

Parks and Recreation Element of the City of Arcata General Plan – Goals & Policies Excerpt, 1994

<p><b>GOAL I: TO PROVIDE A WIDE SPECTRUM OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARCATA RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES.</b></p>
<p><b>Policy I-A [PARK STANDARDS]</b>                  The City of Arcata shall annually review and establish standards and objectives and evaluate and address deficiencies. Evaluate new program ideas and incorporate if appropriate.</p>
<p>I-A1. Prior to budget development, determine the desired level of recreation programs.                  I-A2. Analyze the City's annual recreational report and use recommendations from staff supervisors.                  I-A3. Study non-City (private and other public) recreational programs and how they affect the City's programs.                  I-A4. Address the feasibility of new program ideas from all sources</p>
<p><b>GOAL II TO PROVIDE ALL RESIDENTS WITH A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF PARKS AND RELATED FACILITIES</b></p>
<p><b>Policy II-A [DEVELOP AND IMPROVE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES]</b>                  The City of Arcata shall continue to develop and improve the City's parks and related facilities.</p>
<p>II-A1. Annually prioritize which parks will be improved or developed, based on neighborhood needs, in accordance with Goal VI of this Plan. The priority schedule will be subject to budgetary constraints and access to other financial resources.                  II-A2. Conduct neighborhood surveys every three years to assess recreation needs.                  II-A3. Encourage adequate pedestrian, bicycle, and bus transportation to all recreational facilities and programs. Provide adequate parking and bicycle facilities for the intended use.                  II-A4. In selecting names for park and recreation facilities, consider names important to local native peoples or historic figures.</p>
<p><b>Policy II-B [ENCOURAGE PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES]</b>                  The City of Arcata shall encourage the development of privately operated recreation facilities within the City limits and sphere of influence.</p>
<p>II-B1. The City may enter into public/private partnerships with the providers of private recreation programs or facilities</p>
<p><b>Policy II-C [PARKLAND DEDICATION PROGRAM]</b>                  The City of Arcata shall acquire additional parklands as needed to accommodate population growth. Fees and or parkland dedications pursuant to the Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477, as amended) shall be used to provide or improve park and recreation facilities which serve the residents of the subdivision from which such fees or land are obtained. Community Parks serve all residents of the City of all residents of the City of Arcata.                  Whenever a Neighborhood Park exists, residents of a particular subdivision located in that neighborhood may be considered served by the existing Neighborhood Park. The term "neighborhood" is intended to be applied to the area from which residents can reasonably be expected to travel to use a park or facility. It is not intended to be applied in a strict manner, such as</p>

identifying the residents on one side of a street as being in one neighborhood, and the residents on the other side in a different neighborhood,

II-C1. Parkland acquisition shall be based on the following guidelines:

- i. At least 80% of each site should be flat (i.e., slopes not exceeding 5%). Remainder should not exceed 25% slope.
- ii. Land must be usable for the intended recreational purpose. This includes adequate size, shape, topography, and all other relevant conditions.
- iii. Sites must be free of hazardous or toxic contamination.
- iv. Land should not require an unusual amount of manual maintenance.
- v. Sites adjacent to schools should be acquired, if possible.
- vi. The minimum acceptable size is 1/2 acre (tot lot).
- vii. Riparian corridors, wetlands, and other undevelopable open spaces will not be acquired for park purposes unless there is some special reason to do so. Where such lands are accepted, development of parklands should minimize wildlife effects by recognizing existing values and avoiding the disturbance of riparian, wetland, and other wildlife habitats, wherever possible.
- viii. Land and facilities for public or private recreational community gardening should be considered if the neighborhood in which such site is to be located includes a significant number of dwelling units having minimal open space area for conducting gardening activities, and where significant interest is expressed that such a facility is needed. "Recreational community gardening" shall mean cultivation of plant material, not for sale, by persons other than, or in addition to, the owner of such land.
- ix. Park sites and facilities shall be located so as to reasonably serve the residents of the subdivision from which the land or fees are obtained; and shall reasonably related to the needs of the inhabitants of the subject subdivision, pursuant to GOAL IV, POLICY B.
- x. Park sites should have access to at least one existing or proposed public street. This requirement could be waived if the public street is unnecessary for the use or maintenance of the park.

II-C2. Parks are currently needed in the following areas:

- i. East of Highway 101, north of HSU.
- ii. Near the intersection of Spear Avenue and St. Louis Road.
- iii. South of Samoa Boulevard.
- iv. South of Eleventh Street, near Villa Way.
- v. In Bayside, near the post office.

II-C3. Additional parks will be needed in the following areas as new residential development occurs:

- i. Simpson Mill Site, Arcata bottoms.

- ii. Jacoby Creek area,
- iii. North of Bottom Road (Foster Avenue near Janes Creek)

II-C3. Acquire other sites if needed because growth patterns, available funding, opportunities, or statutory requirements.

**GOAL III: TO PROMOTE SHARING OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS WITH OTHER ENTITIES**

**Policy III-A [COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY MAINTENANCE]**

The City of Arcata shall encourage cooperative agreements, maintain good relations, and continue sharing equipment, facilities, fields, maintenance, and staff with other entities.

- III-A1. Conduct periodic meetings with cooperating entities.
- III-A2. Exchange maintenance, equipment, and staff with other entities on an as-needed basis.
- III-A3. Inter-group recreational programming and development will be a priority.

**Policy III-B [LOCATE PARKS NEAR SCHOOLS]**

The City of Arcata shall acquire and develop future park sites adjacent to schools wherever possible.

- III-BA1. If possible, the City will work with local school districts in the acquisition of properties.

**GOAL IV: [SUSTAINABLE PARKS DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT FUNDING]  
TO EMPHASIZE FISCAL EFFICIENCY IN THE PROVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS.**

**Policy IV-A [ DEVELOP AND IMPROVE WITH FUNDING]**

The City of Arcata shall develop and improve parks and related facilities as funds become available.

- IV-A1. Continue to seek grants from a variety of sources.
- IV-A2. Continue to use at least 20% of net forest revenues for park development, maintenance, and acquisition.
- IV-A3. Give priority to self-financing programs such as "adopt-a-park. "
- IV-A4. Where user fees are to be charged, fees will -reflect the cost of maintenance, staffing, and residential status and shall be available, upon request from the City Clerk.
- IV-A5. For all residential subdivisions, continue to accept parkland dedications, or fees in lieu of dedication, according to the following standards:
  - i. Land or fees shall be based on five (5) acres of parkland per 1,000 persons and in accordance with state statute (the Quimby Act; California Government Code Section 66477, as amended).
  - ii. Subdivisions having fifty-one or more lots shall automatically be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission for possible dedications. Any other subdivision, having five-or more lots, and that proposes to dedicate land in lieu of paying the fee, shall also be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission for possible dedications.
  - iii. Land accepted for dedication shall meet the guidelines specified under GOAL II, above.

iv. Riparian areas, wetlands, and forests shall be accepted for dedication only if it has been determined that the recreational needs of the area will be adequately met by other sites. Where such lands are accepted, development of parklands should minimize wildlife effects by recognizing existing values and avoiding the disturbance of riparian, wetland, and other wildlife habitats.

IV-A6. The City of Arcata shall maintain a five-year schedule, that specifies the disposition of fees and/or land acquired from any given subdivision. Fees will be committed within five years of receipt of issuance of building permits on one-half of created by the subdivision from which the fees obtained, whichever occurs later.

IV-A7. Upon dedication of fees, the Parks and Recreation Commission shall add those fees and the subdivision fees from which the fees are collected, to the schedule specified in (6) above.

**Policy IV-B [PARKLAND DEDICATION AND CREDIT FOR PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES]**

The City shall offer credit for private recreation facilities as specified in California Government Code Section 66477 or where it is determined that proposed private recreation facilities are in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Arcata.

IV-BA1. The maximum amount of credit for private recreation facilities (land and improvements) shall be 50% of the land or fees that would normally be dedicated or paid, respectively. To be given credit, improvements to the private park facility, and equipment provided must conform to the Recommended Development Standards specified in the Parks and Recreation Element Technical Report. Private recreation facilities given credit shall have the following characteristics:

- i. The proposed recreation facility should not be located on land needed for a public park or recreation facility.
- ii. The proposed recreation facility shall be within the boundaries of the subdivision and available to all of the residents of the subdivision within which it is located and which it is intended to serve.
- iii. The proposed recreation facility for which credit is being given shall have some improvements. The Recommended Development Standards specified in the Parks and Recreation Element Technical Report shall be used as a guide for such improvements.
- iv. The proposed recreation facility should be for recreational suitable and usable activities.
- v. Provisions shall be made for development, improvements and maintenance of the proposed recreation facility, sufficient for its intended use.
- vi. In the case of subdivisions not required to be given credit pursuant to California Government Code Section 66477; the proposed recreation facility shall be necessary for the security, safety, and well-being of the residents of the subdivision.

**GOAL V: TO PROVIDE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THEIR ENVIRONMENT.**

**Policy V-A [MINIMIZE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS]**

The City of Arcata shall support a system of recreational services and facilities which minimize adverse impacts on the environmental; fiscal, and social well-being of Arcata.

V-A1. Conduct periodic meetings with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Forest Management Advisory Committee, and the Creeks and Wetlands Advisory Committee.

V-A2. Parks will be developed in a manner which minimizes adverse wildlife impacts and enhances wildlife habitat, if possible.

V-A3. Colorful landscaping will be used at the Plaza, City Hall, Ballfield, and the Community Center

**GOAL VI: TO BRING PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES INTO COMPLIANCE WITH CHANGING FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND ENCOURAGE USER SAFETY.**

**Policy VI-A [COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO SAFETY AND ACCESS]**

The City of Arcata shall establish priorities to ensure compliance with the requirements of federal and state laws .

VI-A1. Assure that compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Consumer Safety Commission Guidelines and other state or federal requirements is given top priority in City programs.

**Policy VI-B [ RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM]**

The City of Arcata shall maintain a risk management program for park and recreation programs and facilities.

VI-A1. Develop a maintenance check schedule for parks and recreation facilities.

VI-A2. Encourage user safety.

VI-A3. Enact a staff safety awareness and training program.