

Draft City-wide General Plan Park and Recreation Element Policies

Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Department

Park and Recreation Commission
August 17, 2026

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GENERAL PLAN OVERVIEW

- General Plan aims to create a sustainable, resilient, and livable Riverside through community-wide priorities, guiding principles and policies and actionable implementation measures
- Robust public outreach in each of the City's Wards and focus areas for enhanced analysis and outreach
 - **Upcoming!** October 14 Mobility Workshop
- More details at <https://riverside2050.squarespace.com>



We're here!

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GENERAL PLAN OVERVIEW

Elements (*required)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| – Arts and Culture | – Economic | – Noise* |
| – Historic Preservation | Development and Education | – Open Space, Parks and Recreation |
| – Air Quality and Conservation* | – Housing* | – Public Facilities and Infrastructure |
| – Land Use and Urban Design* | – Mobility and Circulation* | – Public Safety* |

Environmental Justice will be included throughout each element



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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

Guiding Principle 1: Maintain and strengthen portfolio of parks, trails, public recreation open spaces, and public recreation opportunities.

REVISED Policy PR-1.0: Use the park acreage-per-resident standard and facility service standards established in the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and community Services Master Plan (Parks and Recreation Master Plan), as periodically updated, to assess park and recreation needs and guide future acquisition, development, and investment decisions.

ORIGINAL Policy PR-1.1: Locate parks adjacent to compatible and mutually supportive uses, such as residential areas, greenbelts, trails, bicycle corridors, and schools.

REVISED Policy PR-1.2: Design and improve parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces to preserve and enhance natural site characteristics, respond to surrounding land uses and community context, and support the long-term function and quality of the parks system.



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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

REVISED Policy PR-1.3: Implement and periodically evaluate and update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Trails System Master Plan, and other relevant planning documents to guide parks, trails, facilities, and recreation programming, including adaptive and inclusive recreation opportunities, in response to changing community needs, demographics, recreation trends, and to align with on-the-ground conditions and industry standards for park and trail design and construction.

REVISED Policy PR-1.4: Provide trail access points, trailheads, wayfinding, identification signage, and supporting amenities consistent with the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Trails Master Plan, and other adopted planning documents.

PROPOSED Policy PR-1.5: Evaluate excess, underutilized, or undeveloped park properties based on community need, equitable access, recreational value, environmental benefits, level of service, and long-term maintenance considerations. Where repurposing or disposition of surplus park land is appropriate, follow applicable City procedures and legal requirements and, where legally permissible, prioritize reinvestment of proceeds in parks, recreation facilities, and underserved areas with the greatest need.



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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

PROPOSED Policy PR-1.6: Identify opportunities to acquire, develop, or designate land for future parks and public recreational open space. Evaluate appropriate City-owned properties for park, recreation, trail, or public recreational open-space use based on community need, accessibility, environmental conditions, and long-term feasibility.

PROPOSED Policy PR-1.7: Evaluate the City's long-term operational, staffing, and maintenance capacity when acquiring, developing, expanding, or accepting new parkland and recreation facilities.



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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

Guiding Principle 2: Provide safe City parks, trails and public recreational open space.

ORIGINAL Policy PR-2.0: Improve and create more connections and increase the safety of the bicycling, equestrian and pedestrian trail network within the City according to the Trails Master Plan.

ORIGINAL Policy PR-2.1: Periodically review the City's parks, facilities, community center programs and infrastructure to ensure that the facilities are safe and adequately meet the need of the neighborhood and user groups served.



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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

REVISED Policy PR-2.2: Incorporate lighting, high visibility, wayfinding, emergency access, and other appropriate safety measures into the design and improvement of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and public recreational open spaces in alignment with adopted codes and standards.

PROPOSED Policy PR-2.3: Maintain, rehabilitate, and replace parks, recreation facilities, trails, and associated infrastructure through preventive maintenance, routine inspection, long-term asset management, and prioritized capital investment to support safe, functional, and welcoming public facilities.



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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

Guiding Principle 3: Enhance equitable access to parks, public recreational open space, and public recreation opportunities.



REVISED Policy PR-3.0: Distribute park and recreation facilities throughout the community to provide equitable access for all residents. Use the service standards established in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to identify underserved areas and prioritize future park, recreation, and trail investment. To account for varying neighborhood densities and private open space capacities, in medium to high density residential zoned areas, strive to provide access to a park within a half-mile. In large-lot (over 10,500 square foot), semi-rural, and rural residential zoned areas strive to provide access to a park, public recreational open space, or trail within 3 miles.

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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

ORIGINAL Policy PR-3.1: Consider access using public transportation routes when determining locations for regional reserve parks, community parks, community centers and senior centers.

REVISED Policy PR-3.2: Increase pedestrian and cyclist trail connectivity between City, County and State public recreational open spaces and parks.

ORIGINAL Policy PR-3.3: Consider the needs of all age groups, abilities, disabilities and special user groups in park and recreation planning and design.

PROPOSED Policy PR-3.4: Prioritize park acquisition, facility improvements, amenities, programs, and recreation services in underserved areas identified through demographic, access, community needs, and other relevant data.

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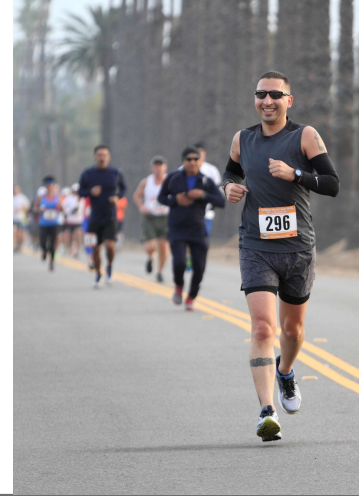
OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

Guiding Principle 4: Pursue partnerships and programs to help grow and maintain public recreational open spaces, parks, and recreation.

REVISED Policy PR-4.0: Encourage private development of parks, trails, and recreation facilities that complement and supplement the public recreational system.

REVISED Policy PR-4.1: Pursue partnerships and external funding opportunities with public agencies, regional organizations, tribal governments, and other appropriate entities to support the planning, development, enhancement, and long-term maintenance of parks, trails, public recreational open spaces, recreation facilities, and related connections.

REVISED Policy PR-4.2: Support recreational programs and community events, including walk-a-thons, running events, triathlons, bike races, and similar activities, that encourage active use of parks, trails, and the pedestrian network while fostering community engagement and stewardship.



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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

REVISED Policy PR-4.3: Engage regularly with residents and community members at the neighborhood level to obtain public feedback about existing park and recreation facilities, in order to inform designs and plans for new facilities.

PROPOSED Policy PR-4.4: Partner and coordinate with Tribal governments and representatives to support cultural interpretation, recreation programming, informational signage, and other park and open-space initiatives that recognize Tribal history, culture, resources, and traditional knowledge.

PROPOSED Policy PR-4.5: Maintain and periodically evaluate funding mechanisms to ensure that growth contributes to the acquisition, development, improvement, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities, while pursuing endowments, donations, park-generated revenue, landscape maintenance districts, park conservancies, and other sustainable funding strategies to support the long-term stewardship of the City's parks and recreation system.

PROPOSED Policy PR-4.6: Pursue partnerships and joint-use agreements to expand recreation opportunities, improve access to parks and public recreational open space, and support shared facilities, programming, and stewardship.



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OPEN SPACE, PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT – DRAFT POLICIES

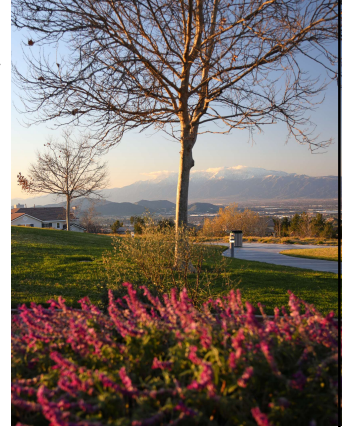
Guiding Principle 5: Promote sustainability and resiliency within parks and open spaces.

REVISED Policy PR-5.0: Incorporate sustainable and resource-efficient design strategies into the development and improvement of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, including climate-appropriate landscaping, water-efficient infrastructure, habitat-supportive planting, expanded hydration stations, durable materials, and maximizing energy efficiency at new and upgraded facilities.

REVISED Policy PR-5.1: Integrate climate resilience and natural resource stewardship into the planning, design, and management of parks and open spaces.

PROPOSED Policy PR-5.2: Increase shade and tree canopy throughout public parks and trails, through use of trees, shade structures, and other appropriate design measures to improve comfort, air quality, and resiliency to extreme heat.

PROPOSED Policy PR-5.3: Assess park buildings and improve them where needed for use as cooling/heating centers during extreme weather conditions and for other emergency response such as providing care and shelter during evacuation for wildfires.



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CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP)

- Concurrent with preparation of General Plan
- Upcoming CAAP presentation with more details



We're here!



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CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP)

- Inventory of current GHG Emissions and Climate Risks ^{MF1}
- Identifies future emissions profiles
- Sets ambitious, yet achievable emissions reduction targets for the City.
- A strategic roadmap to guide the City in reducing GHG emissions and preparing for climate risks.
- Includes both mitigation and adaptation efforts to promote a sustainable future for all.



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CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP)

- Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Sustainability Framework
- Integration with the General Plan Update

Find out more at:
Riverside2050.com



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Slide 15

MF1 [@Lee, Katera] can you add in the CAAP slides from the CPAC meeting? Not all will be relevant, but the background ones would be good.

Morales, Fortino, 2024-12-17T22:12:11.484

LK1 0 Will do!

Lee, Katera, 2024-12-17T22:54:44.821

LK1 1 [@Morales III, Fortino] I just added the bullet points that pointed to what the CAAP is.

Lee, Katera, 2024-12-18T00:51:01.827

RECOMMENDATION

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive and discuss draft policies for the Park and Recreation Element of the "Riverside 2050" General Plan Update



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