

**2030 Sacramento General Plan Update
PRELIMINARY POLICIES
Education, Recreation, and Culture Element (ERC.2)**

Parks and Recreation

COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Goal

ERC.2-1 An integrated parks and open space system that connects communities of Sacramento to create walkable neighborhoods and provide recreational opportunities throughout the City.

Policy

ERC.2-1.1 Network of Parks and Opens Space Areas. The City shall enhance existing and develop new facilities to create a complete network of parks and open space areas that connect all parts of every community through dedication and acquisition of land, while providing opportunities for passive and active recreation. *[Long Range Planning; July 2007]*

PARKS

Provision of Facilities

Goal

ERC.2-2 Adequate parks and recreational services in all parts of the City, adapted to the needs and desires of each neighborhood and community. *[1988 General Plan Modification EIP/PBS&J July 2007, TBR, PIR]*

Policies

ERC.2-2.1 Standards for All Development. The City shall provide parks and recreational facilities at the following standards. *[Sacramento Parks and Recreational Master Plan 2005-2010; 2004]*

- Five acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents (this shall consist of 2.5 acres of neighborhood or urban parkland and 2.5 acres of community parkland);
- 8.0 acres of citywide/regionally serving facilities for each 1,000 residents (these facilities can consist of regional parks, open space, and parkways);

ERC.2-2.2 Standards for New Residential Subdivisions. The City shall require developers of new residential subdivisions to provide local recreation or park facilities at five acres per 1,000 persons or to contribute to in-lieu fees for the development of public recreation facilities meeting demands generated by the development's resident population. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-2.3 Standards for New Residential Uses not part of Subdivisions and Non Residential Uses. The City shall require landowners of residential and nonresidential property located within the City to pay development impact fees, which will be used to provide neighborhood, community, and regional parks to meet the needs of the new residents and employees. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-2.4 Common Space for New Uses. The City shall provide urban plazas/pocket parks, civic spaces, landscaped areas, and hardscapes that are at least one acre in size in urban infill or developed areas of the City that allow for recreation and outdoor activity to help meet the demands for parks and recreational facilities. These facilities can allow for passive or active recreational opportunities, and be located in non-traditional locations such as rooftops. Consider providing these spaces by converting vacant land and/or abandoned buildings.

Provision of these facilities would be funded through development impact fees, which are calculated based on the standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. *[TBR, DSD, PIR]*

ERC.2-2.5 On-Site Facilities for Developments. The City shall encourage developers of large scale commercial and office projects in urban infill or developed areas to provide on-site recreational amenities that are available to the public such as urban plazas and squares, rooftop facilities, children's play areas, jogging/pedestrian trails, and athletic courts. The City shall consider development of incentives such as density bonuses or increases in building height for the inclusion of these facilities.

The acreage of on-site facilities developed in urban infill and builtout areas may be credited against the payment of development impact fees where it is, for example, accessible to the public during daylight hours and of sufficient size to accommodate recreational use by the public. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-2.6 On-Site Facilities for High Density Residential Developments. The City shall require developers of new high-density residential development to provide on-site recreational amenities. For these developments, on-site recreational amenities shall be provided for each dwelling unit in addition to the minimum standards specified in Policy ERC.2-2.1. On-site

recreational amenities can consist of urban plazas, squares or rooftop facilities where there is the capability for recreation. These recreational amenities can include swimming pools, exercise facilities, tennis courts, and basketball courts.

The acreage of on-site facilities developed with residential projects may be credited against the payment of development impact fees where it is, for example, accessible to the public during daylight hours and of sufficient size to accommodate recreational use by the public. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-2.7 Athletic Field Criteria. The City shall develop athletic fields with dimensions that are flexible for multi-sports use. *[Parks & Recreation Department, Questionnaire, October 5, 2006]*

ERC.2-2.8 Compatibility with Adjoining Uses. The City shall require that the design of all parks and recreational facilities be compatible with existing adjoining uses such as residential neighborhoods. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-2.9 Park Walking Distance. The City shall ensure that each household is within a half-mile walk of a neighborhood park, or community park with neighborhood facilities, and that the route is reasonably free of physical barriers, including streets with heavy traffic. Wherever possible, provide pedestrian links between parks. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-2.10 Location of Facilities On or Adjacent to Major Thoroughfares. The City shall locate community and regional parks on or adjacent to major thoroughfares. *[1988 General Plan Modification EIP/PBS&J July 12, 2007]*

ERC.2-2.11 Park and Recreation Facility Guidelines and Requirements. The City shall require that park and recreation facilities be developed according to the following guidelines and requirements: *[Sacramento Parks and Recreational Master Plan 2005-2010; 2004]*

Park Type	Population Served	Size Guidelines	Service Guidelines	Area	Description	General Requirements
Neighborhood Serving						
Urban Plazas/ Pocket Parks	2.5 acres per 1,000 residents	Less than 5 acres	½ mile		A specialized neighborhood serving park or facility to be used primarily by persons living, working or visiting nearby. Most appropriate for areas of denser urban and mixed use development. Allows for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus in urban infill and builtout areas. ▪ Locate anywhere access if not limited by major physical barriers. ▪ Locate in areas that free of wetland and development restrictions.

Park Type	Population Served	Size Guidelines	Service Guidelines	Area	Description	General Requirements
					non-traditional locations of these parks such as on rooftops, as well as ground level public plazas and landscaped areas that allow for recreation are allowed under this park category. Typical amenities include: features such as community gardens, children’s play areas, sitting areas, tables, fountains, water play areas, hardscape, public art, walkways, and landscaping	
Neighborhood Parks		5 – 10 acres			A park intended to be used primarily by the people who live nearby or within walking or bicycling distance of the park. Some neighborhood parks are situated adjacent to an elementary school and improvements are usually oriented toward the recreation needs of children. Typical park amenities include: tot lots, an adventure area, unlighted sport fields or sport courts, and/or a group picnic area, and parking limited to on-street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locate adjacent to elementary schools and on secondary streets within residential areas. ▪ Locate anywhere access if not limited by major physical barriers. ▪ Locate in areas that free of wetland and development restrictions.
Community Serving						
Community Parks	2.5 acres per 1,000 residents	10 – 60 acres		Drivable from several neighborhoods; 3 miles	A community center, a water play area and/or swimming pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locate on primary collector streets. ▪ Locate adjacent to public transportation. ▪ Locate adjacent to detention basin and schools. ▪ Locate in areas that are free of wetland and development restrictions.
Citywide/Regionally Serving						
Regional Parks	8.0 acres per 1,000 residents	Varies; may be larger than community parks and/or have destination attractions		Citywide and beyond	In addition to amenities found in Neighborhood Serving and Community Serving parks, other features include a golf course, marina, amusement area, zoo, and other region-wide attractions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locate adjacent to major public transportation. ▪ Locate in areas that are free of wetland and development restrictions.

Park Type	Population Served	Size Guidelines	Service Guidelines	Area	Description	General Requirements
Open Space					Open spaces are natural areas that are set aside primarily to enhance the City's environmental amenities. Recreational use of open space may be limited to natural features of the sites.	
Parkways					Parkways are used primarily as corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, linking residential areas to schools, parks, and trail systems.	

ERC.2-2.12 Facility Standards and Guidelines. The City shall develop neighborhood and community centers according to the following standard and guidelines: *[Sacramento Parks and Recreational Master Plan 2005-2010; 2004]*

Facility Type	Service Goal	Level	Size Guidelines	Service Area	General Guidelines
Neighborhood Center (Clubhouse)	1 per neighborhood as defined by service area of elementary school		5,000 – 10,000 square feet	Elementary school service area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempt to establish in conjunction with school sites or other public facilities. ▪ Service level goals can also be met through private providers.
Community Center	1 per 30,000 residents		10,000 – 30,000 square feet	2 miles or more; several neighborhoods	Goals can be met through facilities with regional significance, private providers, or schools.*

*Centers of Regional Significance are facilities where programs/services are unique and draw participation from the entire City or region.

ERC.2-2.13 Community Gardens. The City shall consider establishing service goals for providing community gardens to residents, creating space for new gardens, and support the operation of existing community gardens. *[GPAC, July 2007]*

Improvements

Goal

ERC.2-3 An equitable distribution of parks and recreation facilities throughout Sacramento for all residents.

Policies

- ERC.2-3.1 Update of Master Plan.** The City shall periodically review the recreational needs of the City's residents, and update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for facilities and programs. *[1988 General Plan]*
- ERC.2-3.2 Priority of Facilities in Underserved Areas.** The City shall give high priority to acquiring land and improving parks and recreation areas, open space, multi-use fields for team sports, special events venues, and community centers in redevelopment, Community/Specific Plan, and infill target areas where these facilities and uses are deficient. The City's operational and maintenance funds shall be taken into consideration during the prioritization of facilities construction. *[1988 General Plan Modification EIP/PBS&J July 12, 2007]*
- ERC.2-3.3 Neighborhood and Community Parks in Underserved Areas.** The City shall give priority to the provision of neighborhood and community parks in underserved areas of the City including: *[TBR, THF I, PIR, Sacramento Parks and Recreational Master Plan 2005-2010; 2004]*
- Land Park
 - East Broadway
 - North Sacramento
 - South Sacramento
 - East Sacramento
 - Central City
- ERC.2-3.4 Citywide/Regionally Serving Facilities in Underserved Areas.** The City shall give priority to the provision of citywide/regionally serving facilities in underserved areas of the City including: *[TBR, THF I, PIR, Sacramento Parks and Recreational Master Plan 2005-2010; 2004]*
- North Sacramento (Robla and Valley View areas)
 - Central Sacramento (Railyards and Riverfront areas)
 - South Sacramento (Meadowview and Valley Hi/North Laguna areas)
- ERC.2-3.5 Neighborhood Centers in Underserved Areas.** The City shall give priority to the provision of neighborhood centers in underserved areas of the City including: *[Sacramento Parks and Recreational Master Plan 2005-2010; 2004]*
- Pocket
 - Valley Hi/North Laguna
- ERC.2-3.6 Community Centers in Underserved Areas.** The City shall give priority to the provision of community centers in underserved areas of the City including: *[Sacramento Parks and Recreational Master Plan 2005-2010; 2004]*
- Robla (two centers are needed)
 - North Natomas

ERC.2-3.7 Infrastructure Improvements. The City shall review all necessary infrastructure improvements for their potential recreation, park, open space and special event usage. *[1988 General Plan Modification EIP/PBS&J July 12, 2007]*

Maintenance, Enhancement, and Preservation

Goal

ERC.2-4 Maintenance and enhancement, of existing parks and recreation facilities for the enjoyment of Sacramento residents. *[THF I, PIR]*

Policies

ERC.2-4.1 Preservation of Public Parkland. The City shall protect public parkland from non-recreational uses. Any loss of public parkland through governmental action shall be replaced in-kind. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-4.2 Landscape Maintenance. The City shall continue programs for the planting and maintenance of trees, grass, and other public landscapes both in the parks and on other City land such as street medians, public buildings, and grounds. *[1988 General Plan Modification EIP/PBS&J July 12, 2007]*

Shared Facilities

Goal

ERC.2-5 Maximized use of the community's recreational resources for the greater benefit of the public through coordination with the agencies responsible for non-city recreational facilities.

Policy

ERC.2-5.1 Interagency Coordination. The City shall engage in multi-purpose planning and inter-agency coordination to provide a variety of compatible recreational activities within a given location. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-5.2 Joint Use of Public Facilities. The City shall design public facilities, such as public parking structures and libraries, to incorporate recreational elements, such as urban parks and pocket parks, children's play areas, rooftop parks, and athletic courts. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

- ERC.2-5.3 Joint Development.** The City shall encourage joint development of parks with adjacent compatible uses such as schools, libraries, and detention basins. *[1988 General Plan Modification EIP/PBS&J July 12, 2007]*
- ERC.2-5.4 Non-City Facilities.** The City shall utilize non-City recreational facilities and open space areas to supplement the park and recreational needs of the community. Maintain existing use of existing shared facilities, and expand the use of non-City facilities where desirable and feasible. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*
- ERC.2-5.5 School Districts.** Expand and maintain existing joint use agreements with school districts for use of facilities that will enhance the provision of parks and recreational facilities for residents. *[Parks & Recreation Department, Questionnaire, October 5, 2006]*
- ERC.2-5.6 New Joint-Use Agreements.** Develop additional long-term joint-use agreements with other public and private agencies to assure recreation facilities for future generations. *[Parks & Recreation Department, Questionnaire, October 5, 2006]*
- ERC.2-5.7 Utility Easements.** The City shall prepare and adopt plans for including more recreational activities within utility easements whenever possible. *[1988 General Plan]*
- ERC.2-5.8 Underutilized City Rights-of-Way.** The City shall use underutilized City rights-of-way to help meet recreational needs, where appropriate. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*
- ERC.2-5.9 Surplus or Remnant Parcels.** The City shall explore acquisition or utilization of government-owned surplus or remnant parcels for public park use. *[New policy, EIP/PBS&J, July 2007]*

RIVER PARKWAYS AND TRAILS

Goal

- ERC.2 -6** Maintenance and preservation of river parkways for recreational purposes, trails/bikeways, and open space/natural areas. *[THF I, PIR]*

Policies

ERC.2-6.1 Standards and Guidelines. The City shall develop linear parks/parkways and trails/bikeways according to the following standard and guidelines: [*Sacramento Parks and Recreational Master Plan 2005-2010; 2004*]

	Service Standards	General Requirements
Linear Parks/Parkways and Trails/Bikeways	0.5 linear miles per 1,000 population of trails/bikeways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locate along all major public waterways in City limits, contributing to interconnected regional system of open space/trails/bikeways. ▪ Locate next to compatible uses such as greenbelts, multi-use trail corridors, schools, waterways, and parks.

ERC.2-6.2 Maintenance, Enhancement, and Preservation of the American River Parkway. The City shall coordinate with Sacramento County to maintain, enhance, and preserve the Sacramento and American River parkways for active and passive recreational purposes. Permitted recreational activities and facilities include nature appreciation (generally involves passive recreational activities), recreational enjoyment (depends on limited facilities in the outdoor environment), trails recreation, recreational participation in group sports and athletics, and aquatic recreation. [*American River Parkway Plan*]

ERC.2-6.3 Connections to Other Trails. The City shall maintain and pursue new connections to other local, regional, and State trails in order to provide alternatives to the automobile. [*American River Parkway Plan*]

ERC.2-6.4 Underused Lands. The City shall convert underused lands such as abandoned rail lines and natural areas for recreational uses such as trails. [*Parks & Recreation Department, Questionnaire, October 5, 2006*]

PUBLIC ACCESS

Goal

ERC.2-7 Adequate access to parks and recreational facilities for all residents to enjoy.

Policies

ERC.2-7.1 Linkages to Recreational Facilities and Areas. The City shall provide safe and convenient linkages to, and within, park and recreation facilities, trails, river parkways, and open space areas. Provide pedestrian and bicycle paths between these facilities and residential development. [*American River Parkway Plan*]

ERC.2-7.2 Adequate Access. The City shall ensure that parks and recreation facilities include provisions for adequate access for persons with disabilities and that existing facilities are appropriately retrofitted to include such access as required by the American Disabilities Act. *[New policy, EIP/PBB&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-7.3 Public Access to the Rivers and Parkways. The City shall ensure and provide adequate public access to the Sacramento and American Rivers and parkways. *[PIR]*

ERC.2-7.4 Continuous Access along Rivers. The City shall provide for continuous access along the rivers, where feasible. *[LRP staff, July 2007]*

ERC.2-7.5 Free of Physical Barriers. The City shall ensure that all parks and recreational facilities, river parkways, and trails are free of physical barriers such that all every Sacramento resident can have adequate access. *[New policy, EIP/PBB&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-7.6 Public Transit. The City shall work with regional agencies to improve public transit to park and recreation facilities. *[New policy, EIP/PBB&J, July 2007]*

COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Goal

ERC.2-8 Commercial recreational facilities will help meet the diverse recreational demands of Sacramento residents.

Policy

ERC.2-8.1 Private Commercial Recreational Facilities. The City shall retain existing facilities, and allow and encourage the development of private commercial recreational facilities to help meet the recreational demands of residents. These facilities can include health clubs, tennis facilities, private sports enterprises, recreational training (e.g., climbing walls, bicycle competition), and similar uses. *[New policy, EIP/PBB&J, July 2007]*

GOLF COURSES

Goal

ERC.2-9 Recognition of the use of municipal golf courses in the recreational needs of the City. *[CCL; April 2007]*

Policy

ERC.2-9.1 Maintenance of Municipal Golf Courses. The City shall maintain a high standard of care for municipal golf courses, including reinvestment in infrastructure that fosters a sense of community pride, ensures that the city's courses remain competitive in the marketplace, and encourages play. *[CCL; April 2007]*

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Goal

ERC.2-10 A variety of recreational programs designed to meet the diverse needs of all residents.

Policies

ERC.2-10.1 Provision of Recreation Service. The City shall provide quality recreational programs that meet the needs of all residents including youth, adults, seniors, and persons with special needs. *[PIR]*

ERC.2-10.2 Monitoring of Recreation Service. The City shall periodically monitor the recreation programs provided to ensure that they meet the needs of all Sacramento residents. *[New policy, EIP/PBB&J, July 2007]*

FUNDING

Goal

ERC.2-11 Adequate and reliable funding sources are established for the long-term maintenance of park and recreation facilities, trails, and open space/natural areas.

Policies

ERC.2-11.1 Long-Term Maintenance of Facilities. The City shall ensure that adequate funding sources are available to maintain parks and recreation facilities, trails, and open space/natural areas for the long term. *[New policy, EIP/PBB&J, July 2007]*

ERC.2-11.2 Neighborhood and Community Parkland. The City shall secure an adequate funding source for acquisition of neighborhood and community parkland or upgrading of facilities to address deficiencies in older neighborhoods. *[Parks & Recreation Department, Questionnaire, October 5, 2006]*

ERC.2-11.3 Regional Parkland. The City shall secure funding source for acquisition, development, and maintenance of regional parkland. *[Parks & Recreation Department, Questionnaire, October 5, 2006]*

ERC.2-11.4 Funding Sources for the American River Parkway. The City shall coordinate with Sacramento County and other organizations to identify funding sources to maintain and enhance the American River Parkway. *[New policy, EIP/PBB&J, July 2007]*