

7. RECREATION ELEMENT

7.1 Recreation Element Introduction

Recreation is an optional General Plan element under California law. The Recreation Element addresses parks and recreation facilities throughout the Anderson Planning Area, including both those owned and maintained by the City of Anderson and those under the purview of other agencies or, selectively, private entities. The Recreation Element is closely linked both to the Land Use Element and to the Open Space and Conservation Element.

The Anderson Park and Recreation Study of 1982 has served as the Master Plan but needs to be updated to establish policy, set standards, identify and prioritize capital investments (land, facilities), and address operational and fiscal matters.

The basic role of the General Plan, particularly the Recreation Element, is to provide an overall policy framework within which more specific “functional” plans and actions may occur. This Recreation Element, however, both establishes a policy framework and dictates some specifics (standards, park needs, creation and description of the Trails Network). The Master Plan process must have flexibility, but any departure from the General Plan shall require a General Plan amendment at the time of Master Plan adoption.

7.1.1 City of Anderson Parks

Historically, land for park and recreation facilities has been purchased by the City or donated to the City by public-spirited individuals.

The Anderson Subdivision Ordinance provides for land dedication for parks and recreation, and for in-lieu fees through which residential developments might facilitate parkland acquisition. The standard for park and recreation dedications or in lieu-fees established under provisions of the “Quimby Act” (Section 66477 of the State Government Code) is a maximum of 5 acres per 1,000 population.

The city owns and maintains three park/recreation facilities. These include two parks currently classified as community parks: Anderson River Park and Volonte Park. Both parks are in a constant process of being developed and improved.

An inventory of City owned/operated park and recreation facilities are as follows:

- Anderson River Park 430 acres
- Volonte Park 10 acres
- Veterans Memorial Park 1.7 acres
- Total City Parks 441.7acres**

Existing park and recreation facilities outside the Anderson City Limits, but within the Planning area and schools are as follows:

Recreation Facilities:

- Shasta District Fairgrounds,
State Highway 273 and Briggs Street 65 acres
- Anderson Tucker Oaks Golf Course,

Recreation Element

May 2007

6241 Churn Creek Road, Redding 60 acres.

- Frontier Senior Center,
2081 Frontier Trail, Anderson, CA <1 acre

Total Recreation Facilities: 126 acres

High Schools:

- Anderson Union High School,
1471 Ferry Street, Anderson, CA 98 acres
- North Valley High School,
20083 Olinda Road, Anderson, CA 80 acres
- Anderson New Technology H. S.,
2098 North Street, Anderson 3 acres

Total High Schools: 181 acres

Elementary Schools:

- Anderson Middle School,
1646 Ferry Street, Anderson CA 15 acres
- Anderson Heights Elementary School,
1530 Spruce Street, Anderson CA 15 acres
- Meadow Lane Elementary School,
2770 Balls Ferry Road, Anderson CA 10 acres
- Verde Vale Elementary School,
19415 Jacqueline St., Anderson CA 10 acres

Total Elementary Schools: 50 acres

Recreation Grand Total 357 acres

The Shasta District Fairground is situated on 65 acres featuring over 50,000 square feet of exhibit space in a park-like setting. The Fairgrounds are operated by the Fair Board and are not subject to City regulations. The Shasta District Fairgrounds has 3 large parking lots to accommodate 2,500 cars. The Shasta District Fairgrounds is the home of the annual Shasta District Fair held the 3rd week in June. The Fair draws over 105,000 people during the 5-day event, the largest event in Shasta County. The Fair features livestock exhibits, arts and crafts, carnival, entertainment, food and drink. The facility is classified as a regional park and is used year-round.

Anderson Union High School, operated by the Anderson High School District, includes substantial recreational and sports facilities on a 98 acre campus located on Ferry Street. The campus is within the Anderson City limits.

The total acreage of existing park and recreation facilities in the entire Planning area (City limits plus unincorporated area) is 798.7 acres. The Planning Area encompasses 12.9 square miles in the Sphere of Influence plus 6.3 square miles within the City Limits for a total of 19.2 square miles. Thus, existing parks and recreation areas, as defined to include school ground with public-access recreational areas comprise 6 percent of the Planning area.

7.1.2 Park Classification and Standards

The following classification system and standards are established, pending revision by the Park and Recreation System Master Plan and appropriate amendment to this General Plan:

A. Community Parks

Service area: City wide and unincorporated

Planning Area acreage standard: 5 acres/1,000 population

Minimum size: 40 acres

B. Neighborhood Parks

Service area: ½ mile radius (based on walking distance)

Acreage standard: 5 acres/1,000 population

Minimum size: 2 acres

C. Regional Parks

Services area: Larger than Community Park

Planning Area acreage standard: None

Minimum size: No standard

D. Specialized Areas and Special Purpose Parks

Service area: Variable, Trails, Private Parks, Mini-parks

Acreage standard: No standard

Minimum size: No standard

7.2 Recreation Issues

7.2.1 Park and Recreation Organization and Administration

Park and recreation organization and administration is critical to the provision of municipal recreation facilities and services. The City of Anderson recognized this need when it created the Parks and Recreation Commission in 1976. In a period of rising public expectations and expanding definitions of the recreation function, professional management and administration is a prerequisite to any public-sector recreation program.

7.2.2 Expanding Scope of the Park and Recreation Function

In decades past, the park-recreation function consisted of little more than acquiring, developing and maintaining traditional parks. Little changed from year to year – park facilities stayed the same and new parks were rarely added to the system. Public recreation today has changed dramatically, based on public expectations, needs and demands. There is a greater emphasis on recreation programs, organized activities and events. Public trails, pathways, linear parkways, mini-parks and natural open space are very different from conventional parks. Cultural facilities represent a further expansion of the community's perception of recreation.

7.2.3 Inter-agency Coordination

As Anderson enhances its park-recreation facilities and services over the next 20 years, substantial coordination with outside organizations, governmental and private, is imperative.

Involvement with Shasta County is essential to assure that the needs of citizens in the entire Community Region (Sphere of Influence, Planning Area) are addressed in a coordinated manner.

Implementation of a Trails Network will require close coordination with Shasta County and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Shasta District Fair Board and other agencies, if for no other reason than to assure access to public and quasi-public easements and rights-of-way. Similarly, private organizations have much to offer. Broader responsibilities and an expanded “scope of services” will necessitate unprecedented coordination and cooperation with outside entities.

7.2.4 Additional Park Needs

The following are identified as high priority park needs, subject to further analysis during the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan process:

- A. Extend, Enlarge and Protect Anderson River Park
- B. Infill area neighborhood parks
- C. Neighborhood parks in all Special Development Areas, when needed
- D. Provision for existing and future parks to serve as “community gathering places”

7.3 Recreation Trails Network

7.3.1 Recreation Trails Introduction

Creation of a pedestrian network serving Anderson and the Planning Area is a high priority of this General Plan. The Trails Sidewalks Network Concept Plan Map has been developed to show the conceptual “multipurpose” trail-sidewalk system directed by policies in the Recreation Element, Circulation Element, and Conservation/Open Space Element.

Versions of the trails concept have been part of Anderson General Plans since the first General Plan was adopted in 1968. Progress has been made in partnership with Public Health and State agency partners.

The Trails-Sidewalks Network is multi-purpose in that it serves both utilitarian and recreational needs. It is for the use of pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians, though not all segments are intended for use by all. The concept plan provides for a comprehensive system, not just isolated segments, for non-motorized vehicular use.

7.3.2 Recreation Trails Features

Following is a summary of features of the trails portion of the Trails-Sidewalks network:

- A. An integrated pedestrian/bicycle/equestrian “greenway” system for recreation and non-motorized vehicular transportation uses.
- B. Combines natural trails, where appropriate, with sidewalks set back from roadways in areas where trails are impractical.
- C. Utilizes public lands and rights-of-way to the maximum extent.
- D. Utilizes donations, easement dedications, development rights concessions and “friendly acquisition” of private land.
- E. Courses through designated open space and natural areas, providing access to Anderson’s natural amenities.
- F. Provides linkages between neighborhoods, recreation areas and parks, commercial, employment and cultural centers.
- G. Ties into external networks, including the Shasta County Trail System.

- H. Sidewalk segments - to be constructed along at least one side of all existing arterials and collectors – to be constructed on both sides of all new streets and roads other than freeways; and expressways – to be separated by a minimum of 8 feet from the edge of paved roadway, except in prohibitive circumstances.

- I. Trails segments – to occupy easements of 10 feet to 20 feet, unless exceptional circumstances dictate narrower widths; all segments available to pedestrians, wider segments provided for separate bicycle routes, equestrian routes determined selectively.

7.4 Recreation Goals, Objectives, Policies and Implementation Programs

7.4.1 Recreation Policies (RPP)

RPP-1 Allow for expanded and diverse recreational programs, areas and opportunities.

RPP-2 Facilitate community and cultural opportunities.

RPP-3 Encourage private facilities and programs to supplement public facilities and programs.

RPP-4 Promote City-sponsored recreation programs. (Health and Safety Element)

RPP-4 Establish general purpose community gathering places and facilities. (Noise Element)

RPP-5 Provide parks and open spaces of different sizes and types to respond to the needs of a diverse population, including trails for pedestrian and equestrian use, bicycle pathways, linear parkways and park-like natural areas. (Open Space and Conservation Element)
(Housing Element)

RPP-6 The parkland dedication standard shall be 5 acres per 1,000 population (for either neighborhood or community parks) consistent with the Quimby Act. (Land Use Element)

RPP-7 Ensure that neighborhood-park needs as well as community and regional-park needs are met.

RPP-8 Consider establishment of a City-sponsored open space district to operate and manage existing and future open space resources. (Open Space and Conservation Element)

RPP-9 Formalize and enhance walking trails in existing City parks. (Air Quality Element)
(Circulation Element) (Health and Safety Element)

RPP-10 Provide non-motorized linkages between parks and open spaces. (Air Quality Element) (Circulation Element)

RPP-11 Cooperate with other jurisdictions to address regional park and recreation needs.

RPP-12 Develop performing arts in various venues, including a performing arts center.

RPP-13 Support efforts to establish a community center for mixed ages and a variety of uses.

RPP-14 Develop and promote community trails to provide health benefits for all residents.
(Health and Safety Element)

RPP-15 Wherever possible, parking facilities for parks shall be located so as to provide shared-use opportunities with other public facilities such as schools.

7.4.2 Recreation Implementation Actions and Strategies (RPI)

- RPI-1 Update Parks and Recreation System Master Plan, incorporating appropriate provisions of this General Plan (including the Trails-Sidewalks Network Concept Plan) into the Master Plan. Establish clear priorities and phasing plans as part of the Master Plan process.
- RPI-2 Establish a formal mechanism for ongoing coordination with Shasta County to include, but not be limited to, joint-facility funding, agreement on plans, programs, services and activities.
- RPI-3 Establish and use neighborhood planning and participation to determine localized needs and desires for facilities and services.
- RPI-4 Pursue alternatives for funding recreation areas via homeowners associations, assessment districts and private organizations to ensure that parks are adequately funded.
- RPI-5 Provide a focal point and coordinating mechanism for the efforts of non-governmental entities involved in the acquisition of property or property rights related to City Parks and Recreation facilities.

RPI-6 Reserve land or entitlements in advance of need. Accept dedications and donations if potentially useful for future facilities.

RPI-7 Inform the general public of recreation-related facilities, services and future plans and actively solicit public opinion in return.

RPI-8 Private recreation areas shall be policed by the Anderson Police Department, which shall have full access to such facilities as needed to enforce public safety measures.

RPI-9 Assign full responsibility to the Parks and Recreation Commission for recreation and related planning, programming and administration.

RPI-10 Require a financial impact analysis during the review of development projects so the financial impacts to the City of providing required public recreation facilities and services will be explained and require that each project properly compensate for the full cost of providing those facilities and services through fee and other programs.

RPI-11 Annually review and amend fee and other programs that assure that the need of residents for public recreation services and facilities will be adequately served.

