conduct safety, maintenance, and access audits in City parks and recreational facilities in conjunction with YPCE staff, the Police Department, and other relevant City staff to identify and prioritize park safety and access improvements. (YPRO)

5.12 Expand partnerships with schools and school districts to leverage shared interests and resources.

- Explore options and opportunities for the shared use of park and school recreation resources to support community recreational and educational opportunities.
- Coordinate with school districts to establish joint-use agreements that allow access to school greenspace and outdoor recreation facilities in unserved areas where the acquisition and development of additional parks is not feasible.
- Discuss opportunities to establish public access to additional school sites and sports facilities through formal agreements between the City and school districts.
- Support the co-location of parks and recreation facilities with public and certain private facilities (e.g., schools, libraries, and detention basins).
- Continue strategic planning and partnerships growth to maintain recreation and human services program delivery and expand youth development principles.
- Seek opportunities to partner with public and private entities to provide community services that support families and meet the diverse needs of community members of all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

5.13 Partner with a variety of community-based organizations to expand programs, events, activities, and greenspace aligned with YPCE's core services.

- Partner with organizations that cater to older adults to expand programs, services, events, and resources for older adults and raise awareness about ageism and ableism.
- Seek partnerships with local schools and community-based organizations to hold an annual intergenerational event centered around age-friendly activities that aim to foster mutual respect, understanding, and appreciation among people of different ages.
- Establish formal partnerships throughout the region to promote shared programming, maintenance, and operations, as well as facility development and park acquisition.

- Work with other agencies and entities to promote Sacramento as a regional destination for recreation and tourism.
- Collaborate with partners in the protection and preservation of natural resources, open space, and key wildlife habitat to ensure complementary standards and practices throughout the park system.
- Participate in partnerships for the planning, protection, development, and enhancement of the American River, Sacramento River, and other water corridors and open space areas.

5.14 Leverage the role of partners in diversifying services for residents by expanding non-core services or providing services outside of traditional jurisdictional areas.

- Form partnerships with agencies that are located adjacent to the City to better serve neighborhoods and communities split by jurisdictional boundaries.
- Promote, in partnership with other agencies, provision of a complete continuum of community services for residents, participating in a variety of roles for their delivery.
- Collaborate with other agencies to implement a comprehensive regional system of open space.

Park and Program Safety

5.15 Ensure both physical and psychological safety in design, management, and use of all Department facilities and programs, considering safety the highest priority for our users, employees, and volunteers.

5.16 Monitor safety in all aspects of work and take immediate and appropriate action to protect people and property through the combined efforts of City staff and volunteers.

5.17 Continue to promote 311 as a single point of contact for safety and access issues in parks.

5.18 Support an effective and well-staffed Park Safety Ranger program, having sufficient rangers on duty from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., seven days per week.

5.19 Promote public education and engagement of the public in ensuring the safety of parks and recreation facilities.

Technology

5.20 Invest in information technology infrastructure to improve reliability and quality of information systems as well as to enhance workflow management and customer service.

5.21 Provide user-friendly, technology-based access to information about Department services and facilities.

5.22 Maximize use and effectiveness of technology-based apps and QR codes to support interpretive features in parks, potentially generate fundraising support, and collect input on park improvements needed.

5.23 Give staff the tools, training, and support to leverage technology in serving the public.

6: FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

Support the investment needed to sustain the park and recreation system by diversifying funding, ensuring the wise use of financial resources, and cultivating economic impacts.

Fiscal Management

6.1 Continue to be fiscally and financially prudent, using resources wisely to support high quality development, maintenance, and programming of the City parks and recreation system.

- Maintain sound cash handling systems and procedures throughout Department programs and services.
- Continue to identify and implement operational efficiencies and resource conservation opportunities.
- Proactively plan, monitor, and manage all fiscal resources while complying with authorized uses for each funding source (e.g., capital, operating, grants, etc.).

6.2 Ensure financial sustainability by periodically and proactively reviewing the cost of doing business; identifying cost savings; seeking out partnerships that have reciprocal benefit; divesting of facilities and services that do not align

with YPCE's mission (see Ch. 7 Key Directions); and generating revenues to reinvest in important services and infrastructure maintenance.

Funding Strategy

6.3 Coordinate with City leaders to expand the YPCE's resources to support park maintenance and critical asset management.

- Create a dedicated funding allocation for annual progress on deferred maintenance.
- Ensure that funding is earmarked for the repair, replacement, and renovation of old or worn amenities, facilities and landscaping in parks when needed or at the end or their lifecycles. This would include deferred maintenance and new capital projects.
- Identify a long-term dedicated fund source for ongoing maintenance, operations, and asset management.

6.4 Strategically fund land dedication, acquisition, development, maintenance, operations, and programming for new parks.

- Develop funding and financing strategies to meet Department service level standards for park acquisition, development, capital improvements, programming, staffing, maintenance, operations, safety, rehabilitation of parks, facilities, trails, parkways, and open space areas.
- When developing new parks or improving existing sites, ensure that comprehensive, long-term funding is available for the maintenance and operations of new and rehabilitated facilities.

6.5 Ensure that Parkland Dedication and Park Impact Fee Requirements support the development of parks and facilities to serve new residential areas.

- Require that new residential development projects contribute toward the provision of adequate parks and recreational facilities to serve the new residents, either through the dedication of parkland, the construction of public and/or private recreation facilities, or the payment of parkland in-lieu fees. (YPRO)
- Update the Park Impact Fee Nexus Study to ensure fees are aligned with newly adopted Level of Service standards and cost assumptions noted in the Parks Plan. Ensure that fees incorporate an annual escalator to address changing costs for park development. (See Ch. 7 Key Directions)
- Continue to provide Park Impact Fee (PIF) credit for development projects that provide publicly accessible parks, plazas, and parkways on-site which promote active or passive recreational opportunities and serve as neighborhood gathering points. (YPRO)
- Periodically assess Quimby in-lieu parkland dedication fees, park impact fees, and user fees and charges to ensure they are adequately providing for community needs and are competitive within the region. (YPRO)

e. Coordinate with private developers to ensure sufficient funding for the higher costs and service levels associated with small parks (all types) for park design, construction, on-going maintenance, security, and programming, especially in the Central City.

6.6 Invest in regional parks to support specialized recreation opportunities, protect unique cultural and natural resources, and attract visitors from throughout the city and beyond.

- Pursue dedicated and consistent funding for regionally serving parks and amenities, including regional parks, open space, and parkways.
- Explore opportunities to recover additional costs at regional parks and facilities, parks with higher levels of visitors from outside of the city, and reservation-only parks. For example, consider charging parking and facility use fees at regional parks and riverfront parks.
- Actively seek opportunities for entrepreneurial partnerships in the development and operation of regional facilities.

6.7 Prioritize funding to serve park- and program-deficient areas.

- Prioritize available funding sources to address park improvements, acreage deficiencies, and park needs in unserved areas.
- Identify additional funding to provide new parks in underserved disadvantaged communities, where park impact fees have been reduced to incentivize the construction of affordable housing.
- Leverage municipal funds to access grants from federal and state government agencies, philanthropic organizations, and private partners for the acquisition and development of parkland in park deficient areas, as well as for improvements and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities in underserved, disadvantaged communities. (YPRO)

Cost Recovery and Program Fees

6.8 Manage and make public a schedule of fees and charges in compliance with City policy and cost recovery goals.

- a. Refine and implement a fee philosophy and cost recovery goals for programs and services to reflect the beneficiary of services, changing market conditions, the community’s ability to pay, and the City’s need to reinvest in the facility maintenance, repair, and replacement.
- b. Factor in both direct and indirect programming and service costs when setting fees. Direct costs are expenses associated with the delivery of a service, such as program materials and program leaders/staff. Indirect costs are expenses that support the delivery of service, such as utilities, administrative/supervisor level staff, reusable equipment and supplies, and program advertising and promotion.
- c. Explore adding a facility use fee to all program fees to provide dedicated funding for maintenance, renovation, and facility replacement.

6.9 Offer a variety of programs and services at a baseline rate that support the common good. These include programs and services that:

- Bring together residents citywide to foster community cohesion;
- Support community health and safety; or
- Support open access to close-to-home parks (such as park maintenance).

6.10 Offer a variety of enhanced fee-based services that require higher levels of cost recovery, self-sufficiency, and revenue generation. These include programs and services that:

- Have a high individual benefit, such as enrichment programs;
- Use consumable or personalized materials and supplies;
- Reserves a facility for private or exclusive individual or group use;

- Require a facility with high capital, operation, or maintenance costs;
- Require specialized instruction, materials, or equipment; or
- Offer specialized leadership and/or a high participant/ leadership ratio.

6.11 Evaluate partnerships and joint-use agreements to minimize the City’s financial liability (profit sharing, capital replacements, etc.)

6.12 Balance cost recovery with affordability and equity when providing programs and services. Charge market rate for programs and services, but also define and integrate scholarships, credit for volunteerism, reduced fees, and similar programs to offset costs for target groups, such as lower income residents, youth, residents in Environmental Justice communities, and other identified disadvantaged residents.

Diverse Financing and Funding Resources

6.13. Diversify and improve funding and resources to enhance parks, facilities, programs, and services, including acquisition, development, maintenance, programming, and asset management/reinvestment.

- a. Pursue grants, donations, and sponsorships from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- b. Continue to establish “endowment” funds to enhance Department services.
- c. Evaluate public and private enterprise opportunities for existing and future community centers and recreation facilities to enhance public services.
- d. Identify and implement park use fees/agreements for vendors, concessionaires, sport trainers, private recreation providers, photographers, filmmakers, and others who use City parks and facilities to support their businesses or affiliated services.

- e. Use the Parks Plan and the Parks Project Programming Guide (PPPG) to identify budget priorities for capital investment, allocating funds across the city while focusing on areas of greatest needs.
- f. Secure easily accessible funding for property acquisitions to respond quickly to opportunities.
- g. Explore funding mechanisms and grant opportunities that could help facilitate the retrofit of existing City facilities for ADA compliance.

6.14 Explore innovation options to partner with others to leverage community resources and increase investment in the parks and recreation system. (YPRO)

- a. Partner with school districts and other local and regional agencies to maximize funding opportunities.
- b. Continue to explore public-private partnerships that make strategic use of public investment for community benefit.
- c. Partner with nonprofit organizations and community volunteers to secure funds in support of Department services.
- d. Continue the Gifts To Share program to benefit from philanthropic investment in the park and recreation system. Explore mechanisms to support fundraising and to access property and life estate gifts or other types of donations that are consistent with the goals of the Parks Plan.

Economic Impacts

6.15 Promote the economic benefits of the parks and recreation system.

6.16 Plan, develop, and provide parks, recreational facilities, and special events as destination attractions to promote tourism and public use.

6.17 Recognize the City’s urban forest, rivers, creeks, and parkways as unique attractors for economic development and investment.

6.18 Improve parks, recreation facilities, and trails to attract private development and/or retain businesses.

6.19 Integrate greenspace in redevelopment areas to support city aesthetics, identity, recreation, active transportation, and access to community destinations.

- a. Ensure the River District Development and similar multi-use developments exceed park requirements to serve both nearby residents (factored into parkland standards) and visitors (that are not accounted for in City standards.)

6.20 Identify options to align with the recreation interest generated by for-profit or professional sports and recreation opportunities that attract visitors to Sacramento, potentially leveraging these resources to support affiliated recreation uses.

- a. Consider options to enhance recreational soccer as Sacramento seeks to attract a Major League Soccer team and stadium.



APPENDIX **E**



APPENDIX E: PARK DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION GUIDELINES

The provision of quality parks in Sacramento is influenced by standards, guidelines and policies, the availability of funding and resources, and implementation decisions in the field that guide the styles and scale of amenities, facilities, and landscaping provided in parks. **Appendix E. Park Development and Renovation Guidelines** provides directions to guide park acquisition, design, development, and renovation through the year 2040. It supplements the policies, standards, and guidelines presented in *Appendix D*.

Sacramento's parks should reflect the unique cultural, social, and environmental context of the neighborhood or space where developed – while also ensuring some measure of consistency in the quality and level of development residents can expect from City parks. Accordingly, the guidelines presented here are intended to be flexible and should not be applied to support “cookie-cutter” parks. Especially for new parks, site amenity planning and design will identify site and neighborhood characteristics – as well as local community preferences – that will influence the ways these design guidelines are implemented.

Guideline Sources and Integration

The guidelines are integrated from several key sources to provide a comprehensive, consolidated source of directions:

- Sacramento 2040 General Plan, Ch. 10 Youth, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- 2005-2010 Parks and Recreation Plan
- 2018-2023 YPCE Strategic Plan
- YPCE 2018 Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG)
- Additional YPCE park and facility guidelines

These elements are numbered for ease of reference; they do not appear in priority order. For overarching policies on the provision of parks, see Appendix D: Policies. This document distinguishes standards and guidelines as follows:

- **Standards** are minimum requirements that YPCE and the City shall strive to meet. These apply to requirements such as LOS standards.
- **Guidelines** are intended to provide direction in decision-making when providing parks and facilities. The following information is considered to be guidelines unless otherwise noted.

Systemwide Guidelines For Quality Parks & Facilities

Long-Range Park Planning

- Update the Parks Plan periodically to ensure it reflects current and projected community needs to guide park planning.
- Monitor changing community needs to guide new park development. Conduct studies periodically to identify new and emerging trends in recreation, community demographics, park design, and the provision of facilities to determine evolving needs and incorporate these into site planning and design.
- Monitor the pace and location of new residential development through the development review process and long-range planning efforts to ensure that development of parks and facilities keeps pace with growth.
- Periodically update the park demand/deficiency analysis to identify neighborhoods where new parks or other recreation opportunities are needed.

- Take an active role in ensuring sufficient parks, open space, and parkways by participating in the land use planning and development processes of the City and other agencies.
- Through the development conditioning process, encourage the provision of private open space and recreation facilities in high density residential projects, mixed use projects, and employment centers in the vicinity of transit corridors to meet a portion of the open space and recreational needs of residents, employees, and visitors that will be generated by that development
- Regularly update the City's Park Impact Fee Nexus Study to ensure park dedication or impact fee funding levels support land acquisition and development of “primary” park design elements.
- Coordinate with City Specific Plan development to address park and recreation needs in all residential areas and areas with unique natural/physical barriers opportunities or barriers.

Acquisition and Site Selection

- Adhere to best practices when selecting sites (or accepting land dedications) for new parks.
 - Size and Shape:** Ensure that each park site is of a sufficient size and shape suitable for park use, functionality, accessibility, and circulation. Follow guidelines by park classification and type.
 - Centralized Location:** Locate each park so that it is centralized within the area it is intended to serve—unless the site can be co-located with another open space, school, detention basin or similar resource that expands its capacity to serve the local community. (Note the co-located facility does not count toward parkland unless it is intentionally developed for recreation uses.)

- Compatible Locations:** Site parks, when geographically feasible, adjacent to compatible use areas such as greenbelts, multi-modal trail corridors, schools, other public and nonprofit facilities (e.g., libraries, cultural facilities, police or fire stations), stormwater detention basins, and natural waterways to facilitate efficient land use, cost sharing, and customer access, and reduced operations and maintenance costs.
- Site Adjacencies and Context:** Avoid sites where parks are not compatible with surrounding uses, where adjacent uses may impact the health of park visitors (e.g., noise, pollution), or where park use is impeded by surrounding uses.
- Development Restrictions:** Avoid elements that restrict the function, development, or usability of the land, such as underground or overhead utilities, unsuitable topography, restrictive easements, or other development restrictions.
- Development Suitability:** Avoid park sites with extensive or excessive slopes, swales, drainage courses, creeks, wetlands/biological habitat, and similar landscapes, if these prevent recreation uses. Allow natural areas for passive recreation and natural resource protection as defined within the requirements for each park type.
- Residential Impacts:** Locate each park site so that it has a minimal negative impact on surrounding residential areas due to park uses, lighting, noise, traffic, etc. Accordingly, residential back-on lots against parks and side-on lots are discouraged.

- viii. Repurposed Sites: In built-out areas deficient in greenspace, carefully consider the return on investment when acquiring sites already developed for other uses, especially where demolition or redevelopment (if needed) may be costly. Consider developing the following types of spaces as parks: detention basins, trailheads, open space (converted to parkland), school yards, public grounds, areas around City-owned buildings, vacant lands, linear corridors, utility easements, or space in revitalization areas.
 - ix. Health Impacts: Avoid sites adjacent to pollutants (e.g., industrial areas, interstates) that may affect the health of park visitors.
 - x. Resource Protection: Site new parks to leverage desirable natural, cultural, or historic resources that support the purpose and use of the park.
 - xi. Ecological and Environmental Benefits: Recognize mutual advantages and benefits in co-locating greenspace. For example, develop parks and drainage facilities together as joint use projects to maximize stormwater filtration; co-located parks, open space, and trail corridors to expand wildlife habitat.
- B. Focus park land acquisitions in areas of targeted needs.
- i. Needs Identification: Consider park classification, access, residential/workplace density, population vulnerability, environmental characteristics, nearby or adjacent parks and recreation resources, cultural/historic assets, and geographic distribution when identifying park needs.
 - ii. Park Deficient Areas: Acquire land where adopted Service Level Goals are not being met. Strive to provide parks at the Parkland Level of Service (LOS) Standards per Classification as described in Appendix D. Acquire, lease, or otherwise obtain rights to the use of underutilized vacant parcels for park or open space, focusing efforts first in park deficient communities.
- iii. Travel Distance: Site parks within appropriate walking and biking distances of nearby neighbors as noted in the Parkland Access Guidelines per Classification described in Appendix D.
 - iv. Public vs. Private Access: Recognize that parks and recreation facilities provided by others within and in proximity to the city help to fulfill the park and recreation needs of the city residents. However, private parks and fee-based public parks may not be accessible to all residents and private parks and park facilities provided by others do not meet the service level goals for the city park classifications.
 - v. Density: Site public parks in areas with the highest concentration of residential units, if feasible.
- C. Situate parks to support park access and community walkability.
- i. Barrier Mitigation: Recognize the effects of natural or human-caused barriers (e.g., rivers, drainage canals, major thoroughfares, railway lines, etc.) in achieving park access; site and design parks to minimize the obstacles to access that these barriers may present.
 - ii. Transit and Trail Access: Site regional parks, community parks, and community centers where they are accessible by public transportation and shared use paths.
 - iii. Walkability. Promote walkability within neighborhoods and business districts through the siting of parks and recreation facilities and other activity centers.
- D. Coordinate with relevant community partners and organizations when determining site locations.
- i. Waterways: Coordinate with appropriate agencies that monitor flood control and navigable rivers when locating parks adjacent to rivers and creeks to provide a buffer to natural resources and access to public waterways.

- ii. Schools: Engage school districts to establish a plan for surplus school site reuse that considers opportunities to provide parks and other community facilities.
 - iii. Preservation Office: Consult with the City Historic Preservation Office when locating parks adjacent to historic, cultural, and archeological sites.
 - iv. Tribes and Native Nations: Consult with representatives of local tribes and consider unique and historic relationships to land when selecting sites.
- E. In densely built out urban areas where the provision of large parks is not feasible, explore creative solutions to provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities that serve the needs of residents and employees. Such solutions may include:
- Publicly accessible, privately owned open spaces and plazas;
 - Rooftop play courts and gardens;
 - Freeway underpass, utility corridor, and wide landscape medians; and
 - Conversion of rails to trails.

Parkland Dedication

- A. Accept parkland dedications that meet specialized neighborhood needs, at the sole discretion of the City. See Park Guidelines by Park Classifications for size minimums.
- B. Encourage developers to enter into credit and reimbursement (turnkey) agreements to design and build parks.

Site Planning, Design and Development

- A. Prepare a site amenities plan or design concept for each new park or major renovation. Site design, development, phasing, financing, and maintenance responsibilities should be addressed. The site amenities plan should be informed by:
 - Recent community outreach;
 - Local demographics (especially for neighborhood parks);

- A site evaluation and survey;
 - An evaluation of existing trees and natural resources (for potential protection);
 - An assessment of any existing site development to consider facility condition, access/circulation, and options for better site utilization.
- B. Conduct a financial feasibility study and business plan prior to acquiring, extensively renovating, or building any major facility, such as a recreation center, aquatic facility, or stadium. Specify programming requirements, operations, cost recovery rates, revenue-generation strategies, and market considerations to guide decisions on the types and scale of amenities.
- C. Develop parks and recreation facilities according to the City of Sacramento’s Park Development and Renovation Guidelines. Consider the following when making planning, design, and development decisions:
- Proximity to existing open space, parks, preserves, or parkways;
 - Presence of natural drainages or associated habitat and other environmentally sensitive areas;
 - Potential for improving flood water storage and conveyance, improving ground water recharge, and restoring natural fluvial processes;
 - Integration into an existing or proposed trail/bikeway system;
 - Cultural or historic significance;
 - Scenic vistas;
 - Uniqueness of the site and its natural integrity;
 - Access opportunities and nearby transit stops;
 - Active recreation and potential to support health and wellness;
 - Passive recreation and educational potential; and
 - Sustainability and climate resiliency.

- D. Evaluate facilities, structures, or landscapes of historic, cultural, or environmental significance which may influence site design.
- Foster public awareness of and ensure historic and cultural resources within the City's parks and recreational facilities are identified, protected, preserved, and rehabilitated consistent with the City's overall preservation objectives.
 - Strive to build a sense of place by protecting important environmental and cultural features as well as educating the public on the unique ecological qualities of the region.
- E. Promote individual character in park design.
- Integrate community heritage, history, culture and identity through thematic site design, the use of materials, the inclusion of public art and interpretive elements, programmatic connections to Indigenous tribal and/or local history, and choice of recreation elements and support features.
 - Allow for design variation in the City's most visible, high-use parks to emphasize a unique park theme or identity.
 - Incorporate public art elements in parks and recreation facilities in accordance with the Art in Public Places Ordinance.
- F. Diversify recreation uses through design.
- Provide for both active and passive recreation uses in park design.
 - Consider both traditional and trending uses in park design.
 - Provide a range of recreation elements that support different types of recreational experiences ranging from regional attractions, such as multi-field sports complexes, to neighborhood features including play structures, single-use sport courts, and picnic areas.
 - Provide adaptable, flexible-use facilities that can be redesigned and reused as interests and community needs change.
- G. Provide sufficient support amenities to support inclusive use, comfort, and longer stays within parks.
- Incorporate amenities that invite the use of park facilities by all community members such as seating, accessible park paths and facilities, shade, pathway lighting, parking, wayfinding, and signage.
 - Public restrooms may be considered in regional and community parks, in accordance with the Park Development and Renovation Guidelines.
 - Consider the need for easy-access parking and facility drop-off / pick-up zones through site design.
- H. Provide site-appropriate landscaping and vegetation.
- Ensure plant selections and management practices are appropriate for the proposed park or open space types, site conditions, water conservation, and maintenance considerations.
 - Address climate change and resiliency in park plantings. (See Sustainability and Resiliency.)
- I. Provide amenity plans for community and regional parks that recognize the unique needs and challenges of larger city parks with specialized facilities.
- J. Emphasize the needs of park users from throughout the entire service area while acknowledging the potential interests/concerns of immediate residents.
- K. Design regional parks to include destination attractions and amenities that will attract/retain business, and which generate funds for their ongoing maintenance.
- L. Encourage the establishment of adequate building setbacks from rivers and creeks, increasing them where possible to protect natural resources and increase public access for active and passive recreation.
- M. Design parks and recreation facilities to reduce vandalism, crime, and graffiti, as well as for ease of repair and maintenance.

- N. When siting telecommunications facilities within parks and/or adding telecommunications equipment/accessories within parks, consider the following:
- Review park site amenities to ensure proposed location of any proposed telecommunications does not conflict with future park plans.
 - Emphasize that the telecommunications facility location should have the least impact on park purpose and activity, be it passive or active recreation, or nature area, etc.
 - Complete a CPTED review with Park Rangers.
 - Review if telecommunications facility can be located on current infrastructure, such as ball field lights or existing power towers.
 - Equipment cabinets should be incorporated into existing restroom facility structure or other accessory structure and should match in design, size, and materials.
 - Avoid having to remove trees or impact roots for proposed telecommunications facility.
 - Comply with YPCE protocols for telecommunications project review, including proposal documentation, staff review, and communications protocols.
 - Consider possibilities for park improvements that can be coupled with the proposed telecommunications construction.
- O. Continue to use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design landscaping and lighting, and efforts that support the Park Ranger program, to ensure that parks and open spaces are designed and maintained with safety as a priority.

- P. Establish and integrate a consistent furnishing and site amenities palette systemwide for ease of maintenance (including items such as seating, light fixtures, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc.), but allow for variations in the City's most visible, high-use parks to emphasize a unique park theme or identity. Amenity designs should prioritize usability and functionality over form.
- Q. Involve maintenance staff in park and facility design to incorporate maintenance efficiencies in parks and facilities. Ensure development of new facilities and properties includes budgeting for long-term maintenance, operations, and replacement of amenities.

JEDI Design Considerations

- A. Integrate Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) in park and facility acquisition, design, and development. Incorporate the following principles:
- Equity and Access:** Locate parks equitably in all parts of the City in accordance with the parkland Level of Service (LOS) Standards and Parks Access Guidelines. (See 1.9 and Appendix D).
 - Regulatory Compliance:** Ensure all park elements, facilities, materials, and equipment follow all current safety, ADA accessibility, and design standards, laws, regulations, and any other mandated requirements.
 - Inclusivity:** Ensure parks are welcoming and engaging for residents and visitors of all ages and multi-generational groups, ethnicities, cultures, family configurations, and incomes.
 - Diversity:** Provide a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities throughout the park system to serve a variety of recreation interests, activities, and skill levels. Balance energetic, programmed active use sites with spaces designed for contemplation, conservation, and quiet social gatherings.

- v. Design for All: In plans for new residential developments, require that plans address the recreational needs of all future residents, including children, youth, older adults, and people with disabilities, and reflect the cultural diversity of the local population.
 - vi. Universal, All-Inclusive Access: Create equitable use and experiential opportunities for people of different abilities and ages, considering all options of modality and accessibility. Meet, and where possible exceed, the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and State code to provide parks and facilities that accommodate multigenerational groups and people with mobility issues, sight and hearing impairments, allergies, and other special needs. For example, ensure shared use path, trail, and access path widths are suitable for wheelchairs and strollers, people talking in sign language, and people with mobility concerns.
 - vii. Family-Friendly: Design park amenities to be family-friendly. Include changing stations in public restrooms, drinking fountains with lower spigots for children, and ADA compliant features to help bolster YPCE's parks and facilities as family-friendly destinations.
 - viii. Family and Group Sizes: Vary the sizes and styles of seating, tables, shelters, restrooms, gathering areas, and other amenities to serve families of different configurations and groups of different sizes.
 - ix. Gender Identity and Family Configurations: Provide both family-style and gender-neutral restrooms, locker room space, etc. in parks and facilities.
 - x. Safety: Ensure safe opportunities to play by implementing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies and enhance park safety through playground design, crime prevention technology, night lighting, unobtrusive landscaping, and increased staff, ranger program, police and community-based patrols if needed.
 - xi. Community Based Organizations (CBOs): Consider the needs for indoor and outdoor facility space for public serving non-profits and CBOs at the City's discretion.
 - xii. Youth: Design "youth friendly" facilities that address mental, physical, and social needs.
- B. Continue to facilitate the development of new parks or expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities to prioritize disadvantaged communities with an existing deficit of park or recreation facilities.
 - C. Encourage and support private and community-based organizations' development of recreation facilities that complement the City's public recreational system.
 - D. Design parks and recreation facilities for diverse cultural groups, users with varying abilities, and improved accessibility.
 - i. Provide a variety of seating and resting opportunities.
 - ii. Provide opportunities for individual and group recreation such as single and group picnic areas.
 - iii. Add entry points to existing parks to make parks more accessible within walking distance.
 - iv. Improve navigable routes to and within parks by removing physical barriers, installing new or improved multi-use shared paths, wayfinding signage, and enhancements to public transit stops.
 - v. Utilize universal design to support play and recreation for all ages and abilities.
 - vi. Promote shade equity through tree planting and protection and shade elements such as structures and sails.
 - vii. Improve equity and access through extended use of recreation facilities, play areas, and community spaces through lighting and evening safety measures.

- E. Adopt an equity and performance-based system for prioritizing parks and recreation investments that link facility improvement priorities to safety standards, funding availability, disadvantaged communities, the needs of youth and older adults, public health, and recreational goals through a ranking scale that includes public health outcomes.
 - ii. Support climate-adaptive tree canopy, shade structures, drinking fountains, and cooling amenities such as water spray areas, which provide respite from higher temperatures to reduce urban heat islands and overexposure to heat.
- E. Develop parks, trails, and other recreational amenities in a manner that is consistent with flood protection goals.

Sustainability and Resiliency

- A. Develop and implement "sustainable design" policies and standards for the planting and care of trees, turf, and other vegetation for the reduction of water and energy use (e.g., river friendly landscape guidelines) and the promotion of natural processes.
 - i. Ensure all new park design and development is in compliance with California's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO).
 - ii. Integrate drought tolerant and native plantings, trees, bioswales to support green infrastructure at targeted sites.
- B. Specify sustainable building materials and products for use in new and renovated park design.
 - i. Integrate energy-efficient fixtures and construction practices to reduce water use and energy consumption in facility design.
 - ii. Encourage the use of recycled materials in park design and recreation element construction.
 - iii. Ensure product selection supports long term use and is in alignment with maintenance practices for cost and environmental efficiencies.
- C. Site parks and recreation facilities along multi-modal routes to encourage non-vehicular transportation methods, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- D. Ensure that the design of parks and open spaces balance climate-adaptive design.
 - i. Where feasible, utilize resilient landscaping in place of impervious surfaces.

Additional Site Specifications

General

- A. Ensure that all site amenity plans and park names for new park development are subject to a site amenity plan approval process that requires review by the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission and final approval by the City Council.
- B. Ensure that Park Design complies with all Federal, State and local laws and regulations.
- C. Provide a main park entry, which gives a sense of arrival, and entry to the park. Provide the following at the park entry: park name sign placed in a planted area with flowering trees, special paving, and drop-off seating.
- D. Where applicable, locate the park main entrance near a bus stop or crosswalk.
- E. When possible, develop the main entry walkway to accommodate maintenance vehicles and pedestrians with driveway access and proper turning radius to allow for a truck with trailer.
- F. Create a circulation system that leads people past amenities without forcing them to stop. Seating along circulations system should be provided. ADA companion space for a wheelchair shall be provided as required by code.
- G. Provide direct access to the play area, restroom, sports fields from the main entry and parking lot.
- H. Allow large contiguous recreational turf areas.

- I. Encourage unique and innovative park designs and promotes individual character of each park site. Sites, facilities, structures or landscapes of historic or cultural significance within each park shall be identified and included where possible in the park design.
- J. Develop a distinct theme for each park when appropriate, to establish a unique character that is consistent with the park's activities and locations. The theme shall be implemented using characteristic architectural details, colors, materials, furnishings, play equipment and plant selection.
- K. Provide a unified park design by providing repeated details, colors and materials throughout the park.
- L. Consider concession or public/private enterprise opportunities in community and regional park plans as appropriate.
- M. Design community and regional parks for night use, as appropriate. Lighting at night shall provide for safety, and anticipated recreational uses, while limiting glare impacts on nearby residents.
- N. Do not provide community centers, swimming pools, wading pools, on-site parking, restrooms or field lighting in neighborhood parks.
- O. Parking shall be considered at community and regional parks to minimize impacts to parking on residential streets.
- P. Provide adequate access for fire, emergency and maintenance equipment in parks, trails, and open space.
- Q. Design park facilities to enhance and preserve the natural site characteristics and to minimize water use and maintenance demands.
- R. Include natural landscape features in park designs, which include natural plantings, rock features, or earth forms.
- S. Design naturalized areas to include passive recreation such as picnicking, nature trails with interpretive signage, bikeways, rest areas, horseshoe courts, disc golf or similar activities.

Grading

- A. Grade turf at minimum of 1%, a maximum of 20%, and planter slopes no greater than 25%.
- B. Crown playing fields such as baseball, softball, and soccer at a minimum of 1.5% percent, preferably 2%.
- C. Consider spectator areas when grading the play field sidelines. Provide adequate level areas for spectator seating. Provide an accessible viewing area with paved walkway and seating area.
- D. Ensure that walkways meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and the California Title 24 Building Code.
- E. Ensure compliance with the ADA and California Title 24 Building Code (Title 24) and minimize the need for ramps and curbing whenever possible.
- F. Grade hard court surfaces at 1% minimum and 2% maximum.
- G. Grade the park site to provide topographic relief, including berms where desirable.
- H. Design and grade park sites to balance (cut and fill).

Drainage

- A. Provide a play area catch basin (per City standard) within each play area and slope the play area subgrade at 1% minimum toward play area catch basin.
- B. Do not locate drain inlets or cleanouts within or immediately adjacent to sports courts and fields.
- C. Do not use drop inlets smaller than twelve inches (12") square for planter areas and twenty-four inches (24") for turf areas. Drop inlets shall be concrete with metal traffic rated grates.
- D. Provide bio retention areas or swales for impervious areas as required by the Department of Utilities.
- E. For swales in planted or turf area, ensure a minimum flow line slope of 1 percent.

- F. For storm drain stubs or sewers to future phase of work, install a cleanout in a concrete round box with metal lid as applicable. The lids shall be labeled letter engraved on the lid "sewer" for sewer line stub and "storm" for storm drain stub.
- G. Minimize drainage of planter or turf areas across a paved area or walkway.
- H. Comply with Parks Standard Construction Details and City of Sacramento Standard Specifications. Ensure the plan reference is to the most recent edition.
- I. Provide cleanouts at 100' maximum along storm drain and sewer.
- J. Place a two-foot (2') radius of 4"-8" cobble around drain inlets in planter areas to prevent bark from entering drain inlets.

Hardscape

- A. Provide a ten-foot (10') wide main concrete walkway through the park for use by park maintenance and service vehicles. Provide a driveway cut at the entrance and exit of the walkway and a turning radius required to maneuver a maintenance truck and trailer.
- B. Require walkways 8' or wider to have thickened edges.
- C. Require secondary walkways to be five feet (5') wide, meet accessibility standards, and connect to each amenity or spectator area.
- D. Provide a path around perimeter of park.
- E. Finish standard walkways with a medium broom finish perpendicular to the walkway edge, unless identified as a special paving area.
- F. Design concrete walkways and other standard flatwork applications per the Geotechnical Report recommendations, with reinforcement and aggregate base as required.

- G. Use concrete walkways or decomposed granite paths as the separator between a turf area and planter areas. If this is not practical, then a concrete mow-curb shall be used to define the turf area from the native grass areas.
- H. Construct concrete mow strips and or paving under and or around all vertical elements such as fencing, light posts and utility equipment within turf areas. Paving shall extend a minimum of 6" beyond the edge of the vertical element. Separate areas such as turf, planter area, decomposed granite.

Shared Use Paths within Parks

- A. Coordinate shared use paths with the Public Works Trail Coordinator.
- B. Provide shared use paths that are twelve feet (12') wide, with a two foot (2') wide decomposed granite shoulder and concrete mow strip on each side or with one three foot (3') wide decomposed granite shoulder on one side of the path for joggers/pedestrians.
- C. Locate rest areas in parks and open space along trails and include bike racks, drinking fountains, trees, shade and picnic tables.
- D. Develop a signage system on trails to provides users with trail information, such as safety regulations, wayfinding, interpretative, and mileage markers.

Decomposed Granite (DG) Paving

- A. Grade decomposed granite paving areas between 1% minimum and 2% maximum.
- B. Include a concrete mow strip on the outside edges of a decomposed granite jogging trail when located within landscape areas in the park.
- C. Mix decomposed granite with stabilizer or concrete, compacted per specifications.

Table E-1. Facility Level of Service Guidelines

2018 Population¹ 472,693
 2040 Projected Population² 638,433

	Facility Type	Proposed Minimum LOS Guideline	Existing LOS	Proposed Minimum LOS Guideline	Net Future Need for Minimum LOS
ATHLETIC/SPORTS	Baseball / Softball	98	4,823	5,500	18
	Basketball Court (outdoors - full and half size)	82	5,765	5,000	46
	Cricket Field	-	0	150,000	4
	Fitness Equipment (count by pieces)	89	5,311	5,500	27
	Futsal Court	19	24,879	25,000	7
	Pickleball Court	22	21,486	15,000	21
	Soccer Field	137	3,450	4,000	23
	Tennis Court	51	9,360	11,000	8
	Volleyball Court	60	7,878	8,500	15
	Sports Court Variety (i.e., badminton, shuffleboard, bocce ball, etc.)	-	0	30,000	21
Athletic / Sports Subtotal		558			
OUTDOOR RECREATION	Challenge Feature (i.e., climbing wall, zipline)	-	0	250,000	3
	Disc Golf Course	5	94,539	120,000	0
	Dog Park	17	27,805	20,000	15
	Dedicated Event Space	-	0	100,000	6
	Group Picnic Area	151	3,130	3,000	62
	Playground / Play Area	232	2,037	2,000	87
	Bike Pump Track	-	0	300,000	2
	Skate Park	17	27,805	30,000	4
	Water Mister / Spray Area	28	16,882	12,000	25
Outdoor Recreation Subtotal		450			
INDOOR/SPECIALIZED	Community Center / Senior Center / Clubhouse	19	24,879	50,000	0
	Golf Course	4	118,173	100,000	0
	Swimming Pool ³	13	36,361	60,000	0
	Stage (Outdoors) / Amphitheater	14	33,764	30,000	7
Indoor/Specialized Subtotal		450			
GARDENS / NATURAL FEATURES	River / Beach Access	18	26,261	30,000	3
	Community Garden	20	23,635	20,000	12
	Gardens / Natural Features Subtotal		38		

1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2018, as provided in the Sacramento 2040 General Plan.

2. Source: SACOG 2021.

3. Swimming Pools refers do not include wading pools.

Site Amenity and Facility Development

- A. Diversify and right-size the provision of recreation facilities by implementing minimum Facility Level of Service (LOS) Guidelines (Table E-1), as well as the site development guidelines by classification that appear in this appendix

Sport Fields

- A. Provide for the optimum orientation of sports fields.
- B. Ensure that baseball fields include spectator seating in bleachers on concrete pads or lawn areas behind the overthrow fences.
- C. Provide shade structures over dugouts if budget allows.
- D. Install permanent soccer goals in soccer fields. Portable goals will not be provided by City.

Sport Courts

- A. Locate sports courts along the edges of the park to maximize visibility for security. Provide separation from the street (15' - 20') with a low berm or low landscape buffer.
- B. Orient sports courts with the long axis north south.
- C. Ensure that sport courts have low water-use planters around these courts as a buffer. Turf is not recommended in this buffer area with expansive soils.

Community Gardens

- A. Comply with City of Sacramento Community Garden Design Guidelines.

Dog Parks

- A. Comply with City of Sacramento Dog Park Guidelines.
- B. Provide a 3-chamber system if space allows.
- C. Provide 1 acre minimum for a large dog park, and 0.5 acre for a small dog park. Turf areas within dog parks shall be a minimum of 20,000 square feet.
- D. Provide large turf, decomposed granite, or mulch areas for dog runs.
- E. Locate dog parks in Community or Regional Parks.

- F. Provide chain link fencing, not tubular steel fencing, with a 4' minimum height for small dog park and 6' minimum height for a large dog park. Fencing must have top and bottom rail with a concrete mow curb under the fence and 10' wide maintenance gates. The gap at the bottom of the fence fabric or gates should be less than 2".
- G. Provide a fenced double gate entry vestibule, with dog park rules and signage.
- H. Provide trash receptacle at locations shall be easily access by maintenance.
- I. Ensure that dog parks are a minimum of 100' from residential dwellings or active recreation areas of a park (playgrounds, sports courts, etc.).
- J. Provide drain inlets with small opening grates (heal/ADA grates) to prevent paw entrapment.
- K. Provide solid benches and tables, such as concrete, without perforations or slats that could cause paws or nails to get stuck.
- L. Hydroseeded turf areas (not sodded) with a minimum 90-day establishment period.
- M. Shade dog parks with a 20'x20' single post shade canopy.
- N. Provide a drinking fountain with dog bowl and wash-off hose at each chamber, with a drain inlet to catch any runoff within the paved area. Do not allow runoff to drain into grass, decomposed granite or planter area.
- O. Consider aggregate stone finish in dog parks to prevent degradation due to pet urine.

Playgrounds

- A. Place play areas a minimum of fifty feet (50') from the street or parking lot. Play areas closer than fifty feet (50') shall be surrounded by a three-foot (3') high tubular steel fence, with separate pedestrian and maintenance gates.
- B. Provide play equipment for 2- to 5-year-olds that is 3,500 S.F. minimum and has a maximum deck height of 48".

- C. Provide an adventure area for 5- to 12-year-olds that is 5,000 S.F. minimum and has deck heights beginning at 48" and rising to 72" or higher.
- D. Provide combination play areas that are 5,000 S.F. minimum and designed for 2- to 12-year-olds. Design one half of play structure to accommodate 2- to 5-year-olds with accessible components, and the other half for 5- to 12-year-olds.
- E. Locate play areas near the main circulation route and adjacent to group picnic and open lawn areas. Playgrounds in regional and community parks should be placed 100' from residents.
- F. Approve play equipment vendor by City Project Manager.
- G. Provide 2" (two inch) clearance between the finished surface of the engineered wood fiber and the top of adjacent play area curb.
- H. Include age-appropriate play area signage at the entry to each play area. The text should indicate the age group intended for use and note the following: "Adult Supervision is Recommended" and "Accessible Playground" (if applicable).
- I. Orient the transfer deck to relate directly to the accessible play area entry. Provide a play area access ramp in compliance with ADA regulations, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Guidelines, and ASTM. Refer to Park Standard Details.
- J. Orient the swing area away from the active play area to avoid conflicts in play circulation. Swings can be either visually or physically separated from the active play area. Rubber mats must be installed under all belt swings and tire swings. Tot swings do not require a swing mat.
- K. For play structures with less than 20 elevated components, require a transfer station. A minimum of 50% of elevated play components must be accessible.
- L. For play structures with 20 or more elevated components, a minimum of 25% of the elevated components must be accessible by a transfer station, and a minimum of 25% of elevated play components must be accessible by a ramp.
- M. For ground-level play components, at least one of every type of play component provided must be accessible, including sand diggers. The number and variety is also determined by the number of elevated play components provided.
- N. Provide the appropriate number of accessible elevated and ground level play components. For example, if a play area has 10 elevated play components, at least 5 must be accessible. In addition, at least 3 accessible ground level components are required, each of a different type.
- O. Provide an additional two feet (2') between the required fall zone of a play components and the play area containment edge.
- P. Do not overlap fall zones, except between spring riders and other ground level components in compliance with accepted standards and requirements.
- Q. Apply engineered wood fiber as the preferred surfacing. Rubber surfacing may be used at community parks when feasible. Do not include rubber tiles or crumb rubber fill in the play area.
- R. Place grouped seating area and individual benches for direct supervision of play areas. These seating areas should be placed in shaded areas with existing or proposed trees. Seating areas must include space for wheelchair parking.
- S. Provide a play area access ramp into the play area; refer to the Park Standard details.
- T. Provide an accessible route to playground that is a minimum of 60" in width with a cross slope not exceeding 1:50 and a maximum running slope of 1:16.

Play Equipment

- A. Ensure that playground equipment and design meet current U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines and standards as set forth in the Handbook for Public Playground Safety, as intended by SB 2733; and shall meet or exceed ASTM standards.
- B. Ensure that playground design complies with the latest requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for public agencies.
- C. Consider the durability and the long-term maintenance requirements of the specific equipment, as well as the potential occurrence of vandalism and graffiti. (Play equipment is expected to be in place for twenty years.)
- D. Avoid wood play equipment.
- E. Avoid high-maintenance and vandal-prone items such as bubble panels, Lexan panels, tic-tac-toe panels, enclosed slides and cubes, and rotationally molded climbers.
- F. Include a variety of play elements that have a high overall play value.
- G. Encourage unique, themed, and innovative play equipment.
- H. Ensure that play equipment is inclusive and meets the various developmental needs of users.
- I. Ensure that all playground installations or renovations be certified by 3rd party playground safety inspector.

Playground Shade Structures

- A. Provide a standardized 35'x35' fabric shade canopy over play areas when feasible, referring to standard equipment list.
- B. Ensure that fabric structures over play areas are a minimum of 7' from top of the highest rail or climbable play component.
- C. Refer to the standardized manufacturer list to standardize maintenance of fabric.

- D. Provide either in-ground mounted or surface-mounted footings that are twelve inches (12") below the finished playground surfacing.
- E. Do not provide support posts within fall zones of any play equipment, to be verified by a certified playground inspector.
- F. Ensure the shade canopy fabric is fire retardant, offers 97% UV protection, and is 80% water repellent.
- G. Install a tension adjustment mechanism at corners of shade canopy framework for tension adjustment with a tool for easy installation, adjustment, or removal of shade canopy.

Picnic Areas, Shade, and Seating

- A. Allow fabric structures may be allowed over playgrounds and dog parks only.
- B. In neighborhood parks, provide small picnic areas with minimum 4 tables with BBQ, along with individual picnic tables spaced throughout the park.
- C. Ensure that community and regional parks have large picnic areas w/ minimum 10 tables, serving table, group BBQ, bike rack, and drinking fountain with jug filler. Parks should also have individual and small groupings of picnic tables spaced throughout the park.
- D. Ensure that picnic areas and tables are ADA accessible with a concrete pad.
- E. Provide metal shade structure over picnic areas. Shade structure edge should be 8' or higher above ground level, and not reachable by standing on tables.
- F. Provide a motion activated light, programmed to go on when the picnic area is occupied. No exposed conduits allowed, and all electrical must be run through structure frame.
- G. Verify electrical cut outs on engineer's drawings. Avoid electrical outlets on structure.

Restrooms

- A. Provide restroom facilities within high-use community and regional parks.
- B. Locate restroom buildings for optimal visibility from the roadway and allow easy access for maintenance vehicles. When possible, the restroom doors should face towards the street.
- C. Construct sewer connections of ABS. Install a cleanout or manhole within 10' of restroom building.
- D. Design restrooms with the following: stainless steel fixtures, metal solid core doors, adequate ventilations, masonry walls with graffiti coating, sheet steel roof, and sealed concrete floor with area drain.
- E. Ensure restrooms have a minimum of two gender neutral, single occupancy stalls.
- F. Use programmable magnetic locks with panic button, LED lighting, sealed floors, hand dryer, no mirrors or paper towel dispenser.
- G. Verify required PSI with restroom vendor to allow the restroom fixtures properly function. If the PSI in the water line is lower than what is required, then a booster pump will need to be included with the restroom building.

Signage

- A. Ensure that park identification (naming) signs include park name, address, and City logo and are placed at the main entrance to the park, in a planter area.
- B. Place park regulatory (rules) signage at all park entrances and main gathering locations.
- C. Install sports fields, courts, and playground rules signs and picnic area signs.
- D. For park monument signs, refer to standardized manufacturers list.
- E. Consider customized signs where needed.
- F. Review all signage thoroughly for spelling and grammatical errors.

Drinking Fountains

- A. Provide drinking fountains that are accessible with a Hi/Low profile. Additional features such as jug filler, dog bowl or bottle filler are acceptable. Provide a surface drain on jug-filler side of drinking fountain.
- B. Place drinking fountain to be conveniently located near playgrounds, group picnic areas, restroom, and sports facilities.
- C. Ensure that drain lines are tied into sewer when feasible. When unfeasible, a drywell sump may be used.
- D. Provide a minimum of one drinking fountain per park.
- E. Connect drinking fountains to potable water lines with a separate point of connection from the irrigation point of connection.

Tables and Benches

- A. Provide tables and benches that are eight feet (8') long. Benches may have center arm rest. Tables and benches shall be made of powder-coated metal or concrete. No wood, recycled plastic, or plastic-coated metal furniture will be used.
- B. Select furniture in compatible colors with the play components and other site features.
- C. Provide six inches (6") clearance between hardscape edges and site furnishings.
- D. Provide tables and benches at various locations around the park such as at the park entry, along the main circulation path, alone and grouped to support conversation and gathering, for viewing activities or views, and for direct supervision of children.
- E. Place benches near specific facilities (play areas, sport fields and courts, etc.).
- F. Place benches with back toward a wall, plantings or trees to increase a sense of security.
- G. Set benches back from circulation paths so that pedestrian's legs do not protrude into the walkway. Benches shall be placed to maximize shade in the summer and sun in the winter.

Trash Receptacles

- A. Ensure that trash receptacles match site furniture and have a 32-gallon capacity, with lockable side-opening access.
- B. Place trash receptacles for ease of access for maintenance along major walkways, adjacent roads, picnic areas, play areas, sports fields, and all other high use areas or at trailheads along bikeways.
- C. Avoid placing trash receptacles along the main walkway/service route. These shall be placed no greater than a 30' from the street surrounding the park to the trash receptacle.

Grills

- A. Provide group grills that are a Deluxe Pedestal Grill with side utility shelf.
- B. Provide individual grills that are a pedestal grill with side utility shelf.

Bike Racks

- A. Provide bike racks near park and building entries and gathering areas.
- B. Ensure bike racks comply with Public Work standards and do not encroach into the path of travel.

Other

- A. Consider decorative boulders in planter areas, decomposed granite areas, and along planter edges park perimeter to control vehicular access.
- B. Apply tack-weld or peen surface-mounted bolts on all site furnishings, except on drinking fountains.
- C. Avoid removable and permanent bollards.
- D. Ensure that parking lots have vehicle access control with signage, either pipe gates or programmable automatic parking gates.

Fencing

- A. Refer to the Park Standard Details.
- B. Refer to Standard Specifications for Public Works' Construction, latest edition.
- C. Ensure that fencing around playgrounds meets the requirements ASTM Designation: F 2049-09b.

Irrigation**General**

- A. Ensure that irrigation systems comply with MWEL0 and City Water Conservation Ordinance.
- B. Provide irrigation calculations for sizing of irrigation tap.
- C. Design irrigation systems to water the entire park in an 8-hour water window, 5 days a week.
- D. Group booster pump, central irrigation controllers and electrical service together in one location adjacent to the property fence. Install these on a single concrete pad. See Standard Details for layout.
- E. Install irrigation equipment and utility boxes in a planter area and shall be screened with plant material.
- F. Irrigate trees by a two-bubbler per tree. Tree irrigation should be on their own valves.
- G. Apply an irrigation loop mainline (preferred).

Backflow Preventers (BFP)

- A. Size BFP the same size as the meter.
- B. Contact the Department of Utilities for selected/accepted backflow prevention device and/or refer to the Public Works Construction Standards.
- C. Provide a lockable, insulated cage.

Booster Pump Assembly

- A. Complete a pressure calculation for each park site.
- B. Coordinate power requirements on electrical plans.

Controller

- A. Install a central irrigation controller in all parks that meets the Park Standard Specifications. Controllers must communicate via cellular. Traditional irrigation wiring is preferred. Two wire systems shall be used for phased projects.
- B. Coordinate Power requirements on electrical plans.

Meter

- A. Ensure parks have separate water taps for irrigation and domestic water.
- B. Ensure the meter installation is a part of the construction contract and can be purchased through the City Department of Utilities. For sites dedicated to YPCE by developers the water development fee and meter fees should be paid for by the developer prior to parcel acceptance.

Piping

- A. Provide gate valves along mainline to isolate areas as needed.
- B. Sleeve all wiring and waterlines under paving and supply a spare three inch (3") sleeve capped at both ends. Pipe sprinkler heads following grade contours.
- C. Place irrigation main lines ten feet away from trees
- D. Use schedule 80 pipe on all nipples and connectors upstream from valve. Use schedule 40 piping on fitting downstream of valves.

Quick Couplers and Valves

- A. Place one-inch (1") quick coupling valves adjacent to large paved areas or at 150' along the irrigation main line and at the end of main line runs.
- B. Install turf and planter area irrigation valves at grade in a locking valve box.
- C. Avoid placing irrigation main lines or irrigation valves shall in sport fields or future paved areas.
- D. Provide valve boxes at grade in planters, one-half (1/2) inch below grade in turf and native areas.

- E. Design irrigation valves per function (i.e., sports field turf isolated separately from passive turf areas).
- F. Place wire splices in a valve box with the irrigation valves when possible. If this is not possible the wire splices should be place in their own valve box and the location noted on the irrigation as built plans.

Sprinkler Heads

- A. Match precipitation rates if using full, half, or quarter rotors or spray valves on the same valve.
- B. Ensure the total number of turf heads per valve and GPM flow rate does not exceed 75 percent maximum flow rate of the irrigation valve.
- C. Space rotors at 75% listed radius and 85% of listed radius for spray heads.
- D. Use turf rotary heads that have a six-inch stainless-steel riser.
- E. Lay out irrigation heads in a triangular pattern where possible.

Baseball/Softball Infield Irrigation

- A. Install manual brass valve and rotors around the perimeter of the infield to wet the infield mix.
- B. Set infield rotors a minimum of four inches (4") and a maximum of six inches (6") away from backboards or hardscape.
- C. Install two quick couplers near dug outs for cleaning or wetting field.

Other

- A. Provide a complete irrigation schedule outlining water needs per valve by month for a twelve-month period. The water table shall be included in the project manual as a part of the specifications (appendix) or on the plans.
- B. Do not irrigate within dripline of existing mature oak trees.

Plantings

- A. For community or regional parks, provide 20% of site in low maintenance naturalized areas with any combination of either a four-inch (4") layer of mulch, non-irrigated native grass, irrigated no-mow tall fescue, decomposed granite paving areas or low-maintenance groundcover, planted with native tree groves wherever possible to limit mowing and irrigation requirements.
- B. For neighborhood parks, include a low maintenance landscape area where possible.
- C. Redesign existing parks to reduce non-recreational turf areas outside of active sports fields or passive recreation areas. Turf can be replaced with either a four-inch (4") layer of mulch, non-irrigated native grass, irrigated no-mow tall fescue, decomposed granite paving areas or low-maintenance groundcover, all planted with native tree groves to limit mowing and irrigation requirements.
- D. Obtain soils fertility test and report as required in the project specifications. Amend soils as recommended by the soil's fertility test. If mass grading occurs and the top 6" of soil is removed a soils test shall be completed after the mass grading is completed.
- E. Adopt planting sizes:
 - 15-gallon minimum for trees
 - 5-gallon minimum for major shrubs
 - 1-gallon minimum for minor shrubs, vines and groundcovers
 - Plants in flats or plugs may be considered
- F. Promote the use of drought tolerant native, low maintenance plants and landscape materials in all parks.
- G. Design parkways and open space with the majority of the site in non-irrigated native grasses and trees, or mulch and trees and limited planter areas at entry points. Turf shall be limited and only used to enhance active use gathering areas, picnic areas, or to providing a recreational turf area.

- H. Include natural landscape features in park designs, including tree groves, natural plantings, dry streambeds, rock features, and earth forms to enhance the natural character of the site.
- I. Plant plants and trees in mass groupings of similar plant types, to reduce maintenance and increase visual appeal.
- J. Ensure plant material (trees, shrubs and groundcover) is low maintenance and drought-tolerant or native species.
- K. At playgrounds, plant trees in a planter area, tree wells, mulch area, or decomposed granite paving immediately to the south and west side of a playground in sufficient quantity to shade 50% of the playground at full maturity.
- L. Plant parking lot trees as required in the Parking Lot Tree Shade Design and Maintenance Guidelines.

Planters

- A. Locate planter areas at park entries, focal points, gathering areas, and to screen irrigation equipment and utility boxes.
- B. Plant planter areas with low maintenance, low water using, dwarf, naturally compact, and hardy perennials, shrubs and low-growing groundcover that require no routine pruning or dead heading. Shrubs planted next to property line fences shall be selected from species that naturally grow less than six feet (6') high and shrubs planted elsewhere in the park shall grow less than three feet (3') high. Planters should be designed to allow for visibility into the park.
- C. Provide an entry planted (non-turf) area to locate the park name sign. Provide low maintenance flowering trees, and plant material to accent the sign.
- D. In planted areas along streets, parking lots and tree cutouts in pavement, provide root barrier along the pavement edge. Appropriate use of natives will be encouraged in park design to reduce maintenance and add interest.
- E. Install landscape fabric in all planter beds with four inches (4") of walk-on bark mulch.

Trees

- A. Ensure that trees planted in turf areas are a minimum of twenty-foot (20') from other trees or vertical elements.
- B. Ensure that trees planted in turf areas next to the street are set back fifteen feet (15') from the front of the curb face.
- C. When providing tree cutouts within hardscape areas, provide a minimum six-foot (6') diameter round or square cutout.
- D. Plant trees planted in native grass area, no-mow fescue areas, mulch, decomposed granite or planters a minimum of twelve-foot (12') apart.
- E. Check that trees planted in naturalized areas are strongly encouraged be drought-tolerant species and native to the Sacramento Valley region and planted to form dense tree grooves.
- F. Ensure that twenty percent (20%) of all trees planted in the park are California native species such as (Blue Oak, Valley Oak, Coast Live Oak, California Sycamore, etc.).
- G. Plant trees at a minimum of 25 trees per acre in parks and a minimum of 40 trees per acre in naturalized or bark mulch areas.
- H. Avoid trees with excessive fruit, branch or litter drop, such as Purple-leaf plum, Liquidambar, and Chinese Elm. Trees in community gardens may have fruit.
- I. Select trees appropriate to the site-specific environment as approved by the project manager to fulfill the following criteria:
 - Tolerate heavy soil conditions;
 - Tolerate freeze;
 - No heavy litter or lengthy dropping of leaves, fruit or debris;
 - Be disease and pest resistant;
 - Have a deep rooting system (not shallow rooted); and
 - Tolerate heat (is not susceptible to sunburn).

- J. Consider tree species with shallow root systems if located within a planter area and/or planted with root barrier panels.
- K. Plant trees to buffer the street frontage, to organize and define use areas on the park site, to provide protection from wind and sun, and as a visual amenity to the park.
- L. Plant accent trees at all park entries where possible and appropriate.
- M. Do not plant summer flowering trees next to the picnic areas or play area to reduce allergens and insect problems.
- N. Establish a sight triangle at the park corners or park entry to maximize visibility from the street.
- O. Ensure that trees planted in turf areas have a four-foot diameter bark mulch around their base.

Turf

- A. Select turf types that require less mowing and water.
- B. Avoid turf in separate sidewalk planters or within areas less than ten feet wide.
- C. Provide turf where it has a recreational purpose, such as placed adjacent to a picnic area or playground or within a dog park. Turf areas are to be minimized where possible to reduce maintenance and water requirements.

Table E-2. Guidelines for Lighted Facilities

	Existing % of Lighted Facilities	Current % Standard for Lighted Facilities	Proposed Minimum % Standard for Lighted Facilities
Sports Courts (includes basketball, tennis, bocce, and pickleball)	15%	None	15%
Sports Fields (includes baseball, softball, soccer, and futsal)	9%	20%*	15%
Other Active Uses (includes disc golf and skate park)	3%	None	5%

Note: The original plan standard was 16% for baseball, 16% for softball, and 25% for soccer.

Electrical

- A. Sports Field, Court, and Recreation Facility Lighting
- B. Reference the City's guidelines for Lighted Facility Standards (Table E-2) when developing recreational facilities, with the aim of providing lighting to extend play in suitable sites and facilities. Lighted facilities should consider surrounding land uses, residential proximity, user groups, and improvements to equity and access.
- C. Consider sport field and court lighting at regional or community parks. Lighting must be environmentally cleared. If parking lots are provided, the parking lot must also be lit, as well as the pathway from parking to lighted fields.
- D. Provide sport court lighting that has a 1-hour push button operation with a 5-minute warning system to allow players to reactivate the lights for one additional hour prior to shut-off.
- E. Ensure that all lighting projects (sports fields and courts, parking lot, restroom, shade structures and park lights) are LED and energy efficient.
- F. Include lighting controls for sports field and courts that have cellular communications.

Park Lighting

- A. Provide security pathway lighting throughout the park to existing streetlights along the park sidewalks.
- B. Direct lighting away from light sensitive areas.
- C. Provide lights on astronomical clock or photocell.
- D. Provide lights outside a restroom or building entrance for security.
- E. Provide electrical pedestals in special use parks only and must be in secure vandal resistant cabinet.

Park Guidelines By Park Type

Multi-Use Regional Parks

Classification: Regional Park

Definition: Multi-use regional parks (RP) are large parks that provide greenspace, natural areas, and a mix of specialized recreation and cultural facilities such as recreation and aquatic centers, golf courses, beaches, marinas, museums, zoos, multi-field sports complexes, destination play areas, amphitheaters, and event spaces.

Park LOS: All regional parks, inclusive of multi-use regional parks and regional recreation and cultural attractions, should be provided at 2.75 acres per 1,000 residents.

Service Area: Citywide and beyond, with a typical travel distance of at least 3 miles. These parks may also meet needs for nearby parks within a 10-minute walk.

Site Character:

- Is a highly visited, high traffic, and popular park
- Has customized design(s) to attract visitors to unique recreation, cultural, and natural attractions and specialized uses
- Includes art and elements that reflect and promote city identity, character, nature, and culture.
- May have revenue-generating, fee-based facilities
- Provides varied and unique facilities to attract people from across the city
- Has lighting to serve visitors extended hours
- Receives the highest level of maintenance, caretaking, and landscaping to support aesthetics and use

Size and Configuration:

- Typical minimum size: 100+ acres
- At least 50% of the site should be developable for recreation uses
- Contiguous, usable shape; shape may be influenced by natural features

Access:

- Highly accessible site, emphasizing universal accessibility and perimeter access at one or more bike, pedestrian, and auto entries
- Park frontage on an arterial street
- Accessible by vehicle, bicycle, and foot
- Along a major transit and/or bus route
- Accessible via a Class I or Class IV trail
- Sufficient parking for site use
- Wider paths for emergency vehicle access

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- Major recreation facilities or cultural attractions to draw visitors from across the City and beyond, such as recreation centers, aquatic facilities, golf courses, marinas, beaches, museums, and zoos
- Events space, such as a pavilion, amphitheater, multi-use event field with hookups, farmers market, or food truck venue
- Large group picnic areas and shelters with barbecues or group grills, sink, food preparation areas, utilities
- Destination play area or all inclusive, universal play area
- Game or tournament-quality sports field complex with lighting
- Looped walking path
- Art, cultural, historical, or natural interpretive features

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Dog park or dog beach
- Destination splash pad, spray area, or water play area
- Group event and programming space or plaza with utilities
- Additional group picnic areas (medium or small; covered and uncovered)
- Small or medium unique recreation features (e.g., skate park)

- Game and tournament quality sports courts, including diverse or multi-use sports (e.g., volleyball, pickleball, badminton, bocce)
- Larger footprint challenge facilities (e.g., BMX track, 18- or 36-hole disc golf course, climbing spire, velodrome)
- Smaller footprint challenge facilities (e.g., par course, outdoor fitness equipment, climbing wall, skate park, skate spot, bike pump track)
- Activity stations (e.g., giant chess, giant Jenga, outdoor ping pong, game tables, etc.)
- Demonstration and community gardens
- Plaza or unique seating/social areas (e.g., rounded seatwalls)
- Trailhead
- Additional hard and soft-surfaced trails (loop, jogging path, nature trail)
- Natural features such as water bodies with beaches and pond and/or lake access

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Permanent restrooms
- Additional portable restrooms for events only
- On-site parking
- Facility access paths
- Tables, seating, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles, and dog waste stations
- Water and power connections at picnic shelters and event spaces
- Individual barbecues or group barbecue area
- Shade features including trees, shelters, canopies, and sails
- Park identification signage near main parking lot, street entry, or visible frontage
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian-scale lighting throughout, as well as facility lighting

- Maintenance/storage facilities
- Fencing for safety, separation from incompatible perimeter uses, and to discourage access to sensitive natural areas
- Art elements to reflect identity, nature, and culture

Landscaping and Vegetation:

- High maintenance seasonal plantings are appropriate, but should be kept to a minimum to reduce maintenance needs
- Low-to-medium maintenance plantings and functional landscaping for much of the site
- Manicured sports field grass or synthetic turf
- Manicured lawn for informal play
- Mix of evergreen and deciduous trees for shade, habitat, and seasonal interest
- Drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California’s Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELo)
- Bioswales for stormwater filtration

Additional Considerations:

- Portions of these sites may be leased to another operator to provide a public destination or specialized facility
- A buffer may be needed between regional scale facilities and surrounding uses due to crowds, noise, and lighting



Del Paso Regional Park



William Land Regional Park



Precedent Photo - Amphitheater



Granite Regional Park



Precedent Photo - Aquatic Center



North Natomas Regional Park

Regional Recreation and Cultural Attractions

Classification: Regional Park

Definition: Regional recreation and cultural attractions (RCA) are single-purpose major recreation facilities or cultural venues that serve as citywide attractions. They may include venues not located in larger parks, such as golf courses, beaches, marinas, museums, zoos, cemeteries, and Camp Sacramento that offer specialized recreation or cultural opportunities.

Park LOS: All regional parks, inclusive of regional recreation and cultural attractions, should be provided at 2.75 acres per 1,000 residents.

Service Area: Citywide and beyond, with a typical travel distance of at least 3 miles. These parks may also meet needs for nearby parks within a 10-minute walk.

Site Character:

- Popular programmed park dedicated to a specific use that may attract people from across the city
- Customized design to attract visitors to unique recreation, cultural, and natural attractions and specialized uses
- Includes art and elements that reflect and promote city identity, character, nature, and culture
- May have revenue-generating, fee-based facilities
- Lighting to serve visitors extended hours
- Highest level of maintenance, caretaking, and landscaping to support aesthetics and use

Size and Configuration:

- Typical minimum size: 20+ acres, but varies depending on scale of attraction
- Configuration varies per single-purpose cultural attraction
- Contiguous, usable shape; shape may be influenced by natural features

Access:

- Highly accessible site, emphasizing universal accessibility and perimeter access at one or more bike, pedestrian, and auto entries

- Park frontage on an arterial street
- Accessible by vehicle, bicycle, and foot
- Ideally along a major transit and/or bus route
- Along a Class I or Class IV shared use path
- Sufficient parking for site use
- Wider paths for emergency vehicle access

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- A single recreation facility or cultural attraction—or coordinated group of similar facilities—that draw visitors from across the City and beyond such as golf courses, environmental camps and centers, cemeteries and memorials.
- Support buildings and facilities for the intended use (e.g., clubhouses, driving ranges, restaurants, visitor center, cabins, lodge, etc.)

- Art, cultural, or historical interpretive features
- Natural features

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Event or tournament space, such as a pavilion, amphitheater, multi-use event field with hookups, food truck venue, or large group shelter
- Thematic, nature play, or water play area suited to intended site use
- Plazas, gardens, memorials or other respite spaces
- Cultural arts facilities
- Sculpture gardens or interactive art displays
- Hard and soft-surfaced trails (loop, jogging path, nature trail)
- Compatible or seasonal uses
- Facilities to support outdoor recreation, nature interpretation and environmental education, such as interpretive kiosks, self-guided educational trails, wildlife viewing areas and bird blinds, non-motorized boat launch, swimming beach, signage

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Permanent restrooms
- Additional portable restrooms for events only
- On-site parking
- Facility access paths
- Tables, seating, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles
- Water and power connections at event spaces
- Shade features including trees, shelters, canopies, and sails
- Park identification signage near main parking lot, street entry, or visible frontage
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian-scale lighting throughout, as well as facility lighting
- Maintenance/storage facilities
- Fencing for safety, separation from incompatible perimeter uses, and to discourage access to sensitive natural areas
- Art elements to reflect identity, nature, and culture

Landscaping and Vegetation:

- High maintenance seasonal plantings are appropriate, but should be kept to a minimum to reduce maintenance needs
- Low-to-medium maintenance plantings and functional landscaping for much of the site



Camp Sacramento

- Manicured sports field grass or synthetic turf
- Manicured lawn for informal play
- Mix of evergreen and deciduous trees for shade, habitat, and seasonal interest
- Drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California’s Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO)
- Bioswales for stormwater filtration

Additional Considerations:

- A buffer may be needed between regional scale facilities and surrounding uses due to crowds, noise, and lighting.
- The site may not be intended for recreation and may be limited to protection of historic and cultural features.
- Site use may be restricted to programming and reservations.
- Dogs may not be allowed on site.

Multi-Use Community Parks

Classification: Community Park

Definition: Multi-use community parks (CP) are medium to large sites, typically 10-40 acres in size, which provide a mix of recreation facilities, greenspace and large group gathering space. Typical facilities include a mix of facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields, sports courts, picnic areas, skate parks, dog parks, community gardens,



Precedent Photo - Golf

community centers, senior centers, swimming and wading pools, open lawn areas, natural areas, and looped trails. These parks include on-site parking, restrooms, shade, and similar support amenities for longer site visits.

Park LOS: All community parks, inclusive of multi-use community parks, should be provided at 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents. Approximately 80%-85% of community parks shall be multi-use community parks.

Service Area: 3 miles. These parks may also meet needs for nearby parks within a 10-minute walk.

Site Character:

- Designed to reflect community identity and culture
- Safety and noise mitigation are supported through buffers at parks along busy streets
- Sight lines are maintained into parks from adjacent streets

- Specialized facilities and programmable areas receive enhanced level of maintenance
- General landscaping may receive standard level of maintenance

Size and Configuration:

- Typical minimum size: 10+ acres, but parks may be larger
- At least 75% of the site should be relatively developable for recreation uses
- Contiguous, usable shape



Camp Sacramento

Access:

- Highly accessible, emphasizing universal accessibility and perimeter access
- Park frontage on a primary collector street
- Accessible by vehicle, public transportation, bicycle, pedestrian – ideally along a transit and/or bus route
- Ideally located on a Class I or Class IV shared use path or accessible via on-street bike lanes
- Sidewalks connected to interior park paths for pedestrians
- Sufficient parking for site use, including specialized and sport facilities
- Wider paths for emergency vehicle access
- If adjacent to a school, park should be accessible from the school

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- Thematic playground (medium to large-scale play area with shade and universal play features)
- Small to medium-size picnic shelter(s)
- Medium or large group picnic shelter with barbecues
- Open lawn for programming, sitting, and informal play
- Specialized or unique facilities that support programming such as swimming and wading pools, recreation/community centers and senior centers



Camp Sacramento

APPENDIX E

- Game-quality sports fields (grass or artificial turf, multi-use rectangular, baseball/softball; fields may be lighted and include overlays)
- Game-quality sports courts (basketball, pickleball, tennis; may be lighted)
- Walking path or loop trail

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Universal design features
- Splash pad or spray area
- Group event and programming space or plaza with utilities
- Amphitheater/stage (outdoor)
- Various specialized and multi-use facilities to support drop-in and programmed activities (e.g., community center, swimming pool, park buildings, concessions)
- Additional group picnic areas (medium or small; covered and uncovered)
- Small or medium unique recreation features (e.g., skate park, dog park)
- Additional sports courts, including diverse or multi-use sports (e.g., volleyball, pickleball, badminton, bocce)
- Smaller footprint challenge facilities (e.g., par course, outdoor fitness equipment, climbing wall, skate park, skate spot, bike pump track)
- Activity stations (e.g., giant chess, giant Jenga, outdoor ping pong, game tables, etc.)
- Pump track, big wheel or tricycle track
- Demonstration and community gardens
- Plaza or unique seating/social areas (e.g., rounded seatwalls)
- Trailhead
- Additional hard and soft-surfaced trails (loop, jogging path, nature trail)
- Art, cultural, or historical interpretive features
- Natural features

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Permanent restrooms
- Additional portable restrooms for events only
- On-site and off-street parking
- Facility access paths
- Tables, seating, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles
- Water at picnic shelters and event spaces
- Individual barbecues or group barbecue area
- Shade features including trees, shelters, canopies, and sails
- Park identification signage near main parking lot, street entry, or visible frontage
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian-scale lighting throughout, as well as facility lighting
- Maintenance/storage facilities
- Fencing for safety, separation from incompatible perimeter uses, and to discourage access to sensitive natural areas

Landscaping and Vegetation:

- Low-to-medium maintenance plantings and functional landscaping
- Manicured sports field grass
- Manicured lawn for informal play
- Mix of evergreen and deciduous trees for shade, habitat, and seasonal interest
- Drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO)
- Bioswales for stormwater filtration

Additional Considerations:

- Citywide or regional-scale facilities, such as sports complexes, golf courses, and zoos should be avoided.
- High noise uses, such as pickleball and basketball courts, should be situated away from nearby housing.



Magoichi Oki Park



Burberry Park



Airfield Park



Airfield Park



Blackbird Park



Blackbird Park

Special-Use Community Parks

Classification: Community Park

Definition: Special-use community parks (SU) are single-purpose sites that vary in size and support specialized uses such as urban plazas, promenades, waterfront parks, stand-alone community centers, community gardens, skate/bike parks, disc golf courses, single-use sports complexes, and other sites with community appeal. They may have minor supplemental facilities, along with support amenities such as on-site parking, restrooms, shade, and similar support amenities for longer site visits.

Park LOS: All community parks, inclusive of special-use community parks, should be provided at 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents.

Service Area: 3 miles. These parks may also meet needs for nearby parks within a 10-minute walk.

Site Character:

- Designed to reflect community identity and culture
- Safety and noise mitigation are supported through buffers at parks along busy streets
- Sight lines are maintained into parks from adjacent streets
- Specialized facilities and programmable areas receive enhanced level of maintenance
- General landscaping may receive standard level of maintenance

Size and Configuration:

- Typical minimum size varies depending on size and scale of special use feature
- Contiguous usable shape, but configuration may vary per single-purpose use

Access:

- Highly accessible, emphasizing universal accessibility and perimeter access
- Park frontage on a primary collector street

- Accessible by vehicle, public transportation, bicycle, or pedestrian– ideally along a transit and/or bus route
- Ideally located on a Class I or Class IV shared use path or accessible via on-street bike paths
- Sidewalks connected to interior park paths for pedestrians
- Sufficient parking for site use, including specialized and sport facilities
- Wider paths for emergency vehicle access
- If adjacent to a school, park should be accessible from the school

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- Specialized or unique facilities that support programming such as single-use sports complexes recreation/community centers and senior centers, and community gardens

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Universal design features
- Group event and programming space or plaza with utilities
- Outdoor amphitheater/stage
- Various specialized and multi-use facilities to support drop-in and programmed activities (e.g., community center, swimming pool, park buildings, concessions)
- Group picnic areas (medium or small; covered and uncovered)
- Small or medium unique recreation features (e.g., skate park, dog park)
- Additional sports courts, including diverse or multi-use sports (e.g., volleyball, pickleball, badminton, bocce)
- Smaller footprint challenge facilities (e.g., par course, outdoor fitness equipment, climbing wall, skate park, skate spot, bike pump track)
- Activity stations (e.g., giant chess, giant Jenga, outdoor ping pong, game tables, etc.)
- Demonstration and community gardens
- Plaza or unique seating/social areas (e.g., rounded seatwalls)

- Trailhead
- Additional hard and soft-surfaced trails (loop, jogging path, nature trail)
- Art, cultural, or historical interpretive features
- Natural features

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Permanent restrooms
- Additional portable restrooms for events only
- On-site and off-street parking
- Facility access paths
- Tables, seating, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles, and dog waste stations
- Water and power connections at picnic shelters and event spaces
- Individual barbecues or group barbecue area
- Shade features including trees, shelters, canopies, and sails
- Park identification signage near main parking lot, street entry, or visible frontage
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Pedestrian-scale lighting throughout, as well as facility lighting
- Maintenance/storage facilities
- Fencing for safety, separation from incompatible perimeter uses, and to discourage access to sensitive natural areas

Landscaping and Vegetation:

- Low-to-medium maintenance plantings and functional landscaping
- Manicured sports field grass
- Manicured lawn for informal play
- Mix of evergreen and deciduous trees for shade, habitat, and seasonal interest
- Drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California’s Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO)
- Bioswales for stormwater filtration

Additional Considerations:

- Special-use community parks may be provided to leverage an existing opportunity (such as repurposing a stand-alone building) or in an Environmental Justice area or park deficient area where specialized facilities are needed, but larger park spaces aren’t available.
- Citywide or regional-scale facilities, such as sports complexes, golf courses, and zoos, should be avoided.
- High noise uses, such as pickleball and basketball courts, should be situated away from nearby housing.



Cesar E. Chavez Plaza



Army Depot Park

Multi-Use Neighborhood Parks

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Definition: Multi-use neighborhood parks (NP) are small to medium sites, typically 2-8 acres, which support a mix of play, picnicking, sports, and leisure activities for nearby neighbors that live within walking or biking distance. Typical facilities include playgrounds, unlighted sport fields or sport courts, individual or small group picnic areas, smaller outdoor facilities, open lawn areas, and amenities to support local use. Some neighborhood parks may include additional natural open space.

Park LOS: All neighborhood parks, inclusive of multi-use neighborhood parks, should be provided at 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents. All neighborhood parks in new developments shall be multi-use neighborhood parks.

Service Area: 0.5-mile

Site Character:

- Family and neighborhood-friendly sites
- Designed to reflect neighborhood identity and culture
- Should not be located adjacent to busy arterial routes unless uses are buffered from traffic and noise
- Site receives standard level of maintenance
- If the site includes specialized facilities and programmable areas, these may receive enhanced level of maintenance

Size and Configuration:

- Typical minimum size: 4 acres
- Contiguous usable shape
- 100% of the site should be relatively level and developable for recreation uses

Access:

- Typical service area is ½ mile (10-minute walk)
- Siting on secondary streets within a residential area
- May be located along a trail, bike route, or bikeway
- Pedestrian and bicycle-oriented wayfinding and visibility

- Accessible from local or collector streets
- Sidewalks connect to park paths
- If adjacent to a school, park should be accessible from the school

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- Medium play area, ages 2-5 and 5-12 (shaded; may be thematic)
- Sports field (soccer, softball/backstop)
- Full-size sport courts (basketball, tennis/pickleball overlay, other diverse courts)
- Additional use elements such as challenge feature, activity station, or other elements
- Family-size or small group picnic area (shaded)
- Open lawn for leisure and informal play

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Additional group picnic areas (medium or small; covered and uncovered)
- Additional full or half sports courts, including diverse or multi-use sports (e.g., volleyball, pickleball, badminton, bocce, futsal)
- Smaller footprint challenge facilities (e.g., par course, outdoor fitness equipment, climbing wall, skate park, skate spot, bike pump track)
- Activity stations (e.g., giant chess, giant Jenga, outdoor ping pong, game tables, etc.)
- Additional hard and soft-surfaced trails (looped path, jogging path, tricycle track)
- Natural areas in select site locations
- Interpretive signage

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Street parking
- Facility access paths
- Perimeter path or sidewalks

- Tables, seating, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles, and dog waste stations
- Water and power connections at picnic shelters
- Individual barbecues or group barbecue area
- Shade features such as trees, shelters, canopies, and sails
- Park identification signage near main parking lot, street entry, or visible frontage
- Fencing for safety or separation from incompatible perimeter uses

Landscaping and Vegetation:

- Low maintenance plantings
- Trees for shade, habitat, and seasonal interest
- Drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California’s Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO)
- Manicured sports fields and lawn areas for informal play

Additional Considerations:

- Community or regional scale facilities, including lighted sports fields and tournament-style courts, community centers, swimming pools, wading pools, on-site parking, and restrooms, should be avoided in neighborhood parks.
- High noise uses (e.g., pickleball and basketball courts) should be situated away from nearby housing.
- Ideally new residential areas will provide multi-use neighborhood parks to provide diverse, close-to-home recreation options for nearby neighbors.



Cove Park



Artivo Guerrero Park



Dogwood Park



Levar Burton Park

APPENDIX E

Pocket Parks

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Definition: Pocket parks (PP) are small sites, typically less than 2 acres in size, which provide manicured greenspace for nearby neighbors. Sites may support neighborhood aesthetics and leisure, with amenities such as art, benches, or a picnic table. Some are located as rest stops adjacent to trail corridors.

Park LOS: All neighborhood parks, inclusive of pocket parks, should be provided at 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Pocket parks may be considered in an Environmental Justice area and/or built-out park deficient area where large parcels are not available for development.

Service Area: Varies

Site Character:

- Small greenspace to support neighborhood character
- Passive space that lacks active use amenities
- May be located near homes or along trails and less busy roadways

Size and Configuration:

- Typically less than 1 acre in size with a minimum size of 0.15 acres
- 100% of the site should be relatively level and developable for recreation uses

Access:

- Siting should be on secondary streets within a residential area
- May be accessible via sidewalks

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- Small open lawn area or greenspace
- Gathering areas – picnic tables, benches, seating

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Art
- Interpretive signage

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Access paths
- Table, seating, trash receptacle
- Shade features such as trees, canopies, and sails
- Park identification signage near entry or visible frontage

Landscaping and Vegetation:

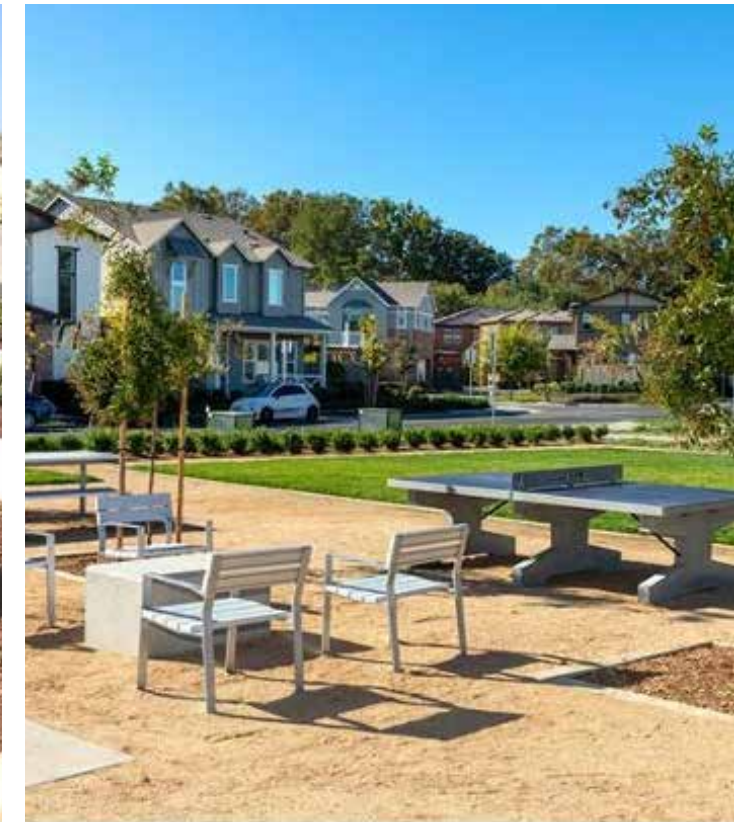
- Low-maintenance landscaping such as now-mow lawn
- Trees for shade and seasonal interest
- Drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO)
- Small, multi-use lawn

Additional Considerations:

- Restrooms, community-scale facilities, lighting, buildings/storage, barbecues, and high-maintenance elements or landscaping such as art or ornamental plantings should be avoided.
- Recreation features may not be needed where a neighborhood, community, or regional park is provided within ¼ mile.
- Play and active uses at these sites may be desired to meet neighborhood needs in park deficient areas. These could be added if appropriate given the proximity to housing and roadways. This redevelopment would effectively reposition the site as a neighborhood play lot.
- Pocket parks and neighborhood play lots do not provide much variety in recreation activities given their small size. They may be considered in an Environmental Justice area and/or built-out park deficient area where large parcels are not available for development.



Ricardo Favela Park



Russ Solomon Park



Russ Solomon Park



Russ Solomon Park

APPENDIX E

Neighborhood Play Lots

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Definition: Neighborhood play lots (NPL) are small sites, typically less than 2 acres in size, which support single-use recreation opportunities for nearby neighbors. Examples include tot lots, play elements for all ages, multipurpose sports courts, and small footprint recreation facilities.

Park LOS: All neighborhood parks, inclusive of neighborhood play lots, should be provided at 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Neighborhood play lots may be considered in an Environmental Justice area and/or built-out park deficient area where large parcels are not available for development.

Service Area: 0.5-mile

Site Character:

- Youth-friendly play spaces and respite spaces for all ages
- Small greenspace to support neighborhood character
- May be located near homes or along trails and less busy roadways

Size and Configuration:

- Typically less than 2 acres in size with a minimum size of 0.3 acres
- 100% of the site should be relatively level and developable for recreation uses

Access:

- Siting should be on secondary streets within a residential area
- May be accessible via sidewalks

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- Single-use recreation elements such as sport courts and play elements for all ages
- Small open lawn area or greenspace
- Gathering areas – picnic tables, benches, seating

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Additional stand-alone play elements (e.g., climbing structure, boulders, swings, nature play)
- Basic neighborhood park features if no neighborhood or community park is within walking distance
- Interpretive signage

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Access paths
- Table, seating, trash receptacle
- Shade features such as trees, canopies, and sails
- Park identification signage near entry or visible frontage

Landscaping and Vegetation:

- Low-maintenance landscaping such as now-mow lawn
- Trees for shade and seasonal interest
- Drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELo)
- Small, multi-use lawn

Additional Considerations:

- Restrooms, community-scale facilities, lighting, buildings/storage, barbecues, and high-maintenance elements or landscaping such as art or ornamental plantings should be avoided.
- Recreation features may not be needed where a neighborhood, community, or regional park is provided within ¼ mile.
- Pocket parks and neighborhood play lots do not provide much variety in recreation activities given their small size. They may be considered in an Environmental Justice area and/or built-out park deficient area where large parcels are not available for development.



Five Star Park



Sutter Park



Sutter Park



Sutter Park



Rea Park Butterfly Garden



Rea Park Playground

APPENDIX E

Parkways

Classification: Parkway

Definition: Parkways are linear parks designed primarily for trail use and secondarily for passive recreation, open space, wildlife habitat, and flood control. Most include hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists, linking residential areas to schools, parks, and trail systems. These corridors may be situated along waterways, abandoned railroads, transportation or utility corridors or other linear features. Parkways may be landscaped, turf, native plantings, or natural landscaping.

Park LOS: Parkways should be provided at 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

Service Area: 0.5-mile

Site Character:

- Off-street linear corridors typically with shared use paths that connect parks, schools, and community destinations
- May be located along waterways, transportation and utility corridors, or other linear features

Size and Configuration:

- Typical minimum size: none, since the acreage depending on the length of the parkway
- Width, including trail and surrounding buffer, depends on parkway use and location; shared-use paths must adhere to City transportation minimum requirements.
- Shape may be irregular or linear, following natural features and topography.

Access:

- Siting should be on corridors for pedestrian and bicyclists, linking residential areas to schools, parks, and trail systems
- Ideally along a Class I or Class IV trail or accessible via on-street bike paths
- Accessible from local or collector streets as well as sidewalks

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- Wide multi-use bicycle/pedestrian path – Class I shared use path, with wayfinding and safety signage
- Amenities for rest, such as tables, benches, seating

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Trail identification and mileage markers, directional signage
- Bollards to slow bikes at intersections and prevent vehicle access; removable bollards may be needed to provide utility or maintenance access
- Interpretive signage
- Bike repair station

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Fencing to discourage access to sensitive natural areas
- Shade features such as trees
- Park identification signage near entry or visible frontage
- Trail maps and signage along the shared use path

Landscaping and Vegetation:

- Landscaping and trees for shade, habitat, and seasonal interest
- Drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California’s Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO)
- If located along utility corridors, landscaping must comply with utility provider rules, including height restrictions, horizontal clearances from lines, and approved species

Additional Considerations:

- Amenities better suited to trailheads (e.g., drinking fountains, trash receptacles, restrooms) should be avoided along the trail corridor.



Bannon Creek Park and Parkway



Bannon Creek Park and Parkway



Niños Parkway



Niños Parkway



Sacramento Northern Bikeway



Sacramento Northern Bikeway

APPENDIX E

Open Space

Classification: Open Space

Definition: YPCE manages several open space areas to provide river access, ensure access to other natural features, or protect habitat, conserve natural resources, and promote urban greening and ecological functions. While most sites provide accessible greenspace, passive recreation opportunities, and/or trails, some open space areas do not have any recreation amenities and are not intended for public access. Unlike multi-use parks (which may include natural resources, beaches, marinas, and habitat areas within them), these stand-alone parks are managed primarily as greenspace.

Park LOS: Open space should be provided at 0.75 acres per 1,000 residents.

Service Area: 0.5-mile

Site Character:

- Sites typically are natural, with recreation supported as secondary use

Size and Configuration:

- Size varies depending on extent of natural area; larger sites are preferred for enhanced wildlife habitat and ecological functions
- Shape may be irregular or linear, following natural features and topography

Access:

- Service area varies
- Siting should be within and between urban growth areas
- Accessibility varies; may be accessible by vehicle, public transportation, bicycle, or foot
- May be accessible via sidewalks, Class I or Class IV trails, or on-street bike paths
- May provide parking if consistent with recreation needs
- May include wide paths may be provided for emergency vehicle access

Prioritized Recreation Elements:

- Stewarded natural areas for connections to nature
- Interpretive features (e.g., signage, kiosks, self-directed trails, plant identification plaques)
- Gathering areas – picnic tables, benches, seating
- Additional recreation features compatible with size and use (see additional elements to consider)

Additional Elements to Consider:

- Protected natural areas (for sensitive areas if applicable)
- Trailhead (with seating, shade, drinking fountain, bike rack, table; with or without permanent or portable restroom)
- Viewpoints, habitat viewing areas
- Hard and soft-surfaced trails (looped path, jogging path, nature trail)

Prioritized Support Amenities:

- Access paths
- Table, seating, bike rack, trash receptacle, and dog waste station
- Park identification signage near entry or visible frontage
- Wayfinding signage
- Paved or gravel parking (if applicable) to support intended use

Landscaping and Vegetation:

- Trees for shade and seasonal interest
- Stewarded natural areas
- Where appropriate, low-maintenance landscaping, no mow lawn, or drought-tolerant landscaping with drip irrigation, in accordance with California's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO)

Additional Considerations:

- Avoid lighting; encourage quiet, serene uses.
- Avoid community-scale or major facilities, sports, splash pads or spray areas, buildings/storage, barbecues, and intensely developed uses.
- Avoid high-maintenance elements or landscaping such as art or ornamental plantings.



Longview Oaks Nature Preserve



Meadowview Estates Open Space



River Birch Park



APPENDIX **F**



APPENDIX F: CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE COST ASSUMPTIONS

Appendix F. Capital and Maintenance Cost

Estimates introduces per-unit planning-level cost estimates that YPCE may use in project budgeting or planning for future park development, site enhancement, or park maintenance. The appendix includes three tables:

- Table F-1. Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions for Park Acquisition, Design, & Development
- Table F-2. Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions by Facility
- Table F-3. Planning-Level Maintenance Cost Estimates by Maintenance Level

Planning-Level Estimates

The appendix presents general capital cost assumptions that can be used to budget for the provision of new parks, the renovation of parks, and/or the addition of facilities to existing sites (Tables F-1 and F-2). It also presents estimated annual maintenance costs by maintenance level of service (Table F-3).

Because actual prices fluctuate and will vary by site, the cost estimates are presented as a range of costs. The range is aimed at capturing differences based on site size, location, topography and setting, facility quality and detail, supply and demand for labor and materials, etc. Costs are presented in 2024 dollars (unless otherwise noted) not accounting for inflation. The costs do not include environmental compliance documentation, permitting, or staff hours to manage site planning, design, construction, and implementation. These elements could escalate park development costs by 20-25 percent.

Estimates are based on 2024 California estimates, Sacramento budgeting and land values, and project costs from comparable cities. It is understood that these planning level costs will fluctuate over time.

Sources that informed these costs include:

- YPCE Developer Information Packet (October 2022), prepared by Park, Planning, and Development Services
- City of Sacramento Park Impact Fee Nexus Study Update (February 2017), prepared by New Economics & Advisory

Capital Cost Assumptions

Table F-1. Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions for Park Acquisition, Design, & Development

	Action/Features	Unit ¹	Cost Range per Unit	Notes and Assumptions
PLANNING, DESIGN, & DEVELOPMENT	Parkland Acquisition ²	Per Acre	\$95,000 - \$360,000	Average land values noted for planning areas as taken from 2022 Developer Information Packet. Costs range from a low in Arden Arcade to a high in Central City.
	Site Amenities Planning	Per Site	\$50,000 - \$250,000	Site amenities planning or site concept for park and facility development. Does not include construction documents or CEQA/EIR documentation.
	Park Development ³	Per Acre		Planning-level costs to account for site grading, circulation, utilities, outdoor facilities, amenities, and landscaping. Cost does not include the development of major facilities such as community centers and pools. Costs are based on California estimates with updates by MIG based on averages of comparable communities. Costs factor in general assumptions about the amount of park acreage developed vs. left in a more natural state. Sites such as regional parks with extensive natural areas may have lower costs. Small parks may have higher costs than shown to provide a higher level of development in a more consolidated space.
	<i>Regional Parks</i>		\$400,000 - \$2,500,000	
	<i>Community Parks</i>		\$450,000 - \$2,500,000	
	<i>Neighborhood Parks</i>		\$500,000 - \$2,250,000	
<i>Parkways⁴</i>	\$1,700,000 - \$2,500,000			
<i>Open Space</i>	\$350,000 - \$750,000			

1. These estimates reflect fully loaded, planning level cost assumptions in 2024 dollars not accounting for inflation. Cost ranges are intended for planning purposes only and include raw cost for facilities, infrastructure, and landscaping; mobilization, design fees, and contingency (not including taxes). Actual costs may vary depending on site realities, the scale and quality of facilities, and changing market prices for materials and labor. Actual cost estimates should be determined through site master planning and design at the time of development.

2. Land costs are from the YPCE Developer Information Packet (October 2022), prepared by Park, Planning, and Development Services.

3. Base costs are informed by information in the City of Sacramento Park Impact Fee Nexus Study Update (February 2017), prepared by New Economics & Advisory. It applies the 2025 average cost per acre, escalated approximately 30% every 3 years between 2015 and 2024.

4. Acreage estimates are based on an assumed trail width of 20 feet.

Table F-2. Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions by Facility

	Action/Features	Units	Cost Range Per Unit ¹	Notes and Assumptions
ATHLETIC/SPORTS	Baseball /Softball Field - Grass	Per Each	\$800,000 - \$1,500,000	Costs reflect a regulation-size field with turf, outfield fencing, backstop and outfield fencing, and dugouts. Higher costs include Bull pens, scoreboard, bleachers, PA system, flagpole, and sports field lighting.
	Baseball /Softball Field - Artificial Turf	Per Each	\$1,800,000 - \$2,500,000	Costs reflect a regulation-size field with artificial turf, outfield fencing, backstop and foul-line fencing. Higher costs include Bull pens, scoreboard, bleachers, PA system, flagpole, and sports field lighting.
	Basketball Court - Outdoors, Full	Per Each	\$200,000 - \$250,000	Costs reflect one new full court.
	Basketball Court - Outdoors, Half	Per Each	\$150,000 - \$180,000	Costs reflect one new half court.
	Cricket Field	Per Each	\$1,650,000 - \$2,200,000	Costs reflect a regulation-size field with natural turf, pitch, and grading.
	Fitness Equipment (5 stations)	Per Site	\$20,000 - \$200,000	Costs reflect five stations of high-quality fitness equipment, with signage, DG surfacing and curbing. Can be clustered for a fitness area, or distributed along a park or trail.
	Futsal Court	Per Each	\$180,000 - \$400,000	Costs include installation of a futsal court kit, does not include base course or subsurface material.
	Soccer Field - Grass	Per Each	\$2,000,000 - \$3,800,000	Costs reflect a turf field with basic drainage/prep and features. Higher cost reflects bleachers and sports field lighting.
	Soccer Field - Artificial Turf	Per Each	\$3,000,000 - \$4,700,000	Costs reflect a field with artificial turf and lights. Higher cost reflects bleachers, perimeter fencing and sports field lighting.
	Sports Court Variety	Per Each	\$250,000 - \$400,000	Costs reflect a general estimate for a pair of badminton, shuffleboard, horseshoes, or bocce ball courts.
	Tennis (2) / Pickleball Court (4)	Per Pair	\$430,000 - \$600,000	Costs reflect a 2 tennis courts or 4 pickleball courts with surfacing, striping, netting, and fencing. Higher costs included court lighting.
	Volleyball Court	Per Each	\$20,000 - \$60,000	Costs include lawn volleyball court, net, and posts.

Table F-2. Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions by Facility (Continued)

	Action/Features	Units	Cost Range Per Unit ¹	Notes and Assumptions
OUTDOOR RECREATION	Challenge Feature (i.e., climbing wall, zipline)	Per Each	\$100,000 - \$250,000	Costs reflect one medium size play feature, such as a climbing wall or zipline, added to an existing playground. Includes the containment area, safety surfacing, drainage, and irrigation system mods.
	Disc Golf Course	Per Each	\$50,000 - \$400,000	Costs reflect the addition of disc golf goals to an existing lawn area or cleared area. Higher costs included tee pads and signage for 18-hole course.
	Dog Park	Per Each	\$600,000 - \$1,500,000	Costs reflect a one-acre fenced area with turf, DG and/or bark mulch, with a dog drinking fountain, benches, trash receptacles and trees. Costs assume the dog park is within a larger park and uses existing utilities for water, parking, etc. Higher cost sites may include separate areas for large and small dogs, additional amenities: shade umbrellas, accessible walkway, and dog agility features.
	Dedicated Event Space	Per Each	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Costs reflect a small outdoor event space such as a plaza, pavilion, or outdoor classroom, etc. Includes, hardscape, seating, shade structure, and accessible walk, electrical outlet, and signage.
	Picnic Shelter (Group Picnic Area)	Per Each	\$275,000 - \$600,000	Costs reflect a shelter with motion senso light, holding six 8' tables with BBQ features, trash receptable, serving table, but no electrical outlet.
	Picnic Table ADA	Per Each	\$5,000 - \$8,500	Costs reflect one 8' table on concrete pad with ADA access.
	Playground - Neighborhood	Per Each	\$425,000 - \$800,000	Costs reflect one 5,000 s.f. play structure with areas for tots or school-age. Higher-end costs reflect accessible safety surfacing (recommended).
	Playground - Destination Attraction	Per Each	\$1,000,000 - \$1,750,000	Costs reflect one 10,000 s.f. play structure with universal/inclusive and thematic elements.
	Bike Pump Track	Per Each	\$450,000 - \$3,000,000	Costs reflect grading, fill, and limited ramps, jumps, or obstacles.
	Skate Park	Per Each	\$750,000 - \$2,200,000	Lower cost reflects at-grade skate park with prefabricated skate ramps. Higher costs reflect an inground bowl, ramps, and grinding amenities. Both include features to accommodate spectators, safety, and enhanced access.
	Water Mister / Spray Park	Per Each	\$1,750,000 - \$2,500,000	Costs reflect a spray park with mechanical building/ apparatus and recirculating water.

Table F-2. Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions by Facility (Continued)

	Action/Features	Units	Cost Range Per Unit ¹	Notes and Assumptions
INDOOR / SPECIALIZED	Stage / Amphitheater (outdoor)	Per Each	\$800,000 - \$5,000,000	Costs reflect outdoor amphitheater, stage with covering, lawn seating, utilities, lighting, and stage. Additional infrastructure with permanent seating, storage, changing and restrooms would be an additional cost.
	Community Center ²	Per Each	\$600 - \$900	Cost for multigenerational community and recreation center.
	Community Pool ²	Per Each	\$12,500,000 - \$20,000,000	General cost for outdoor pool with deck and support amenities.
GARDENS / NATURAL FEATURES	River / Beach Access	Per Each	TBD	Costs may vary significantly, depending on location, grades, levee access, water fluctuation, and whether the access points include elements such as accessible fishing platforms, docks, non-motorized boat launch, viewpoint, etc. along with footpaths, signage, and necessary landscaping modifications.
	Community Garden	Per Site	\$500,000 - \$750,000	Costs reflect a combination of in-ground, raised beds, and accessible planting areas with fencing, water, composting, seating, shade, and basic signage.
TRAILS	Trails (Hard Surfaced)	Per Mile	\$1,425,000 - \$2,500,000	Costs assume an 8 to 10 ft-wide asphalt paved trail with gravel shoulders, minor grading, mile markers and continuous buffer vegetation. Improvements may include curb and gutter, curb ramps, minor drainage infrastructure and installations.
	Trails (Soft Surfaced)	Per Mile	\$235,000 - \$500,000	Costs assume a 3ft-wide stabilized decomposed granite surfaced trail and mile markers.
AMENITIES / OTHER	Bike Rack	Per Each	\$2,000 - \$4,000	Costs reflect a standard bike rack.
	Drinking Fountain	Per Each	\$7,000 - \$15,000	Costs reflect one drinking fountain.
	Parking (Off-Street)	Per Site	\$250,000 - \$400,000	Costs reflect the creation of 10 spaces including 2 accessible spaces.
	Restroom (Permanent)	Per Each	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Costs reflect 2 single-occupancy units.
	Shade Sail or Canopy	Per Each	\$40,000 - \$150,000	Costs reflect fabric-roofed elements that shade play areas/spray parks/etc.
	Wayfinding Signage	Per Site	\$10,000 - \$20,000	Costs include identification, regulatory and wayfinding signage. Cost for extensive trail corridors may be greater.

1. These estimates reflect fully loaded, planning level cost assumptions in 2024 dollars not accounting for inflation. Cost ranges are intended for planning purposes only and include raw cost for facilities and installation. Actual costs may vary depending on site realities, the scale and quality of facilities, changing market prices for materials and labor, and needs for permitting, design/construction and environmental compliance documentation. Actual cost estimates should be determined through site master planning and design at the time of development.
 2. Costs are informed by the City of Sacramento Park Impact Fee Nexus Study Update (February 2017), prepared by New Economics & Advisory.

Maintenance Cost Assumptions

In Sacramento’s FY2023-24 Proposed Budget, YPCE performance measures target a park maintenance cost per acre of \$6,117. This maintenance level is applied evenly across the park system. It is less than many other California cities are spending on park maintenance, plus it does not allocate sufficient funds to the sites that have higher visitation, visibility, and programmed uses.

Chapter 6 introduced YPCE’s maintenance service levels. The FY 24 target is used to define the lower average cost of standard maintenance, which currently is Level 3. Although enhanced maintenance is not currently provided, sites with heavy use, high visibility, specialized assets, public events and/or programs need a higher level of maintenance. This cost

can be used for budgeting purposes to identify the amount of maintenance dollars the City should have available to spend on regional parks, high-use community parks, and sites with major facilities such as community centers and swimming pools. Similarly, the natural resource maintenance cost is noted to further help YPCE staff vary their target maintenance levels to better match park needs. They should be refined through actual tracking of maintenance expenditures by site.

The City should invest more in park maintenance to be in line with other California cities. The higher range reflects that investment.

Table F-3. Planning-Level Maintenance Cost Estimates by Maintenance Level

	Action/Features	Unit	Cost Range per Unit	Notes and Assumptions
MAINTENANCE	Standard Maintenance (Level 3) ¹	Per Developed Acre	\$15,000 - \$20,000	This is the current level of YPCE maintenance and service based on existing funding. Maintenance at this level is the lowest expected level of citizen satisfaction. Core tasks are regularly completed; litter can be found in the parks but is regularly picked up (daily); restrooms are serviced at minimum of daily; turf is in generally good condition, but there are some seasonal issues with brown spots and tall grass; graffiti and vandalism is remediated as soon as practically possible; annual mulching of selected areas; weeds in shrub beds occur from time to time; customer complaints are minimal.
	Enhanced Maintenance (Levels 1 and 2) ²	Per Developed Acre	\$20,000 - \$30,000	Enhanced Maintenance (representing levels 1 and 2) exceeds what is currently being provided by YPCE, but is recommended for specific sites, namely those with heavy use, high visibility, specialized assets, and public events. Level 2 represents a high level of maintenance that exceeds the expected level of citizen satisfaction. At this level, park conditions are improved due to increased frequency of core tasks. Trash and litter are picked up often, and detail-oriented core tasks (e.g., mowing, edging, mulching) are done more frequently to improve overall park appearance. Level 1 represents a very high level of maintenance that exceeds the expected level of citizen satisfaction. Parks are monitored and cleaned with a very high frequency, staff is consistency visible in parks and ready to provide customer service, safety issues pose minimal impact on the public, and there are very few gaps in service.
	Natural Resource Maintenance	Per Undeveloped Acre	\$5,000 - \$8,500	A stabilizing level of maintenance and stewardship should be provided for natural resources that currently receive little attention.

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1. YPCE targets for standard Level 3 maintenance are based on FY2023-24 Proposed Budget performance measures for park maintenance cost per acre (FY23 estimate \$6,736 and FY24 target \$6,117).
 2. See Chapter 6, Maintenance Level of Service, for a full description of the three maintenance service levels.



APPENDIX **G**



APPENDIX G: PROJECT PRIORITIZATION TOOL

Like most cities, Sacramento has limited capital and operational resources for sustaining and improving the parks and recreation system. A prioritization process can help identify which projects should move forward first in implementation when funds are available.

Appendix G: Project Prioritization Tool updates the YPCE’s prioritization process and introduces a new scorecard to use in rating projects. This tool is intended to provide guidance as the City updates the Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG).

YPCE’s PPPG (last revised in 2018) tracks park projects and provides criteria to evaluate and prioritize park and recreation projects, such as land acquisition, new development, and repair or rehabilitation of existing parks, amenities, and facilities. Having this standardized evaluation methodology helps the City make consistent decisions about which projects to prioritize based on alignment with mission, vision, values, and needs. Priority projects are intended to be funded in the order of their ranking score as funds become available.

PPPG Prioritization Process

The City has been using the 2018 Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG) to prioritize improvements based on costs, amenity condition, and/or community needs. The 2018 version includes the priority list for park improvements. This list was identified using a series of seven different scorecards:

- A. Neighborhood and Community Parks: Land Acquisition
- B. Neighborhood and Community Parks: New Development
- C. Neighborhood and Community Parks: Repair/ Rehabilitation of Existing Park Amenities

- D. Community Facilities: New Development
- E. Regional Parks/Parkways/Facilities: Land Acquisition
- F. Regional Parks/Parkways/Facilities: New Development
- G. Regional Parks/Parkways/Facilities: Repair/Rehabilitation of Existing Park Amenities

Projects are evaluated and grouped within each of the eight Council Districts and scored based on maximum of 15-points focusing on:

- Neighborhood, community, and/or regional need
- Maintenance funding availability
- Site significance/public priority or public use
- Location (whether in a disadvantaged neighborhood)
- Health and safety/legal mandates
- Land availability
- Cost offsets/partnerships

The top-ranking projects in each of the eight Council Districts are identified as priority projects. Each Council District is assigned the same number of priority projects. All other projects are considered opportunity projects, meaning that they would be funded if priority projects are completed, as grant funding becomes available, or other as funding arises.

While this process supports prioritizing and advancing an equal number of projects in each Council District, it does not account for the unequal conditions of existing parks, nor does it allocate funds equally across the City. For example, because some areas have many older parks and more facilities in poor condition, this process leaves some projects with more severe deferred maintenance issues off the priority list.

Equity-Based Prioritization Process

New priorities have emerged for the City over the last several years that call into question the current process described in the PPPG. Since this document is being updated, the Parks Plan recommends:

- Incorporating a performance-based system for prioritizing parks and recreation investments that links priority projects to safety, health, public health outcomes, funding availability, disadvantaged communities (including youth, older adults, vulnerable or special needs people, and Environmental Justice areas), and recreational goals through a revised scoring system.
- Introducing an equity-based prioritization process, so that projects in areas with the greatest barriers, deferred maintenance, and needs emerge as priority projects.
- Using a single, consolidated scorecard to compare top projects more accurately.
- Updating criteria and the point system to reflect the community priorities and key directions in the Parks Plan.
- Testing several projects against the new scoring system.
- Over time, tracking the amount of investment within each Council District, as well as within Environmental Justice/Disadvantaged areas to help evaluate the equitable investment in unserved and underserved areas.

Project Prioritization Tool

Table G-1 introduces a revised Project Prioritization Tool that evaluates projects based on a series of criteria. Higher scoring projects are intended to be prioritized when new funding becomes available. Lower scoring projects should be considered opportunity projects, meaning that they will be funded as priority projects are completed, as grant funding becomes available or other funding opportunities arise. However, a three-step prioritization tool clarifies how to rank “priority projects” using this new tool (Figure G-1).

- **Step 1: Project Alignment with Parks Plan Key Directions** ensures that the project supports at least one of the recommended Key Directions of the Parks Plan. Otherwise, the project does not advance further. Project that adheres to multiple plan directions score higher.
- **Step 2: Project Sequencing Based on System Realities and Needs** evaluates a project based on distinguishing factors aligned with community priorities and the feasibility of implementation.
- **Step 3: Ranking and Dispersement** introduces new protocols on which projects advance as top priorities. This includes a mix of the highest-scoring projects citywide as well as the top projects in each of the City’s eight Council Districts, depending on funding availability.

Figure G-1. Project Prioritization Tool

STEP 1: PROJECT ALIGNMENT WITH PARKS PLAN DIRECTIONS	Applicable Points	Score
ALIGNMENT WITH PARKS PLAN 2040 KEY DIRECTIONS		
The project provides safe, well-maintained parks and facilities.	1 point	
The project provides quality parks.	1 point	
The project ensures equitable access.	1 point	
The project supports health and wellness for all.	1 point	
The project supports youth safety, wellbeing, and development.	1 point	
The project fosters nature and trail connections.	1 point	
The project incorporates resiliency and sustainability.	1 point	
The project strengthens YPCE's leadership and communications.	1 point	
The project realigns of the City's park investment.	1 point	
<i>STOP - If no key directions are checked, the project may be discarded.</i>		
STEP 2: PROJECT SEQUENCING BASED ON SYSTEM REALITIES AND NEEDS		
MANDATED IMPROVEMENT		
The project addresses a legal mandate, such as new laws, ADA requirements, water use restrictions, etc.	5 points	
HEALTH, SAFETY, CONDITION, AND USE		
The project alleviates a serious health or safety concern or restores use.	5 points	
The project alleviates a moderate health or safety concern.	2 points	
The project alleviates a minor health or safety concern.	1 point	
The project provides a public health benefit (e.g., supports fitness, access to healthy foods, physical or mental health) or reduces chronic health issues.	1 point	
The project removes or protects from pollution or environmental hazards.	1 point	
The project supports a high-use site, as identified by the City.	1 point	
The project replaces a facility at the end of its lifecycle.	1 point	
PARK OR FACILITY GAP		
The project is located within an identified gap area (unserved area).	2 points	
The project increases land in a park deficient area.	1 point	
TARGETED COMMUNITIES / ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREA		
The project is within, or directly serves, a disadvantaged community area, environmentally vulnerable, or environmental justice area, as identified by the City.	2 points	
The project is intended to directly benefit one or more of the following demographics: youth (18 and under), older adults (65+), people with disabilities, non-English speakers, or BIPOC communities, as identified by the city.	1 point for each group	
The project is within, or directly serves, a child-dense neighborhood, as identified by the City.	1 point	

Figure G-1. Project Prioritization Tool (Continued)

ENHANCED ACCESS		
The project completes a missing segment in a parkway or extends a trail to expand connectivity and access to key destinations.	2 points	
The project removes barriers to park or facility access in an underserved area.	2 points	
The project provides universal, all-inclusive access to a facility.	1 point	
The project is located along a trail or transit route.	1 point	
The project provides water/river access.	1 point	
SITE AND LOCATIONAL SUITABILITY		
The project site has high suitability for intended use, based on park guidelines by classification (e.g., is centrally located, flat, in a suitable shape, developable, etc.).	2 points	
The project site has moderate suitability for intended use, based on park guidelines by classification.	1 point	
The site is ready for use/improvements (i.e., it does not require demolition, remediation, extensive mitigation, or hazards removal prior to development or use).	1 point	
RESILIENCY/ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
The project addresses City climate change goals (e.g., reduces flooding, decreases urban heat, supports urban cooling, provide resiliency center, etc.).	2 points	
The project protects or enhances a natural resource, such as the urban tree canopy, open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat area, wetlands, oak woodlands, or wildlife corridors.	2 points	
The project provides green infrastructure/greenspace in a disadvantaged community area or environmental justice area, as identified by the City.	1 point	
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS		
The project is in an established maintenance funding district that will cover maintenance costs. (CFD/LLD).	3 points	
There is outside funding available to cover perpetual maintenance costs. There is a private party or other agency to cover maintenance costs.	2 points	
The project involves a repair or rehabilitation that decreases long-term costs or increases maintenance and operational efficiencies.	1 point	
COMMUNITY SUPPORT		
The project coincides with, or supports, another City project or initiative.	2 points	
The project has established volunteer or partner support (labor, operations, advocacy). (See final category for funding support.)	1 point	
The project has stated neighborhood, stakeholder, and/or business interest and support.	1 point	
The project is popular/has tremendous citywide interest.	1 point	

Figure G-1. Project Prioritization Tool (Continued)

RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY		
The project offers a new recreational, cultural, or educational opportunity that is not currently offered by the City.	3 points	
The project offers expanded recreational, cultural, or educational opportunities that are not currently sufficient for the community.	2 points	
The project meets the diverse needs of the community by serving a variety of ages, cultures, abilities, and interests.	1 point	
The project protects or enhances an identified cultural element or historic landmark.	2 points	
The project offers a new or improved destination attraction for residents and visitors. It has high visibility.	1 point	
URGENCY AND EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION		
The project acquires land while the opportunity exists to do so.	2 points	
The project can be done quickly and efficiently. It is "shovel ready" (i.e., advanced planning, feasibility studies, and permitting have been completed).	1 point	
The project uses existing resources (e.g., land already acquired, facilities, equipment).	1 point	
COST OFFSETS AND VALUE		
The capital project is fully funded through outside funding, such as grants, donations, partnerships, other agency funds, etc..	5 points	
The capital project is partially funded through outside funding, such as grants, donations, partnership, other agency funds, etc..	2 points	
The project will generate revenues to offset operations costs.	2 points	
Ongoing operations will be supported by a partner or volunteers (not in exchange for priority/exclusive use).	1 point	
The project delivers high value for the cost of resources needed, relative to other projects.	1 point	
The project uses or leverages existing resources (e.g., staffing, funding), and/or unlocks other capital.	1 point	
The project will generate revenues to offset operations costs.	2 points	
STOP - Total points for Steps 1 and 2.	90 possible points	

Figure G-1. Project Prioritization Tool (Continued)

STEP 3: RANKING AND DISPERSEMENT		
PRIORITIZATION		
Is the project among the top one or two scores for one of the Council Districts? (This will support the geographic distribution of projects.)	Automatic inclusion as priority	
Is the project among the highest-ranking scores citywide? (This will support projects in the highest need areas.)	Automatic inclusion as priority	
Is the project fully funded by Quimby/park impact fees and intended to serve new residential growth? These new parks should advance as part of the neighborhood development process.	Automatic inclusion as priority	
Is the project fully funded via outside dollars, has available maintenance resources, is consistent with key directions, and adds value to the park and recreation system -- even if it is not among the highest scoring projects? (This will support projects with available funding via grants, partnerships, or other sources.)	Automatic inclusion as priority	
STOP - Check what percentage of top priority projects will improve services for targeted communities and environmental justice areas.	Reevaluate if needed	
STOP - Compare highest scoring projects to available funds and/or funding restrictions.	Phase implementation if needed	



APPENDIX **H**



APPENDIX H: PPPG PROJECT REQUEST FORM



Appendix H. PPPG Project Request Form proposes potential revisions to the current form used by the City of Sacramento to elicit suggestions regarding park and recreation projects from City leaders, members of the public, and outside organizations. The revisions are intended to address issues identified in the 2018 Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG), as well as integrate key directions and goals as determined in the Parks Plan 2040.

Revisions to the PPPG Project Request Form are intended to address the following:

- **Clarity of Information:** The form needs to be easier for people to fill out. Language should be more easily understandable. Policy and planning jargon should be avoided, as should any reference to titles, phrases, definitions, or park classifications with which the public may be unfamiliar (e.g., “level of service” or “disadvantaged communities”).
- **Form Orientation to Submitter:** Instead of starting with City data such as the project name and categorization, the form should focus on the data the City would like the submitter to provide. Additional staff information such project coding, project names, etc., may appear in a separate box at the bottom, to be added by YPCE staff after the form is submitted.
- **Opportunity to Consolidate Feedback:** The form is intended to solicit information about capital projects. However, YPCE also should collect information about types of programs and services desired in parks. For example, if park landscaping is overgrown or dying, the person submitting the form should not have to distinguish whether this is a capital or maintenance project. Their job is simply to inform staff about issues in parks, desired improvements, or opportunities to add new parks, amenities, and facilities.
- **Clarity of Purpose and Process:** The purpose of the form and information about its use (e.g., project identification and evaluation) should be included in brief on the Project Proposal Form. More detailed information can be described in the PPPG, but basic process information should appear at the start of the form.
- **Ease of Collection/Organization:** Project Proposal Forms eventually should be available on an online platform to increase accuracy of project submittals and efficiency for staff. Forms should include elements such as required fields, date of submissions, and contact information. Skip logic can be used to simplify the form.
- **Regular Updating:** The PPPG (including the proposal form) should be reviewed for updates every three years (currently every five years) to ensure accuracy and relevancy of information.

Sacramento Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment PARK IMPROVEMENT OR NEW PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Please fill out the form below to identify any issues in City of Sacramento parks, request improvements, suggest new park sites or facilities to add, or describe a desired recreation opportunity. This information will be used by the Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Department (YPCE) to identify and evaluate potential new projects.

Additional information about the project evaluation and prioritization process is described in the Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG), which is posted on the Department’s website.

Note: Please use one form per site. Only submit one form per project. Submitting multiple forms does not increase the likelihood of the project being completed.

PROJECT LOCATION

1. Is the project located in a City park, trail corridor, or open space area?
 Yes No Don't Know
2. Park Name (if known/applicable): _____
3. Site Address, intersection, or cross street (fill in): _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4. What type of project is desired? (Select all that apply to this site or location.)
 - A new park or greenspace
 - A new recreation amenity, facility, or element to be added (or more)
 - Repair or renovation of an existing feature
 - Improved maintenance (e.g., restroom cleaning, litter pickup, mowing, tree or shrub pruning, graffiti removal)
 - None of the above
5. Is the project related to a particular park feature (e.g., a playground, sports court, bench, building)?
If yes, note it here: _____
6. Describe the project in detail. Include information such as the issue, amount, size, or type, etc.

PROJECT VALUE OR NEED

- 7. Why is this project needed? What benefits will it provide? (e.g., it increases recreation, addresses a safety issue, provides shade, protects natural resources, supports ADA accessibility, would serve an area that lacks parks, would serve an economically disadvantaged area, is an important cultural site, etc.)
- 8. Will the project serve a particular demographic group, special needs group, or interest group beyond the general public?
 - No
 - Yes. If yes, please describe (e.g., older active adults, youth and children, birdwatchers, a specific neighborhood, a disadvantaged area, or another user group): _____

PROJECT SUPPORT

- 9. Is there a neighborhood group, community organization, or business that may support this project?
 - No
 - Yes. If yes, write the name the group: _____
- 10. Are you aware of any volunteers, partners, or others that would be willing to help maintain the project after it is completed?
 - No
 - Yes. If yes, please identify who: _____
- 11. Are you aware of any businesses, donors, community organizations, or others that would be willing to help pay for the project?
 - No
 - Yes. If yes, please identify who: _____
- 12. If this project is part of a larger initiative or linked to a particular organization, please describe or provide any relevant names or links. _____

PROJECT URGENCY, EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION, AND OTHER INFORMATION

- 13. How would you rate the urgency of completing this project? If possible, it should be addressed:
 - Immediately
 - This week or month
 - Within the next year
 - Within the next five years

- 14. Are there any barriers or challenges the City should be aware of that would affect the ability to complete the project?
- 15. Why should the City prioritize this project?
- 16. Is there anything else you would like us to know about the project?

New or Previous Submission

- 17. Have you submitted a form for this project before?
 - No
 - Yes. If yes, when? (month/year) _____

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION (OPTIONAL; FOR USE IF WE HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Affiliation or Group You Represent (if any): _____

Please submit forms via Email or Mail:

Email to: YPCE-PPDS@cityofsacramento.org

Mail to: Jason Wiesemann
 Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment - Parks Planning & Development
 915 "I" Street, 3rd Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

For questions, please contact:
 Jason Wiesemann
 Ph: 916-808-7634
 E-mail: JWiesemann@cityofsacramento.org

Thank you for your feedback!

For YPCE STAFF USE ONLY:

Date Received: _____

Project Name: _____

Project ID: _____

Project Category: Neighborhood/Community Park Community Facility Regional Park

Planning Area: _____ Council District: _____



APPENDIX I



APPENDIX I: FUNDING SOURCES

Appendix I. Funding Sources details existing and potential funding sources for YPCE to expand, improve, and maintain their park and recreation system. This list represents key funding sources, but it should be acknowledged that sources change over time. Some funding sources are tied to voter approval; others are linked to temporary cycles or targeted initiatives. Some funds are restricted in capital or operations (such as grants for a specific project) and may require use of funds within a certain timeframe. In addition to changing funding

sources are evolving funding needs, such as fluctuations in the economy, rising operation and maintenance costs, increasing land values, aging infrastructure, increased regulatory requirements, rising costs of doing business, and shifts in community needs and public demands. For all these reasons, it is important to act quickly (such as on immediate grant or acquisition opportunities) as well as plan for the long-term (such as park system master planning or perpetual maintenance).

Budgeted Funds For Parks, Recreation, & Community Services

Existing funding sources form the backbone of YPCE's capital and operations work. As the city grows, demographics shift, and infrastructure ages, YPCE is tasked with using strategically funding the system while planning for the future.

Budgeted funds, as shown below, are pulled from the City of Sacramento Approved Budget (FY 2023/24), and can be grouped as follows:

General Fund

Measure U

Quimby Act

Park Development

Special Funds

- 4th R Program
- Externally Funded Programs
- START

Community Facilities Districts (CFDs)

- N Natomas Lands CFD 3
- Neighborhood Park Main CFD
- NW Land Park CFD 2014-2017
- Parkebridge CFD 2014-07
- Railyards Main CFD No 2014-04
- Sac Services CFD 2018-05
- SacMaintCFD2014-04 Annex Areas
- Township 9 CFD No 2012-06

Assessment Districts

- Laguna Creek Maintenance District
- Landscaping and Lighting
- Neighborhood Water Quality District

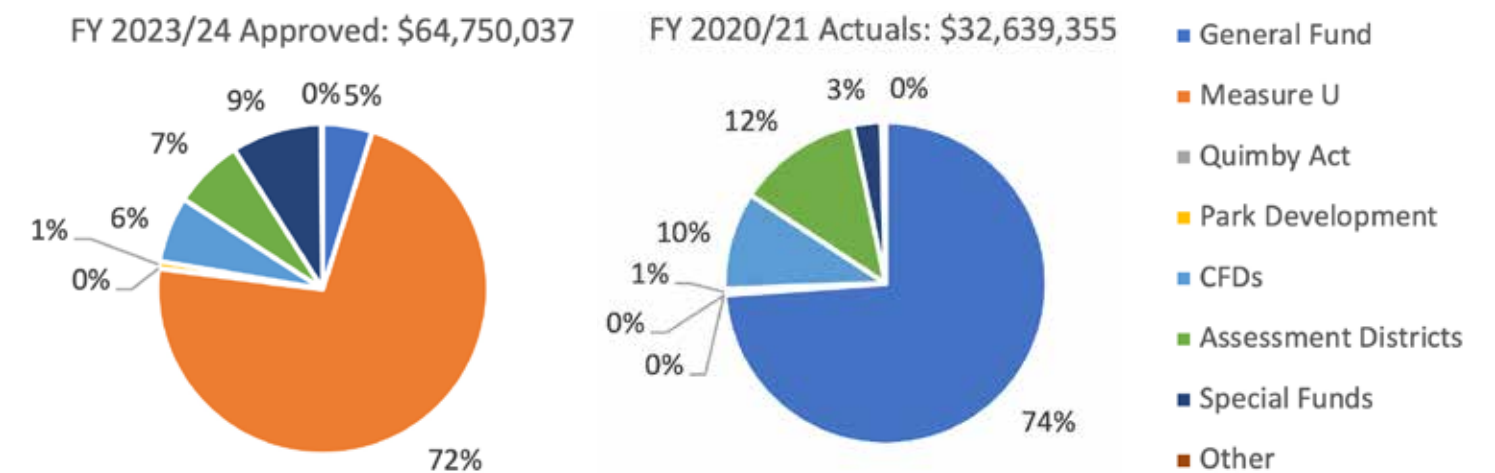
Other

- Parking
- Land Park
- Golf

In FY 2023/24, YPCE received an approved budget of \$64,750,037.¹ Of this total budget, 72% was sourced from Measure U funds, 9% from Special Programs, 6% from CFDs, 7% from Assessment Districts, and 5% from the City's General Fund.

Notably, this is a stark difference from funding prior to the passing of Measure U, where FY 2020/21 funding was approx. \$33 million, of which, 74% from City's General Fund, 12% from Assessment Districts, and 10% from CFDs.

Figure I-1. YPCE Dept Budget Comparison FY2023/24 and FY2020/21, by Fund Source Category

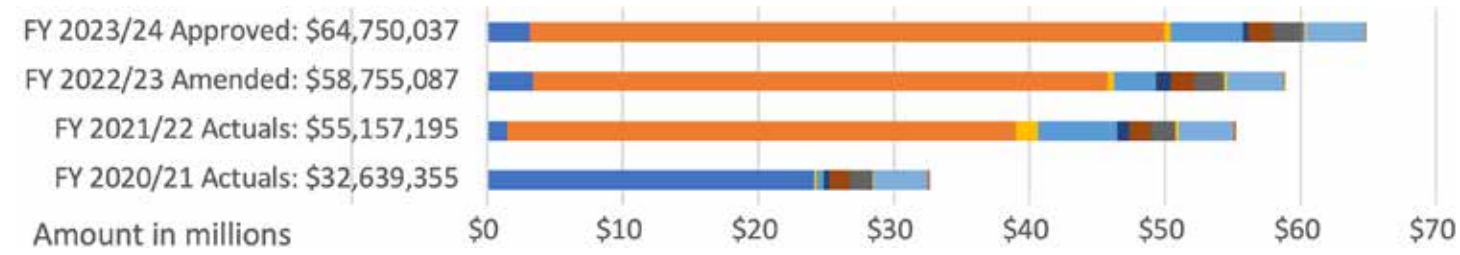


While Measure U has increased YPCE's overall budget, a significant amount of that funding supplanted, rather than augmented, the department's budget. In other words, while the department is approved to receive approximately \$47 million from Measure U funds in FY2023/34, they lost \$21 million from General Funds. With increasing costs, new parkland to maintain, and growing public demand, this is an important consideration.

YPCE's fiscal year budget is shown in Table I-1. The budget, as expected over years of growth and inflation, has increased annually since FY 2020/21. While some funding sources have remained relatively constant over time, as previously mentioned, there have been significant changes to other funding sources, such as Measure U.

1. City of Sacramento Approved Budget FY 2023/24

Table I-1. Summary of Budgeted YPCE Funds per Fiscal Year¹



	FY 2020/21 Actuals	FY 2021/22 Actuals	FY 2022/23 Amended	FY 2020/22 Approved
General Fund	\$24,113,082	\$1,455,943	\$3,377,590	\$3,140,726
Measure U		\$37,553,290	\$42,408,691	\$46,809,642
Quimby Act	\$10,307	\$5,273	\$10,000	\$10,000
Park Development	\$183,769	\$1,637,548	\$441,860	\$441,860
4th R Program	\$521,670	\$5,852,218	\$3,082,118	\$5,365,404
Externally Funded Programs			\$19,000	
START	\$413,533	\$842,690	\$1,129,206	\$373,847
N Natomas Lands CFD 3	\$1,487,667	\$1,578,785	\$1,745,000	\$1,815,000
Neighborhood Park Main CFD	\$1,682,000	\$1,782,000	\$1,882,000	\$1,982,000
NW Land Park CFD 2014-2017	\$24,578	\$85,663	\$164,800	\$164,800
Parkerbridge CFD 2014-07			\$57,000	\$57,000
Railyards Main CFD No. 2014-04			\$7,500	\$7,500
Sac Services CFD 2018-05		\$13,418	\$40,000	\$150,000
Sac Maint CFD 2014-04 Annex Areas			\$1,200	\$1,200
Township 9 CFD No 2012-06	\$126		\$2,000	\$2,000
Laguna Creek Maint Dist	\$63,197	\$162,946	\$175,000	\$126,000
Landscaping and Lighting	\$4,000,000	\$4,100,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,300,000
Neighborhood Water Quality Dist	\$16,564	\$28,651	\$30,000	\$30,000
Parking	\$53			
Land Park	\$134,015	\$139,00	\$89,000	\$89,000
Golf	(\$11,206)	(\$80,229)	(\$106,878)	(\$115,942)
	\$32,639,355	\$55,157,195	\$58,755,087	\$64,750,037

1. Actuals (FY 2020/21 and FY 2021/22) represent actual expenditures during the indicated fiscal year. Amended Budget (FY 2022/23) represents budgeted funds that have undergone amendments for that fiscal year. Approved Budget (FY 2023/24) represents budgeted funds that have been approved for that fiscal year.

General Fund

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City and accounts for all financial resources except for those that are required to be accounted for in separate funds. Sources of General Fund revenues include taxes, licenses, permits, fees, fines, intergovernmental revenues, and charges for services, special assessments, interest income, and other resources available for discretionary funding.

The City of Sacramento 2023/24 General Fund is proposed to receive approx. \$772 million to be spent across City departments and initiatives. The main revenue sources for the General Fund are Property Taxes (\$219 million), other revenue (\$239 million), Measure U transaction and use tax (\$135 million), general sales and use tax (\$111 million), and utility user tax (\$68 million).

In FY 2023/24, the City approved \$3,140,725 of funding from the General Fund for YPCE. This amount contributes approximately 5% of YPCE's annual budget.

Funding Prioritization

While some types of funds are restricted in where they are spent, General Fund dollars offer greater flexibility in spending and could be prioritized to support maintenance and programs, or areas of greater deficiencies and needs.

Measure U

Measure U was passed in November 2012 as a temporary half-cent sales tax proposed to restore and protect City services, namely police and fire services, park maintenance, and other essential services that were cut in the 2008 recession. In 2018, this tax measure was increased to a full-cent and made permanent by voters.

In FY 2023/24, the Measure U Fund is approved to provide \$143.8 million for ongoing programs and services for Affordable Housing, Arts/Creative Edge, Climate Action, Community Investment, Community Response, Homelessness, Inclusive Economic Development, Public Safety, and Youth.³ Of the total funds, \$46,809,642 was allocated to YPCE. While this is a significant contribution of funding to the department, it is important to note that the allocation of Measure U funds was accompanied by a decrease in General Fund capital. While YPCE had previously received \$24 million from General Funds (approx. 74% of its annual budget), it currently receives \$3 million (approx. 5% of its annual budget).



Quimby Act (Parkland Dedication or In-Lieu Fees)

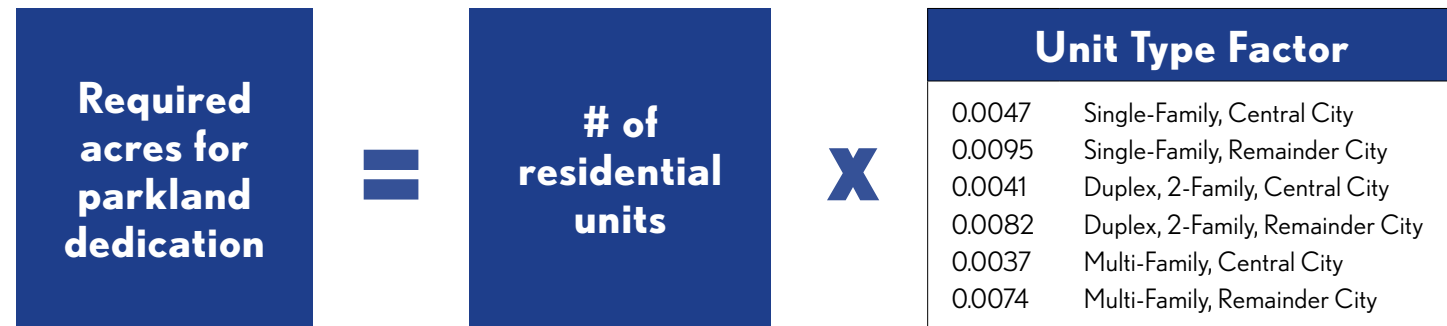
The Quimby ordinance (Sacramento Municipal Code Chapter 17.512) ensures that parks are acquired or developed through new residential development projects. Through this ordinance, developers are required to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities, but can be used for acquisition or development.

Parkland dedication applies to residential developments that contain over 250 units. Required parkland dedication acreage is based on the number of residential units and the location within the city, as shown in Figure I-1.⁴

3. City of Sacramento Approved Budget FY 2023/24.

4. City of Sacramento Developer Information Packet, October 2022

Figure I-1. Formula for Parkland Dedication

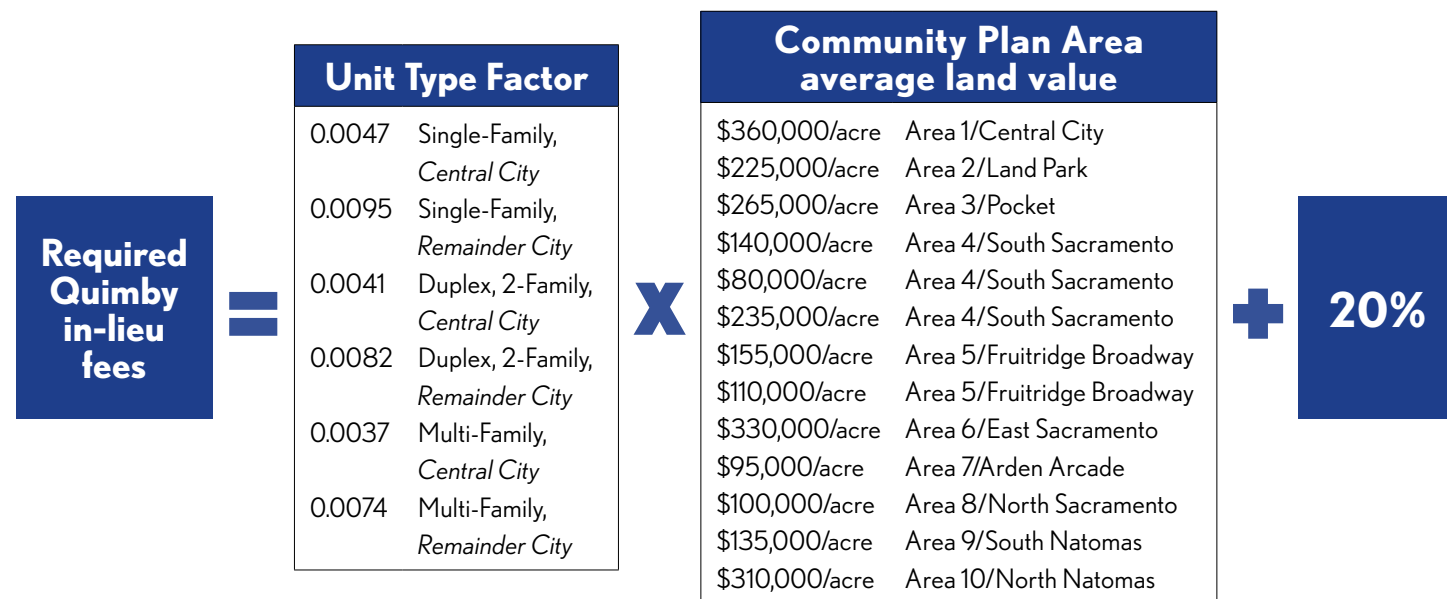


Source: City of Sacramento Developer Information Packet, October 2022.

In-lieu fees are currently required instead of parkland dedication for residential developments that are under 250 units. Fees are set based on the appraised value of land (or pre-established City Council approved average

land value) and calculated using the per-acre costs shown in Table I-3. In FY 2023/24, Quimby Fees had an approved budget of \$10,000.

Figure I-2. Formula for Quimby In-lieu Fees (2022)



Source: City of Sacramento Developer Information Packet, October 2022.

Park Development

Park Development Impact Fees (“PIFs”) are special fees paid by new development (residential or non-residential) to offset the costs of new parks that will be needed to serve this growth. Fees are charged by the City to an applicant in connection with the approval of a development project. Impact fees are intended to be spent on capacity enhancement projects that serve the new residents or employees in this new development. They cannot be spent to cover costs of existing uses, such as on maintenance, facility repair or replacement, programs, or even new facilities to serve the existing population.

Under Sacramento City Code 18.56, development impact fees can be imposed upon development projects to provide some or all of the funds required to design, construct, and install public infrastructure, or expand capacity within existing infrastructure, that meets the needs of the projected development and addresses its impacts. Fees are determined via a Park Impact Fee Nexus Study. The PIF revenues collected must be used to benefit the residents of that Community Planning Area where the fee was collected. The funds cannot be used for park maintenance or to acquire land for new parks.

Table I-2 provides the formula to determine PIF fees. In FY 2023/24, Park Development had an approved budget of \$442,000.

Table I-2. Park Development Fee Schedule, effective July 1, 2023

Land Use	Unit Basis	CENTRAL CITY & HOUSING INCENTIVE ZONES			REMAINDER OF CITY		
		Neighborhood & Community Parks	Citywide Parks	Total	Neighborhood & Community Parks	Citywide Parks	Total
Residential	Per sq ft	\$1.36	\$0.82	\$2.18	\$2.29	\$1.16	\$3.45
Residential min (≤750 sq ft)	Per unit	\$1,015	\$609	\$1,624	\$1,715	\$873	\$2,588
Residential max (≤ 2000 sq ft)	Per unit	\$2,707	\$1,626	\$4,333	\$4,574	\$2,329	\$6,903
Retail/Commercial Services/Other	Per sq ft	\$0.12	\$0.08	\$0.20	\$0.40	\$0.16	\$0.56
Commercial Office	Per sq ft	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.30	\$0.63	\$0.13	\$0.76
Industrial	Per sq ft	\$0.05	\$0.15	\$0.20	\$0.17	\$0.05	\$0.22

Source: City of Sacramento Park Development Impact Fee Notice, 2021.

Special Funds

4th R Program

The 4th R program is a recreation-based childcare program, fully licensed by the State Department of Social Services, which provides a wide variety of group and individual activities to enhance children’s physical, social, and emotional development. Before-school and after-school childcare is provided during the school year, including winter and spring breaks, as well as operated full day recreation programs during the summer. Revenues are collected via participation fees and grants from participating school districts (K-12). In FY 2023/24, the 4th R Program had an approved budget of \$5.4 million.

Externally Funded Programs

These program revenues are provided by external agencies and are restricted to a specified purpose. In FY 2023/24, externally funded programs did not contribute to the approved budget.

START

The “Students Today Achieving Results for Tomorrow” (START) program is a national after school program that provides homework and tutoring assistance, literacy training, and enrichment recreation for youth and teens. Sacramento’s START focuses on elementary school aged children and is recognized as one of the most outstanding in the nation. In FY 2023/24, START had an approved budget of \$374,000.

Community Facilities Districts (CFDs)

The Mello-Roos Act (1982) allows any county, city, special district, school district, or joint powers authority to establish a Community Facilities District (CFD) to fund infrastructural improvements necessary to support the development or ongoing costs of new residential areas. To establish a CFD, voters within the district must approve its creation by two-thirds. In an approved CFD, a special property tax is levied annually for all new residential development areas, including single-family residential, multifamily residential, duplex units and condos.

The following CFDs are approved to contribute to YPCE’s FY 2023/24 budget as noted in Table I-3.

Table I-3. Funding by Community Facilities District (FY 2023/24)

CFD	Amount
North Natomas Lands CFD3	\$1.8 million
Neighborhood Park Maintenance CFD	\$2 million
Northwest Land Park CFD #2014-2017	\$165,000
Parkebridge CFD #2014-07	\$57,000
Railyards Main CFD #2014-04	\$7,500
Sacramento Services CFD #2018-05	\$150,000
Sacramento Maintenance CFD #2014-04 Annex Areas	\$1,200
Township 9 CFD #2012-06	\$2,000

Assessment Districts

An assessment district is a mechanism that allows cities to assess housing units or land parcels to maintain and improve street lighting, landscaping, and parks that provide a special benefit to designated areas. Assessment districts help each property owner pay a fair share of the costs of such improvements over a period of years at reasonable interest rates. This ensures that the cost will be spread to all properties that receive direct and special benefit from the improvements being constructed.

Establishment of a new district or revision to an existing district requires a majority vote of the property owners. Landscape and Lighting Assessment Districts (LLADs) are used by California cities to fund park capital improvements and operations. The following Assessment Districts contribute to YPCE’s annual budget:

Laguna Creek Maintenance District

The Laguna Creek Maintenance District was established in 1991 to provide funding for environmental monitoring and maintenance activities associated with the Laguna Creek Wetlands Mitigation Program. The maintenance area includes the primary creek channel and adjacent wetlands, wetlands preserved to the south of the floodway, and adjacent turf areas. In FY 2023/24, the Laguna Creek Maintenance District had an approved budget of \$126,000.

Neighborhood Water Quality District

The Neighborhood Water Quality District (formally known as the Meadowview Estates Maintenance District) was established in 1991, and levies assessments of properties in the District to pay for maintenance related to the water quality mitigation program and related services to be provided within the District. In FY 2023/24, the Neighborhood Water Quality District had an approved budget of \$30,000.

Landscaping and Lighting District

The Landscaping and Lighting (L&L) District was established in June 1989, and includes all properties within City boundaries. The fee is based on the cost of the services, the number of properties involved, and the degree to which properties benefit. The District provides funding for the energy and maintenance costs of city streetlights, street tree, and park maintenance, and public landscaped areas including street medians. In FY 2023/24, the L&L District had an approved budget of \$4.3 million.

Other

Parking

The Parking Fund provides for the operation, maintenance, and improvements of City-owned parking facilities. Parking Fund revenues are from parking and retail lease charges within off-street parking facilities. These revenues are then used to pay for parking facility operations, capital improvements, and new facilities development. In FY 2023/24, parking did not contribute to the approved budget.

Land Park

The Land Park Trust Fund includes revenue generated from various activities in William Land Park, including rentals, park permits, and concessions. These funds may only be used for operational and capital improvements within Land Park. In FY 2023/24, Land Park had an approved budget of \$89,000.

Golf

The Golf Fund is a special revenue fund that supports the operation, maintenance, capital requirements, and debt service of the City’s golf courses. The fund derives its revenues from green fees, irrigation surcharge, golf lessons, cart rentals, golf merchandise sales, food and beverage concessions, and interest earnings.

EXISTING SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Beyond the stated funds which are approved to contribute to the FY 2023/24 budget, additional means of support have been provided to YPCE in the past. These supports include funding sources, community volunteerism, revenue streams and strategies, and partnerships with local entities for expanded parkland or recreation services. Existing supplement funding sources include:

Trust (Special Revenue) Funds for Individual Sites

These funds are restricted to a trust fund established to enhance maintenance and improvements needed to sustain specific or individual sites. Often the revenues are generated from activities within the site itself, such as park use permits, amphitheatres, ball field rentals, picnic shelter rentals, etc. and must be used for that same site (capital and/or operations spending).

State and Federal Grants

There are numerous state and federal grant opportunities provided by governmental agencies for local park and recreation agencies. The programs have specific criteria that applicants must meet. Although there are grants available for operations and recreation/educational programs, most of the state and federal programs focus on the acquisition, development and improvement of parks, trails, recreation facilities and the protection of natural resources.

In some cases, federal grants are funneled through state agencies such as the Department of Conservation, the Department of Transportation, the California Arts Council, and the University of California, amongst others. In other cases, federal grants are managed directly by federal agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts, the Environmental Protection Agency, and CDBG Grants (administered through local agencies such as Community Foundations), amongst others.

Special Allocations through Federal or State Legislative Action

The City of Sacramento may pursue specific allocations from State or Federal funds to offset costs of maintaining State-owned parks land (such as Capitol Park) and maintenance of the urban forest surrounding the Capitol Building. In addition, the City could express its support for legislation increasing funds available for local agencies for the purchase, repair and maintenance of City parkland and recreation facilities through its Legislative Affairs Program.

Development Agreements

A Development Agreement is a negotiated contract between a local agency and a land developer. The developer is given the vested right to subdivide and develop in exchange for negotiated exactions. These exactions may include public utilities and public parks and recreation facilities. These are voluntary agreements, and the agency can negotiate public facility improvements beyond those required by state or local mandates. The improvements required may benefit those outside the development area. It is also possible to establish endowments for facility maintenance from developers through these Agreements.

Partnerships

Partnerships are vital resources for a city's operation, and provide park and recreation opportunities that otherwise may not be possible. There are many organizations and groups that use park spaces who may or may not be formal partners with the City. Such groups include sports leagues, exercise groups, dog walkers, bird watchers, chess clubs, and more. The City might consider implementing any of the below strategies to integrate these users more formally into the park and recreation system:

- **Establishing joint use projects** can achieve adopted goals and other policies at a reduced cost. The City will need to continue to aggressively pursue joint funding and facility cost-sharing opportunities with the local school districts and college districts within the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, local water and utility districts, and private foundations. Joint funding opportunities for operations and maintenance of community facilities and schoolyards/fields should be explored in addition to capital cost sharing.
- **Establishing a tax-exempt foundation** with key community leaders involved could attract private contributions, endowments, and corporate sponsorships. The community relations benefits of such contributions could be attractive to individuals and businesses in the city, while similar tax benefits would be received for contributions to the City for park and recreational purposes. These foundations vary in their focus from park-specific to citywide activities. Examples include the Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn, NY and the existing Downtown Partnership in Sacramento.
- **Promoting long-term relationships** beyond event sponsorships to ensure future revenues.
- **Identifying local business stakeholders** and development of corporate sponsorships to underwrite specific costs associated with Parks and Recreation facilities and services.

Joint Powers Agreements

A joint powers agreement (Government Code section 6500 et seq.) allows two or more agencies to jointly wield powers that are common to them. It does not create new powers, but instead provides a vehicle for the cooperative use of existing governmental powers. Agencies, which may enter into joint exercise of powers agreements, include federal and state governments, cities, counties, county school boards, public districts, and public agencies of other states. A joint powers authority (JPA) can enter into contracts, employ people, acquire, construct, and maintain

buildings, improvements, and public works, and issue revenue bonds. The member agencies can also agree to exchange services.

The number of JPAs statewide has increased over the years as agencies have found that creating a JPA can be a cost-effective way to finance public buildings, capital improvements, police and fire protection, emergency medical services, libraries, public parks, and transportation. While some JPAs exist as self-insurance pools, most are still concerned with providing infrastructure and services.

Money for projects to be completed under joint powers authorities is provided by the member agencies in a manner described in the agreement of formation. A JPA may be used as the leaser in a lease-purchase agreement. Agencies may pool equipment and manpower more efficiently than they could operate separately. In other words, the sources of income for a JPA are not limited to tax revenues.

Sales Tax Increment

Sales tax revenue is typically the second largest source of income for state and local governments. Many localities throughout the country have used an additional quarter cent or half cent sales tax, approved by voters, to increase revenues to the local jurisdiction and in some cases to fund specific services, such as public transportation, economic development, or parks and recreation. The additional sales tax can be levied generally on the sale of retail goods or services or can be imposed on specific items such as alcohol, tobacco, and gasoline.

Implementation of a dedicated sales tax increment/percentage needs to be approved by the voters. If the sales tax were earmarked for a specific service, such as parks and recreation, the measure would need approval by two-thirds of the voters.

One example of a Sacramento sales tax increment is Measure U, approved in 2012 (half-cent) and 2018

(full-cent). Measure U set out to provide additional funds for police and fire services, park maintenance, and other essential services. More information on Measure U is found earlier in this appendix, as it is a currently budgeted fund that contributes to YPCE. Another recent example is Measure L, approved in 2022, that establishes the Sacramento Children’s Fund which requires the City to spend the equivalent of 40% of its local cannabis tax revenues on child and youth services. Measure L funded programs will prioritize children and youth most impacted by poverty, violence, and trauma. It is expected that portions of this fund will go to YPCE, specifically to support their youth programming and development services.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) from Redevelopment Projects and Zones

Designating an area a redevelopment district is a way of stimulating the economic revival of blighted urban, suburban, and sometimes even rural neighborhoods. The finance mechanism employed by such districts is called Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

When a redevelopment agency is adopted, the assessed valuation of real property within the designated redevelopment area is frozen. Taxes are apportioned to taxing entities at this base level while improvements to the area are made, new businesses are attracted, and property values rise. Typically, any increase in the assessed value of the property makes up the tax increment, which is then used to pay project costs or repay the bonds or other obligations that helped finance the project. Tax increment financing is being used for a variety of purposes, including acquiring property to be resold at reduced prices and on-site improvements such as utilities, lights, repaving streets, and restoring neighborhood parks.

There currently exist several redevelopment areas within

the City, where it is expected that as redevelopment of these current underutilized areas occur, property tax revenues will increase over time. This “tax increment” can be used to fund economic development of the redeveloping area, including park acquisition and capital improvements.

User Fees

The City of Sacramento currently offers an extensive recreation program of classes, swimming and other sports programs and special events. Many of these programs require that a user fee be paid to participate in the class or program. It is possible that recreation revenues could be increased by developing a detailed marketing program geared at: 1) offering programs that have a high customer demand; and 2) setting user fees so that they are sufficient to fully recover the cost of the program but not discourage participation and are, therefore, market based (charging what the market will bear). A well-developed marketing program that can identify where the community’s demand for services lies is a key component in a market-based approach to setting user fees. By understanding market demand and offering and promoting programs targeted at specific market segments, the City can expand its customer base and increase revenues. Many cities throughout California, such as the City of San Carlos, have employed such an approach in setting user fees.

Implementation of revised user fees would require City Council approval.

Revenues from Property and Facility Leases

Another potential source for increased operating revenues is the leasing of property for privatized use, such as allowing a telecommunications company to place a switch vault under the parking lot or a cell phone antenna on light poles at the ball field. There may also be additional strategic opportunities for private companies to lease

areas for the purposes of providing recreation services, such as a large baseball complex or other tourist venue.

Sponsored Facilities and Events (Naming Rights)

Another potential source of revenue is the expanded use of sponsored events or facilities. Corporate entities often pay, either lump sum or on an ongoing basis, to name an event or facility, which serves essentially as advertising for the corporation. The City has policies in place regarding sponsorship; however, these may be reviewed or revised based on compatibility and interest from potential corporate partners.

Volunteers

Public policy at both the federal and state level has placed high priority on the commitment of volunteers in public service delivery. The Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteers (GOSERV) suggests consideration of several key factors for success with volunteers, including time commitment, nature of services provided, skills and talents, support structures, and background checks.

The Department’s program can expand to enhance services that cannot be performed by paid staff due to budget constraints and/or are unique to a specific project or location.

Sale or Lease of Underutilized or Unused City Property

As a matter of policy, public park or open space lands should not be sold except as sale proceeds are used to replace such capital assets elsewhere on a ratio of at least

1:1. However, the City may own property that is not being utilized now and there are no plans to use it in the future. In these cases, the City may consider selling or leasing the property. Properties may include unused streets or transit right of way or infill lots and parcels that no longer meet the City’s standards for park and recreation uses. This also includes easements on city property, such as by utility companies.

Property Business Improvement District (PBID)

Another financing tool is the Property Business Improvement District (PBID) as defined in Streets and Highways Code 36500 (1989) and 36600 (1994) et seq. Similar to special assessment districts, PBIDs assess either business owners or property owners within set boundaries for additional services, such as park maintenance and public safety. They are unique, however, in that they establish a partnership between property owners and businesses in downtown or commercial areas for the purpose of improving the business climate in a defined area. Impetus for the PBID generally comes from business and property owners hoping to attract tourists and new customers by cleaning up sidewalks, improving parks, increasing lighting, etc. These business owners want better services and are usually willing to pay for it, within their neighborhood. In some places, they are willing to take on non-governmental tasks, such as marketing, to supplement public services. At present, YPCE partners with 7 local PBIDs.

Potential Funding Sources

In order to continue the operations, management, and expansion of the citywide parks and recreation system, YPCE will need to continually explore options for additional funds and support. As the system grows, the Department may wish to consider sources such as below.

General Obligation (GO) Bonds

A General Obligation Bond is a municipal bond backed by the credit and “taxing power” of the issuing jurisdiction, rather than the revenue from a given project. GO Bonds are issued with the belief that a municipality will be able to repay its debt obligation through general taxation or revenue sources from projects. No assets are used as collateral.

General Obligation Bonds have provided a key source of funds for park and open space acquisition and development at the state and local levels. The State of California has approved several bonds to purchase, protect, and improve recreational areas (such as parks and beaches), cultural sites (such as historic buildings and museums), and natural areas (such as wilderness and open space areas). Individual cities have also proposed GO Bonds for parks services with mixed results. Bonds passed in approximately 33% of cases in 2000.

The advantages of these General Obligation Bonds are that they allow for the immediate purchase of land and distribute the cost of acquisition. GO Bonds are not used for park maintenance and can be difficult to achieve for several reasons. First, they either require voter approval (sometimes by two-thirds of the electorate), or legislative approval, or both. They can also be costly since interest charges are tacked onto the cost of the project. And finally, there is typically a great deal of competition for general obligation bonding capacity among the many local programs in need of financing within a community.

In order for a Bond to be successfully passed by the community, a public information program must be created and implemented to include the following:

- **Campaign Organization:** Directing polling and focus groups, designing strategy, organizing community outreach, managing fundraising, and overseeing paid and free media.
- **Coalition Building:** Attracting diverse groups of supporters, from environmental groups like the Sierra Club to the chamber of commerce to the California Taxpayers Association.
- **Communications:** In paid and free media, educating voters about the public benefits of the proposed Bond.

Any efforts to promote the General Bond must be conducted by an organization independent of the City.

Revenue Bonds

Revenue bonds are paid from a tax or other dedicated revenue source for the use of a specific public project or with the proceeds from the fees charged to those who use the facility that the bonds finance. These bonds are not constrained by debt ceilings like general obligation bonds. Voter approval is rarely required, since the government is not obligated to repay the debt if the revenue stream does not mature as predicted. Revenue bonds are more expensive to repay than general obligation bonds in terms of the interest rate charged on the bonds.

Certificates of Participation

Certificates of Participation (COPs) have become increasingly important tools that local governments are using to, among other things, protect open space and natural lands. COPs are lease-purchase arrangements that allow a government to pay for a property over time. Since payments are made year-by-year, the transaction is not formally considered debt. This financing mechanism

is now used in more than half the states. COPs do not require a referendum and do not impact a community's debt limit.

Short Term Debt Instruments

Promissory notes and bond and tax anticipation warrants can also provide communities with park and open space funding. These instruments help local governments that have limited long term bonding authority but sufficient income to cover the debt service of a loan. For example, promissory notes have been used by the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District to raise money for land acquisition.

Infrastructure Financing District (IFD)

An Infrastructure Financing District (IFD) (Government Code section 53395 et seq.) is a mechanism for financing infrastructure improvements that combines some of the features of redevelopment tax increment and Mello-Roos financing, the financing method commonly employed by redevelopment agencies.

There is a complex process required by law to create an IFD. The process involves: adoption of a “resolution of intention” by the City or County proposing to create the District; preparation of a detailed financing plan that is sent to affected property owners and taxing entities; a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments from the public and affected taxing agencies; and, a voting procedure similar to that used under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act (a two-thirds vote of registered voters, if there are at least 12 registered voters within the proposed district; or, if there are fewer than 12 registered voters within the proposed district, a two-thirds vote of property owners). If the IFD proposes to issue bonds, it must obtain the approval of a majority of the legislative body of the City or County creating the district and of two-thirds of the district electorate.

Once an IFD is established, the assessed valuation existing at the time of the adoption of the District is considered

the “base year” for purposes of calculating and allocating property taxes. Growth in assessed value, and the corresponding property taxes, due to new development, property transfers, or appreciation above the “base year” valuation accrues to the IFD as “tax increment” revenue. Property taxes due on the assessed valuation up to the “base year” valuation are allocated to taxing entities according to the proportions that would otherwise prevail. An IFD may exist and collect revenues for up to 30 years.

An IFD may finance the purchase, construction, expansion, improvement, or rehabilitation of any real or other tangible property with an estimated useful life of 15 years or longer. The facilities financed by an IFD must be public capital improvements of communitywide significance, providing benefits to an area larger than that of the IFD, based on a finding by the City Council that the capital facilities to be financed provide communitywide benefits. Facilities purchased by the IFD must be already constructed at the time of purchase.

Similar to a Mello-Roos CFD, financed facilities need not be located within the boundaries of the IFD. Facilities financed through an IFD may not replace existing facilities or services, but they may supplement existing facilities and services as necessary to serve new development.

Real Estate Transfer or Conveyance Fee

A real estate transfer or conveyance fee is levied on the sale of certain classes of real property, and is typically based on the size or value of the property being sold. City policy would dictate who pays the fee. Sometimes sellers, for the appreciation of their homes, are required to pay the tax or buyers, based on the argument that they are making an investment in the future of the community.

Federal Tax Credit for Land Donation

Through the Natural Heritage and Preservation Tax Credit of 2000 program, \$100 million in tax credits are available to landowners interested in donating qualified lands and bodies of water in fee or easement. The intent is to protect and

conserve open space, agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, state and local parks. The tax credits are available to landowners interested in donating qualified lands to state resource departments, local government entities and qualified non-profit organizations for conservation purposes.

Through the passage of AB 1219 in 2021, the program has been renewed for qualified contributions made until June 30, 2026.

Voluntary Donation Program on Utility Billings

The City of Sacramento may explore a partnership with the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District allowing SMUD customers to donate a set fee each month as part of their utility bill payment. This option would be made available to customers as part of their monthly utility bill insert.

Norwalk, IA established a similar voluntary assessment donation. The City called the donation an “Economic Development Fund” so that it could be used for a variety of marketing and economic development activities. The City Council passed a resolution to institute the funds and approves all uses. Contributions were solicited through utility bill inserts, with 60 percent of residents and 80 percent of businesses participating. First year revenues were approximately \$250,000.

Scottsdale Cares is the City of Scottsdale, AZ’s voluntary utility bill donation program. Initiated in May 1995, Scottsdale Cares has received over \$1 million from city residents, donated one dollar at a time to fund local youth programs.

Share of Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOTs)

Transient Occupancy Taxes are typically assessed on hotel/motel rooms, campgrounds, and other lodging facilities, for stays less than 30 days.

In 2022, the City of Sacramento passed Measure N, which allows funds from the city’s transient occupancy tax to be used for tourism-related economic development projects. The City currently levies a 12% transient occupancy tax, which is separated into 2% general tax which funnels into the City’s General Fund, and 10% special tax to be used for public space needs such as convention halls, parking facilities, etc. The passing of Measure N expands the eligible uses of the 10% special tax to “economic development projects to create local jobs;” “visitor-serving facilities that promote tourism, economic development, and other activities that bolster the local economy;” and “theatre and arts venues.”

Parks, recreation, and programming have significant impact on the local economy, as well as the power to attract and improve transient visitation. A larger share of the transient occupancy tax could be directed to YPCE projects that relate to improved tourism, economic development, youth opportunities, and public arts programming.

Additional Property Taxes

While somewhat difficult to implement, given the two-thirds voter requirement, property taxes continue to be a favorable source of revenue for funding park and recreation acquisition, improvements, and operations. Property tax revenue is typically less prone to economic downturns and therefore more predictable as a revenue stream. To implement, residents vote for a “special” tax on an ongoing basis or for a defined period of time. The tax is assessed on real property within the jurisdiction. Space District to raise money for land acquisition.

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