

## 9. RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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*The City of Peoria is committed to providing meaningful open space and a variety of parks and recreation facilities that provide enjoyment for its residents and visitors of all ages. As the only City in the State to contain a major lake (Lake Pleasant), the City offers a wide range of outdoor opportunities for its many users. The natural characteristics of its landforms, rivers and drainage ways presents opportunities to promote a contiguous system of wildlife corridors and recreational linkages to parks, schools, open spaces, neighborhoods and employment areas in the City.*

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The Recreation and Open Space Element is organized in the following manner:

- 9.a. Introduction
- 9.b. Goals, Objectives and Policies
- 9.c. Recreation and Open Space Plan
  - 9-c.1 Park and Recreation Facilities
  - 9-c.2 Paths and Trails
  - 9-c.3 Open Space
- 9.d. Prioritization of Future Projects

### 9.A. INTRODUCTION

The 2006 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan (PROST) shall serve as the specific planning document for planning, development and provisioning of facilities for parks, recreation, open space, and trails for the City of Peoria and is supported and enabled by the goals, objectives, policies, and strategies identified in the Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan.

The Recreation and Open Space Element provides a framework to identify, acquire and enhance a system of open space areas and recreation facilities within the Peoria Planning Area. The system is intended to provide an appropriate level of open space and parks acreage. Connectivity and linkages necessary to serve existing and future residents of the City through the rivers and trails corridors, canals, utility corridors and pathways provide both passive and active recreation areas allowing the use of alternative transportation modes that enhance social interaction. Equally important, this element recognizes the value of regional destinations that, linked with neighboring jurisdictions, support a seamless system of open spaces and recreation facilities.

Peoria continues to experience rapid growth throughout the community with much of the southern half of the city--the areas south of Pinnacle Peak Road--approaching build out. Development is extending residential activity into the north and northwestern regions of the City which will create additional demands for park facilities and for organized recreation programs and natural open spaces. The north and northwest regions of the City are fortunate to have significant Sonoran Desert vegetation and landforms. These resources will require a sensitive approach for both open space conservation and future park development needs.

The Park/Open Space (P/OS) designation within the Land Use Map of the General Plan (see Figure 2-1, Land Use Map) denotes those large areas optimally suited to be maintained or enhanced in their natural condition based on their environmental value or developed with recreation activities within the City. Residential development, at densities up to one (1) dwelling unit per acre, is permitted in these areas subject to compliance with the City's Hillside Development Ordinance, Desert Lands Conservation

Ordinance (DLCO) and other applicable regulations involving lands exhibiting environmental significance. Specific open space and park areas are graphically illustrated on Figure 9-1, *Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan*.

Those areas designated for Open Space are controlled by several classes of entities including private property owners, the Arizona State Land Trust, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation and Maricopa County. In order to secure these areas as dedicated open space, specific open space acquisition methods, requirements and procedures will be necessary. The Peoria Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan identifies numerous acquisition/preservation techniques to enhance the network of open space areas. The extent to which open space can be added to the public domain or protected depends on the availability of the acquisition/preservation techniques and the public’s commitment to financially support such actions. Further study of the existing and potential open space network and acquisition techniques will be required through the upcoming years.

The foundational goal for park facilities level of service is one park per square mile. This is the base standard by which the City plans for developing areas. The *City of Peoria 2006 PROST* includes specific standards for future desired park types and for major recreational facilities to be located within the City in the future. The Level of Service (LOS) standards quantify a community’s expressed provision for park acreage or facilities for a standard. Table 9.1, *Recommended Park Level of Service standards*, includes specific standards for the desired park types and major recreational facilities to be located within the City in the future.

**Table 9-1 Recommended Park Level of Service Standards**

Park Type	Parks Required	Parks Needed	Acres Needed
Neighborhood Park	31	5	43.75
Community Park	3	1	75.00
Regional Park (Lake Pleasant not included)	1	1	300.00
Open Space			1556.00
Total: Parkland/Open Space Need (Acres)			1974.75

The City is utilizing these Levels of Service to calculate the need and conceptually locate facilities using the 2008 population estimate of 155,560. The defined “need” to provide park sites, open space, recreation acreage and recreation facilities to enhance the level of service to the existing and future population is presented in Table 9-2, *Park Facility Needs*.

**Table 9-2 Park Facility Needs (Based on 2008 Estimated Population of 155,560)**

Facility	Level of Service	Existing Facilities	Required
Baseball	25,000	13	6
Little League	12,500	11	12
Softball	7,500	6	21
Soccer	7,500	20	21
Multi-use Fields	5,000	31	31
Basketball Courts	5,000	41	31
Hand/Racquetball	50,000	2	3
Volleyball	12,500	12	12
Tennis	5,000	24	31
Picnic Ramadas	2,000	87	78
Swimming Pools	35,000	3	4
Children Play Area	5,000	33	31
Skateboard Parks	100,000	1	2

Facility	Level of Service	Existing Facilities	Required
Off-leash/Dog Parks	100,000	0	2
Community Center w/ Gymnasium, Handball / Racquetball, Fitness Area	50,000	2	3
Special Use Indoor Facilities, Meeting / Class Rooms	50,000	2	3

The City currently is, or will soon be, managing and/or maintaining open space acreage for recreational activities. Open space in the form of drainage ways, retention, and linkages currently exists within some planned area developments. The open space acreage dedicated by new and future planned area developments needs to account for and provide the service area coverage for the overall City of Peoria population and not just for the populations of the individual developments. Function, activities, and facilities within the proposed open space acreage will determine their overall recreational value for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces system.

**Table 9-3 Park Sites and Parkland Acreage Needs**

**Population: 155,560      Year: 2008**

Park Type	Minimum Size	Service Area	Service Area (pop.)	Acres / 1,000 pop
Neighborhood Park	8.75 Ac	1/2 mile radius	5,000	1.75
Community Park	75 Ac	3 miles radius	50,000	1.5
Regional Park	300 Ac	10 mile radius	100,000	3
Open Space	Varies	10 mile radius	n/a	10
Total Park Lands / 1000 Population				16.25

Note: Parkland need based upon number of park sites deficient multiplied by minimum park type need. Open space need based upon acres/1000 multiplied by current population.

The Regional Park and Open Space classifications can provide opportunities to develop Linear, Special Use and/or Conservancy Parks that offer additional recreational resources in the community that are not being met by developing only Neighborhood and Community Parks. Linking parks and other public and commercial uses, providing enhanced opportunities for organized recreation, and preserving the culture and heritage of a community are important components to augment typical parks that enhance the quality of life in the City of Peoria.

## 9.B. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

<b>GOAL 1:</b>	<b>DEVELOP AN ACCESSIBLE, COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED, HIGH-QUALITY PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES SYSTEM SERVING THE NEEDS OF PEORIA RESIDENTS.</b>
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### Objective 1.A

Coordinate and incorporate principles and policies of the General Plan Recreation and Open Space Element, the Trails Master Plan, the Rivers Master Plan and the Desert Land Conservation Plan, the Northern Peoria Parks and Open Space Plan and the 2006 Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces and Trails Master Plan.

#### Policy 1.A.1

Coordinate with the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) for the designation, disposition and acquisition of lands classified as open space under their management within the Peoria Planning Area.

**Policy 1.A.2**

Provide additional dedicated open space, linear parks, special use parks/conservancy parks and trails along the New River, Agua Fria River, mountain areas and Lake Pleasant basin.

**Policy 1.A.3**

Coordinate with developers during the master planning stage and the plan review process to set aside key contiguous open space areas, corridors and/or linkages through dedications, conservation easements, or open space designations.

**Policy 1.A.4**

Support Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Arizona State Land (ASLD) policies for maintaining areas north of State Route 74 as resource and conservation areas, and shall support and maintain areas north of SR 74 as resource conservation areas or recreation management zones which target specific recreation niches.

**Objective 1.B**

**Conduct attitudinal surveys to ensure that recreational needs and degree of satisfaction are incorporated into future system planning.**

**Policy 1.B.1**

Conduct a statistically valid Household Resident Survey between updates of the Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces, and Trails Master Plan that is designed to assess changing interests, needs, and level of satisfaction pertaining to parks, recreation and open spaces.

**Objective 1.C**

**Ensure that future parks and recreational facilities are designed and located in conformance with accepted service area and population standards.**

**Policy 1.C.1**

Achieve the park level of service standards outlined in this Chapter.

**Objective 1.D**

**Explore and adopt new, innovative revenue sources to acquire land, redevelop, construct new facilities, maintain existing and new facilities, and provide diverse recreational programs for all ages.**

**Policy 1.D.1**

Encourage the use of innovative methods of property acquisition, including scenic and special purpose easements, purchase or transfer of development rights and tax incentives for private landowners.

**Policy 1.D.2**

Establish and/or reinforce mutually beneficial partnerships with public agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, Maricopa County, State Parks and private land developers that can provide financial support for on-going parks, recreation and open space facilities.

**Policy 1.D.3**

Encourage the use of Foundations and Gifts as significant non-profit, tax exempt, revenue sources for promotion of specific recreation and open space causes, activities or issues.

**Objective 1.E**

**Provide a coordinated process to prioritize land acquisition, design, and the construction and operation of all new parks and recreational facilities in the City.**

**Policy 1.E.1**

Respond to the highest priority needs identified in the Household Resident Survey, including open space acquisition and conservation, trails development and community recreation centers.

**Policy 1.E.2**

Utilize the Implementation Program developed as a part of this Master Plan, which identifies specific action priorities, responsibilities and potential funding mechanisms.

**Policy 1.E.3**

Integrate the prioritized parks, recreation and open space needs identified in this Master Plan with the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

**Policy 1.E.4**

Continue to utilize developer agreements that specify their dedication of land, development of park land and/or payment of fee in lieu to the City.

**Policy 1.E.5**

Continue to coordinate its conceptual locations for park acreage with the Peoria Unified School District (PUSD), the Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD) and/or any other school district located within the city limits, in an effort to provide joint use recreation facilities and programming throughout the City.

**Policy 1.E.6**

Incorporate new park, open space, and path and trail facilities for existing, older neighborhoods and areas in order to address changing recreational interests and trends.

**Objective 1.F**

**Promote the development of parks, recreational, open space, and path and trail facilities, which encourage and support economic development throughout the City.**

**Policy 1.F.1**

Integrate parks, recreation and open space with new Planned Area Development and mixed-use development projects, such as the Peoria Sports Complex, Rio Vista Community Park and environmental conservation areas that provide unique and high quality opportunities to attract new residents and tourism.

**GOAL 2:**

**DEVELOP A SAFE, FUNCTIONAL, AND ENJOYABLE PARK SYSTEM.**

**Objective 2.A**

**Design, construct and maintain all new and redeveloped facilities in conformance with local, state, and national building codes, ordinances, and acts.**

**Policy 2.A.1**

Utilize the Peoria Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Desert Lands Conservation Ordinance, (DLCO), and the Peoria Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan to design and construct all park, open space, and path and trail improvements.

**Policy 2.A.2**

Evaluate all new park equipment and site amenities to minimize safety hazards in their selection for new and existing City park sites.

**Policy 2.A.3**

Monitor the physical condition of existing park facilities and repair , remove, and/or replace damaged or worn elements to continue to provide a well maintained and attractive parks and recreation system.

**Policy 2.A.4**

Consider Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and guidelines.

**Objective 2.B**

**Manage all park facilities in a manner that is fiscally responsible and maintains appropriate service levels for all types of users.**

**Policy 2.B.1**

Promote community volunteer programs that can assist in the on-going implementation and maintenance of parks, recreation, open space, and paths and trails facilities.

**Policy 2.B.2**

Identify and develop an on-going park, open space, and paths and trails facilities replacement and updating program to ensure that existing parks facilities maintain appropriate service levels.

**Objective 2.C**

**Include tailored site amenities within park, open space, and paths and trails facilities that are based on resident feedback and will enhance the user experience.**

**Policy 2.C.1**

Develop a comprehensive listing of site amenities, for presentation to residents in the park service area, that users desire and the City supports.

**GOAL 3:**

**DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE AND DIVERSE RECREATION PROGRAM.**

**Objective 3.A**

**Conduct attitudinal surveys to measure program participant satisfaction and make necessary adjustments to programs and activities.**

**Policy 3.A.1**

Conduct recreational program satisfaction surveys at the completion of its recreation programs and strive to make adjustments that will help meet changing needs.

**Policy 3.A.2**

Administer recreational program satisfaction surveys designed to address specific facilities and activities at regular intervals.

**Policy 3.A.3**

Respond to the high need identified for teen recreational programs in the Household Resident Survey.

**Objective 3.B**

**Evaluate the need for parks, recreation, open space, and paths and trails facilities and designate specific facility types and service areas based on current and future programming opportunities.**

**Policy 3.B.1**

Respond to current and changing needs identified through program satisfaction surveys and the Household Resident Survey conducted for the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan (2002).

**Policy 3.B.2**

Continue to evaluate growing and changing recreational needs and opportunities presented by large scale, Planned Area Developments currently being planned for northern Peoria.

**Objective 3.C**

**Develop public and private partnerships to enhance joint sharing of recreational resources.**

**Policy 3.C.1**

Continue building a partnership with Maricopa County and the use of the Lake Pleasant Regional Park recreational facilities to conduct diversified programs that can help augment the City's Parks and Recreation System and benefit the County through increased Park user fees.

**Policy 3.C.2**

Continue building a partnership with all School Districts located within the City limits to augment the City's parks and recreational system through coordination of the School Districts' master planning process and the City's parks development program.

**Objective 3.D**

**Develop a system of fees and charges that provides access to all programs and services regardless of age, income level or resident status.**

**Policy 3.D.1**

Continue to implement the current fees and charges system that includes a federal subsidy to help provide financial assistance to those who are unable to pay the full fees and charges to participate in the City's recreational programs.

**Objective 3.E**

**Seek out and utilize a variety of marketing opportunities to increase program awareness and identify new program opportunities.**

**Policy 3.E.1**

Continue to update the Peoria Community Services web page to provide friendly comprehensive parks and recreation system information, including a current map of the City's Park System, the Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces, and Trails Master Plan, and current recreational programming opportunities.

**Policy 3.E.2**

Encourage program registration via the internet to promote convenience and provide the City with a real time data base of program user information.

**Policy 3.E.3**

Coordinate with neighboring communities and landowners, such as Glendale, Phoenix, and Maricopa County to share parks and recreational system information that can be mutually beneficial.

**Policy 3.E.4**

Develop a current parks and recreation open space path and trail system miniature color brochure that can serve as a hand-out for citizens, current and future recreational system partners, and other interested individuals or agencies.

**Objective 3.F**

**Provide city-wide opportunities for integration of future recreational trends.**

**Policy 3.F.1**

Encourage research, such as professional recreational society networking and surveys, which identify current and potential future recreational trends and incorporate the findings with future recreation programming and master planned development.

**Policy 3.F.2**

Stipulate that master planned development projects in the undeveloped areas of the City provide for parks open space path and trail dedication that provides for variably sized, contiguous and connected land areas, within the development to allow for future integration of recreational facilities.

<b>GOAL 4:</b>	<b>DEVELOP AN OPEN SPACE SYSTEM THAT IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AND SELF-SUSTAINING.</b>
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**Objective 4.A**

**Preserve the diverse ecologies provided by park and open space environments.**

**Policy 4.A.1**

Develop and implement a Mountain Preserve program that identifies preservation, conservation and management of significant natural areas such as mountain range groups, hillsides, floodplains, rivers, and wash corridors.

**Policy 4.A.2**

Identify and promote a contiguous system of natural features (such as slopes, peaks, ridges, rock outcroppings, stands of vegetation and washes) for protection and/or preservation through means including, but not limited to TDRs ('Transfer of Development Rights'), as part of land trusts, as conservation easements, or incorporation into developments as design features.

**Policy 4.A.3**

Encourage the preservation of significant natural features such as hillsides and floodplains and the re-vegetation of rivers and washes to enhance their recreational attraction, preserve wildlife habitats, and enhance their aesthetic value.

**Policy 4.A.4**

Stipulate that open space, required as a component of Planned Area Developments, should be protected by Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions or by agreement with the City or other public entity.

**Objective 4.B**

**Utilize appropriate vegetation types and water conserving principles to ensure climatic relief and minimize the demands of the City's water supply.**

**Policy 4.B.1**

Comply with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) guidelines for water conservation by advocating for the utilization of the Department's list of acceptable, low water use plant materials.

**Objective 4.C**

**Develop appropriate architectural and structural criteria that mitigate climatic extremes, protect adjacent flora and fauna, and reflect the contextual regional aesthetics.**

**Policy 4.C.1**

Require design consultants to coordinate design character solutions for development projects that respond to the natural site context (mountainous areas, river corridors, Lake Pleasant basin). Specific design criteria to be utilized for all design elements shall be established and approved by the City during the master planning process.

**Policy 4.C.2**

Protect view corridors through the generous buffering or screening, judicious placement of structures, as well as the imposition of reasonable height limitations on structures and signs.

**Policy 4.C.3**

Require a visual assessment for new developments identifying areas with a high degree of visual quality and including methods of protecting and/or mitigating impacts.

<b>GOAL 5:</b>	<b>DEVELOP A SAFE, MULTI-USE AND INTER-CONNECTED PATH AND TRAIL SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE CITY.</b>
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**Objective 5.A**

**Design and construct a paths and trails system along river corridors.**

**Policy 5.A.1**

Utilize the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan (PROST), the Trails and Rivers Master Plan, the Peoria Desert Lands Conservation Ordinance (DLCO) and the General Plan to coordinate with master planned development projects adjacent to the river corridors to identify appropriate paths and trails corridors and linkages.

**Policy 5.A.2**

Utilize appropriate regional planning documents such as but not limited to the West Valley Recreation Corridor Plan (MCFCD, 1999), The West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Master Plan (MAG, 2001) and the Maricopa County Regional Trail System Plan (Maricopa County Trail Commission, 2002). The City shall continue to coordinate the master planning and development of projects adjacent to the New River and Agua Fria River corridors with the New River and Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plans, and The West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Master Plan.

**Objective 5.B**

**Develop a system of paths and trails that connects major recreational, educational and economic centers throughout the city and adjacent cities.**

**Policy 5.B.1**

Utilize the Desert Lands Conservation Ordinance (DLCO), Peoria Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan (PROST), Peoria Rivers and Trails Master Plans, and the General Plan to coordinate with master planned development projects to identify appropriate paths and trails corridors and linkages.

**Policy 5.B.2**

Coordinate paths and trails linkages with the Cities of Glendale, Phoenix, Surprise, Maricopa County, MAG and the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

**Policy 5.B.3**

Coordinate paths and trails linkages with City and Valley Metro transit systems.

**Policy 5.B.4**

Support the use of canal systems, such as the Central Arizona Project Canal (CAP) and Beardsley Canals, as recreation corridors that link regional parks.

**Policy 5.B.5**

Support the use of utility corridors, such as power lines, as recreation corridors that help link city and regional parks, recreation and open spaces.

**Objective 5.C**

**Develop a paths and trails system in open space and mountain preserve areas that provides accessible links to other trail systems.**

**Policy 5.C.1**

Provide public access to open space and river corridors wherever possible.

**Objective 5.D**

**Establish a management plan for the development and upkeep of the total trail system.**

**Policy 5.D.1**

Coordinate future paths and trails development with the Peoria Paths and Trails Master Plan Implementation Program.

**Policy 5.D.2**

Coordinate trails development and on-going maintenance as part of the City's CIP and maintenance budgeting process.

**Policy 5.D.3**

Encourage and promote benefits of volunteer labor and material donations for trails development and maintenance to help expedite the development of the City's trail system and its linkages with adjacent landowners.

**GOAL 6:**

**DEVELOP A PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES SYSTEM THAT PRESERVES AND ENHANCES CULTURAL RESOURCES.**

**Objective 6.A**

**Preserve, protect, enhance and promote local historical and cultural resources in the design and development of existing and new facilities.**

**Policy 6.A.1**

Coordinate the preservation and conservation of cultural resource areas located in the northern Peoria reaches of the Agua Fria and New River corridors and surrounding mountain areas with the State Historic and Preservation Office (SHPO), and current and future private development projects.

**Policy 6.A.2**

Promote and require appropriate design character for architecture and site amenities for private and public development projects that draws upon the specific cultural resources or historical heritage within or adjacent to the development area.

**Objective 6.B**

**Develop management agreements with public and private entities to ensure appropriate use and preservation of cultural and historical resources for future generations.**

**Policy 6.B.1**

Develop new or amended Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA) with the State Land Department, Maricopa County, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bureau of Land Management to incorporate provisions for preservation, conservation and interpretation of unique cultural resource sites in northern Peoria as identified in the Peoria Rivers Master Plan and Peoria Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan.

**Policy 6.B.2**

Develop new management agreements with private landowners in cultural and historic resource areas in northern Peoria to preserve, or dedicate these areas for future potential interpretive uses and protection.

**Objective 6.C**

**Enhance community awareness and increase public support of local cultural opportunities through appropriate park and recreational programs and activities.**

**Policy 6.C.1**

Continue to provide cultural activities through its recreation programming and tailor specific activities to the needs of its residents.

**Policy 6.C.2**

Strive to pursue corporate sponsorship of its art/culture series and public group participation (i.e., Kiwanis, Boy and Girl Scouts) to enhance historic or landmark properties in the City.

<b>GOAL 7:</b>	<b>APPROPRIATELY PLAN THE UNIQUE RECREATIONAL RESOURCES OF THE NORTH PLANNING AREA OF PEORIA THROUGH FUTURE MASTER PLANNED DEVELOPMENT.</b>
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**Objective 7.A**

**Enhance contiguous open space qualities through coordinating master planned development projects.**

**Policy 7.A.1**

Discuss the Goals, Objectives and strategies outlined in this Chapter with developers during initial planning coordination meetings to emphasize the importance of understanding the relationship of their project(s) to Peoria’s comprehensive parks, recreation, and open spaces system and to explain the specific planning and design criteria that will be required for their project(s).

**Policy 7.A.2**

Require that private developers coordinate locations of designated open space between master planned projects to increase the size of contiguous open space areas.

**Policy 7.A.3**

Require that master planned development projects in the North Planning Area provide designated unrestricted open space areas that provide diverse opportunities for parks, recreation and trails development.

**Policy 7.A.4**

Require that areas designated for parks and recreation facilities be appropriately sized and effectively configured to meet minimum spatial criteria.

**Objective 7.B**

**Incorporate topographic and drainage opportunities and constraints with master planned development.**

**Policy 7.B.1**

Stipulate that master planned development projects in the mountainous areas of the North Planning Area provide funding for unrestricted public parks, recreation and open space in lieu of providing like facilities where topographic and/or drainage constraints are prohibitive.

**Policy 7.B.2**

Stipulate that development projects adjacent to the Agua Fria and the New River coordinate opportunities to designate open space and continuous linkages from the river corridors to surrounding foothills and mountainous areas, including trails, parks and conservation areas.

## **9.C. RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

### **9-C.1 PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Park and Recreation Facilities for the City of Peoria range from small pocket parks to large regional parks. The range of activities in the parks is passive uses, walking, picnicking to active sports uses. While these ranges cover the broad spectrum of park types and uses the majority of parks will fall into standardized categories; Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks and Regional Parks.

These standard categories are the baseline or “typical” type and definition of desired parks. The City of Peoria has rich cultural, historical, topographic, vegetative, view shed, and habitat resources that may not always fit within the “typical” definition. Every effort in planning, design and operations of each individual park should take into account and reflect these resource values. The plan addresses these resource values in the park locations, sizes and potential uses. Further efforts in bringing these planned and proposed parks on line must support this philosophy to achieve the vision.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

The purpose of the Neighborhood Park is to serve the recreational needs (level of service (LOS) of the immediate surrounding neighborhood, and is designed to service an approximate population of 5000. The recommended service area for a neighborhood park is ½ mile, thus keeping it within walking distance of the surrounding residences. The typical size of a neighborhood park is 10 acres (useable space; net, of roads, slopes, tracts, flood zones, washes, etc.), with a recommended size of 10-15 acres

(8.75 acres is minimum allowable size). A neighborhood park should connect to neighborhoods and open spaces, and be sited adjacent to elementary schools and retention basins where possible. In the mountainous northern areas of the city special accommodations due to lower densities may be recognized to adjust the service radius while still maintaining the LOS population. As a neighborhood destination off street paths and trails should be provided to connect the park to the neighborhood and greater community path and trail system.

### **COMMUNITY PARKS**

Community Parks should be accessible to many neighborhoods and their LOS service area, providing parking, safe bike and pedestrian access and intensive recreation opportunities. These parks usually include all of the uses contained in Neighborhood Parks but have additional acreage for athletic fields, courts, and special use facilities such as urban lakes, skate parks, large group picnic facilities, recreation centers, etc. Community Parks typically serve a larger area and population within a 3 mile radius (5 mile maximum under special circumstances). Recommended service is for an approximate population of 50,000. The Typical size for a Community Park is 60 – 100 acres, with 80 acres as the recommended minimum size.

### **REGIONAL PARKS**

Regional Parks can serve a singular, specific, or diverse recreational opportunity that provides an added dimension to the entire park system. Regional parks can serve to provide a regional sport facility, such as the Peoria Sports Complex, or it can provide a venue for multi-use activities such as Little League play and special events. Regional Parks can provide a specific use or a wide range of active, passive and natural areas/open space that attract users from the entire City as well as the entire Valley. Regional Parks typically contain a large amount of acreage that exhibits characteristics where openness, natural features, or planned improvements are served by arterial roadways, adequate parking, and compatible adjacent land uses. Regional parks generally range in size of to 400 acres and serve a population of up to 100,000, within a 30-minute drive time.

### **SPECIAL USE PARK**

A special use park is dedicated to specific or single purpose recreational activities such as golf, nature centers/preserves, equestrian staging areas, amphitheaters, or sports complexes, in addition to recreation centers that provide a variety of special events and activities. Their purpose is to enhance the multi-use year-round recreational opportunities for residents of the City. Special uses generally fall into three categories:

- Historic/cultural/social sites - unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities.
- Recreation Facilities - specialized or single-purpose facilities, including community centers, senior centers, community theaters, hockey arenas, marinas, golf courses, and aquatic parks.
- Outdoor Recreation Facilities - tennis centers, softball complexes, sports stadiums, equestrian centers, and open space/mountain preserves/natural preserves.

### **FUTURE PARK NEEDS**

The future park acreage needs for the residents of the City of Peoria are based on anticipated population projections and preferred locations in the City and application of the recommended standards. The statistical tabulation of needed parks, per classification type and land area is listed in Table 9.4 Recommend Parkland and Future Needs.

Table 9.4 Future Park Need

Year/Population*	Park Type	Parks Required	Parks Needed
2008 / 155,560	Neighborhood	31	5
	Community	3	1
	Regional (Lake Pleasant not included)	1	-1
2011 / 161,231	Neighborhood	32	6
	Community	3	1
	Regional (Lake Pleasant not included)	2	0
2015 / 182,938	Neighborhood	37	11
	Community	4	3
	Regional (Lake Pleasant not included)	2	0

\*Peoria Growth Trends Analysis (2009)

Much of the new growth and development in the City of Peoria is within master planned communities (MPCs). Many of the MPCs provide a high level of community amenities including parks, trails and open space. While these amenities serve the individual MPC they do not always accommodate the general public due to the nature of ownership being in private control. To accommodate this type of development and recognize the service the private amenities do provide to the individual community's population, a "Recreation Value Work Sheet" is provided in the appendix of the *2006 Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan*. Recognition of the private recreation facilities does not replace public parks and facilities but may reduce the total quantity of acres and facilities within a MPC if it is determined in the planning and development approval process that the "recreation value" meets the greater need of the citizens of the City of Peoria.

**PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The Parks and Recreation Facility Development Program, provides a foundation of recommendations to enhance the recreational opportunities within the City of Peoria. The program determines the appropriate amount, type and location of parks and recreation facilities in the City of Peoria. These needs have been compiled in a series of strategies to provide the foundation for Parks and Recreation improvements. The *2006 Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan* provides an overview of the anticipated park and recreation facility needs in the City over the next 10 years based on the projected population growth, tailored recommended park and recreation standards and geographic and physical characteristics of the City.

**FOOTBALL/TRACK**

City residents currently have access to three football and track facilities at High School campuses within the City of Peoria. The City standard and demand of these facilities indicate that the current and future needs are being met by existing and future high school facilities. This type of facility is most compatible with those present in Community, Regional or Special Use Parks and/or Joint Use High School facilities.

**GOLF COURSES**

The City currently does not have any publicly operated golf courses. The golf course need is being met by privately developed and owned/public access courses.

**SITE AMENITIES/PASSIVE RECREATION**

Passive recreation and site amenities represented in the form of picnic facilities; open un-programmed turf areas, picnic ramadas, restrooms, benches, lighted pathways, barbecues, and drinking fountains is well provided for in the existing City park and recreation system.

**ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES**

The future active recreation facility need is summarized in Table 9.3 Park Sites and Parkland Acreage Needs.

**9-C.2 PATHS AND TRAILS**

Paths and trails and their associated amenities are the connective, non-vehicular transportation and recreation corridors tie the city's neighborhoods to all types of destinations such as parks, schools, open spaces, shopping areas and employment centers. These facilities are designed for all types of users with various levels of abilities.

**UNPAVED MULTI-USE TRAIL**

The system of multi-use unpaved trails includes those with a regional scope as well as trails that connect neighborhoods to the larger trail network, and include primary trails, secondary trails, back country trails, and equestrian-only trails. Levels and types of use are the biggest determinant for which type of trail is located along a particular corridor

**PRIMARY TRAILS**

These trails follow regional and long distance major corridors, such as the New River, Agua Fria, and Central Arizona Project Canal. They tend to link larger destinations such as regional parks, open spaces, and large commercial areas.

**SECONDARY TRAILS**

These trails connect neighborhoods to the larger trail system. Examples of secondary trails are those within more rural neighborhoods or those that provide more localized networks connecting destinations such as neighborhood parks and schools. They often parallel roadways, but can also occur within utility corridors and open space corridors.

**BACK COUNTRY TRAILS**

These trails are within preserved open space or mountainous, non-developed, or protected areas. These may be part of either the primary or secondary trail network, depending upon existing or expected level of use. They are built with greater sensitivity to the existing natural environment and are therefore narrower than trails in developed parts of the City.

**EQUESTRIAN-ONLY TRAILS**

In keeping with other plans that have been completed, Equestrian-Only Trails are to be located in the typically gravelly or sandy wash bottoms of New River and the Agua Fria River. The soft surface material is not conducive to multi-use trails.

**SHARED USE PAVED PATH**

This paved bicycle facility is used by bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, strollers, wheelchair users, in-line skaters, and other non-motorized users and anyone wanting a smooth and consistent surface. The typical minimum Paved Path width is 10'. In areas of steep terrain, limited visibility, high existing or anticipated levels of use and/or areas with a great variety of users, the minimum width should be 12'.

Shared Use Paved Paths can be either Side Paths or Off-Street Paths. Side Paths parallel a roadway but are physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier. Off-Street Paths follow other corridors such as canals, rivers, utility corridors, and other open space areas.

**SIDEWALKS**

Concrete sidewalks are the portion of a roadway corridor or other connection designed for preferential or exclusive use by pedestrians and not intended to accommodate bicycle use. Three sidewalk widths are recommended, based upon street classification (6-foot wide, standard, 5-foot wide, local and 7- to 9-foot wide in areas of high pedestrian activity).

**ACCESS AREAS****PEDESTRIAN NODE**

Pedestrian nodes are developed access areas along all types of path and trail corridors that serve to encourage and welcome neighborhood and local access to the path/trail system.

**TRAILHEAD**

Trailheads are located along all types and levels of trail and path corridors. They provide drive-in as well as non-vehicular access to local and regional destinations and open space areas. They can be built within other park types or as separate facilities. Trailheads that have equestrian facilities are intended to provide facilities for equestrian uses as well as other trailhead parking and amenities. These facilities are located along all classifications of Unpaved Trail corridors.

**CROSSINGS**

A critical aspect of any non-vehicular plan that interfaces with the street, drainage, utility and canal infrastructure is the treatment of crossings. Specific site constraints and roadway design will determine which of the elements of At-Grade Crossings can be incorporated into intersection designs.

**GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSINGS**

When possible, paths and trails should be routed to where a bridge or drainage culvert already exists or where one is feasible in the future, especially where a trail crosses a major arterial.

**AT-GRADE ENHANCED SIGNALIZED CROSSINGS**

Where trails and paths encounter signalized intersections, special at-grade crossing treatments may make the crossing safer for all users, especially equestrians.

**AT-GRADE NON-SIGNALIZED MID-BLOCK CROSSINGS**

At the few locations where a trail or path intersects a street where no other street or potentially signalized intersection exists, the crossing can be enhanced to better warn roadway and path/trail users of this crossing. For guidelines see the 2006 Parks Recreation Open Space and Trails Master Plan.

**PATH AND TRAIL CORRIDOR WIDTH GUIDELINES**

Paths and trails occur in a variety of settings from paralleling major arterial streets to following a natural desert wash corridor in the mountains of northern Peoria. The recommended corridor width is made up of a combination of the path and/or trail, available right of way (ROW width minus pavement and median width), easements, tracts and/or setbacks.

### **9.C.3 OPEN SPACE**

Open space is generally associated with passive recreation activities and provides a contiguous network of corridors and areas for trail linkages, view shed preservation wildlife habitat, preservation of cultural and historic site, park facilities, and drainage corridors. Open Spaces will consist of rivers, wash corridors, wildlife habitat, desert lands, and mountainous areas. In addition utility, railway, canal, and public rights-of-ways will also serve to provide open space linkages. Recommended development for Open Spaces to meet the 2011 and 2016 needs includes providing recreational and interpretive multi-use trails and paths; trailheads with amenities, signage, and parking; as well as acquiring sufficient, useable land areas for future recreational development.

### **9.D. PRIORITIZATION OF FUTURE PROJECTS**

As the City continues to grow, its need for recreational amenities and open space will continue to evolve. In an effort to efficiently keep up with this evolution, a comprehensive table of future projects will be maintained in the Peoria Recreation Open Space and Trails (PROST) Master Plan. This table will provide information such as the project name, the CIP category to which each project belongs and in which budget year the project is intended to be funded. It is anticipated that this table will be updated regularly.

**FIGURE 9-1  
PARKS, OPEN SPACE, PATHS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

**FIGURE 9-2  
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREAS**

**FIGURE 9-3  
COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS**

**FIGURE 9-4  
REGIONAL PARK SERVICE AREAS**

**FIGURE 9-5  
PATHS, TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS**

**FIGURE 9-6  
PATHS, TRAILS, TRAILHEADS AND TRAIL CROSSINGS**

**FIGURE 9-7  
PROPOSED OPEN SPACE**