

4.12 PARKS AND RECREATION

This section evaluates the parks and recreation facilities in Metropolitan Bakersfield and assesses the potential for impacts with implementation of the General Plan Update. Where potentially significant impacts are identified, goals, policies, standards, and mitigation measures are specified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. Information in this section is based on data obtained from the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks Master Plan 2000-2005 (January 2000), City of Bakersfield web site (October 18, 2001), North Bakersfield Recreation and Parks District web site (October 18, 2001) and the Kern County web site (October 18, 2001).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Metropolitan Bakersfield parks and recreation resources include parks, pools, schools, community facilities and privately owned facilities. Available resources also include programs such as open recreation, lessons, special events, tournaments, and clubs. Combined, these resources offer the Planning area's residents a number of recreational opportunities.

Recreation and parks resources within City limits are delivered directly by the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks. The City of Bakersfield provides a varied recreational resource base for residents. In addition, provisions of varied recreational resources are offered by other agencies/groups including the following:

- County of Kern;
- North Bakersfield Recreation and Parks District;
- Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District;
- School Districts;
- Colleges;
- Volunteers;
- Not-for-profit agencies; and
- Private developers.

PARKLAND STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS

Parkland is generally defined as "any usable area of land or water designated on state, regional, or local open space plans as open space or parkland and is actively used for park and/or leisure recreational purposes with or without charge".¹ Parks are generally categorized as either local or regional and are defined as follows:

- Local Parks. Local parks generally serve a population within a 0.75-mile radius. Generally, they range in size between 1.0 and 2.5 acres (mini-parks) to between 5.0 and 10.0 acres (neighborhood parks), and approximately 30.0 acres (community parks).
- Regional Parks. Regional parks generally serve a population living within one hour's distance and range in size between 20 to 1,000 acres.

¹ Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan Update, Parks Element, December 2001.

A number of physical resources and program options designed to meet the needs of the residents are available in the Planning area. One way to help determine if these opportunities provide sufficient options for the residents is to compare local resources to nationally accepted standards or benchmarks.

National parks and recreation standards have been developed and validated for physical resources and facilities by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and these standards are generally the accepted convention within the United States. These standards are based on a population and distance radius formula and serve as a good indicator for local communities. Local standards can also be developed that factor in weather patterns and popularity of use, which may adjust these national standards.

There are no nationally established standards for program provisions because of the unique interest of residents nor is it possible to quantify what is appropriate for a specific community. However, national studies have indicated that when a specific program meets or exceeds a certain participation use by residents requirement, then that program can be considered a BENCHMARK program. This status reflects that the program meets local interests with quality delivery in appropriate environments. The resource can also be rated HIGH, MODERATE, or LIMITED, again based on use and participation standards.

Development under the park classifications and standards discussed below would address spatial and topographical requirements, land availability, types of improvements, service area, funding and maintenance costs. The following are park classifications and standards, which establish minimum acreage requirements, utilization, and typical development improvements:

LOCAL PARKS

Mini-Park

Mini-parks function as small neighborhood parks in residentially developed areas where neighborhood standards are not met and where acquisition of sufficient acreage for standard neighborhood facilities is prohibitive. Mini-parks may also be located in areas to serve commercial uses. These sites serve as playgrounds for children or as a place for workers to relax in an urbanized environment. The minimum size standard for public mini-parks is 2.5 usable acres.² The national standard for mini-parks is between 0.25 and 0.5 acres per 1,000 population.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide both active and passive recreational activities for surrounding residential development. These parks normally include tot lots, picnic facilities and a ball court(s). The minimum site size standard for neighborhood parks is 10.0 usable acres. The service area covers the neighborhoods within 0.75 miles of the park site. The national standard for neighborhood parks is between 1.0 and

² According to the Parks Element, "usable" is defined as an area that people can use with an emphasis on active and group use. It includes essentially flat land that can be developed for facilities and activity areas. It does not include land in very steep slopes, land with unusually poor soil conditions not suited for park development, land areas subject to periodic flooding, land with unique habitat worthy of preservation, water bodies unsuitable for park recreation uses, or areas impacted adversely by adjacent/nearby land uses.

2.0 acres per 1,000 population. The City and County policy for neighborhood parks is a minimum of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population.³

Community Park Centers

A community park center is defined as an outdoor/indoor recreational facility providing large spaces for a wide range of organized community meeting and sports activities. Community Park Centers provide a wide range of recreational opportunities, facilities and equipment servicing the population comprised of several neighborhood units. Community park centers typically have a service area of a three to five mile walking radius. Joint development and/or use with schools is common for these sites. These parks may contain specialized facilities not found in other parks. Typical development includes indoor recreation facilities, group picnic areas, barbecues, fountains, playgrounds and equipment, tennis and game courts, softball diamonds with lighting and/or other athletic fields, swimming pool, landscaping, parking, security lighting and restrooms. The national standards for community parks and/or centers are between 5.0 and 8.0 acres per 1,000 population and one center per 25,000 population. The minimum size standard for community parks is 20 usable acres.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks serve the population of a large region - usually within a one-hour travel time. The responsibility for these parks generally rests with a county, regional authority or state. Features typically found in regional parks include campgrounds, picnic areas, nature study areas and trail systems. In addition, these parks may have scenic vistas, gardens, a golf course, sports fields, water features or be related to items of historical significance/special interest. Regional parks may range in size from 20 acres to 1,000 acres or more. The national standard for regional parks is between 5.0 and 10.0 acres per 1,000 population.

GENERAL RECREATION

The national standard for general recreation, encompassing community and neighborhood parks, is between 6.0 and 10.0 acres per 1,000 population. The City and County policy for general recreation opportunity, mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and regional parks combined, is a minimum of 4.0 acres per 1,000 population.⁴

EXISTING RECREATION AND PARKS RESOURCES

METROPOLITAN BAKERSFIELD AREA

Table 4.12-1, *Summary of Existing Parks Facilities*, summarizes the recreational facilities according to their classification and jurisdiction. Exhibit 4.12-1, *Metropolitan Bakersfield Parks*, illustrates the location of the recreational facilities in the Planning area. Table 4.12-2, *Parks Master List*, identifies the parks illustrated on Exhibit 4.12-1 and provides their acreages according to their classification. As indicated in Tables 4.12-1 and 4.12-2, the Planning area contains a total of 88 park facilities (18

³ Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan Update, Parks Element, December 2001.

⁴ Ibid.

Mini-parks, 50 Neighborhood Parks, 17 Community Parks, and 3 Regional Parks) encompassing a total of approximately 14,871 acres. The following service level analysis takes into consideration the recreation and parks resources offered by the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, and North Bakersfield Recreation and Parks District:

**TABLE 4.12-1
SUMMARY OF EXISTING PARK FACILITIES**

District	Park Classifications and Acreages									
	Local Parks						Regional (No./Acres)		Total Facilities (No./Acres)	
	Mini (No./Acres)		Neighborhood (No./Acres)		Community (No./Acres)					
City of Bakersfield	12	38	29	288	4	80	1	580	46	986
County of Kern	0	0	9	67	5	81	2	13,432	16	13,581
N. Bakersfield Rec./PD	6	17	11	112	7	152	0	0	24	280
Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District	0	0	1	8	1	16	0	0	2	24
Sub-Total	18	55	50	476	17	328	3	14,013	88	14,871
School Districts/ Private Schools	45 School Districts and 58 private schools provide some level of park and recreation resources.									
Colleges and Universities	11 Colleges and Universities providing park/recreation resources to student body.									
Private Clubs & Assoc.	Numerous organizations and activity specific associations provide recreational resources including programs and/or facilities.									
Source: Metropolitan Bakersfield Parks Master List.										

Mini-Park

The national standard⁵ for mini-parks is between 0.25 and 0.5 acres per 1,000 population. As outlined in Table 4.12-2, *Parks Master List*, the Planning area contains 18 mini-parks encompassing a total of approximately 55 acres. With a 2001 population of 402,100 persons, the park service level in the Planning area for mini-parks is 0.14 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the Planning area for mini-parks does not meet the national standard.

Neighborhood Parks

The national standard for neighborhood parks is between 1.0 and 2.0 acres per 1,000 population. As outlined in Table 4.12-2, the Planning area contains 50 neighborhood parks encompassing a total of approximately 468 acres. With a 2001 population of 402,100 persons, the park service level in the Planning area for neighborhood parks is 1.16 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the Planning area for neighborhood parks is within the range of the national standard.

⁵ Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan Update, Parks Element, 2002, Page XI-2.

Exhibit 4.12-1
Metropolitan Bakersfield Parks
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**TABLE 4.12-2
PARKS MASTER LIST**

Map Ref. No.	Park Name	Category	Acreage	Jurisdiction	Status
1	Almondale Park	Neighborhood	11.34	City	<u>Developed</u>
2	Amberton Park	Mini	2.69	City	Developed
3	Beach Park	Neighborhood	26.47	City	Developed
4	Beale Park	Neighborhood	6.98	City	Developed
5	Bear Mountain Park	Community	16.00	County	Developed
6	Belle Terrace Park	Community	20.71	County	Developed
7	Bill Park Greens	Mini	2.69	City	Developed
8	Campus Park North	Neighborhood	11.07	City	Developed
9	Campus Park South	Neighborhood	12.12	City	Developed
10	Casa Loma Park	Neighborhood	9.72	City	Developed
11	Castle Park	Mini	3.76	City	Developed
12	Centennial Park	Neighborhood	8.96	City	Developed
13	Centennial Plaza	Mini	0.63	City	Developed
14	Central Park	Neighborhood	11.41	City	Developed
15	Challenger Park	Mini	5.62	City	Developed
16	Circle Park	Neighborhood	0.12	County	Developed
17	College Park	Neighborhood	13.88	City	Developed
18	Coral Keys Park	Mini	2.25	City	Developed
19	Corvallis Park	Neighborhood	5.54	City	Developed
20	Deer Park	Neighborhood	6.04	City	Developed
21	District Office	Mini	4.01	County	Developed
22	Emerald Cove Park	Neighborhood	9.78	City	Developed
23	Fruitvale/Norris Park	Neighborhood	17.04	County	Developed
24	Garden Park	Neighborhood	5.85	City	Developed
25	Green Acres Park	Community	10.41	County	Developed
26	Greenfield Park	Neighborhood	4.87	County	Developed
27	Grissom Park	Neighborhood	11.34	City	Developed
28	Haggin Oaks Park	Neighborhood	8.87	City	Developed
29	Heritage Park	Neighborhood	19.36	County	Developed
30	International Square	Mini	1.32	City	Developed
31	Jastro Park	Neighborhood	8.71	City	Developed
32	Jefferson Park	Neighborhood	8.90	City	Developed
33	Jenkins & Hageman Park	Neighborhood	8.91	County	Undeveloped
34	Kern Delta Park	Community	12.09	County	Undeveloped
35	Kern River County Park*	Regional	13335.77	County	Developed
36	Kern River Parkway	Regional	580.14	City	Developed
37	Kroll Park	Mini	4.24	City	Developed
38	Lamont Park	Neighborhood	7.83	County	Developed
39	Liberty Park	Community	21.71	City	<u>Developed</u>
40	Lowell Park	Neighborhood	10.17	City	Developed
41	Madison Grove Park	Neighborhood	11.02	City	Undeveloped
42	Martin Luther King Jr. Park	Community	14.94	City	Developed
43	McCray Park	Mini	1.78	County	Developed
44	Metro Recreation Center	Regional	96.64	City	Developed
45	Mondavi Park	Neighborhood	9.13	City	<u>Developed</u>
46	North Beardsley Park	Neighborhood	6.58	County	Developed

**TABLE 4.12-2 – CONTINUED
PARKS MASTER LIST**

Map Ref. No.	Park Name	Category	Acreage	Jurisdiction	Status
47	North Highland Park	Neighborhood	9.58	County	Developed
48	North Meadows Park	Neighborhood	8.03	County	Undeveloped
49	North Rosedale Park	Neighborhood	12.70	City/County	Developed
50	Olive Park East	Mini	2.53	County	Developed
51	<u>Olive Park West</u>	<u>Mini</u>	<u>2.51</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Developed</u>
52	Panorama Park	Community	24.98	City	Developed
53	Patriots Park	Neighborhood	20.02	City	Developed
54	Pin Oak Park	Neighborhood	16.81	City	Developed
55	Pioneer Park	Community	14.05	County	Developed
56	Planz Park	Neighborhood	8.25	City	Developed
57	Polo Community Park	Community	38.28	City	Undeveloped
58	Potomac Park	Neighborhood	4.34	County	Developed
59	Quailwood Park	Neighborhood	6.07	City	Developed
60	Rasmussen Senior Center	Mini	3.67	County	Developed
61	Rexland Acres Park	Neighborhood	4.44	County	Developed
62	Rio Vista Park	Community	31.31	City	Undeveloped
63	River Lakes Ranch Park	Community	28.57	City	Undeveloped
64	River Oaks Park	Neighborhood	12.36	City	Developed
65	Riverview Park	Community	17.59	County	Developed
66	Rosedale Park	Community	19.60	County	Undeveloped
67	Saunders Park	Neighborhood	8.92	City	Developed
68	Sears Park	Mini	2.05	County	Developed
69	Seasons Park	Neighborhood	9.78	City	Developed
70	Seimon Park	Neighborhood	8.20	City	Developed
71	Silver Creek Park	Community	14.44	City	Developed
72	Standard Park	Community	15.37	County	Developed
73	Steirn Park	Neighborhood	5.12	City	Developed
74	Stonecreek Park	Mini	3.32	City	Developed
75	Tevis Park	Neighborhood	7.50	City	Developed
76	University Park	Neighborhood	10.76	City	Developed
77	Virginia Avenue Park	Community	9.47	County	Developed
78	Wayside Park	Neighborhood	13.02	City	Developed
79	Weedpatch Park	Neighborhood	8.00	County	Developed
80	Weill Park	Mini	2.71	City	Developed
81	Westdale Park	Neighborhood	8.11	County	Developed
82	Westwold Park	Mini	3.90	City	Developed
83	Wilderness Park	Mini	4.87	City	Developed
84	Wilkins Park	Neighborhood	2.88	County	Developed
85	Wilson Park	Neighborhood	6.75	City	Developed
86	Windermere Park	Neighborhood	5.87	City	Undeveloped
87	Windsor Park	Neighborhood	6.01	City	Developed
88	Yokuts Parks	Community	18.94	City	Developed

*Includes Hart Memorial Park.

Community Parks

The national standard for community parks is between 5.0 and 8.0 acres per 1,000 population. As outlined in Table 4.12-2, the Planning area contains 17 community parks encompassing a total of approximately 328 acres. With a 2001 population of 402,100 persons, the park service level in the Planning area for community parks is 0.78 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the Planning area for community parks does not meet the national standard.

Regional Parks

The national standard for regional parks is between 5.0 and 10.0 acres per 1,000 population. As outlined in Table 4.12-2, the Planning area contains three regional parks encompassing a total of approximately 14,013 acres. The Kern River County Park alone encompasses a total of approximately 13,336 acres. With a 2001 population of 402,100 persons, the park service level in the Planning area for regional parks is 34.85 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the Planning area for regional parks far exceeds the range of the national standard.

General Recreation

The national standard for general recreation, encompassing community and neighborhood parks, is between 6.0 and 10.0 acres per 1,000 population. With a 2001 population of 402,100 persons, the service level in the Planning area for general recreation is 36.92 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the Planning area for general recreation far exceeds the range of the national standard.

Other Resources

A variety of resources and programs, which exist within the Metropolitan Bakersfield area are provided to residents from sources other than the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks. These options meet the needs of various elements of the population and are the types of resources and programs that would be typically promoted by a local governing authority. Though private sources may offer certain opportunities, these have not been included below if the offering is not a reasonable expected provision of government. However, depending on the type of resource and program, these non-city provided options are important and appropriate opportunities.

School District Resources. There are 33 public elementary school districts, eight unified school districts, four high school districts, and 58 private schools that serve the Metropolitan Bakersfield area and provide some level of physical resources/programs with recreational elements. For example, the Fruitvale School District has four elementary schools and one junior high school that provide a playground area available for track, soccer and baseball use. Both the Bakersfield City School District and the Greenfield Union School District, in conjunction with the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks, provide the B.E.S.T. (Bringing Enrichment to Students Today) program at 14 different school sites. Additionally, many of the sports programs such as basketball, volleyball and football occur at various school sites. A variety of education/recreation programs are offered at 36 Bakersfield City School District sites.

Senior Centers. There are 27 senior activity centers in the Metropolitan Bakersfield area that provide services for those over 60 years of age. These sites provide programs such as music, dancing, board games, cards, pool, bingo, arts and crafts, day trips and exercise. Lunch, library services and television rooms are also available.

Libraries. The Kern County library system provides 25 branches distributed throughout the valley. Besides the one million volume holdings, services such as local history, genealogy, geology, minerals and petroleum rooms are available. Seven of the branches are located in the Metropolitan Bakersfield area.

Museums and Galleries. In the Metropolitan Bakersfield area, there are 31 museums and galleries that archive, preserve and present various historical, natural and artistic items. They range from space travel items to oil, natural history and desert and art displays.

Golf Courses. Within the Planning area, there are total of 14 golf courses: three County-owned public golf courses; five privately owned but open to the public golf courses; and six private membership golf courses. The County provided and privately owned but publicly used courses are all in the same general user price range. The private country club courses are restricted to membership users or by invitation. These courses meet the national standard that calls for one course per 50,000 residents. When factoring in the Metropolitan Bakersfield area population and the six private membership courses, the national standard is still met.

Colleges and Universities. Associated with these campuses are facilities and programs specific to the student body. In the greater Bakersfield area are California State University-Bakersfield, Bakersfield College, Fresno Pacific University (Bakersfield Center), Point Loma Nazarene University (Bakersfield Campus), San Joaquin Valley College (Bakersfield Campus), University of Pacific and University of Phoenix. California State University, Bakersfield, provides a more extensive physical resource such as a swimming pool, tennis courts, indoor facilities, track, softball field, play-fields, amphitheater and associated programs provided for the student body and staff of the institution.

Clubs and Associations. According to the City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Master Plan (2000-2005)), an estimated 17 organizations and activity specific associations are available to provide programs and/or facilities. Two significant for-profit enterprises that provide services that are similar to government delivery include Mesa Marin Fields and Van's Skate Park.

Swimming Pools. Besides the aquatic facilities provided by the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks and North Bakersfield Recreation and Parks District, there are a number of other public swimming pools. They include Lakeside Pool, California State University Campus Pool, Cesar Chavez Park, Lamont Pool, Sergeant John Pinney Memorial Pool, West Park Pool, Dye Natatorium and Baker Park Pool. There are a number of private swim club pools as well.

Tennis Courts. Six private tennis facilities are provided in the Planning area in addition to the 31 public courts provided by the City (refer to discussion below).

Kern County Parks and Recreation Department

In addition to the golf courses provided by the County discussed above, the County provides a total of 16 park facilities within the Planning area (9 Neighborhood Parks, 5 Community Parks, and 2 Regional Parks) encompassing a total of approximately 13,581 acres. These facilities are outlined in Table 4.12-2 and illustrated on Exhibit 4.12-1.

Although the County provides a total of eight regional parks, six are located outside of the Planning area and at a significant distance from some residents. The total acreage of the parks countywide exceeds 15,000 acres including Lake Buena Vista, Lake Evans, Lake Webb, Lake Isabella and Lake Ming. These areas range from simple picnic areas to highly developed camp areas to shoreline and lake related facilities, as well as an extensive bike path. The County also maintains a fairgrounds area.

Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District

The District serves the southeastern portion of the Planning area and provides a number of park facilities and community programs. As indicated on Table 4.12-1 and Exhibit 4.12-1, the District provides 2 park facilities within the Planning area, Weedpatch Park (neighborhood park) and Bear Mountain Park (community park), encompassing a total of approximately 24 acres. Each of these park facilities serve the residents of Lamont. Programs are provided in aquatic activities, senior activities, youth activities as well as special event activities.

North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District Resources

This District, serving the north side of Bakersfield, provides a number of physical resources and program offerings. As indicated on Table 4.12-1 and Exhibit 4.12-1, this District provides a total of 24 park facilities within the Planning area (6 Mini-parks, 11 Neighborhood Parks, and 7 Community Parks) encompassing a total of approximately 280 acres. The primary resources include three swimming pools, five community centers, 16 softball diamonds, one baseball diamond, seven basketball courts, eight volleyball courts, four tennis courts, eight horseshoe pits, and one in-line hockey area. Programs are provided in adult team sports (baseball, hockey, softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball), youth sports (basketball, football, gymnastics, kids sports, soccer), aquatics activities, senior activities, youth activities as well as special event activities. Table 4.12-2 provides an inventory of the resources existing within this District. Additionally, the District is in the process of adding two park sites encompassing a total of approximately 18 acres.

Other Government Agency Resources

A variety of resources are provided by other government agencies such as the State and various Federal entities. They include such sites and activities as the following:

- Camping;
- Fishing;
- Wildlife;
- Scenic Byways; and
- Other Sites.

City of Bakersfield Resources

Recreation and parks resources within City limits are delivered directly by the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks. The City of Bakersfield provides a varied recreational resource base for its residents. This section describes the City's recreation and parks resources provided by the City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Department. The resources are compared to nationally accepted standards and to locally adjusted standards, where appropriate. The following service level analysis takes into consideration the recreation and parks resources offered by the City of Bakersfield:

- Mini-Parks. The City does not have a policy for mini-parks. The national standard for mini-parks is between 0.25 and 0.5 acres per 1,000 population. As indicated in Exhibit 4.12-1 and Table 4.12-2, the City provides 12 mini-parks encompassing a total of approximately 38 acres. With a 2001 total City population of 254,368 persons, the park service level in the City for mini-parks is 0.15 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the City for mini-parks does not meet the national standard.
- Neighborhood Parks. The City policy for neighborhood parks is a minimum of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population. As indicated in Exhibit 4.12-1 and Table 4.12-2, the City provides 29 neighborhood parks encompassing a total of approximately 288 acres. With a 2001 total City population of 254,368 persons, the park service level in the City for neighborhood parks is 1.13 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the City for neighborhood parks does not meet the City standard.
- Community Parks. The City does not have a policy for community parks. The national standards for community parks and/or centers are between 5.0 and 8.0 acres per 1,000 population and one center per 25,000 population. As indicated in Exhibit 4.12-1 and Table 4.12-2, the City provides four community parks encompassing a total of approximately 80 acres. With a 2001 total City population of 254,368 persons, the park service level in the City for community parks is 0.31 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the City for community parks does not meet the national standard. Refer to the "community centers" section below for a discussion regarding quantity of centers.
- Regional Parks. The City does not have a policy for regional parks. As indicated in Exhibit 4.12-1 and Table 4.12-2, the City provides one regional park (Kern River Parkway) encompassing a total of approximately 580 acres. By nature, regional parks are not intended to serve a population solely within a city limits. In consideration of the additional two regional parks located in the Planning area, the City's existing service level for regional parks is considered adequate.
- General Recreation. The City policy for general recreation is a minimum of 4.0 acres per 1,000 population. As indicated on Table 4.12-2 and Exhibit 4.12-1, the City provides a total of 46 park facilities within the Planning area (12 Mini-parks, 29 Neighborhood Parks, 4 Community Parks, and one regional park) encompassing a total of approximately 986 acres. With a 2001 total City population of 254,368 persons, the service level in the City for

general recreation is 3.88 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level in the City for general recreation does not meet City policy.

The service levels for City-provided services discussed above do not reflect the availability of recreation resources provided by “other resources” as described above. Consideration of these other resources would improve the service levels in the City.

There are regional parks provided by the County as well as “island” parks within City limits maintained by jurisdictions other than the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks. More specifically, a total of 11 parks (seven neighborhood and four community) encompassing approximately 191 acres are located within City limits and maintained by a jurisdiction other than the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks.⁶ The City’s service levels in consideration of these “island” parks is as follows:

- Mini-parks. There are no mini-parks located within City limits and maintained by a jurisdiction other than the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks.
- Neighborhood Parks. The City policy for neighborhood parks is a minimum of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population. As indicated in Table 4.12-2, a total of 36 neighborhood parks (29 City and seven other) encompassing a total of approximately 366 acres exist within City jurisdiction. With a 2001 total City population of 254,368 persons, the park service level in the City for neighborhood parks (including all Districts)⁷ is 1.44 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level for neighborhood parks within City limits does not meet the City standard.
- Community Parks. The national standard for community parks is between 5.0 and 8.0 acres per 1,000 population. As indicated in Table 4.12-2, a total of eight community parks (four City and four other) encompassing a total of approximately 193 acres exist within City jurisdiction. With a 2001 total City population of 254,368 persons, the park service level in the City for community parks (including all Districts) is 0.76 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level for community parks within City limits does not meet the National standard.
- Regional Parks. Regional parks are not intended to serve a population solely within a city’s limits.
- General Recreation. The City policy for general recreation is a minimum of 4.0 acres per 1,000 population. As indicated in Table 4.12-2, a total of 57 park facilities (46 City and 11 other) encompassing a total of approximately 1,177 acres exist within City jurisdiction. With a 2001 total City population of 254,368 persons, the service level in the City for general recreation (including

⁶ One regional park, the Metro Recreation Center, is located within City limits and maintained by the County of Kern.

⁷ Districts include the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks, the County of Kern, and the North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District.

all Districts) is 4.63 acres per 1,000 population. The existing service level for general recreation within City limits meets City policy.

- Community Centers. The national standard for quantity of community centers is one center per 25,000 population. There are three centers (community recreation or neighborhood) totaling 26,600 square feet provided by the Department of Recreation and Parks. Based on a 2001 total City population of 254,368 persons, the City's provision of community centers is 0.3 centers per 25,000 population. The service level in the City for community centers does not meet national standards. There are several other centers provided by non-profit agencies and clubs. However, factoring in the greater Metropolitan Bakersfield area population, and the current usage of facilities, this provision is well below the accepted standard.
- Other City Resources. In addition to the parks and community centers described above, the City provides the following recreation and parks resources:
 - nine pools at nine aquatic facilities;
 - six lighted softball fields at five locations;
 - 44 horseshoe pits at eight locations;
 - 29 tennis courts at 11 locations;
 - 36 lighted outdoor basketball courts at 18 locations;
 - 15 outdoor volleyball/badminton areas at 13 locations;
 - two rugby/soccer fields;
 - one disc golf course;
 - one roller hockey court; and
 - one skateboard park.
- City Programs. Associated with these physical parks and recreation resources are programs prepared for and delivered to the interested resident groups. The programs are varied, balanced, cover all age groups, incomes, geographic areas, interests, skill levels and seasons of the year. The following is an abbreviated listing of the programs offered:
 - Aquatics;
 - After School Activities;
 - After School Games;
 - Club Fun;
 - Day Campus;
 - Exercise;
 - Classes;
 - Music; and
 - Sports.

PARKS AND RECREATION SUMMARY

The existing service levels within both Planning area and City limits for general recreation opportunities meet both the national standards/city policies. These service levels take into consideration the three regional parks that exist in the area. Although the existing regional parks are significant in acreage and provide a valuable resource, these are not designed, nor intended for use, as local (mini-, neighborhood

or community) parks. Thus, it is concluded that based on current population estimates, a deficiency of local parks exists in the Planning area.

The City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Master Plan states the following with respect to national space standards, distance radius, use measures and program participation:

“The majority of the physical resources provided by the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks do not meet the current national provision standard when population and distance is factored in.

There is significance reliance on other agencies in the need to provide the physical resource demands of the community. Of particular note are the public schools, Kern County and CSU Bakersfield.

There is sufficient provision of public play golf courses and regional based parks.

The majority of the resources receive BENCHMARK, HIGH, or MODERATE use by residents and many programs also receive significant use.

Six parks and six programs achieve the BENCHMARK status for use by residents. Also, six parks and thirteen programs achieve the HIGH status for use by residents.”

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

In accordance with CEQA, the effects of a project are evaluated to determine if they will result in a significant adverse impact on the environment. An EIR is required to focus on these effects and offer mitigation measures to reduce or avoid any significant impacts which are identified. The criteria, or standards, used to determine the significance of impacts may vary depending on the nature of the project. Parks and recreational impacts resulting from the implementation of the General Plan Update may be considered significant if they cause any of the following results:

- Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; and/or
- Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Based on these standards, the effects of the proposed project have been categorized as either a “less than significant impact” or a “potentially significant impact.” Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant and unavoidable impact. The standards used to evaluate the significance of impact are often qualitative rather than quantitative because appropriate quantitative standards

are either not available for many types of impacts or are not applicable for some types of projects.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION RESOURCES

- **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD RESULT IN INCREASED USE OF EXISTING RECREATIONAL AND PARK FACILITIES, POTENTIALLY CAUSING PHYSICAL DETERIORATION OF EACH FACILITY.**

Level of Significance Before Policies/Mitigation: Potentially Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis: Future development would result in both direct and indirect impacts upon existing park and recreational resources. Direct impacts to existing recreational facilities could occur as a result of the anticipated residential development and the corresponding increases in population. The projected population increase could substantially increase the usage of existing recreational facilities such that their quality would degrade and/or physical deterioration would occur or be accelerated. Further, a population increase would aggravate the already existing deficiency of parkland in the Planning area.

Indirect impacts to existing recreational and park resources would occur as a result of the anticipated commercial and industrial development. Although it is uncertain to what degree, the potential exists that employees of future commercial/industrial development may increase the usage of existing park and recreational resources. The increased usage of existing recreational facilities by future employees could potentially degrade their quality and/or cause physical deterioration of each. Increased usage of recreational facilities from future employees, coupled with the increased usage from future residents, would aggravate the already existing deficiency of parkland in the Planning area.

Funding from the General Fund in both the City and the County provides maintenance of park sites within the Planning area, and through the creation of maintenance districts, whereby residents benefitting from parks would pay all maintenance costs. The Parks Element has identified implementation programs that would accomplish the following:

- Establishment and implementation of an official park acquisition program to meet current and future needs. The program would allow the use of “general funds for park acquisition, development and maintenance” under certain conditions.
- Establishment of a program of design and improvement review, landscape development, and maintenance of parks, recreational buildings, and community facilities.
- Establishment of an interjurisdictional body whose function is to coordination of development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities with other public services.

Additionally, the Parks and Open Space Elements have included goals and policies intended to address the maintenance of parks and recreational resources (outlined below). Continued use of general funds, implementation of the specified programs, and compliance with the goals and policies would reduce potential impacts to existing recreation and parks resources to a less than significant level. In addition, compliance with Municipal Code requirements for new development relative to parkland dedication/payment of fees would further minimize impacts to existing facilities through the development of new facilities (refer to the *Future Park and Recreation Resources* discussion below).

Goals and Policies in the General Plan Update: The Parks and Open Space Elements contain the following goals and policies:

- PAR-G-6 Ensure the all park and recreation facilities are adequately designed, landscaped, and maintained.
- PAR-P-12 Encourage development and maintenance of regional parks and recreational facilities through the cooperation of the City of Bakersfield, the County of Kern, the North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District, and the Bear Mountain Recreation District.
- PAR-P-22 Attempt to provide and promote the use of alternative public funding for the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities in low and moderate income neighborhoods in which there is a recognized shortage of parks.
- PAR-P-31 Establish a program of design and improvement review, landscape development, and maintenance of parks, city and county building grounds and public works projects, with quality standards established commensurate with intended function and relative impact on surrounding area.
- PAR-P-35 Encourage the development of recreation programs by public agencies and sports organizations to involve more children and adults in outdoor recreation activity. Use volunteers to operate and maintain programs whenever possible.
- PAR-P-41 Provide for the creation of benefit assessment districts for park acquisition, development and maintenance. These districts should conform as closely as possible to benefit service areas.
- OS-P-1 Promote the establishment, maintenance and protection of the Planning areas open space resources, including the following:
- a) Conservation of natural resources (refer to Chapter II-Land Use, Chapter V-Conservation, and Chapter XII Kern River Plan Element).
 - Kern River corridor
 - Management of hillsides
 - b) Managed production of resources

- Agriculture (refer to Chapter V-Conservation/Soils and Agriculture)
 - Oil production (refer to Chapter V-Conservation/Mineral Resources)
- c) Outdoor recreation
- Parks (refer to Chapter XI-Parks)
 - Kern River corridor (refer to Chapter II-Land Use, Chapter V-Conservation, and Chapter XII-Kern River Plan Element)
- d) Public health and safety
- Hazard avoidance (refer to Chapter VIII-Safety)

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures beyond the programs, goals, and policies identified in the General Plan Update have been proposed.

Level of Significance After Policies/Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION RESOURCES

- **THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD CREATE A DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL PARK AND RECREATION RESOURCES WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN BAKERSFIELD AREA.**

Level of Significance Before Policies/Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis: Residential development and resultant population increase projected with the General Plan Update would create a demand for additional parkland. Table 4.12-3, *Estimated Parkland Demand*, outlines the estimated demand for additional parkland according to park classifications, national standards, and City policies.

As indicated in Table 4.12-3, the anticipated residential development and corresponding population increases would create a total demand for approximately 890 acres of parkland based on National Standards and 840 acres of parkland based on policies contained in the Parks Element. Additionally, the Recreation and Parks Master Plan has identified the future recreational needs of the Planning area based on existing resources/programs, historic growth and use patterns, resident input, and national standards. The following is a summary of the resources and their priority status as recommended by the Plan:

**TABLE 4.12-3
ESTIMATED PARKLAND DEMAND**

Park Classification	National Standard	Created Demand*	General Plan Policy**	Created Demand*
Mini-Park	0.25-0.5 (0.38 avg.) acres /1,000 population	21 acres	0.25-0.5 (0.38 avg.) acres/1,000 population	21 acres
Neighborhood Park	1.0-2.0 (1.5 avg.) acres/1,000 population	84 acres	2.5 acres /1,000 population	140 acres
Community Park Centers	5.0-8.0 (6.5 avg.) acres/1,000 population 1 center/25,000 population 0.5 SF/person	364 acres 2.24 centers 28,000 SF	5.0-8.0 (6.5 avg.) acres/1,000 population 1 center/25,000 population 0.5 SF/person	448 acres 2.24 centers 28,000 SF
Regional Parks	5-10 (7.5 avg.) acres/1,000 population	420 acres	4.0 acres/1,000 population	224 acres
Total Acres		890		840
General Recreation	6-10 (8.0 avg.) acres/1,000 population	448	4.0 acres /1,000 population	224
* Assumes a population increase of approximately 56,000 persons and an average of the standard range.				
** The Parks Element does not include a policy regarding parkland standards for Mini and Community parks. National standards were used for comparison purposes.				

High Priority

- The development of a specific swimming pool enhancement plan.
- The development of three community centers (25,000 to 30,000 square feet each), that provides for a multitude of community based services.
- The development of walking and bike pathways, lanes, and systems long the Kern River Corridor. The addition of spurs. The addition of bike/walking path spurs that interconnect the river-way paths to other geographic sections of the community for recreation, education and environmental purposes.

Medium

- The acquisition, development, and design of at least two significantly sized dedicated fields with regulation design features.⁸
- The development of a specific park enhancement plan, that at a minimum includes:
 - Consideration of additional neighborhood parks in high density areas and new growth areas of the community;
 - Consideration of a park amenities plan that considers types of services to be provided at that site; and
 - Consideration of coupling of new parks with other recommended actions.
- The development of a series of multi-court tennis areas that are built for all levels of play, instruction and competition.
- The development of indoor gymnasium options either by new development or the creation of increased joint-use agreements with schools.

Minimal

⁸ These dedicated fields can be used for different activity venues (i.e., soccer, softball, baseball, football, ruby) depending on season, resident interest, and program delivery.

- The addition of horseshoe pits.
- The addition of outdoor volleyball areas as appropriate to the design feature of new and existing parks.

In addition, the Recreation and Parks Master Plan has identified several policies regarding future recreation programs including implementation of a policy making the Department of Recreation and Parks the primary provider of public offered recreation programs.

The Open Space land use category, which encompasses a total of approximately 18,000 acres or approximately seven percent of the Planning area, includes the following designations:

- Open Space: approximately 9,763 acres;
- Parks and Recreational Facilities: approximately 3,430 acres; and
- Slopes Exceeding 30 Percent: approximately 4,613 acres.

As is evident, sufficient area exists for development of the parkland needed to meet the demand for recreational and park resources (between 840 and 890 acres) created by the General Plan Update.

The Parks Element has identified various implementation programs for meeting the existing and future demand for recreational and park resources. These programs include the following:

- Establish and implement an official park acquisition program to meet current and future needs. The program would include the following actions:
 - a. Establish a mechanism to identify potential park sites;
 - b. Identify funding strategies to pay for acquisition of new parks with funds reserved from the following sources: City and County General Funds; Tax increment funds (in redevelopment project areas); Developer assessments (through use of Quimby Act or other similar funding mechanisms); Business and fund-raising contributions; Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act; Benefit Assessment Districts; State and Federal grants and loans; and Donations, endowments or trust funds.
- Implement the parkland dedication ordinance with in-lieu fee provisions where developers contribute on a per unit basis.
- Establish a dedication program where gifts of parkland and/or recreational facilities may be accepted.
- Consider the use of eminent domain only where there is insufficient vacant land and where the need for parks and recreation facilities has been identified.

- Establish the administrative and legal mechanisms to allow for the creation of benefit assessment districts, community facilities districts, and special taxes, particularly for the development of community centers.
- Utilize general funds for park acquisition, development and maintenance in the following instances:
 - Where developer's fees and grant funds are insufficient to purchase land for parks;
 - Where residents of low income areas cannot afford to contribute to benefit assessment districts for acquisition, development or maintenance.
- Consider recreational programming opportunities when developing park sites. Coordinate park programming with the City of Bakersfield's Specific Trails Plan.
- Follow procedures outlined in the Kern River Plan Element for designating multiple purpose areas for recreation use within the Kern River Plan area.
- Meet with school districts to discuss possible joint use of school facilities for public recreation.
- Discuss with all appropriate government agencies the possible establishment of an interjurisdictional body whose function is to:
 - a. Coordinate the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities with other public services.
 - b. Monitor consistency of all planning documents which govern park and recreation development.
- Modify the subdivision and building ordinances to:
 - a. Require that local parks be developed at a minimum rate of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population.
 - b. Allow developers (within the city) neighborhood park credit as follows:
 - Up to 0.7 acre per 1,000 population credit for on-site recreation or park-like development in P.U.D.s, open spaces, or publicly owned lands;
 - Up to 1.5 acres per 1,000 population credit for on-site recreation or park-like development located within land encumbered with electrical transmission line easements and incorporated as a functional design component of the residential development.
 - c. Require developers to show park locations on development plans.

- d. Establish as a target mini-parks and neighborhood parks within the City of Bakersfield's jurisdiction be accessibly located within 0.75 miles of residents they are intended to serve.
 - e. Require, where feasible, parks be developed with the following minimum acreage standards:

Mini-parks	2.5 usable acres
Neighborhood Parks	10.0 usable acres
Community Parks	20.0 usable acres;
 - f. Allow neighborhood park acreage requirements to be met by community parks when community parks are within or at boundaries of neighborhoods.
 - g. Neighborhood parks may range in size from 6 to 10 acres at the discretion of the Director of Recreation and Parks. Reason for a size less than 10 acres may include Master park planning for a given area, land availability in areas with fragmented ownership or restrictions to a typical park service area.
- Conduct studies in order to evaluate the feasibility of the following:
 - a. The use of publicly-owned lands and utility rights-of-way as public open space.
 - b. The inclusion of new regional parks as a component of existing and proposed groundwater recharge areas.
 - c. A recreation and land management program allowing for the generation of supplemental revenue to offset the cost of necessary further land acquisition, development, and operational costs.
 - Update and implement the Bikeways Master Plan adopted by the City of Bakersfield and County of Kern. Periodically review and update the City of Bakersfield's Specific Trails Plan.
 - To expand and enhance Central Park, pursue the assistance of adjacent property owners, civic organizations, special interest groups, and interested individuals in the preparation of a Central Park master plan. The master plan should reflect the ideas expressed for the park in the May 11-17, 2001 Downtown Design Charrette Report. Pursue the adoption of a Central Park master plan.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 66477 (Quimby Act), the legislative body of a city or county may, by ordinance, require the dedication of land or impose a requirement of the payment of fees in lieu thereof, or a combination of both, for park or recreational purposes as a condition to the approval of a tentative map or parcel map. Pursuant to Bakersfield Municipal Code Section 15.80, and in compliance with the Quimby Act, project applicants would be required to either dedicate land, or pay in lieu fees, for development of park land. Developers of new residential uses are required to provide 2.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 population.

The anticipated population increases would create a total demand for approximately 140 acres of parkland based on the Municipal Code standard. The estimated demand for parkland pursuant to the Municipal Code is less than the estimated demand based on National Standards. However, developers would also be required to pay park development fees of \$670 per each new single-family residential building permit.

Pursuant to Chapter 18.96 of the Kern County Land Division Ordinance, *Park Land Dedication, North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District*, as a condition of approval of a tentative subdivision map or residential parcel map within the jurisdiction of the North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District, the subdivider is required to dedicate land, pay a fee in lieu thereof, or both, as set forth in this chapter, for park or recreational purposes. This Chapter requires the dedication of 2.5 acres of land per 1,000 persons and/or the payment of fees in lieu of land dedication.

Implementation of the General Plan Update would create a demand for additional recreational and park resources. However, the Parks Element has identified various programs for meeting this future demand. Implementation of these programs, in addition to the goals and policies from the Parks, Open Space and Land Use Elements listed below, would meet the future demand on a project-by-project basis. It is not anticipated that the future demand would further aggravate the Planning area's existing parkland deficiency. Impacts in this regard would be considered less than significant.

Goals and Policies in the General Plan Update: The Parks, Land Use, and Open Space Elements contain the following goals and policies:

- PAR-G-1 Provide parks and recreation facilities to meet the planning area's diverse needs.

- PAR-G-2 Supply neighborhood parks at a minimum of 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons throughout the plan area.

- PAR-G-3 Provide four acres of park and recreation space for each 1,000 persons (based on the most recent census) for general regional recreation opportunity and minimum standard. Park and recreational space includes mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks and regional parks.

- PAR-G-4 Provide a diversity of programs and facilities to meet the needs for the full range of citizen groups including the elderly, handicapped, and economically disadvantaged.

- PAR-G-5 Coordinate development of park facilities and trail systems throughout the plan area which enhance the centers concept and complement unique visual or natural resources.

- PAR-G-6 Ensure the all park and recreation facilities are adequately designed, landscaped, and maintained.

- PAR-G-7 Require that the costs of park and recreation facilities and programs are borne by those who benefit from and contribute to additional demand.
- PAR-G-9 Coordinate efforts by volunteer agencies, civic organizations, private enterprise and all government entities to assure the provision of a complete range of recreation opportunities for all residents of the planning area.
- PAR-P-1 Require that neighborhood parks be developed at a minimum rate of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population. This requirement may be met all or in part by on-site recreation for such developments as Planned Unit Developments. The City of Bakersfield may allow credit to meet the neighborhood parks requirement.
- PAR-P-2 Allow the formation of special park districts which provide higher park standards than the minimum stated in Policy PAR-P-1.
- PAR-P-3 Require developers to dedicate land, provide improvements and/or in lieu fees to serve the needs of the population in newly developing areas.
- PAR-P-4 Require developers of new subdivisions to show and adhere to park locations (depicted on the Land Use Element). Park locations identified in master plans approved prior to adoption of this General Plan are reflected in this plan. Variations may be allowed based on certain constraints. See Policy PAR-P-6.
- PAR-P-5 Establish as a target that mini-parks and neighborhood parks within the City of Bakersfield jurisdiction be situated within 0.75 miles of residents they are intended to serve.
- PAR-P-6 Provide additional neighborhood and community parks and recreation acreage in areas substantially developed or in the process of redevelopment or improvement, using a combination of public funds, in lieu developers fees, and benefit assessment districts.
- PAR-P-7 Provide mini-parks in developed residential areas where neighborhood standards are not met and where it is impossible to acquire sufficient acreage for neighborhood facilities. Use the same funding mechanisms indicated in Policy PAR-P-6.
- PAR-P-8 Require the following minimum site size standards in planning and acquiring of local parks and playgrounds:
- Mini-parks (public): -2.5 usable acres
 Neighborhood parks/playgrounds: -10.0 usable acres
 Community park/playfield: -20.0 usable acres
 These acreages are intended as guides for City and County improvements. Variations may be allowed based on constraints such as land availability, natural obstacles, financing, funding and

maintenance costs. The above acreage figures apply to usable acreage. Usable means an area that people can use, with an emphasis on active and group use. It is essentially flat land that can be developed for facilities and activity areas. It is not land steeper than 4 feet horizontal and 1 foot vertical in slope, land with unusually poor soil conditions, land subject to flood water stagnation, land with riparian or otherwise unique habitat worthy of preservation or water bodies or areas impacted adversely by adjacent or nearby land uses.

- PAR-P-9 Allow neighborhood park requirements to be met by community parks when community parks are situated within or at the boundaries of neighborhoods and when they provide equivalent facilities.
- PAR-P-10 Encourage schools to make playgrounds and playfields available to local residents after normal school hours and on weekends.
- PAR-P-11 Evaluate the feasibility of using publicly-owned lands and utility rights-of-way as recreational facilities.
- PAR-P-12 Encourage development and maintenance of regional parks and recreational facilities through the cooperation of the City of Bakersfield, the County of Kern, the North Bakersfield Recreation and park District, and the Bear Mountain Recreation District.
- PAR-P-13 Evaluate the feasibility of including new regional parks as a component of proposed groundwater recharge areas.
- PAR-P-14 Plan for and expend regional recreation opportunity in connection with the development and conservation of appropriate areas along the Kern River.
- PAR-P-15 Designate multiple purpose areas for recreation and park use within the Kern River Plan area and in accordance with the goals and policies in the Kern River Plan Element.
- PAR-P-16 Accommodate social, cultural and ethnic needs in the design and programming of recreational spaces and facilities.
- PAR-P-17 Attempt to locate parks and design facilities to meet the needs of all population segments including children, seniors and the disabled.
- PAR-P-18 Attempt to provide special recreational programs for seniors on fixed incomes, latch-key children, and the economically disadvantaged.
- PAR-P-19 Locate and design local park and recreation areas for access to all age groups where practicable. Provide facilities for both active (play areas and courts) and passive (turf, walk-ways, trees and picnic facilities where possible) recreational activity.

- PAR-P-20 Operate programs at times convenient to the users.
- PAR-P-21 Establish both passive and active park development in local parks to accommodate programmed activities and drop-in use. Some usable area should be held as open turf for free play.
- PAR-P-22 Attempt to provide and promote the use of alternative public funding for the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities in low and moderate income neighborhoods in which there is a recognized shortage of parks.
- PAR-P-23 Encourage the development of parks adjacent to schools in order to provide a wider range of programs.
- PAR-P-24 Monitor program needs through surveys of neighborhood residents or other participation mechanisms and through periodic reviews of park and recreational needs.
- PAR-P-25 Promote the preservation of existing parks and encourage the development of other facilities near downtown.
- PAR-P-26 Encourage the further development of the City of Bakersfield's specific trails plan.
- PAR-P-27 Encourage pedestrian and bicycle linkages between residential and commercial uses.
- PAR-P-28 Encourage the establishment of equestrian trails where they link residential development to the Kern River in areas of the northeast and northwest where horses are permitted by zoning.
- PAR-P-29 Design equestrian trails, hiking and bicycling rights-of-way to minimize user conflicts between them.
- PAR-P-30 Evaluate the feasibility of using utility easements for recreational activity.
- PAR-P-31 Establish a program of design and improvement review, landscape development, and maintenance of parks, city and county building grounds and public works projects, with quality standards established commensurate with intended function and relative impact on surrounding area.
- PAR-P-32 Encourage variety in the design of park facilities to enhance the lifestyle of residents to be served.
- PAR-P-33 Monitor the parkland dedication ordinance with in lieu fee provisions.

- PAR-P-34 Encourage coordination in the acquisition, development and use of parks and schools to avoid duplication of facilities and provide economic use of public funds.
- PAR-P-35 Encourage the development of recreation programs by public agencies and sports organizations to involve more children and adults in outdoor recreation activity. Use volunteers to operate and maintain programs whenever possible.
- PAR-P-36 Monitor the official park acquisition program to meet current and future needs. The program includes direct input for capital budgeting purposes including the scheduling of park dedication. The program is reviewed periodically with respect to changing growth rates and General Plan policies.
- PAR-P-37 Establish a formal mechanism by which the city may accept gifts and dedications of parks and open space.
- PAR-P-38 Consider the use of eminent domain where siting of a park is required to serve neighborhood needs for parks and recreational facilities.
- PAR-P-39 Consider the formation of Community Facilities Districts, especially in newly developing areas.
- PAR-P-40 Consider the use of special taxes for financing services or facilities.
- PAR-P-41 Provide for the creation of benefit assessment districts for park acquisition, development and maintenance. These districts should conform as closely as possible to benefit service areas.
- PAR-P-42 Encourage a community-wide parks and recreation district to equitably distribute support for the park system.
- PAR-P-43 Encourage the development of private and commercial recreation facilities under lease or concession agreements where such facilities are consistent with planned development and offer expanded recreation opportunities to the public.
- PAR-P-44 Study the feasibility of a recreation and land management program allowing for the generation of supplemental revenue to offset the cost of necessary further land acquisition, development and operational cost. This could include establishing concessions, rentals, user fees and land leases.
- PAR-P-45 Develop lighted playing fields on community park sites.
- PAR-P-48 Situate swimming pools near high schools, wherever possible, and with convenient access to elementary schools.

- PAR-P-52 Ensure that all park facilities be developed consistent with policies in applicable planning documents and elements of the General Plan.
- PAR-P-53 Coordinate the provision of park facilities with other public services and facilities, especially schools and public roads.
- PAR-P-54 Coordinate the location, planning, and functional uses of all park and recreational facilities with affected local governmental entities and where feasible, promote joint acquisition and/or development to assure effective coverage of all needs.
- PAR-P-55 Seek out and encourage the provision of volunteer assistance from civic organizations, special interest groups, and individuals to provide program leadership or facility development to augment recreation opportunities.
- PAR-P-56 Periodically evaluate the planning area to evaluate park deficiencies
- PAR-P-57 Central Park should be expanded to facilitate the City of Bakersfield in identifying and recognizing its historical heritage, the heart of historic Bakersfield, and to enhance the urban environment of the downtown area.
- LU-P-50 Coordinate with the appropriate agencies so that adequate land and facilities are set aside for schools, parks, police/fire, libraries, cultural facilities, recreational facilities and other service uses to serve the community.
- OS-P-1 Promote the establishment, maintenance and protection of the Planning areas open space resources, including the following:
- b) Conservation of natural resources (refer to Chapter II-Land Use, Chapter V-Conservation, and Chapter XII Kern River Plan Element).
 - Kern River corridor
 - Management of hillsides
 - b) Managed production of resources
 - Agriculture (refer to Chapter V-Conservation/Soils and Agriculture)
 - Oil production (refer to Chapter V-Conservation/Mineral Resources)
 - c) Outdoor recreation
 - Parks (refer to Chapter XI-Parks)

- Kern River corridor (refer to Chapter II-Land Use, Chapter V-Conservation, and Chapter XII-Kern River Plan Element)

d) Public health and safety

- Hazard avoidance (refer to Chapter VIII-Safety)

OS-P-7 Consider the use of groundwater recharge lands for recreation, habitat and alternate resource uses.

OS-P-8 Consider reuse of abandoned landfill areas for recreational and open space purposes where it can be shown that the landfill does not present a health hazard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures beyond the goals, policies and implementation identified in the General Plan Update are proposed.

Level of Significance After Policies/Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Implementation of goals, policies and implementation and associated implementation programs in the General Plan Update would reduce potential impacts to recreation and parks resources to a less than significant level.