

Recreation Needs Assessment
City of Pacific Grove

Appendix E: Recreation Goals and Policies

Excerpt from the Pacific Grove General Plan. Full plan can be found at: <https://www.cityofpacificgrove.org/living/community-economic-development/planning/general-plan>

- 26. Hayward Park, Dedicated to City Volunteers (1.07 acres), located adjacent to Crocker Avenue from Sinex Avenue to Sunset Drive, was donated to the City in 1990 for open space. It will be developed with a trail for hiking and biking. The landscaping will maintain the natural look of Asilomar with native plants and trees typical of the area.
- 27. The Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way (12.9 acres), owned by the Southern Pacific Land Company, extends from the Monarch Pines Mobile Home Park on the east to Sinex Avenue on the south. The grassy, tree-lined right-of-way passes through the Pacific Grove Municipal Golf Course. Local residents walk and jog along the portion between Lighthouse Avenue and Hayward Park.
- 28. Point Pinos Lighthouse Reservation (33.3 acres of shoreline and open space, in addition to the 54 acres used by the Municipal Golf Course), includes the Point Pinos Lighthouse and the stretch of rocky beach and shoreline around Point Pinos from Asilomar Avenue to Jewell Avenue. Point Pinos Lighthouse is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the west coast. It is open to visitors on weekends.

H. Public Schools, 85.9 acres

- 29. There are three elementary schools (30.23 acres) in Pacific Grove. Robert H. Down School is bounded by Pine Avenue and Junipero Avenue, between 12th Street and Fountain Avenue. Forest Grove Elementary School is located on Congress Avenue next to Pacific Grove High School. David Avenue School is located on David Avenue west of Congress Avenue. Each provides grassy playing fields, playground equipment, and visual open space.
- 30. Lighthouse Adult School (6.15 acres) is bounded by Lighthouse Avenue, 17 Mile Drive, Short Street, and Ridge Road. Formerly an elementary school, the facility houses the administrative offices for the Pacific Grove Adult Education program and is a site for adult education classes. The grassy fields behind the school include a baseball diamond, and serve as visual open space.
- 31. Pacific Grove Middle School and District Office (11.5 acres) is bounded by Hillcrest, Carmel, Sinex, and Forest Avenues. Facilities include a quarter-mile track and athletic field, outdoor basketball courts, a gym, and a 600-seat auditorium.

- 32. Pacific Grove High School (38 acres) is bounded by Congress Avenue, Sunset Drive, and Forest Lodge Road. Facilities include a football stadium and a quarter-mile track, two large baseball fields, eight tennis courts, a gym, and a swimming pool.

I. Visual Open Space Resources, 33.7 acres

- 33. El Carmelo Cemetery (12.3 acres) is a visual open space resource contiguous to the Municipal Golf Course east of Asilomar Avenue and north of Lighthouse Avenue.
- 34. California-American Water Reservoir (8.94 acres) is a visual open space resource near the eastern edge of the Planning Area, on a site bounded by 14th Street and Hillcrest, Carmel, and David Avenues.
- 35. Stanford University’s Hopkins Marine Station (12.48 acres) is located on the coast side of Ocean View Boulevard between Eardley Avenue and 3rd Street. It provides important visual open space at the eastern end of the coastal park network.

5.2 PARK GOALS AND POLICIES

The City’s Recreation Master Plan was prepared in 1957. A draft update was prepared in 1977 but was never officially adopted. Development of recreation facilities and planning for additional facilities continued nonetheless. In 1987, the City created a 25-member committee to study the feasibility of improving and expanding recreation facilities at Pacific Grove High School and Forest Grove School through a joint use concept. At that time, no feasible facility-sharing opportunities were identified.

From time to time, the City is presented with opportunities to acquire open space lands that are unique, that would complement existing open space, or that are relatively inexpensive. This General Plan attempts to designate adequate land for development of quasi-public and public uses, including parks; however, the City has no comprehensive framework for evaluating open space acquisition opportunities, nor has it a financial plan for buying open space.

GOAL 1 **Maintain a public park system and recreation facilities suited to the needs of all Pacific Grove residents**

and visitors.

GOAL 2 Designate adequate land for developing parks and recreation facilities.

To carry out these goals, the City will establish new park standards and seek outside financial assistance and cooperation, as expressed in Policies 1 through 3, below.

POLICY 1 Establish a standard in acres for combined neighborhood and community park land per 1,000 residents, and require new development to meet that standard.

POLICY 2 Pursue available and appropriate County, State, and federal funds to acquire park land, upgrade, and develop park facilities.

POLICY 3 Promote joint-use of public facilities and agreements for sharing costs and operational responsibilities among public service providers. (See Public Facilities, Policy 27.)

Policies 1 through 3 will be carried out by Programs A through D.

Program A Prepare a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan that addresses the needs of Pacific Grove residents and visitors.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will:

- Look ahead at least 10 years, devoting greater detail to improvements planned for the first five-year period;
- Establish goals, policies, and standards for the location, size, and level of development for all existing and proposed parks;
- Identify existing park land deficiencies;
- Evaluate the City's recreation facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and related regulations;
- Establish development priorities;
- Identify financing mechanisms;

- Identify desirable sites for acquisition and development of new parks and open space;
- Schedule the development of community activity centers;
- Address maintenance, improvement, and equipment standards;
- Emphasize joint use of City and School District facilities;
- Re-establish and maintain the use of the Pacific Grove Rec Club as a youth center, unless a more appropriate facility is identified.

Preparation of the Master Plan will be guided further by Policies 4 through 7.

Program B Regularly monitor County, State, and federal funding sources and apply for loans and grants for which the City may be eligible, to acquire, develop, and rehabilitate park land and facilities.

Program C As potential open space sites are identified as available, seek funding to acquire them.

Program D Review periodically and enforce a Master Plan for the Municipal Ball Park.

In carrying out Programs A and C, the City will be guided by the following policies:

POLICY 4 Protect sensitive habitats, natural landforms, and scenic resources in planning for recreation facilities and for open space, taking into account the carrying capacity of the areas.

This is intended to apply, citywide, the same policy contained in LUP 3.3.4.1.

POLICY 5 Design park improvements in such a way as to facilitate accessibility, security, policing, and maintenance.

POLICY 6 Where practical, foster the use of drought-tolerant and drought-resistant landscaping in City parks.

POLICY 7 Give high priority to maintaining, improving, and rehabilitating existing parks.

5.3 RECREATION GOALS AND POLICIES

The Recreation Department provides a wide range of activities that contribute to the recreational and cultural life of the community. Activities include sports, classes, and field trips for age groups from pre-schoolers to seniors.

GOAL 3 Establish recreation programs suited to the broad needs and diverse interests of Pacific Grove residents of all ages.

The City intends to maintain and expand a balanced recreation program that addresses the needs of the various age and interest groups in Pacific Grove.

POLICY 8 Give first priority to residents of Pacific Grove for participation in City-sponsored recreation programs, activities, and leagues, and for the use of City facilities for such activities.

POLICY 9 Give priority to youth programs and facilities.

Program E Re-establish and maintain the use of the Pacific Grove Rec Club as a youth center, unless a more appropriate facility is identified.

POLICY 10 Evaluate the adequacy of existing facilities and determine their optimum utilization.

POLICY 11 Consider the needs of the various neighborhoods in developing facilities and programs for indoor and outdoor activities.

Program F Establish a method for periodically surveying community needs, attitudes, and preferences for recreation facilities and programs.

The City periodically will compile statistics concerning the use of recreation facilities and program participation which, together with information from the user attitude and preference survey, will be used by the Recreation Department to program and budget future facilities and activities.

POLICY 12 Promote the active involvement of all affected residents, including those with special needs, such as the disabled and the elderly, in the planning of recreation programs and facilities.

POLICY 13 Establish cooperative agreements with the Pacific Grove Unified School District for the use of school facilities for City-sponsored recreation programs.

5.4 RELATED GOALS AND POLICIES

Goals and policies related to the coast, and access to it, are found in the Land Use Plan (LUP) and the Coastal Parks Plan of the Local Coastal Program. They encourage, to the fullest extent possible, public access to the coast for recreation purposes. In addition, the Transportation Chapter of this General Plan sets forth plans for a network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways connecting parks and open space areas with other destination points within and beyond the city.