

# **PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

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# IMPERIAL COUNTY GENERAL PLAN PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose of the Element

The purpose of the Imperial County Parks and Recreation Element is to establish a framework for the stewardship of County parks and other recreational amenities that enhance the quality of life of County residents and visitors. Pertinent factors, such as existing park conditions, funding sources, and anticipated recreational needs, are identified within this document. In response to these factors, goals, policies, and an implementation plan have been established to guide the development and long-term maintenance of a park system within the County.

### B. Legal Authority

The Parks and Recreation Element is an optional element of the General Plan, consistent with the requirements set forth in the California Government Code Section 65302 and other applicable sections. The Parks and Recreation Element applies to all unincorporated land within the County.

This Element supports environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) for proposed projects, in addition to determining the extent that proposed projects promote the Element goals. This Element sets forth policies to enforce the Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) which allows the County to require the payment of fees or dedication of land for park or recreational purposes as a condition of the approval of new subdivisions.

### C. Framework

The Parks and Recreation Element policy section addresses: (1) the condition and location of existing parks; (2) the classification of parks and other recreational amenities; (3) anticipated park and recreational needs by County residents and visitors; (4) the establishment, duties, and authority of a Parks and Recreation Commission; (5) the maintenance and enhancement of existing parks and recreational amenities; (6) the acquisition and development of regional, community, and neighborhood parks and recreational amenities; (7) the promotion of greater cooperation and coordination between incorporated cities, the State, and the Federal government to establish joint-use parks and recreational amenities; (8) the conservation and promotion of water bodies and adjoining areas for recreation; (9) the procurement of funding; and (10) the encouragement of park tourism and related businesses.

## II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

### A. Preface

Imperial County is located in a rich, fertile valley in the midst of the Sonoran Desert. With its varied terrain, from rugged mountains to soft, sandy hills, and its bodies of water, such as the Colorado River and Salton Sea, the County has abundant natural recreational opportunities, such as off-highway activities, hiking, and boating. In and around its urban settlements and vast farmland, the County also has many parks, which vary from small, neighborhood parks with playgrounds to large, regional parks with manmade lakes. This section focuses primarily on parks within the unincorporated area of the County.

### B. Park Classification

Parks within the unincorporated area of the County are classified by a combination of various factors including size, number of amenities, location, ease of access, and oversight (Federal, State, or County). The following list details the classification of each park type:

- 1. Limited Facility Park:** Amenities at this type of park are minimal, with one primary function and possibly some accessory uses. This type of park may be of any size and is usually located in the open desert area of the County. Examples of this park type include marinas, boat launching areas, and trail heads.
- 2. Neighborhood Park:** These parks are small (usually less than three acres) and are located within the confines of an unincorporated community and within walking distance of a residential district for ease of access by pedestrians. Typically these parks have two or three amenities, such as playgrounds or other active uses and landscaped areas for passive, leisurely uses such as light walking and sitting. As these parks are pedestrian-oriented, they usually only have curbside parking. Often Neighborhood Parks are referred to as Pocket Parks when they are embedded within a residential block. These parks may be maintained by the County or an Assessment District, as is typical for newer subdivisions.
- 3. Community Park:** Larger than a Neighborhood Park (from 3-80 acres), these parks are shared by the entire local community. This type of park is usually entirely within an unincorporated community and typically has a major active recreational use such as athletic fields or courts which the entire community uses. Numerous onsite amenities, not usually available at a neighborhood park, such as baseball fields, basketball courts, and larger picnic areas are located within a Community Park. These parks are easily accessible by pedestrians or by vehicles and typically include small onsite parking facilities.

4. **Regional Park:** Outside or inside of a community, but with ease of access from a major road, these parks are shared by the entire populace of the County. These parks are much like community parks except they are typically larger and are meant to serve the entire County. In addition to sports fields and grassy leisure areas with picnic tables, a regional park is usually distinguished by a water feature such as a pond or lake. Excepting pedestrians from nearby residential areas, Regional Parks usually are accessed by vehicle; hence, they include onsite parking facilities. Regional Parks are typically maintained by the County, but may also be maintained by a city or special district.
  
5. **State and Federal Parks:** These parks are maintained by the State or Federal government. These parks are typically large pieces of land, and may include hundreds of acres under wildlife preserve with designated areas for human use. These parks usually attract visitors from outside the County and typically have outdoor recreational opportunities, with trails for hiking, designated areas for camping and off-highway driving, and wildlife preserves where access is limited or prohibited. These parks are located outside of the County farmland area and must be driven to, in order to access. Onsite parking is found at these parks, but usually the parking is unimproved (i.e. without pavement or designated parking stalls).

**C. Existing Parks:**

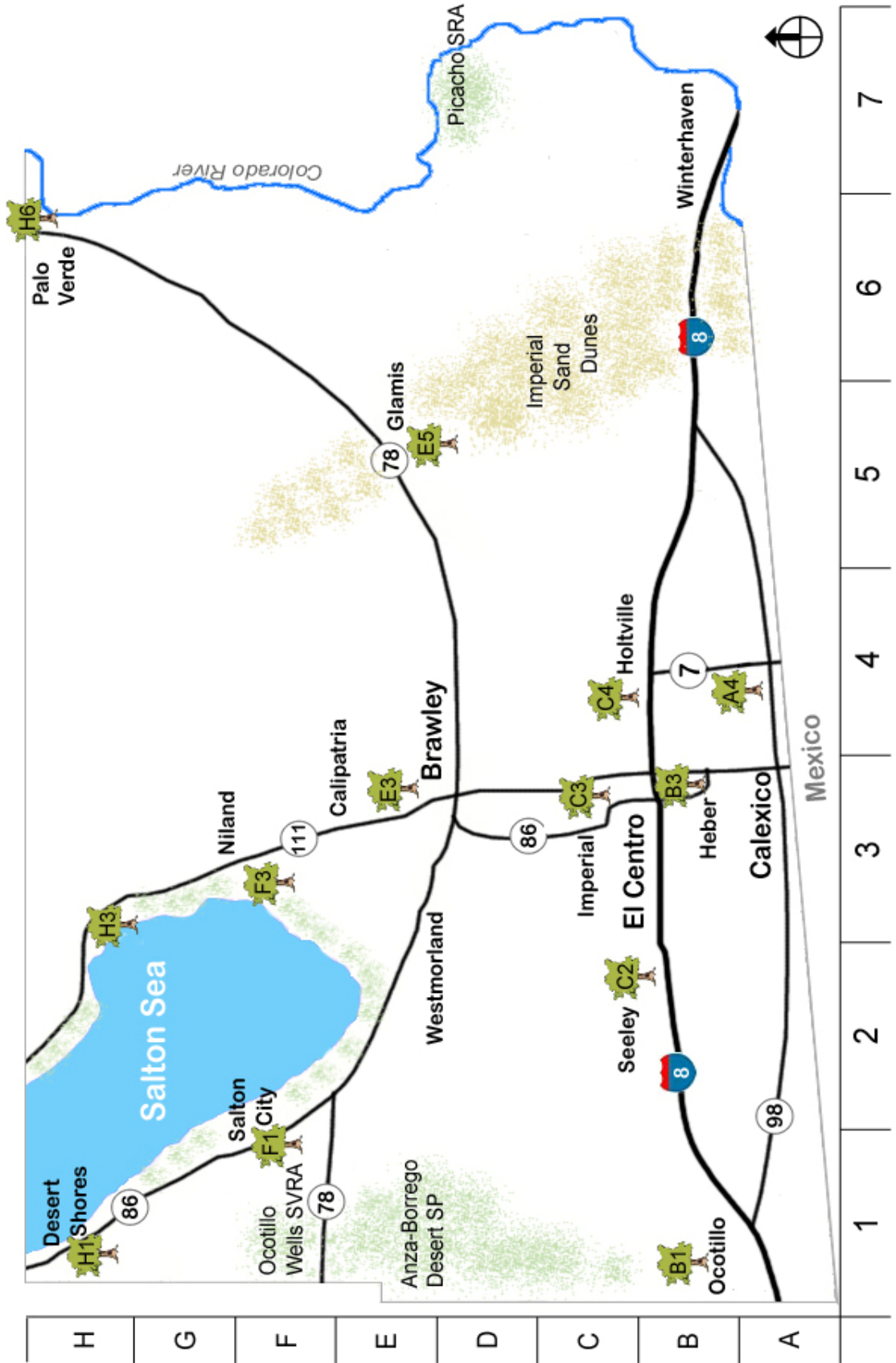
The County has parks within each of the five classification types mentioned above. The location of parks in the unincorporated area of the County is shown in Figure 1 on the following page.

**1. Limited Facility Parks**

The County has four Limited Facility Parks: Palo Verde Park (H6 in Figure 1), Osborne Park (E5) and Niland Marina (H3). Palo Verde Park sits on a 13.6 acre parcel along the Colorado River at Oxboe Lake, a fishing hole. The park, which is owned and operated by the County, contains a boat ramp, restrooms, a ramada and a storage structure. The park is located within the town of Palo Verde and is accessible from Highway 78.



Figure 1: Parks in Unincorporated County Area



Osborne Park is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and is an access point to the Imperial Sand Dunes area for off-highway vehicles, with a paved access road and an improved parking area. The park, which is near Glamis, has a small shade structure with a picnic table and storage room. No restrooms or other amenities are found at the park.



Niland Marina Park is a County-owned park on the shores of the Salton Sea near Bombay Beach, off of Highway 111. The park is closed as some of the facilities are inundated. The park served primarily as a boat launch area and included restrooms, shade structures, a pump house and an office.

## **2. Neighborhood Parks:**

Three neighborhood parks are located within the unincorporated area of the County; two in Heber (B3) and one in Salton City (F1). The two parks in Heber are within tract developments and are privately maintained. The two parks, one of which is a pocket park tucked in the bend of a quiet residential street, have playgrounds and landscaping. The Martin Flora Park, which is maintained by the Salton Community Services District, is a small one-acre neighborhood park in Salton City that fronts the Salton Sea and includes restrooms and picnic tables.

## **3. Community Parks:**

The County has four Community Parks: one in Ocotillo (B1), Heber (B3), Salton City (F1), and Desert Shores (H1). The park in Ocotillo is a multi-use facility with a walking path, basketball court, baseball field, and community center located on the western outskirts of town with sweeping views of the desert landscape and mountains. The park is easily accessible with direct access to Imperial Highway and improved onsite parking facilities.

The Community Park in Heber consists of a baseball field on the western edge of a newer residential subdivision. The field is used by the entire community; however, there are no extra recreational amenities at the site and parking is limited to the curbside. The park is maintained by the Heber Public Utility District.



Salton City Park, which is maintained by the Salton Community Services District, is a 10.7 acre Community Park with shade trees, picnic tables, a covered patio area, barbecue stands, restrooms, a basketball court, a swimming pool, and a covered playground. Desert Shores Park, which is also maintained by the Salton Community Services District, is a 5.25 acre Community Park with a covered playground, restrooms, picnic tables, barbecue stands, a basketball court, and a baseball field.

#### **4. Regional Parks:**

Five Regional Parks are located in the County: Sunbeam Lake (C2), Wiest Lake (E3), Heber Dunes (A4), Red Hill Marina (F3) and Pioneer's County Park (C3). Sunbeam Lake Park, a 117-acre County-maintained park south of Seeley near Interstate 8, includes a small lake and lagoon. Some of the land at Sunbeam Lake Park is leased to a private RV Park, which has a pool and spa. The park includes shade trees, barbecue stands, tables, ramadas, and restrooms with showers. In addition to fishing, the lake can be used for swimming, jet skiing, and boating. The park includes improved onsite parking and is easily accessible by residents of the south end of the County from Interstate 8, with direct access to Drew Road.

Wiest Lake Park is a 62.6 acre park located northeast of Brawley off of Highway 111. The park includes a small lake, a camping area, barbecue pits, ramadas, picnic tables, restrooms with showers, and a recreation hall. The lake is used primarily for fishing. The park primarily serves north end County residents. The park is easily accessible from Rutherford Road and includes improved onsite parking.



Heber Dunes Park is located off of State Route 7, near the Calexico East Port of Entry. The 323-acre park is currently being leased by the County to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The most prominent feature of the park is its sand dunes, which are used for off-highway recreation. The park has abundant shade from tamarisk trees and includes amenities such as restrooms, ramadas, picnic tables, and barbecue stands.

Red Hill Marina Park is a 10-acre park on an island on the southeastern shores of the Salton Sea, northeast of Calipatria. The park is somewhat more difficult to access than other parks as it is seven miles from State Route 111, the nearest major road. The park is connected by a causeway to Garst Road, which is a County-maintained road that runs north to south. The park includes boat launches, RV hookups, a designated camping area, restrooms, ramadas, picnic tables, and plenty of shoreline for fishing.

Pioneer's County Park is a 22-acre park off of State Route 111 by Imperial Valley College. The park mainly serves as campus to the Pioneers Museum and Cultural Center, which is privately managed by the Imperial County Historical Society. In addition to the museum, the park includes several outdoor exhibits: a shade structure, restrooms, and a train station building with a patio.

## **5. State and Federal Parks:**

The County contains large areas of State and Federal parkland. The State maintains four major park areas in the County, which include the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, the Picacho State Recreation Area, the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area, and a portion of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The Federal government's main parkland area is the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation and Wilderness Area. Both Federal and State parkland are in wilderness areas of the County, serving to protect wildlife habitat while providing for outdoor recreational opportunities.

The Salton Sea State Recreation Area is located on the northeastern shore of the Salton Sea, north of Bombay beach, off of State Route 111. The park has many amenities, including campsites, nature trails, boat ramps, picnic tables, restrooms, RV hookups, and a visitor center. The park is easily accessible from State Route 111 and includes onsite parking facilities. The park attracts visitors primarily from Southern California.

Picacho State Recreation Area is located along a seven mile stretch of the Colorado River, about 24 miles north of Winterhaven. The park is difficult to access, because the only road with which to access it, is mostly unpaved. The park features hiking trails, campsites, boat ramps, picnic areas, restrooms, and recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, hiking, boating and kayaking.

Anza-Borrego Desert State park and Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area are two adjoining parkland areas in the western open desert area of the County. Both parks are accessible from State Route 78, which connects to State Route 86 near the Salton Sea. Anza-Borrego Park features nature trails, campsites, picnic areas, restrooms, RV hookups, and parking areas, however, part of the park which lies in the County is not open to the public. Ocotillo Wells primarily serves as an off-highway vehicle recreation area. The park has amenities such as ramadas, picnic tables, fire pits, restrooms, and pay showers.

The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation and Wilderness Area is large swath of open desert extending about 40 miles in the eastern part of the County. The park has Federal oversight from the Bureau of Land Management. The park, with sand dunes that rise up to 300 feet, is used primarily as an off-highway area for dune buggies, dirt bikes, quads, and other OHVs (Off Highway Vehicles). The park also includes wilderness areas that are closed to the public to preserve wildlife habitats. Amenities at the park are limited to dry camping with a few pit toilets and porta-potties interspersed throughout the park. The park is accessible from Interstate 8 and State Route 78.

**Policy:** The County Department of Parks and Recreation shall maintain and annually update a free-standing document with an inventory of parks within the unincorporated area of the County, the resources available at each park, and a corresponding map with the location of each park. Section II.C of this Element shall be amended every four years to reflect changes in the parks inventory.

### **III. Anticipated Park Needs**

#### **A. Preface**

As the coastal areas of California have become built-out and increasingly unaffordable the inland areas have become attractive alternatives in which to live. With growth pressures from San Diego and Los Angeles, and an impulse of economic trade with Mexico stimulated by the North American Free Trade Agreement, population growth in the County has been phenomenal and is slated to continue being so in the coming years.

#### **B. Needs Assessment**

The current population (2006) of the entire County is estimated at 166,585 with an annual growth rate of about 3%.<sup>1</sup> The population for the unincorporated area of the County is estimated at 36,166. If the annual growth rate for the County maintains itself at 3% and the proportion of the unincorporated population of the County remains the same, as it is at present, the unincorporated population of the County is expected to reach 40,705 by 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Finance, 2006.

Figure 2: Unincorporated County Population

2006	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
36,166	40,705	47,188	54,704	63,417	73,518

County policy stipulates that five acres of parkland should be dedicated for every 1,000 people. Currently there are about 250 acres of public parkland, excluding state and federal parks, and County parks that have been closed (Figure 3).

Figure 3: County Park Acreage

Park	Palo Verde	Wiest Lake	Sunbeam Lake	Red Hill Marina	Pioneer's	Ocotillo	Salton City	Desert Shores	Heber	Total Gross
Acres	13.6	62.6	117.0	10.0	22.0	4.0	11.7	5.3	4.5	250.7

Based on the figure of providing five acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents the current parkland need for the unincorporated portion of the County is about 180 acres, which indicates that based on the gross acreage figure above the County has a surplus in parkland. The total park acreage in Figure 3, however, includes bodies of water and undeveloped parkland, often with primitive landscaping and no facilities.

**Goal:** The County will strive to provide its populace with usable and functional landscaped parks with recreational amenities such as playgrounds and athletic fields, and facilities such as restrooms and ramadas.

**Policy:** In calculating park acreage, the County shall have a gross figure and a net figure. The gross figure shall include all developed and undeveloped parkland. The net figure shall only include improved and developed parkland and shall exclude bodies of water and undeveloped land.

**Goal:** The County shall provide five net acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

The total park acreage in Figure 3 is the existing total of gross acres of parkland in the unincorporated area of the County. The existing net acreage is estimated at about 160 acres, once lakes and undeveloped portions of the parks are excluded. This leaves the County with a current park deficit of about 20 acres. With current population projections, about 4,500 additional people will reside in the unincorporated part of the County in the next four years, necessitating 22.5 more acres of parks. By 2020, about 93 more acres of parks will be needed and by 2030 an estimated 187 additional acres of parkland solely to serve residents within the unincorporated area of the County.

Although the figures above focus on the park needs of residents of the unincorporated area of the County, parks throughout the County, particularly regional parks such as Sunbeam Lake and Wiest Lake, serve all County residents and visitors alike. Hence, because County parks also serve those living within cities, the parks need is greater than represented in the previous figures, especially if the net population increase of incorporated County communities is taken into account.

**Goal:** To achieve the target of five acres per 1,000 people, the County will actively work to reopen closed parks, improve and/or expand existing parks, and establish new parks.

**Goal:** The County will work to establish a new regional park along McCabe Road.

**Policy:** New development shall include the dedication of one acre of improved parkland for every 50 housing units (provided directly or as an in lieu fee).

**Goal:** The County will seek greater cooperation between cities and special districts to ensure adequate funding of joint-use parkland areas.

#### **IV. Parks and Recreation Commission**

##### **A. Preface**

To formulate additional goals and achieve existing goals of this Element an entity composed of stakeholders representative of the County is needed. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been established and been vested by the Board of Supervisors with the authority and duty to implement the goals and policies of this Element.

##### **B. General Responsibilities**

In addition to helping achieve the goals of this Element, the Parks and Recreation Commission has the following responsibilities:

1. Serve as the main advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to the budgeting, design, maintenance, construction, operation, use, and maintenance of County parks.
2. Maintain present park areas and facilities up to acceptable standards.
3. Plan for future park areas and facilities.
4. Serve as the discretionary body to review and approve or deny new park plans.
5. Give consideration and study as to how recreation and park services affect the welfare of the community.
6. Serve as a sounding board against which the Planning Director and staff may test their plans and ideas.
7. Recommend new goals and policies acknowledging that their adoption is the prerogative of the Board of Supervisors.

8. Work with individuals, businesses, civic clubs and citizen groups to generate funds, gather property, and/or manpower for the development and operation of park and recreation facilities
9. Foster collaboration between cities and the County to establish an adequately funded regional park system.
10. Foster collaboration between the County and developers.
11. Periodically evaluate the progress of acquisition and development of parkland, effectiveness of recreation programs, and level of maintenance of park facilities.
12. Generally enlist community interest in parks and recreation.

### **C. Membership**

The Parks and Recreation Commission consists of 10 members, including the General Manager of the Imperial Irrigation District, the Executive Director of the Imperial County Farm Bureau, the Chairman of the Imperial County Planning Commission, a member from the geothermal industry, the Plant Manager of US Gypsum Co., the president of a youth athletic program, a member of the Sand and Gravel Mining Association, a member of BIA, and two members from the general public. The term of each Commissioner is four years, with the first term of half of the Commissioners at six years.

### **V. Park Design and Maintenance Standards**

#### **A. Preface**

Imperial County is located in harsh, desert environment with little rainfall and extreme summer heat. Careful selection of landscaping and other park design standards is important to ensure that parks can be adequately maintained without incurring too much cost in labor, water, or other resources, while ensuring that the quality of the parks is not compromised.

#### **B. Landscaping Policies**

**Policy:** The County shall maintain landscaping at its parks in clean and viable condition, free of debris and junk material.

**Policy:** If the park includes native natural habitat and plant species, those shall be maintained and incorporated within the park to the extent feasible.

**Goal 5:** To conserve water at County parks.

**Policy:** To promote water conservation all vegetation installed shall follow xeriscape principles for reduced total water consumption.

Xeriscaping is a method of water efficient landscaping in which the design of the landscape is divided into high, moderate, and low-water usage zones and in which advantage is taken of conditions of sun, slope, moisture and air movement. In addition, xeriscaping incorporates efficient irrigation, improved soil permeability and water holding capacity, limiting turf to practical areas, the use of mulches, and the selection of appropriate plant species.

**C. Park Amenities**

Essential to good park design is the appropriate selection and configuration of facilities and recreational amenities. The following chart describes the design elements of each park classification in the County:

**Figure 4: Park Design Elements**

Classification	Service Area	Desirable Size	Desirable Amenities
Neighborhood	1/2 Mile Radius, within walking distance of at least one neighborhood	0.5-3 acres	Turf, shade trees, shrubs, benches, playground or athletic court
Community	2 Mile Radius, within walking distance of several neighborhoods and within five minutes (driving time) of entire community	3-80 acres	Onsite parking, turf, shade trees, extensive landscaping, benches, ramadas, picnic tables, barbecue stands, restrooms, one or more athletic courts, one or more sports fields, playground, walking path
Regional	Within 20 minutes of multiple communities	40+ acres	Onsite parking, turf, shade trees, extensive landscaping, native habitat preservation area, benches, ramadas, picnic tables, barbecue stands, restrooms, one or more athletic courts, one or more sports fields, playground, a major water feature such as a swimming pool, pond or lake, jogging trail, assembly hall

**Policy:** Neighborhood parks shall be primarily focused on serving the needs of the surrounding demographic. If near a housing tract with many children the park shall serve the children's walk-to or bike-to recreation needs. If near a senior mobile home park or apartment complex, the park shall focus on passive recreational uses. When possible, neighborhood parks should be embedded within the neighborhood.

**Policy:** Community parks and recreation facilities shall provide a focal point and gathering place for the larger community. Community parks are generally 10 to 44 acres in size, are for use by all sectors and age groups, and may include multi-purpose fields, ball fields, group picnic areas, playground, tot lot, multi-purpose hard courts, swimming pool, tennis courts, and a community center.

**Policy:** Regional parks and recreation facilities shall incorporate natural resources such as lakes and creeks and serve a region involving more than one community. Facilities may include multi-purpose fields, ball fields, group picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming facilities, amphitheaters, tennis courts, multi-purpose hard courts, shooting sports facilities, concessionaire facilities, trails, nature interpretive centers, campgrounds, equestrian related facilities, natural or historic points of interest, and community multi-purpose centers.

#### **D. Park Maintenance**

Several County parks have fallen into disrepair and one park has been closed entirely (Niland Marina). To close the present and future project park deficit, the County has existing parkland that can be improved and/or expanded. The Niland Marina could be reopened. The parks (existing and future) should all incorporate the general design elements described in Figure 4.

**Policy:** The County shall adequately maintain existing parks and avoid their disrepair or closure.

**Policy:** Existing parks shall be improved to reflect the design guidelines in this Element.

**Goal:** The County shall try to reopen all its parks and acquire new parkland.

#### **VI. Park Acquisition and Development Policies**

The County is responsible for the acquisition and development of regional parks and for assisting in the acquisition and development of neighborhood and community parks to serve County residents and visitors.

**Policy:** The County shall assist in the development of regional, community, and neighborhood parks, ensure a diverse range of recreational opportunities at a regional, community, and neighborhood level, and provide park design guidelines and development standards for park development. The following national standards shall be used as guidelines for the acquisition and development of park facilities:

**Policy:** The parkland dedication/in-lieu fees shall be directed towards the purchase and funding of neighborhood and community parks.

**Policy:** Encourage and support efforts of independent recreation districts to provide parks and recreation facilities. The joint efforts of Community Services Districts, independent recreation districts, school districts, cities, and the County to provide parks and recreation facilities shall also be encouraged. For areas in which cities and districts have park and recreation taxing authority, County policy is that such cities and districts shall assume the total cost of developing community park facilities.

**Policy:** The County shall adopt a Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program to meet current and future needs.

**Policy:** The County will identify and secure funding sources, where possible, to implement the Capital Improvement Program.

**Policy:** As a priority, the County shall continue to plan for and develop existing County owned regional and community park sites.

**Policy:** The County shall focus park acquisition on recreation oriented facilities as opposed to open space.

## **VII. Funding Mechanisms**

The County must secure an adequate and stable source of funding to implement this Element successfully. Land dedicated to the County under the Quimby Act and Quimby in-lieu fees shall continue to be used primarily to meet neighborhood park needs but may assist in meeting the community park standards as well. The Quimby Act, passed in 1975, is a State Ordinance that requires developers to help mitigate the impacts of property improvements. The Act is designed to ensure “adequate” open space acreage in a jurisdiction through the use of Quimby Act standards (e.g., 3-5 acres of open space per 1,000 residents). Developers must set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. The land, fees, or combination thereof are to be used only for the purpose of developing new or rehabilitating existing neighborhood or community parks, or recreational facilities, to serve the subdivision. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.

Other types of funding including Federal, State, and private grants, user-fees, concession agreements, and private contributions to fund the construction of facilities such as trails along abandoned railroad lines (Rails-to-Trails) along rivers and creeks and to acquire historical or archaeologically significant land for parks.

**Policy:** The Parks and Recreation Commission shall review all tentative subdivision maps of 50 parcels or more outside community service districts and special recreation districts boundaries and will provide recommendations to the Planning Commission for appropriate provision of recreation services.



**Policy:** New development projects of 50 or more lots shall provide for the local recreation needs (e.g., primarily neighborhood parks) of its residents and provide mechanisms (e.g., homeowners associations, or benefit assessment districts) for the ongoing development and maintenance needs of these facilities.

**Policy:** The County will cooperate with cities and independently funded districts to help acquire land and develop facilities for neighborhood and community parks as funding allows.

**Policy:** The County shall work with local districts and County services area recreation advisory committees to secure neighborhood park sites by use of the Quimby Act Implementing Ordinance.

**Policy:** The County shall study the feasibility of adopting an impact fee schedule and a County-wide benefit assessment district to pay for the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of regional parks and facilities.

**Policy:** The County shall actively pursue lands that can be transferred to the County from Federal, State, and other ownerships suitable and needed for public use.

**Policy:** Institute a system whereby user fees and concessions of various sorts (e.g., food and beverage vendors, gift shops, and boat rental facilities), wherever possible, contribute to the operation and maintenance costs of a facility.

**Policy:** Actively encourage private sector donations of land and/or conservation easements through the use of various land use mechanisms (such as density transfers).

**Policy:** Actively encourage private sector donations of structures, materials, funds, and/or labor to reduce acquisition, development, and maintenance costs.

**Policy:** The County will encourage private sector development, operation, and maintenance of recreation facilities.

## **VIII. Government Cooperation**

Due to the regional aspect of the County park system, it is important to attain collaboration between the County, cities, and other stakeholders in order to achieve a successful County park system.

**Goal:** Coordinate future park planning and development with Federal, State, cities, community service districts, school districts, and other recreation agencies and districts to provide increased recreation opportunities through shared use of facilities, continuity and efficiency of operation, and a more coordinated and balanced park system.

**Policy:** Encourage special districts to provide community and neighborhood parks for those areas desiring a higher level of service.