

An aerial, high-contrast black and white photograph of a park. In the foreground, several tennis courts are visible, separated by concrete paths. In the middle ground, there are several large, light-colored buildings with flat roofs, possibly community centers or gymnasiums. The background is filled with dense trees and foliage. The overall image has a grainy, high-contrast aesthetic.

# PUBLIC RECREATION PLAN

## Section 123

Public Recreational Sites  
Tennis Courts  
Community Buildings/Gymnasiums  
Swimming Pools

Service Systems Element of the Los Angeles General Plan



## PUBLIC RECREATION PLAN

### Section **123**

Public Recreational Sites  
Community Buildings/Gymnasiums  
Swimming Pools  
Tennis Courts  
Background/Implementation Report

The Public Recreation Plan—Section 1 consists of this text and the map on the other side of this sheet.

The Public Recreation Plan—Section 1 is a portion of the Service Systems Element of the Los Angeles City General Plan. This section of the Plan emphasizes neighborhood and community recreation sites, community buildings, gymnasiums, swimming pools and tennis courts. Subsequent sections will address other facilities.

### PURPOSES

#### Use of the Plan

The Public Recreation Plan—Section 1 consists of this text and the map on the other side of this sheet. The plan map shows, in an illustrative manner, the general location of recreational sites on a citywide basis. More specific locations are shown on the adopted community plan maps.

This section of the Plan sets forth recreation standards intended to provide a basis for satisfying the needs for neighborhood and community recreational sites. The standards are not intended to set an upper limit for the areas of parks, recreational sites or other types of open space.

The Public Recreation Plan - Section 1 emphasizes neighborhood and community recreational sites and parks because of their immediate importance to the daily lives of the City's people, especially its children. It includes policies and programs to meet the needs for community buildings, swimming pools and tennis courts. Other types of facilities will be added after additional studies have been made. This

section of the Plan is to be continually revised to meet expanding needs for neighborhood and community recreation sites.

In view of the limited availability of funds for acquisition and development of recreational sites, the Plan suggests that priority be given to those presently unserved areas of the City which have the greatest need for recreational sites and facilities.

Programs are intended to carry out the policies and accomplish the objectives of the Public Recreation Plan - Section 1. This section of the Plan does not mandate the City to commence any new programs which may require the expenditure of work-hours or funds.

#### Objectives of the Plan

The objectives for the Public Recreation Plan - Section 1 are based on recognized planning principles and the extent and nature of deficiencies in the City's recreational facilities and are as follows:

- To provide a guide for the orderly development of the City's public-recreational facilities.
- To provide long-range standards for use in connection with new subdivisions, intensification of existing residential development, or redevelopment of blighted residential areas as described under general local recreation standards.
- To develop and locate public facilities to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of

people at the least cost and with the least environmental impact.

- To provide a guide of priorities for the acquisition and development of public recreational facilities.
- To further refine and carry out the goals and objectives set forth in the Concept and Citywide Plan for recreation.

## Definitions

**A Neighborhood Recreational Site** - should provide space and facilities for outdoor and indoor recreational activities. It is intended to serve residents of all ages in its immediate neighborhood.

Facilities are typically provided for the following activities:

softball	soccer	handicrafts
basketball	football	lawn games
volleyball	shuffleboard	small children's
handball	table games	play

Facilities to meet the special needs of particular neighborhoods should also be provided. A community building should be available with facilities for meetings, dances, dramatic productions and arts and crafts. Off-street parking should be provided.

**A Community Recreational Site** - should be designed to serve residents of all ages in several surrounding neighborhoods. Its facilities serve a much wider interest range than do those of a neighborhood

site. The typical community recreational site offers baseball diamonds, combined football and soccer fields, tennis and handball courts, and a swimming pool, in addition to the facilities provided for a neighborhood site and specialized facilities as may be needed to meet the needs of the community.

**A Regional Park (Generally over 50 acres)** - provides specialized recreational facilities such as lakes, golf courses, campgrounds, wilderness areas and museums, which normally serve persons living throughout the Los Angeles basin. A regional park may include, or emphasize, exceptional scenic attractions. A regional park may also contain the types of facilities provided in neighborhood and community recreational sites.

**School Playgrounds** - of the Los Angeles City School District supplement local recreational sites. They are open for a limited number of after-school hours each day during the school year and on a full-day schedule during the summer.

## STANDARDS

A satisfactory recreation system must measure up to accepted standards in three respects: first, there must be sufficient land area set aside for recreation; second, the recreation areas must be properly distributed in residential areas throughout the City; third, there must be facilities to meet different recreation needs - including both active and passive recreation - and provision for all age groups.

Facilities should be provided at the neighborhood, community and regional levels. An overall provision of 10 acres of land per 1,000 persons for total recreational facilities is recommended. A minimum of 10% of the total land area should be in public recreation or open space.

The location and allocation of acreage for neighborhood and community recreational sites should be determined on the basis of the service radius within residential areas throughout the City. No park site should be diminished in size or removed from any service area unless the required acreage is replaced within that district or unless the need is diminished due to population changes.

### **Local Recreation Standards - long range**

**Neighborhood Recreational Sites** should be provided at a minimum of 2 acres per 1,000 persons. The following standards should apply:

- The minimum desirable acreage per recreation and park site is 5 acres, ideal 10 acres.
- If coordinated and used with a school playground, up to one-half the acreage of the playground may be counted toward the total acreage required, but a school playground alone is not likely to suffice to properly serve a neighborhood.
- The service radius of a neighborhood recreational site is approximately one-half mile.
- The park space should be located within a neighborhood so that users are not required to cross a major arterial street or highway when walking to the site.
- The type of activities and programs conducted at each neighborhood site must be determined by measuring the desires of the clientele in the area served. Care must be taken to provide activities for all age groups within the neighborhood.
- The population characteristics of each area served should be used in determining the general facilities required.

**Community Recreational Sites** should be provided at a minimum of 2 acres per 1,000 persons. The following standards should apply:

- The minimum desirable acreage per recreation and park site is 15 acres, ideal 20 acres.
- If coordinated with high school or junior high school site, up to one-half the required acreage may be fulfilled by the school play area.
- The service radius of a community site is approximately 2 miles.
- The community park should be easily accessible to the area served.

- The community park may serve several neighborhoods.
- The types of activities available at the community park should be determined by measuring the desires of the population served.

### **Community Plan Standards - Short and Intermediate Range**

The Local Recreation Standards are long range and may not be reached during the life of this Plan. The following standards have been used for most of the adopted community plans and are included in this Plan as short and intermediate standards for park acreage:

- For Neighborhood Parks - 1 acre per 1,000 persons; service radius 1 mile.
- For Community Parks - 1 acre per 1,000 persons; service radius 2 miles.

## **POLICIES**

- Recreational facilities and services should be provided for all segments of the population on the basis of present and future projected needs, the local recreational standards, and the City's ability to finance.
- Park and recreation sites shall be acquired and developed first in those areas of the City found to be most deficient in terms of the recreation standards.
- Recreational use should be considered for available open space and unused or underused land, particularly publicly owned lands having potential for multiple uses.
- High priority will be given to areas of the City which have the fewest recreational services and the greatest numbers of potential users.

## **PROGRAMS**

- Continue to include land acquisition for park and recreational purposes as a regular item in the City's Five Year Capital Improvement Program.
- Prepare a priority schedule based on greatest need for acquiring and developing park and recreational sites.
- Seek federal, state and private funds to implement acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities.
- Establish policies to facilitate donation of parks to the City.

- Lease or acquire unused or abandoned properties suitable for recreational activities.
- Encourage multiple use of public properties such as power line or flood control rights of way, debris basins, reservoir sites, etc., for recreation.

### **POLICIES - Community Buildings/ Gymnasiums**

- Park community buildings should be designated as large and flexible structures to permit a wide variety of recreation activities, meeting the needs of all groups and special interests, to adequately serve the current and future community.
- The availability of community buildings/gymnasiums will be based on the needs of the local population between the ages of 7 to 34. It is this age range which most use gymnasiums.

### **PROGRAMS - Community Buildings/ Gymnasiums**

- Use the areas of Public Community Building Deficiency identified in the Public Recreation Plan - Section 1, Background Report as guides for locating new community buildings as funds become available. A program for updating the Table and Public Community Building Maps by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Planning Department should be initiated as important changes in population, land use and facilities occur.
- Encourage the Los Angeles City School District to remove the emergency energy curtailment program which results in the closure of two-thirds of its public gymnasium facilities one night a week on rotation, and to reactivate the closing only in times of demonstrated emergency.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks should develop standard sets of criteria and designs for local recreation center buildings.
- Design of new community buildings should include a gymnasium with a minimum size which would permit basketball play. It is desirable that the gymnasium be large enough to permit a regulation-size high school basketball court.

### **POLICIES - Swimming Pools**

- Swimming pool service levels will be based on the needs of the local population between the ages of 6 to 20. It is this age range which most use public pools.

- New pools should be located to maximize use in various swimming programs. Where possible, new pools should be located on or near junior high school or high school sites.

### **PROGRAMS - Swimming Pools**

- Use the areas of Public Swimming Pool Deficiency identified in the Public Recreation Plan - Section 1 Background Report as guides for locating new swimming pools as funds become available. A program for updating the Table and Public Swimming Pool Maps by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Planning Department should be initiated as important changes in population, land use and facilities occur.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles City School District should continue and expand the cooperative efforts regarding joint use of swimming pools.
- The City of Los Angeles should continue to locate new swimming pools at junior high school and high school sites where appropriate.

### **POLICIES - Tennis Courts**

- Tennis service levels will be based on the needs of the local population between the ages of 10 to 61. It is this age range which most use tennis courts.
- Use of existing and future tennis courts should be maximized through design, lighting and operation.

### **PROGRAMS - Tennis Courts**

- Use the areas of Public Tennis Court Deficiency identified in the Public Recreation Plan - Section 1 Background Report as guides for locating new tennis facilities as funds become available. A program for updating the Table and the Public Tennis Court Maps by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Planning Department should be initiated as important changes in population, land use and facilities occur.
- Continue the program of designing new facilities with night lighting adequately shielded to assure the privacy of adjacent residential uses.
- Continue the program of illuminating unlighted public park tennis courts and encourage lighting of school tennis facilities in tennis court deficient areas when funds become available.
- Continue the program of building tennis courts in groups rather than one at a time.