



**GREEN SPACE, RECREATION
and PARKS ELEMENT
JULY 2007**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Executive Summary	1
I.	Community Vision	2
	Core Principles	3
II.	Objectives and Policies	4
	<u>Key Issue #1 – Natural Open Space</u>	4
	Objective 1: Stewardship of the Natural Environment	4
	Objective 2: Preservation and Protection of the Arroyo Seco and Adjacent Open Space Areas	5
	Objective 3: Preservation and Protection of Eaton Canyon, Eaton Wash, and Adjacent Open Space Areas	6
	Objective 4: Natural Open Space and Passive Recreation Preservation and Acquisition	6
	Objective 5: Trails and Open Space Connectivity	7
	<u>Key Issue #2 – Developed Parkland</u>	8
	Objective 6: Developed Parkland Preservation & Acquisition	8
	Objective 7: Provide Access to Parks	9
	<u>Key Issue #3 – Recreation Facility Uses and Distribution</u>	11
	Objective 8: Neighborhood Park Distribution and Planning	11
	Objective 9: Joint Use Facility Development	12
	Objective 10: Park and Green Space Design	12
	Objective 11: Balance Special Events with Local Recreation Needs	13
	Objective 12: Improve Access to Park and Recreation Facilities	13
	<u>Key Issue #4 – Recreation Program Types and Distribution</u>	14
	Objective 13: Develop Recreation Programming to Promote Community and Families	14
	Objective 14: Recreation Programming for Health and Fitness	15
	Objective 15: Coordination of Community Services and Recreation Programs	15
	Objective 16: Maintain and Enhance Recreational Facilities and Programs to Promote Tourism and Community Investment	16
	<u>Key Issue #5 – Organizational Structure & Ongoing Community Participation</u>	
	Objective 17: Facilitate Ongoing Community Dialogue to Ensure that Residents’ Open Space, Parkland, and Recreation Needs Are Met	17
	Objective 18: City Organization	17

III.	Background	19
	A. Definitions	19
	1. Natural Open Space	19
	a. Wild Open Space	19
	b. Modified Open Space	19
	c. Undeveloped Lands	19
	2. Developed Open Space	21
	a. Parks	21
	b. Urban Open Space	23
	c. Special Facilities	24
	d. Joint Use Public School Facilities	25
	B. Overview of Statutory Requirements	29
	C. Relationship to other General Plan Elements	30
	D. Other Park and Open Space Planning Documents	34
	The Arroyo Seco Master Plans	34
	Specific Park Master Plans	35
	Park and Recreation Impact Fee Nexus Study	36
	E. Community Context	37
	General Description of Pasadena Community	38
	Community Trends/Demographics	39
	Existing Green Space Inventory	40
	Natural Open Space	40
	Parks	40
	Programs	41
IV.	Community Green Space, Recreation and Park Needs	44
	Public Involvement and Outreach Program	44
	Facility and Program Demand Analysis and Needs Assessment	47

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element provides the community's vision for natural open space, developed parkland, urban open spaces, and recreation facilities and programs. Together with the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan, the Element provides the background data, recommendations and implementation programs for using, maintaining and expanding additional parks and natural open spaces, recreation facilities and programs and the community's needs and desires for open space, parks and recreation.

The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element is an optional Element of the General Plan and will work in conjunction with the Open Space and Conservation Elements to guide the preservation and expansion of Pasadena's existing green spaces, ensure that opportunities for both active and passive uses of parks and open space are available throughout the City, and that these opportunities are responsive to the community's needs.

I. COMMUNITY VISION

A critical issue addressed through the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan (hereafter called the Master Plan) is to define the role of parks and open space in the daily lives of Pasadena residents. Put simply, “What are Parks and Open Spaces for?” To some, parkland is an active sports field; others have images of natural green spaces where one can walk, rest, and enjoy nature; still others may envision parks as places for community gatherings and events. Indeed, green spaces are used for all of these purposes. A key outcome of the Element and Master Plan is to establish how Pasadena residents want these uses balanced and prioritized throughout the city both now and into the future.

Regardless of how they are used, our parks and open spaces create a sense of community and enhance quality of life for all Pasadena residents, promoting this sense of community both in neighborhoods and across demographic groups. Parks and open spaces can assist in the growth and development of people, families and community and, perhaps most importantly offer a vital respite from urban stress and allow recreational outlets for all ages.

An excellent park and recreation system grows out of and evolves from community identity and community vision. The Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Master Plan process included several visioning activities that served to clarify the community vision so that parks and recreation decisions can best reflect Pasadena. An overall community vision statement was developed as a result of the visioning activities that guide both documents:

To create, maintain, protect, and restore an interrelated system of parks, trails, and natural open spaces. To provide recreational opportunities which sustain a vibrant and healthy community with an emphasis on ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

To achieve this community vision, the balance of uses of the City’s green spaces must be addressed. To better answer the question, “What are Parks and Open Spaces for?” a series of “Core Principles” have been developed out of the visioning process. These Principles are guiding principles for planning, implementation, and maintenance of green spaces throughout the City. They represent the common threads found throughout the issues identified by the community and provide a basis for the objectives and policies of the Element and Master Plan. Inherent in these principles is an underlying goal that Pasadena must continue to treasure and preserve, and work to expand, its parks and open spaces. The park and recreation system must be accessible to all Pasadenans, and should offer something for every Pasadenan.

Core Principles

NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- Pasadena will be a City that actively protects its natural open spaces and critical habitats.
- Pasadena's natural environment shall be thoughtfully preserved as an ongoing investment in the health, safety, and beauty of the City for the benefit of both present and future generations.

DEVELOPED PARKLAND

- All Pasadena neighborhoods shall have access to park, open spaces and recreation facilities that serve their unique needs.
- All Pasadena residents shall live within reasonable walking distance from a park, open space, or recreation facility.
- Pasadena will be a City that actively creates new green spaces by promoting creative partnerships with local and regional agencies, as well as private institutions in order to provide access to and development of both traditional and non-traditional parks, cultural and recreational opportunities, and open spaces.

RECREATION FACILITY USE AND DISTRIBUTION

- The City's parks and open spaces shall maintain a balance between active and passive uses (including casual, informal, or individual leisure activities), both citywide and within individual parks, to meet the recreation demands of residents.
- Pasadena residents, PUSD students, and people that work in Pasadena shall have priority in the use and programming of parks and open spaces.

RECREATION PROGRAM TYPES AND DISTRIBUTION

- Recreation programming shall be responsive to community needs and will promote a healthy and active lifestyle for residents.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & AND ONGOING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Planning for Pasadena's open spaces, parks, and recreation facilities will be an ongoing and inclusive community process.

II. OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Objectives provide general guidance for Commissions and City Departments while policies are more specific directives related to green space and recreation planning and development. Through implementation of all the following objectives, the City will actively promote community input and involvement.

The following objectives and policies are organized around the aforementioned five Key Issues and nine Core Principles. These Principles are also used to organize the recommendations and implementation actions listed in the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

KEY ISSUE #1: NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Core Principles Addressed:

- *Pasadena will be a City that actively protects its natural open spaces and critical habitats.*
- *Pasadena's natural environment shall be thoughtfully preserved as an ongoing investment in the health, safety, and beauty of the City for the benefit of both present and future generations.*

OBJECTIVE 1 – STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Encourage and promote the stewardship of Pasadena's natural environment, including water conservation, clean air, natural open space protection, and recycling. (Land Use Element (LUE¹) Policy 9.5)

Policy 1.1 – Identify Open Space Areas: Identify critical open space areas and regularly monitor and inventory natural resources within these areas, such as water resources, plant and wildlife habitat, geology.

Policy 1.2 – Protect Open Spaces: Protect natural open areas, watersheds, and environmentally sensitive areas such as Hahamongna, Eaton Canyon, riparian areas, and other open spaces.

Policy 1.3 – Restore Historic Native Plant Communities: Restore, enhance and re-establish the historical native plant communities within identified critical open space areas to better support native wildlife habitat.

¹ LUE = Land Use Element. Portions of Policies marked with this acronym are taken directly from or are related directly to the Land Use Element of the Pasadena General Plan.

Policy 1.4 – Encourage Use of Native Plants: Encourage the use of native plants and landscaping materials in parks and open spaces in order to protect and enhance the local environment.

Policy 1.5 – Protect Wildlife Habitat: Restore, protect and enhance wildlife habitat within critical open space areas and any wildlife corridors and/or linkages.

Policy 1.6 – Protect and Enhance Urban Forest: Continue to protect the City’s legacy of a lush and varied urban forest. Continue to plant street trees as per the City’s Master Street Tree Plan and continue to maintain and protect the urban forest as a vital local resource.

Policy 1.7 – Water Conservation: Encourage the use of drought-tolerant plants and regionally appropriate landscaping in parks and open spaces in order to conserve water. Utilize creative means of maintenance and watering of fields and recreation areas.

Policy 1.8 – Water Resources: Conserve and protect water resources in parks and open spaces; maximize the quality and quantity of groundwater recharge to minimize the dependence on imported water.

Policy 1.9 – Provide Recycling Options: Ensure that adequate waste disposal and recycling options are available in public parks and open spaces.

OBJECTIVE 2 – PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ARROYO SECO AND ADJACENT OPEN SPACE AREAS: Recognize the importance to Pasadena of the history, cultural resources, and unique character of the Arroyo Seco, and conserve and enhance these assets.

Policy 2.1 – Arroyo Seco Planning: Fully implement all master plans and design guidelines for the Arroyo. This includes the Lower Arroyo Master Plan, the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan, and the Central Arroyo Master Plan. (LUE Policy 9.2)

Policy 2.2 – Balance of Interests in the Lower Arroyo Seco: Improve the aesthetics and preserve the historical elements and unique natural character of the Lower Arroyo. Manage and maintain the area to balance the natural habitat, recreational needs and public health and safety.

Policy 2.3 – Balance Recreation with Environmental Protection: Implement the Arroyo Seco Master Plans by balancing recreational opportunities with protection and restoration of the ecosystem, while recognizing the important existing water resources and flood management functions of the area.

Policy 2.4 – Promote multi-faceted use of the Arroyo: Through implementation of the Arroyo Seco Master Plans, continue to maintain and enhance the area as a prime resource for quality of life of Pasadena residents.

OBJECTIVE 3 – PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF EATON CANYON, EATON WASH, AND ADJACENT OPEN SPACE AREAS: Recognize the importance to Pasadena of the history, cultural resources, and unique character of Eaton Canyon and Eaton Wash, and conserve and enhance these assets.

Policy 3.1 – Eaton Canyon: Continue protection of Eaton Canyon as an open space and recreation area, and as a nature center. Explore master planning opportunities in the existing OS (Open Space) zoned area associated with the civil defense site and flood control areas. (LUE Policy 9.3)

Policy 3.2 – Eaton Wash: Pursue improvements to Eaton Wash and a proposed north/south trail element that would link Pasadena to natural open space to the north.

OBJECTIVE 4: NATURAL OPEN SPACE AND PASSIVE RECREATION PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITION: Use traditional and creative strategies to preserve and acquire open spaces order to enhance the quality of life of all Pasadenans.

Policy 4.1 – Creative Use of Urban Space: Explore creative options to increase the acquisition and preservation of open spaces (e.g. conservation easements, utility rights-of-way)

Policy 4.2 – Degraded Open Spaces – Seek opportunities to reclaim and restore degraded natural open spaces.

Policy 4.3 – Creative partnerships: Continue to foster alliances with and stewardship by neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations, educational entities, conservancy's, governmental agencies and others to identify, create, maintain and enhance an open space environment for current and future generations.

Policy 4.4 – Hillside Projects: In recognition of the special character of the hillsides throughout the City, the City shall continue strict protections through city grading and hillside ordinances.

Policy 4.5 – Open Space Zoning: Provide adequate land resources with the City's OS (Open Space) zone to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the present and future residents in the region. Ensure careful planning within the City's OS zones.

Policy 4.56 – Funding for Acquisition and Preservation: Actively pursue funding for preservation of existing natural open space and acquisition of new open space on an ongoing basis. Prioritize preservation in those areas identified as being rich in natural resources and contributors to Pasadena’s natural habitats.

OBJECTIVE 5: TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE CONNECTIVITY: Acknowledge and enhance Pasadena’s important relationship with the Angeles National Forest and other regional trail systems.

Policy 5.1 – Open Space Corridors: Develop open space corridors, easement and acquisition programs and trails. This is especially relevant for hillside areas and ridgelines. (from LUE Policy 9.1)

Policy 5.2 – Trails for Bicyclists and Pedestrians: Review the OS (Open Space) zoned areas and city rights-of-way for opportunities to develop bike path and/or walking path connectivity.

KEY ISSUE #2: DEVELOPED PARKLAND

Core Principles Addressed:

- *Pasadena's parks and open spaces shall maintain a balance between active and passive uses (including casual, informal, or individual leisure activities), both citywide and within individual parks, to meet the recreation and open space demands of residents.*
- *Pasadena residents, PUSD students, and people that work in Pasadena shall have priority in the use and programming of parks and open spaces.*
- *Pasadena will be a City that actively creates new green spaces by promoting creative partnerships with local and regional agencies, as well as private institutions in order to provide access to and development of both traditional and non-traditional parks, cultural and recreational opportunities, and open spaces.*

OBJECTIVE 6: DEVELOPED PARKLAND PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITION: Preserve and acquire spaces for neighborhood parks and other types of urban open spaces in under-served areas of the City in order to enhance the quality of life of all Pasadenans by using traditional and creative strategies.

Policy 6.1 – Establish an Integrated Recreation, Park, and Open Space System: Provide recreation facilities that offer a wide range of experiences that contribute to an integrated park system that serves specific neighborhood needs in specific areas.

Policy 6.2 – Neighborhood Parks: Preserve, enhance and acquire parks in residential areas, with emphasis on planning for and locating parks within walking distance of multifamily housing. (LUE Policy 17.1)

Policy 6.3 – Adequate Developed Parkland: Acquire or otherwise make available local parkland and open spaces in sufficient quantity to meet the community demand for facilities and programs identified in the Recreation & Parks Master Plan.

Policy 6.4 – Urban Parks and Open Spaces: Encourage and require, through creative means, the incorporation of physically and visually accessible urban open spaces, including parks, courtyards, water features, gardens, passageways and plazas, into public improvements and private projects as elements that contribute to active lifestyles and family experiences. (LUE Policy 2.3)

Policy 6.5 – Creative Use of Urban Space: Explore creative options to increase the acquisition and preservation of park lands (e.g. freeway air space, rooftop gardens, and urban plazas and paseos.)

Policy 6.7 – Degraded Urban Open Space – Seek opportunities to reclaim and restore degraded urban open spaces for potential use as parks or other green space types.

Policy 6.8 – Pocket Parks: Identify and acquire land for the establishment of small urban green spaces (pocket parks) in strategic locations within the City. The spaces may be available for all types of uses, depending on the unique qualities of the space, the neighborhood location, and the desires of surrounding residents.

Policy 6.9 – Effective Maintenance: Continue to improve maintenance of parkland and recreation facilities throughout Pasadena. This includes adequate “rest periods” for facilities and careful programming. Continue to seek resources for increased funding of park maintenance.

Policy 6.10 – Passive Recreation: Ensure that parks and open spaces have adequate space for passive recreation and leisure activities (i.e. walking, pushing strollers, sitting on benches, picnics, etc.)

Policy 6.11 – Central and Memorial Park: Continue and complete efforts to enhance Central and Memorial Park and develop a comprehensive plan for the use and maintenance of these important Central District facilities. (LUE Policy 2.2)

Policy 6.12 – Specific Plans: Implement the open space and parkland goals adopted through each of the City’s seven Specific Plans.

OBJECTIVE 7 – PROVIDE ACCESS TO PARKS: New projects should be planned so that neighborhood recreational needs of its future citizens are largely met onsite or nearby and so that future facilities are integrated with, provide support for, and enhance the effectiveness of the overall recreation system in Pasadena. Growth and expansion in a particular area should be accompanied by commensurate growth and expansion in recreation facility, programming capacity, and natural open space capacity.

Policy 7.1 – Urban Open Space Amenities: Encourage the incorporation of publicly accessible urban open spaces, including parks, courtyards, boulevards, water features, gardens, passageways and plazas, into public improvements and private projects. (LUE Policy 2.3)

Policy 7.2 – Access to Open Spaces Within Projects: Projects should be connected to the public realm through vistas, physical access, and/or sightlines. Provide an adequate total quantity and equitable distribution of public or publicly accessible open spaces throughout the City. (LUE Policy 9.4)

Policy 7.3 – Small Residential Projects (single family and duplex development):
Continue the City’s lot coverage and floor area ratio requirements that provide adequate open space on each residential lot in the City.

Policy 7.4 – Larger Residential Projects (City of Gardens and Mixed-Use projects):
Continue to promote the City of Gardens concept and ordinance to provide creative, usable, and attractive open spaces in the City’s Multi-family zoned areas.

Policy 7.5 – Neighborhood Centers: In order to provide a focus and center of activity for neighborhoods, encourage the use of public open spaces or recreation facilities such as pocket parks, community centers, public schools, community gardens, or “tot lots” as neighborhood centers. (LUE Policy 1.7)

KEY ISSUE #3: RECREATION FACILITY USES AND DISTRIBUTION

Core Principles Addressed:

- *All Pasadena neighborhoods shall have access to parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities that serve their unique needs.*
- *All Pasadena residents shall live within reasonable walking distance of a park, open space, or recreation facility.*

OBJECTIVE 8 – NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DISTRIBUTION AND PLANNING: Preserve, enhance, and acquire parks in residential areas, within reasonable walking distance of all neighborhoods.

Policy 8.1 – Service Area Radius: Provide neighborhood park facilities or other green space area within reasonable walking distance of the majority of residential areas. The City’s goal is to have a neighborhood park or facility within a ½ mile walk from anywhere in the City, taking into consideration natural and manmade barriers such as the I-210 Freeway and Eaton Wash.

Policy 8.2 – Identify “gaps” in Service Areas: Residential areas where there are gaps in parks, open space, or recreation services will be identified and creative means will be sought to fill these gaps (i.e. public school sites, regional parks in other jurisdictions, etc.)

Policy 8.3 – Ensure Neighborhood Parks have Adequate Facilities, Service, and Size: Through the community needs assessment and the Master Plan, neighborhood parks will be evaluated to determine if the parks are offering the facilities and services necessary in their specific location and neighborhood.

Policy 8.4 – Encourage Resident Participation in Neighborhood Parks: Instill a sense of ownership in neighborhood parks by providing surrounding residents an opportunity to participate in the process of park planning, maintenance, development, and enhancement as opportunities arise.

Policy 8.5 – Recreation Needs: Provide sports fields, recreation facilities, walking, jogging and hiking areas, and recreations programs in quantities and types that generally address the demands of Pasadena residents and those who work in Pasadena.

Policy 8.6 – Multi-Use Fields and Facilities: Continue to promote participation in a wide range of sports and recreation programs by utilizing fields and facilities for multiple-uses.

OBJECTIVE 9 – JOINT USE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT: Promote the shared use of public and private recreational land and facilities for community recreational uses, and/or as neighborhood recreation centers or community centers of focus.

Policy 9.1 – Employ Joint Use to Meet Community Needs: Based on the findings of the community needs assessment performed through the Master Plan, explore how public school facilities or private facilities could be utilized in a shared manner to meet specific community needs for open space, recreation programs, or developed facilities such as sports fields.

Policy 9.2 – Enhance School District Facilities to Benefit Students and the Community: The City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Unified School District should explore mechanisms to fund enhancements to School District property for students and the community at large.

Policy 9.3 – Encourage Public Schools as Neighborhood Parks: Promote the shared use of public school recreational land and facilities for City recreational uses and/or as community centers on weekends and periods when school is not in session. (LUE Policy 17.2)

Policy 9.4 – Employ Joint Use to Fill Service Gaps: Explore specific facilities owned by the School District or private parties to fill gaps identified in the Recreation & Park Master Plan. Schools or private facilities may provide sports fields, indoor facilities, or program facilities.

OBJECTIVE 10 – PARK AND GREEN SPACE DESIGN: Park and open space projects should be planned so that recreational facilities reinforce the historic nature of Pasadena’s parks as well as Pasadena’s character, heritage, and neighborhoods.

Policy 10.1 – Pasadena’s Character and Heritage: Appropriate elements that reflect Pasadena’s character and heritage should be incorporated into the design and appearance of parks and green spaces.

Policy 10.2 – Appropriate Neighborhood Scale: Improvements within parks or recreation facilities should be scaled to their location and should relate to the neighborhood they are placed in.

Policy 10.3 – Quality: Pasadena’s green spaces should have a quality appearance that instills pride in the surrounding neighborhood and the City at large.

OBJECTIVE 11 – BALANCE SPECIAL EVENTS WITH LOCAL RECREATION NEEDS: It is important to balance the recreational and open space needs of and capacity for Pasadena residents with the status of many of the City’s parks as popular venues for local and regional events such as music festivals, seasonal celebrations, and cultural activities, many of which also serve as key promotional activities for the City’s regional and national image.

Policy 11.1 – Protect Local Recreation Needs at Special Event Facilities: Through careful planning, continue to promote special events while providing access to recreational activities at City facilities. Provide adequate land resources to hold large special events while not unreasonably displacing recreational areas.

Policy 11.2 – Community Identity: Continue to promote special events and celebrations that reinforce Pasadena’s community identity and provide incentives for organizers to use Pasadena’s facilities.

OBJECTIVE 12 – IMPROVE ACCESS TO PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES: The interface between all modes of travel (i.e. public transit, walking, bicycling) and recreation facilities is key in promoting the Citywide mobility policy that Pasadena will be a City where people can circulate without cars.

Policy 12.1 – Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity: Parks and open spaces should be planned to be accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists through public sidewalks and bike routes.

Policy 12.2 – Pedestrian and Bicycle Amenities: Benches, drinking fountains, and bicycle racks should be available at all park and recreation facilities. Buses routed to parks and open space areas should be equipped with bike racks.

Policy 12.3 – Transit Connections: The ARTS bus program shall continue to plan routes to provide access to key recreation and park facilities throughout the City. This is especially true to connect senior living facilities with recreation facilities.

KEY ISSUE #4: RECREATION PROGRAM TYPES AND DISTRIBUTION

Core Principle Addressed:

- *Recreation programming shall be responsive to community needs and will promote a healthy and active lifestyle for Pasadena residents.*

OBJECTIVE 13 – DEVELOP RECREATION PROGRAMMING TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES: Recognizing that the availability and design of public recreation facilities and of recreation programs can affect the health and welfare of families and the community, the City of Pasadena is committed to a policy that promotes the quality of life for our children, youth, and families.

Policy 13.1 – Cultural Awareness: One of Pasadena’s primary strengths as a community is the array of cultures present. Programs and special events shall be promoted that advance cultural awareness in the City and provide an opportunity to instill pride in participants.

Policy 13.2 – Environmental Education Programs and Facilities: Provide opportunities for environmental education programs (e.g. flora and fauna, watershed processes, water quality) for youth and families.

Policy 13.3 – Activities and Programs for Seniors: Provide recreation options through citywide facilities to enhance the quality of life of senior residents.

Policy 13.4 – Accessibility to Recreation Programs and Services: The City will continue to provide options for residents to access community centers and other facilities, including local transit such as the ARTS bus program.

Policy 13.5 – Youth After School Activities: Continue to sponsor and improve after school activities and programs for youth. Coordinate services with the Pasadena Unified School District to maximize the participation and potential of these programs.

Policy 13.6 – The Arts: The Arts will be integrated into park design and programs shall continue to provide opportunities for residents to learn and experience music, art, acting, singing, and other forms of artistic expression.

OBJECTIVE 14 – RECREATION PROGRAMMING FOR HEALTH AND FITNESS: Recreation programs in Pasadena shall provide a range of activities to promote health and fitness among all Pasadenans.

Policy 14.1 – Fitness Awareness: Programs and information shall be available at community centers and throughout City facilities to encourage healthy lifestyles and fitness.

Policy 14.2 – Sports and Athletics for Youth and Adults: Continue to provide a wide range of outdoor and indoor activities for Pasadena residents.

Policy 14.3 – Nutrition: Programs and information shall be available at community centers and City facilities to encourage nutrition and healthy eating habits.

Policy 14.4 – Active Living: Design and location of public facilities, especially parks and pedestrian routes, should reflect the vision that active living and walkability are important aspects of Pasadena.

OBJECTIVE 15 – COORDINATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RECREATION PROGRAMS: Programs and services provided by the City should respond to the needs of residents.

Policy 15.1 – Community Service Distribution: Promote the location of public and private community service facilities and programs throughout the City, as a function of population distribution and need. Ensure that changing population needs are being met. (LUE Policy 14.3)

Policy 15.2 – Community Service Connectivity: Increase access to and linkages among community service facilities and programs. (LUE Policy 14.4)

Policy 15.3 – Community Centers: Continue to provide high quality programs and services at the City’s community centers.

Policy 15.4 – Community Gardens: Community gardens are areas where residents can plant and grow fruit and vegetables or they can be ornamental gardens that can be a source of pride and beauty in a neighborhood. Promote both of these “types” of community gardens as an open space alternative because of the community-building they create and the valuable resource they provide.

Policy 15.5 – Human Services & Recreation Department as “clearinghouse: The City’s Human Services & Recreation Department shall continue to provide information to the public on the many services and facilities available in the City. Clearly, there are certain facilities and services that are provided by private or non-profit groups and the Department shall continue to direct residents to these services as applicable.

Policy 15.6 – Information Dissemination: Provide clear, understandable information through printed and electronic means to educate Pasadena residents of the many programs and services available and to encourage increased involvement in available recreation facilities and programs.

OBJECTIVE 16 – MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT: Proximity to natural amenities and recreation options provide unique value to Pasadena’s character and desirability as a place to live, visit, or conduct business..

Policy 16.1 – Tourism: Enhance and promote the inherent value of careful stewardship of Pasadena’s natural open spaces and parks.

Policy 16.2 – Adult Sports Leagues and Programs: Continue a commitment to providing recreation program options to adults who live and/or work in Pasadena.

KEY ISSUE #5: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & ONGOING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Core Principle Addressed:

- *Planning for Pasadena's open spaces, parks, and recreation facilities will be an ongoing and inclusive community process.*

OBJECTIVE 17 – FACILITATE ONGOING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE TO ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS' OPEN SPACE, PARKLAND, AND RECREATION NEEDS ARE MET

Policy 17.1 – Community Input and Feedback: Provide methods for community members to offer ongoing information on their experiences with recreation and parks management, programs, and facilities. Surveys, questionnaires, website forms, and targeted outreach methods will provide feedback on areas in need of improvement and areas where goals are being met.

Policy 17.2 –Master Plan: The Master Plan shall be regularly updated and used in the decision-making process to provide an opportunity for the community to voice its concerns, suggestions, and priorities for parks and open space throughout the City.

Policy 17.3 – Specific Facility Plans: A palette of amenities will be established and updated which identifies the standard and optional facilities for each park type. Modifications to this palette for individual parks can be done with community participation and review by Commissions and the City Council.

OBJECTIVE 18 – CITY ORGANIZATION: Open space, parks and recreational areas shall be managed and maintained by the City in an effective and efficient manner. The City shall respond to the concerns of the community regarding these areas.

Policy 18.1 – City Organizational Structure: Evaluate and continually monitor the City's organizational structure in order to provide the most effective and efficient management of open space, parks and recreation facilities and programs. Establish Department standards to strengthen the consistency in which programs and facility uses are determined, developed, and delivered.

Policy 18.2 – The administration of Recreational and Interpretive Programs are the primary responsibility of the Human Services & Recreation Department

Policy 18.3 – Adequate Resource Allocation: Provide the resources (personnel and funding) necessary for the appropriate level of maintenance required

for the success of all parks, recreational facilities, and natural open space areas.

III. BACKGROUND

A. DEFINITIONS

Green Space - In Pasadena, the term Green Space has been used since the 1994 General Plan as an umbrella category to encompass all natural and developed open spaces in the City.

1. **Natural Open Space** - Undeveloped land that has been maintained in a relatively undisturbed state. This category includes wild and planned open space areas.
 - a. **Wild Open Space** – Open space left wild. Completely undeveloped and used for wildlife habitat and conservation. An example is the 1,000 acres of city-owned open space north of Hahamongna Watershed Park.
 - b. **Modified Open Space** – Open space that has been altered or artfully restored to make it more accessible for human use. Alterations can include walking paths or hiking trails. May also provide wildlife habitat and be used for conservation. The Lower Arroyo Seco is an example of a planned open space.
 - c. **Undeveloped Lands** – The City of Pasadena is largely built out, but a few significant areas of non-city owned undeveloped open space remain. Each of these areas may have the potential for use as an open space or recreational area.

Eaton Wash Recreational Corridor – Los Angeles County owns and maintains hundreds of acres in the eastern area of the city. These lands are part of the county's flood control system and are primarily made up of channels, basins and associated uses. There are several sites ranging from two to ten acres within those areas that have the potential to be developed for recreational uses. This type of use is consistent with the County's goals and objectives, provided that the use does not interfere with flood control activity. These sites are linked by the linear flood control channels that bisect the eastern portion of the city. The access roads along the system of channels could possibly be used as recreational trails. Similar access roads adjacent to county flood control channels are now used as trails in the Arroyo Seco. Four existing city parks (Eaton Sunnyslope, Floyd O. Gwinn, Viña-Vieja, and Eaton Blanche) are located immediately adjacent to the flood control channel and would be part of this recreational corridor. Some sections of the

channel have large stands of mature trees including Coast Live Oaks. These areas have significant aesthetic, as well as recreational appeal. See Exhibit 1.3-1 in the Master Plan for details on master plans prepared for the Eaton Canyon area in 1932 and 1967 and Exhibit 5.2-1 for a diagram of the current potential improvements.

Southern California Edison Transmission Line Property – Several Edison high voltage transmission lines bisect the eastern side of the City. The land on which these lines are situated is owned in fee by Edison and it is zoned as open space (OS). These areas have open space and recreation potential as evidenced by the lease of three acres by the city and its subsequent development as Viña Vieja Park. In addition to the new ice rinks planned in this area, this property also has potential as a location for multi-use trails and a north-south connection through this portion of Pasadena.

Hillside Open Space – Several large undeveloped areas of open space exist in the hillside and canyon areas on the eastern and western edges of the city. These areas are privately owned and some have entitlements for development. These areas have limited potential as active recreational areas, but they may have a high value from an aesthetic standpoint if they are maintained in an undeveloped condition. In the Arroyo Seco, some of these hillside areas are part of the canyon banks that give the Arroyo Seco its unique character. In some sections of the Arroyo, these properties prevent access to the public areas of the Arroyo.

Caltrans 710 Freeway Corridor – A large parcel located along the proposed freeway corridor just north of California Street is owned by Caltrans. This parcel could have potential for temporary recreational usage.

Areas within existing parks – Portions of the Hahamongna Watershed Park (known as Devil's Gate Basin) are currently undeveloped. Future improvement plans include the addition of two soccer fields and other park amenities. There is a 2½ acre expansion area planned for Robinson Park which will include a full size football field and a new parking lot.

2. **Developed Open Space** – These include all city parks, urban open spaces, and non city-owned open spaces that are intended primarily for human use. This category includes playgrounds, sports fields, picnic areas, courtyards, golf courses, and joint-use school facilities.

- a. **Parks**

Parks can be classified by type based primarily on their size, function and character. The Pasadena Municipal Code (Section 4.17.040) contains three park classifications: Neighborhood, Community and Citywide parks. For the purposes of this Master Plan, three additional classifications are discussed in order to accurately describe all the recreational facilities in the City; these are Urban Open Spaces, Special Facilities, and Joint Use Public School Facilities.

Park classifications are useful in a number of ways. They can help define a set of characteristics to serve as a guide when parks are constructed or renovated. They can also restrict incompatible activities by limiting those activities to certain types of parks.

The City of Pasadena's existing park system is large and complex; it is over 100 years old and park development did not follow an organized set of predetermined guidelines. As a result of this organic growth, there is not currently a clear distinction between all park types. With this in mind, the following brief descriptions of Pasadena's park classification categories, both the existing three from the City's Municipal Code (Section 4.17.040), as well as the three new classifications proposed as part of this Master Plan are provided:

Citywide Parks – Citywide Parks afford contact with the natural and/or historic environment and possess a unique character or function not found in Neighborhood or Community Parks. They contain facilities that are used by residents throughout the city for activities that cannot be accommodated in other parks (PMC Section 4.17.040). But like Community Parks, Citywide Parks can be expected to draw users on a regional basis. Typically, a Citywide Park would include large natural open space areas. These areas may contain amenities such as trails and vista points. In addition to recreational opportunities, natural open space areas typically contain important visual features that contribute to the recreational experience.

Pasadena's citywide parks are Brookside Park, Hahamongna Watershed Park, and Lower Arroyo Park.

Community Parks – Community Parks provide a broad range of both passive and active recreational opportunities, but their primary purpose is to provide active recreational opportunities for use by both residents and visitors from the surrounding region. If a Community Park is located within a residential area it can also serve a neighborhood park function and, therefore, is included in the service area analysis for Neighborhood Parks.

Recreation centers are important features in some community parks. These are large buildings that contain features such as gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, and offices for recreation staff. Other facilities often found at Community Parks include lighted multi-purpose sports fields, amphitheatres, group picnic areas and swimming pools. Some or all of these amenities may be present in a Community Park. Large special events such as concerts and festivals might also be held in Community Parks. It is to be expected that such events and uses will attract participants from outside the City.

Pasadena's Community Parks are Central Park, Memorial Park, Robinson Park, Victory Parke and Villa Parke.

Neighborhood Parks – Neighborhood Parks are defined more by function than by size. Some neighborhood parks are actually larger than community parks. Neighborhood Parks, however, are intended to serve City residents who live in close proximity to them. Ideally, everyone in the City would live within walking distance (one-half mile) of a Neighborhood Park. This is defined as the "service radius" or "service area" of a neighborhood park.

The features of neighborhood parks include playgrounds, multi-purpose open turf areas, picnic tables and/or picnic shelters, walking paths, attractive landscaping, small parking areas and recreation features such as basketball courts. Multi-purpose open turf areas can be used for a variety of field sports, as opposed to a dedicated football or baseball field. However, some neighborhood parks contain multipurpose fields that have facilities specific to a particular sport such as a

skinned infield or backstops. Neighborhood Parks usually contain restrooms, but that is not always the case; smaller Neighborhood Parks with minimal facilities may not have enough regular visitors to justify the expense of constructing and maintaining a restroom.

Pasadena's neighborhood parks are: Allendale, Brenner, Defender's, Eaton Blanche, Eaton Sunnyslope, Grant, Gwinn, Hamilton, Jefferson, La Pintesca, McDonald, San Rafael, Singer, Viña Vieja, and Washington Parks.

b. Urban Open Space

Pasadena has a large variety of public outdoor open spaces that cannot be classified as parks but these spaces do fulfill many of the same functions as public parks. These urban open spaces and special facilities can be either city-owned or privately-owned. Public plazas, paseos, golf courses and the grounds of museums and historic sites are all examples of this type of open space. Another good example of this form of land use is a community garden. These are public spaces that can contain passive features such as paths, benches and landscaping or could include plots for residents to grow fruits and vegetables. A pocket park (also known as a vest pocket or mini-park) is typically much the same as a community garden, except the emphasis would tend to be less on horticulture and more on site amenities such as picnic facilities and small playgrounds.

Due to the scarcity of large parcels of land, there will be few opportunities to develop new community or neighborhood parks in Pasadena. But there will be opportunities to create small public open spaces throughout the city, in the context of both public and private development.

Facilities in this category include City owned and operated facilities as well as those which are not owned and/or operated by the City but do provide a public benefit. This category is very broad and it encompasses a wide variety of facilities.

Some examples of urban open spaces and special facilities within the City include:

- City Hall Courtyard – includes gardens, fountain and benches
- Centennial Square – large paved area in front of City Hall which is used for concerts and festivals