

DRAFT

PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Element plays an important role in the Arcata General Plan. This Element expresses the degree to which the community values park and open space land and establishes a policy framework and priority for the provision of park and recreation services, park improvements and provides the framework required by state law for the dedication of land or payment of fees in lieu of dedication for park or recreational purposes as a condition of subdivision approval. In addition, the General Plan must identify existing and planned public facilities, including land for parks and recreation, which is critical for future dedications, acquisitions and park improvements which must be consistent with the General Plan.

In 1994, the City adopted a General Plan Parks and Recreation Element (Resolution 945-26) to serve as the central policy document to guide the provision of parks and recreation in the City. The Element considered a wide variety of recreation programs with policies addressing the community's desire to provide a wide spectrum of parks and recreation opportunities and facilities; encouraging cooperative agreements with other government entities and public/private partnerships to enhance the availability of recreation programs; and emphasized fiscal responsibility and the objective to minimize environmental impacts. This Element was maintained as a separately bound document in the Arcata General Plan, 2020.

In 2010, the City updated its Parks & Recreation Master Plan, originally compiled in 1979 and updated with the preparation of the Parks and Recreation Element in 1994. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan establishes a vision for a sustainable and interconnected parks and recreation system relying on local standards and guidelines and a comprehensive implementation strategy to addresses community needs. This Parks and Recreation Element updates the policies and program of the 1994 Element and incorporates the vision and objectives of the 2010 Parks & Recreation Master Plan.



The City of Arcata divides the responsibility for parks and recreation services between the Parks and Recreation Divisions of the Environmental Services Department. The Environmental Services Parks Division is responsible for the design, development, landscaping, and maintenance operations of the City's parks and facilities. The Environmental Services Recreation Division provides recreation services, facilities and programs geared to all ages and interests ranging from traditional and nontraditional athletics to arts, science, music, and seasonal community events that are intended to improve the quality of life in Arcata. Supported by the Environmental Services Department, the City Parks and Recreation

Committee holds regular public meetings and serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council on matters pertaining to public recreation, parklands, and related facilities.

Existing Parks and Recreation System Overview. The City of Arcata is a unique community, in terms of the parks, trails, and recreation opportunities it provides. The City owns and maintains more than 3,744 acres of parkland at 41 sites. The City's system for classifying parks is based on National Recreation and Park Association standards but defines park types and appropriate levels of service to reflect the unique characteristics of Arcata and to facilitate future parks planning for the City. Arcata's classification system includes:

- **Neighborhood Parks** which provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents;
- **Community Parks** which are larger parks that provide both active and passive recreation opportunities and that appeal to the entire community;
- **Special Use Areas** which are stand-alone recreation facilities not located within larger parks;
- **Greenways and Linear Parks** that are natural or built corridors that provide green buffers between communities or around the city; and
- **Natural Areas** that are undeveloped lands left in a natural state for conservation or outdoor recreation.

More than 97% of the City's parks and recreation acreage is provided as Natural Areas or undeveloped park reserves and a relatively small proportion of the park system is devoted developed parks. As shown in the table below, park development is not divided evenly among the existing park types. Most developed parkland (over 63.7%) is provided at two large community parks: Arcata Community Park and Redwood Park. Remaining acreage (approximately 32 acres) is distributed among 21 small parks, consisting of special use areas (19%), neighborhood parks (10.7%), and linear parks/greenways (6.6%). Figure PR-a illustrates the Arcata parks and playground amenities.

Developed Parks	#	Acres	Percent
Neighborhood Parks	12	9.5	10.7
Community Parks	2	56.6	63.7
Special Use Areas	6	16.9	19.0
Linear Parks/Greenways	3	5.9	6.6
SUBTOTAL	23	88.8	100%
Undeveloped Parks			
Natural Areas	15	3,625.4	
Undeveloped Sites	5	29.9	
SUBTOTAL	18	3,655.3	
TOTAL PARK SYSTEM	41	3,744.1	

In addition to City parks and recreation areas, there are a number of local schools in Arcata whose sport fields, sport courts, playgrounds, and gymnasiums are regularly used by the community, including: Arcata Elementary; Jacoby Creek, Pacific Union, and Sunny Brae. In addition, Cal Poly Humboldt is a major provider of recreational facilities and programs, primarily available to faculty, staff, and students, who also use City parks and recreation facilities. The Arcata Community Pool is managed by the Northern Humboldt Recreation and District Park and located adjacent to Arcata High School and serves surrounding communities as well, including Manila, Jacoby Creek, and the Warren Creek area. HealthSPORT is a private health club located in Arcata Community Park.

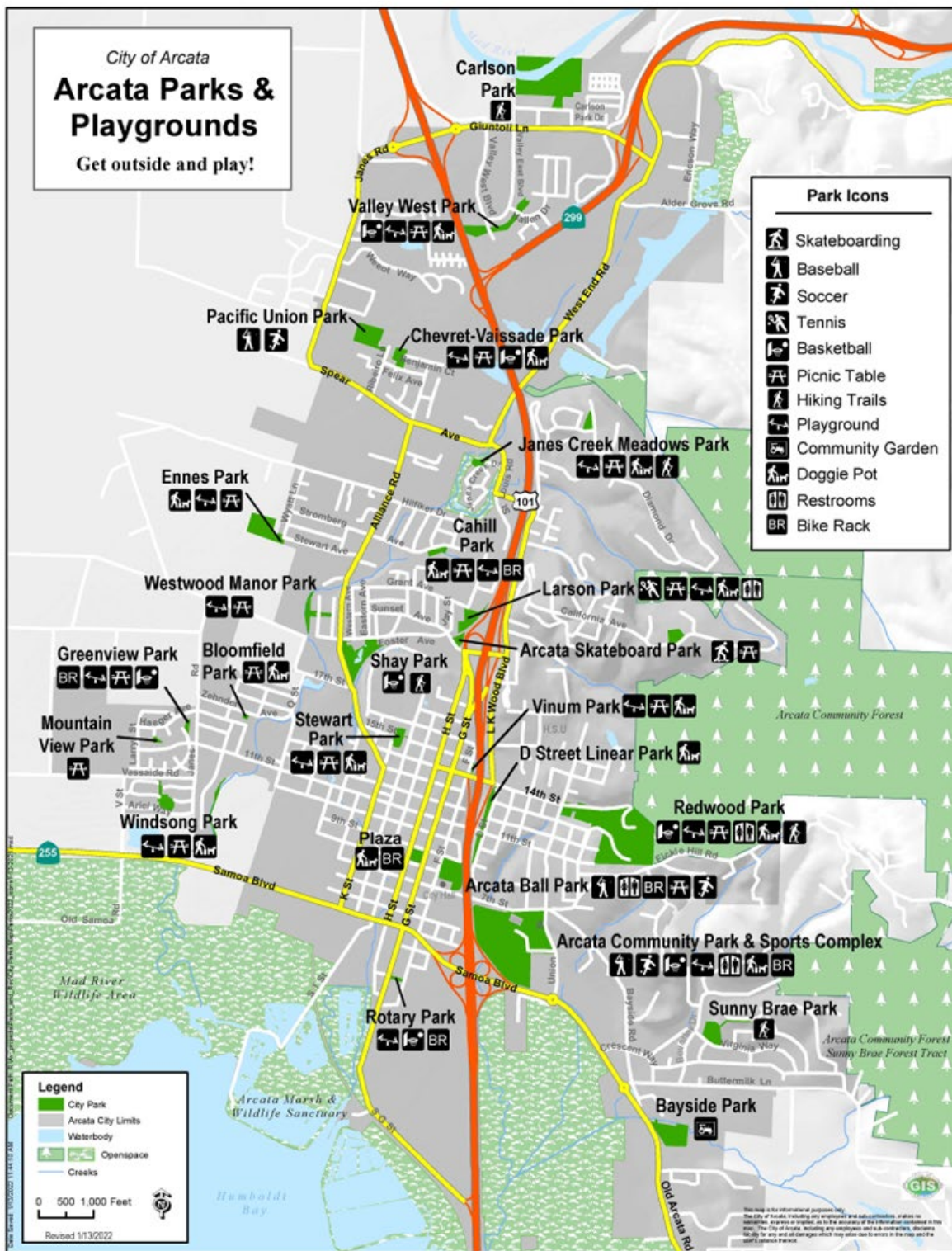


The City has a comprehensive system of trails within and connecting parks that provide a valuable recreation resource to the community in addition to regional linkages. The City has a mix of hard and soft surface multi-purpose trails that support activities, such as running, hiking, mountain biking and riding horses.

Parkland Dedication Standards. The State’s “Quimby Act” (Government Code Section 66477 of the Subdivision Map Act) allows cities to require residential subdividers to dedicate land, or to pay in-lieu fees, for park and recreational purposes if the general plan contains policies and standards for parks and recreational facilities and definitive regulations are in place specifying the proportion of a subdivision to be dedicated or the payment of in-lieu fees. The Quimby Act allows for minimum dedications of three acres per 1,000 residents and the dedications of up to five acres to match a jurisdictions actual parkland to population ratio. In spite of the small proportion of City parkland that is improved as community and neighborhood parks, Arcata maintains a very high parkland to population ratio, 5.15 acres per 1,000 residents. As a result, the City’s General Plan and Development Code require dedications of the maximum amount under the Quimby Act, five acres per 1,000 residents.



Figure PR-a Outdoor Recreation Map



City Parkland Value

Natural Resources Values. The City of Arcata has a strong commitment to its parks and natural open space areas and the City's parkland protects natural resources, offers scenic views and contributes to the City's unique character, aesthetic appeal, and high quality of life. Arcata's parks, waterways, agricultural lands, wildlife sanctuary, and forests help establish community identity and a strong sense of place. The protection and preservation of the natural environment through park design is an important value in Arcata and environmental protection and sustainability are integral components of park design, forest and open space maintenance and management, operations and programming. In particular, the Arcata Marsh provides secondary treatment for the City's wastewater treatment plant and serves as an important natural and recreational area; and the Arcata Community and Jacoby Creek Forests serve many functions, including supporting recreation, education, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and sustainable timber harvesting to support additional park acquisition, development and maintenance.

Community Values. Based on findings from the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Questionnaire, nearly all community members consider parks, recreation and open space to be important to Arcata's quality of life. Residents value a park system that emphasizes natural areas and trails and express a desire for additional multi-use trails, natural and multi-use parks that serve the whole community, and small parks in neighborhoods.

The people of Arcata also highly value art and culture. In 2021, the City Council adopted the City of Arcata Strategic Arts Plan 2022-2025, to articulate the community's values that expands and formalizes the City's support for Arcata's arts & artists and guides the City's engagement with community partners in the arts. In relation to the Parks & Recreation Element, the Strategic Arts Plan encourages community beautification and public art, which will no doubt involve city parkland. The Strategic Arts Plan also seeks to develop policies and support community organizations that provide services that improve the quality of life in Arcata and events that promote Arcata as a 'livable community', which closely matches the objectives of this Element.

The City and Cal Poly Humboldt are both experiencing demographic changes that will influence demand for parks and recreation services and facilities. The proportion of the County population that is 55 years and older is growing and expected to continue to increase into the future and as a result, more facilities and programs will likely be needed to serve a growing senior population in the City. The University is experiencing substantial change, which will increase the numbers of students and faculty that may increase the demand for active and passive City recreation activities.



Community Needs

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan included a comprehensive assessment of community needs. The need for parkland in Arcata considered the community's desire for diverse recreation experiences, including active and passive recreation opportunities, the need for open space, natural resource management and preservation, and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. The needs analysis evaluated the existing parks level of service and geographical access to parks from within the City and then identified service gaps based on these factors, plus the preferences and demands by Arcata residents for recreation opportunities. Despite relatively good park coverage in Arcata and the wide range of park facilities, there are still a number of service gaps in the City. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a series of



maps to characterize service areas for parks facilities and areas with identified needs and recommendations for actions to address these needs.

The City of Arcata has worked to incorporate accessible amenities and facilities into the City's park system. Although most playgrounds have surfacing that promotes universal accessibility, only a few have accessible amenities, such as picnic tables and benches, and many sites lack an accessible path of travel to link facilities. The

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update includes recommendations to Update the City ADA Transition Plan for parks and recreation facilities and to incorporate universal design principals into all master planning efforts.

Guiding Principles and Goals.

- A. Provide residents with an accessible variety of recreation opportunities & park experiences that are equitably distributed throughout the City.
- B. Expand the range of park types and recreation programs to meet changing community needs & priorities.
- C. Design sustainably to maintain carbon neutrality, operate efficiently and minimize water/energy needs.
- D. Optimize natural resources & amenities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.
- E. Make parks and recreation programs safe, accessible by multi modal transportation, usable by all ages, inclusive, and without barriers for those with limited mobility.
- F. Assess user needs & adapt as needed on an ongoing basis.

3.2 POLICIES

The Parks and Recreation Element includes the following policies:

- PR-1 Park Standards
- PR-2 Park Development and Maintenance
- PR-3 Coordinated Open Space, Park and Recreational Facilities Planning and Use

POLICY PR-1 PARK STANDARDS

Objective. Provide parklands to defined City Service Areas to meet unique community preferences and demands for recreation opportunities. Maintain park standards that facilitate future planning and help define appropriate levels of service for various types of parkland.

PR-1a City of Arcata Parks Classification System. The following is a summary of the City Parks Classification System, the complete system description is contained = in Appendix B of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the Park Design and Development Guidelines.

Neighborhood Parks. Located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, neighborhood parks are small parks that provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents. Designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities, neighborhood parks often include amenities such as playground equipment, outdoor basketball courts, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. Neighborhood parks may include small-scale natural areas, such as riparian areas, and can contribute to environmental sustainability by incorporating sustainable design elements. These parks generally are one to five acres in size and

serve residents within a ½-mile radius. Smaller mini parks (of less than one acre) will have a smaller service area (less than ¼ mile).

Community Parks. Community parks are larger parks that provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. These sites are generally designed around organized, active recreation, supported by facilities such as sport fields and outdoor courts. These parks also serve as community gathering spaces, offering a variety of facilities that can accommodate small or large groups, such as recreation centers, group picnic areas and shelters, rental space, festival space, amphitheaters, and large playgrounds. The optimum size of community parks is between 15-30 acres.

Special Use Areas. Special use areas include stand-alone recreation facilities not located within larger parks. These include single-purpose sites, such as community centers, aquatic centers, sports complexes, boat ramps, skate parks, outdoor theaters, urban plazas, and gardens. Special use areas promote a variety of personal, social, and economic benefits depending on facility type and location. In some cases, these facilities may attract new residents and businesses and support tourism.



Linear Parks/Greenways. Greenways and linear parks include natural or built corridors used to link features together and provide green buffers between communities or around the city. Greenways and linear parks typically support trail-oriented activities, including walking, jogging, biking, and skating, which play a major role in health and fitness. These parks may incorporate smaller scale neighborhood park amenities, such as play areas, picnic areas, or exercise trails. Trails between key destinations can help create more tightly-knit communities, improve children's access to schools, and provide opportunities for non-motorized transportation. Greenways and linear parks may be of various lengths and widths, and these corridors typically support facilities such as viewing areas, picnic tables, or trailheads.

Natural Areas. Natural areas are undeveloped lands left in a natural state for conservation or outdoor recreation. They protect and manage unique or significant natural features, such as rivers and streams, wetlands and marshes, steep hillsides, environmentally sensitive areas, and wildlife habitats. Some natural areas may have limited access due to resource conservation needs. Sites may provide a number of ecological benefits, such as shoreline protection, wildlife habitat, stormwater filtration, riparian corridor and wetland preservation, and erosion control. Where appropriate, natural areas may support passive, outdoor recreation, such as trail-related opportunities, bird and wildlife viewing, environmental interpretation and

education, and nature photography. These parks provide opportunities to promote conservation and stewardship, develop an appreciation for nature, and improve health and wellness by providing a physical and mental refuge from the built environment. The size and shape of the natural area will vary depending on the protected resource.

Undeveloped Sites. Undeveloped sites include land that has been acquired by the City for possible future park improvements. These sites are not managed as natural areas, although they do provide green space in the City. Their size varies depending on the purpose of their acquisition.

Beautification Areas. Beautification areas are landscaped areas, typically located along street rights-of-way and intersections, entry features, and parking lots. Beautification areas can incorporate flowers, shrubs, trees, native plants, or other ecologically appropriate landscaping to add green space to the urban environment, provide visual and economic benefits, and promote environmental health. Through the use of signage, fountains, or other features, these areas also may add to community identity. Unlike parkland, beautification areas have reduced recreational value.

PR-1b **Parkland Dedication.** For all residential subdivisions, require parkland dedications, or fees in lieu of dedication, according to the following standards:

- Land or fees shall be based on five (5) acres of parkland per 1,000 persons.
- Subdivisions having fifty-one or more lots shall automatically be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Committee for possible dedications. Any other residential subdivision creating five or more lots, and that proposes to pay a fee in lieu of dedicating land, shall also be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Committee for possible dedications.
- Land that is not suitable for recreation or wildlife habitat may not be counted toward fulfilling parkland dedication requirements.
- Parkland dedications should be consistent with the following criteria:
 - Average slope should not exceed 10 percent;
 - Access to the site shall be adequate for the purpose of the community or neighborhood park;
 - The site shall not have significant topographic or environmental constraints that would render the site unsuitable for development.
- Riparian areas, wetlands, and forests shall be accepted for dedication only if it has been determined that the recreational needs of the area will be adequately met by other sites. Where such lands are accepted, development of parklands should recognize existing wildlife and habitat values and minimize the disturbance of riparian, wetland, and other wildlife habitats.
- The City shall maintain a schedule for the use of land and fees acquired pursuant

to parkland dedication requirements, including mechanisms for tracking the receipt and expenditure of funds over a five-year period.

POLICY PR-2 PARK DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

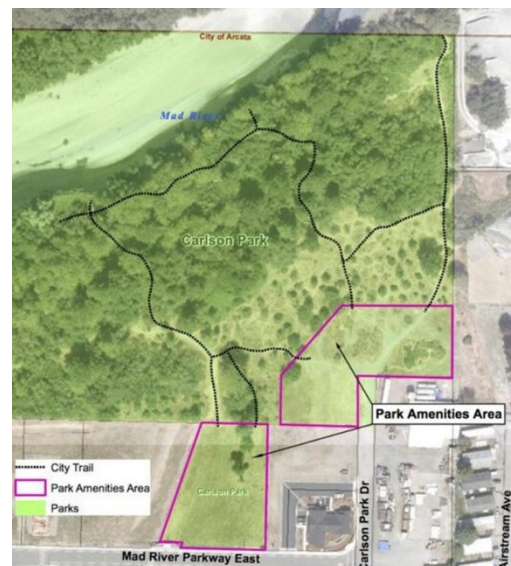
Objective. Encourage appropriate and sustainable new park design and development and existing park maintenance.

PR-2a Natural resource protection. Protect natural areas and wildlife habitat within parks and open space land to the greatest extent feasible. Integrate recreational use in natural areas, where not in conflict, through appropriately designed trails, trailheads, and interpretive resources to achieve the community's desire for access.

PR-2b Park & Recreation Master Plan. Use the Park & Recreation Master as a guide for the provision of parks and recreation in the City and implement the plan in a manner consistent with the Arcata General Plan. Periodically update the plan to reflect changes in the environment, economy, population, and land use and the unique needs of Arcata residents. Use Appendix B, Design and Development Guidelines for direction regarding the amenities and facilities to be provided for each park type.

PR-2c Park system improvements. Parks and recreation projects that provide desired levels of service and minimize energy and water use, sustain existing resources, improve maintenance efficiency, reduce life-cycle costs, and otherwise promote environmental sustainability should be given high priority. Park & Recreation Master Plan recommendations should be used as a guide for new park and trail development to meet community needs and as a guide to prioritize the renovation and rehabilitation of existing parks. In general, prioritize projects that:

- Enhance sustainability;
- Increase trail connectivity;
- Improve park access;
- Expand recreation opportunities and opportunities for physical activity;
- Serve future growth areas;
- Enhance natural areas;
- Support community values and strengthens the community;
- Utilize available funding; and
- Encourage participation and recognition of partners for matching funds and volunteer efforts.



- PR-2d **Active use amenities.** Provide active use resources in new parks to expand recreation opportunities in the City using the Park & Recreation Master Plan Appendix B, Design and Development Guidelines. Priority should be given to the redesign and integration of active use resources into the following existing neighborhood parks, where feasible:
- Bloomfield Park
 - Cahill Park
 - Mountain View Park
 - Vinum Park
 - Westwood Manor Park
 - Windsong Park
- PR-2e **Trail improvements.** Provide an interconnected, multi-purpose trail system with regional linkages that includes mountain bike, fitness, nature, and equestrian trails and that enhances individual mobility. Priority should be given to the following trail projects identified in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan:
- Arcata Rail with Trail Corridor integrated with the Great Redwood Trail
 - Annie & Mary Rail-Trail
 - Hammond Trail
 - Aldergrove Open Space/Arcata Community Forest trail connection
 - Route 255 Connection
 - Baylands Trail
 - Arcata Ridge Trail – enhancements to existing trail segments connecting the Arcata Community Forest Tract and the Sunny Brae Forest
 - Jacoby Creek Forest Trails – Conduct planning with community partners and adjacent property owners to identify feasible public access opportunities for the future
- PR-2f **Mobility and Accessibility;** Design new, and enhance existing, parks and recreation facilities to be inclusive for all community members, including people with cognitive and physical disabilities; multi-lingual/multi-cultural users; groups hosting events; teams; and seniors.
- PR-2g **Maintenance best practices.** Use best management practices to ensure that parks are maintained at the desired levels of service. Prepare a Maintenance Management Plan and Natural Resource/Open Space Management Plan that reflects each facility's use, assigned maintenance tier, and level of service and that incorporates the anticipated lifecycle of facilities and projects and an appropriate reinvestment and replacement schedule.
- PR-2h **Art in parks.** Integrate arts and cultural activities with City parkland through the implementation of the City of Arcata General Plan and the Strategic Arts Plan.

POLICY PR-3 COORDINATED OPEN SPACE, PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES PLANNING AND USE

Objective. Undertake effective ongoing coordination between local and regional parks and natural resources agencies, community groups, and the private sector that enhances environmental sustainability and the availability of park and open space for Arcata residents.

PR-3a Coordinated recreational use of Community Forests and Marsh & Wildlife Refuge.

Work with local and regional partners to protect and enhance the roles of the:

- Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Refuge as an important regional natural and recreational area and as an essential component of the City's wastewater treatment plant; and
- Arcata Community and Jacoby Creek Forests as a source of watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and sustainable timber harvesting to support City park acquisition, development, and maintenance.

PR-3b Coordinated recreational use with schools and State/Federal Agencies. Coordinate closely with community organizations, schools, Cal Poly Humboldt, the private sector, and local, state, and federal agencies in developing creative solutions for meeting recreation program and facility needs. Consider developing a formal partnership with the schools to maintain and program sports fields at school sites, in particular a formal partnership with Cal Poly Humboldt to address existing and potential increases in service demands for City parks and recreation facilities from planned increases in student enrollment, faculty, and other staff.

PR-3c Use and management of indoor and athletic facilities, special recreation facilities and gathering areas. Work with community groups, sports organizations, and other coalitions to define mutually compatible recreational facility needs and mechanisms for the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of these facilities.

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
PR -1a	Design and Development Guidelines Use the Appendix B, Park Design and Development Guidelines as the standard for park and recreation improvements, facilities, and amenities. (Park & Recreation Master Plan Implementation C)	Environmental Services Department	Ongoing

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
PR -1b	Parkland Dedication Program and Schedule Continue to implement fees / dedications pursuant to Quimby Act (California Government Code § 66477, as amended), including (1) the preparation and maintenance of a five-year schedule specifying how, when, and where it will use the land or fees, or both, to develop park or recreational facilities to serve the residents of subdivisions; a scheduled re-evaluation of the formula for fees in lieu of land based on current persons per dwelling unit and fair market value of land; and (2) a procedure to ensure that accounting and use of parkland fees is consistent with 66477(a)(6). (1994 Parks and Rec Element IV-A6, IV-A7)	Environmental Services Department	Every five years starting in Year 2
PR -1c	Level of Service Standards-Parkland to Population Update the Park & Recreation Master Plan Community Needs, Level of Service Standards-Parkland to Population.	Environmental Services Department	Every five years starting in Year 2
PR -2a	Park Funding Continue to the implement the strategic funding options outlined in the Park & Recreation Master Plan, Implementation A through C (Park & Rec. Master Plan Implementation A, B, and C) and continue to use a portion of net forest revenues for park development, maintenance, and acquisition. (1994 Parks and Rec Element IV-A2)	Environmental Services Department	Ongoing
PR -2b	Park Development and Maintenance Continue to the implement Park & Recreation Master Plan recommendations relating to park development and maintenance, including those for Master Planning and Design, universal design upgrades, Natural Resource Management, and Maintenance Practices (Park & Rec. 5. Recommendations)	Environmental Services Department	Ongoing
PR-2c	Maintenance Management Plan and Natural Resource/Open Space Management Plan Prepare a Maintenance Management Plan and Natural Resource/Open Space Management Plan that reflects each facility's use, assigned maintenance tier, and level of service and that incorporates the anticipated lifecycle of facilities and projects and an appropriate reinvestment and replacement schedule.	Environmental Services Department	Ongoing starting in year 2

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
PR -3a	Coordinated Open Space, Park and Recreational Facilities Planning and Use Update the Park & Recreation Master Plan every ten years. Use periodic updates to identify opportunities for enhanced partnerships with agencies and organizations to enhance City parks and recreation facilities and activities. Coordinate updates and regional trails planning with Humboldt County, HCAOG, Great Redwood Trail Agency, Redwood Community Action Agency, Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association and the Humboldt Trails Council.	Environmental Services Department	Every ten years starting in Year 2

Appendices

Appendix A - Parks & Facility Inventory

Appendix B - Design Standards by Classification



Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory

Table A-1 Arcata Park and Facility Inventory: City Parks and Facilities

PARK NAME	TOTAL ACREAGE	ATHLETIC FIELDS				OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES			INDOOR FACILITIES			OTHER PARK AMENITIES								
		BASEBALL FIELD	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCKER FIELD	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	SKATE PARK	TENNIS COURT	COMMUNITY CENTER	GYMNASIUM	POOL	OFF- STREET PARKING	TRAILS	COMMUNITY GARDEN	BOCCE	GROUP PICNIC AREA	PICNIC TABLE	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	OTHER
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS																				
Bloomfield Park	0.23																X	1		
Cahill Park	0.73																X	1		
Chevret-Vaissade Park	1.47					1											X	1		
Ennes Park	0.47																X	1		
Greenview Park	0.36					1											X	1		
Janes Creek Meadows Park	0.82												X				X	1		
Mountain View Park	0.26																X	1		
Rotary Park	0.28					1											X	1		
Stewart Park	1.29																X	1		
Vinum Park	0.09																X	1		
Westwood Manor Park	1.72																X	1		
Windsong Park	1.74																X	1		
Subtotal	9.46	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	12	0	
COMMUNITY PARKS																				
Arcata Community Park	30.35			3	2	1			1	1		1	X				X	1	1	Commercial Kitchen, Lighted softball field
Redwood Park	26.21					1			2			1	X			2	X	1	1	Redwood Lodge, Redwood Lounge, Boy Scout Hut, stage area
Subtotal	56.56	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	3	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	2	
SPECIAL USE AREAS																				
Arcata Ball Park	4.15	1							1			1							1	Concession stand, Judo Hut, maintenance building, lighted ballfield
Arcata Plaza	1.01																			
Arcata Skate Park	0.65							1											1	Skate park
Bayside Park	4.72											1		1					1	Greenhouse, tool shed, market stand
Larson Park	2.18							3				1	X		2	1	X	1		Gazebo, tennis courts are lighted
Pacific Union Park	4.15			2	1							1							1	Maintenance shop
Subtotal	16.86	1	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	
LINEAR PARKS/GREENWAYS																				
D Street Linear Park	1.23								1			1	X							Neighborhood Center, commercial Kitchen, Sports flooring
Janes Creek Linear Park	1.04												X							
Valley West Park	3.59																X	1		
Subtotal	5.86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	
NATURAL AREAS																				
11th & M Street Wetland	0.45																			
Aldergrove Marsh	23.02												X							
Arcata Baylands	570.72												future							
Arcata Community Forest: Community Park Tract	610.29											1	X							
Arcata Community Forest: Jacoby Creek and Sunny Brae Tracts ^	2,069.70												X							
Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary	226.38								1			1	X							Interpretive Center
Butcher Slough/Jolly Giant Creek Restoration Area	11.58																			
California Avenue Open Space	0.94																			
Janes Creek Open Space	2.55																			
Janes Creek Meadows Open Space	9.74												X							
Jolly Giant Creek Open Space	0.07																			
McDaniel Slough	88.40												X							
Sellers Pond Open Space	7.34																			
Sunny Brae Park	2.93												X							
Woodland Heights Park	0.94																			
Zehndner Avenue Open Space	0.35																			
Subtotal	3,625.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
UNDEVELOPED SITES																				
California Park	1.31																			
Ennes Park Expansion	4.12																			
Carlson Park ^	19.80												planned			planned	planned			River access
Shay Park	4.66												X							
Subtotal	29.89	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	3,744.03	1	0	5	3	5	1	3	6	1	0	9	14	1	2	3	16	16	6	

^A This number represents the total deeded acreage for both forests. This accounts for 797 acres within the City Limits, and 1272.7 acres outside the City Limits. These forests are counted as two separate sites.

^B Carlson Park is not yet City-owned. However, this site is anticipated to be acquired before the end of the planning process.

Table A-2: Arcata Park and Facility Inventory: Schools

PARK NAME	TOTAL ACREAGE ⁴	SCHOOLS that help meet City recreation needs	DEDICATED ATHLETIC FIELDS				OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES				INDOOR FACILITIES		OTHER PARK AMENITIES				
			BASEBALL FIELD	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	SKATE PARK/AREA	TENNIS COURT	TRACK	GYMNASIUM	POOL	DISC GOLF	PICNIC SHELTER	PICNIC AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS ¹
ARCATA SCHOOLS																	
Arcata High (9-12 Grade)	28.88		1		1	1	1		3		1						
Arcata Elementary (K-5 Grade)	11.33	√			1		1									1	
Jacoby Creek Charter School (K-8 Grade)	10.34	√	1				2			1	1		1			2	
Pacific Union Elementary (K-8 Grade)	11.10	√					1				1					1	
Sunny Brae Middle (6-8 Grade)	10.19	√			1		1				1					1	
Subtotal	71.84		2	0	3	1	6	0	3	1	4	0	1	0	0	5	0
PRIVATE/CHARTER SCHOOLS																	
Arcata Christian	1.68										1						
Blue Heron Learning Center	0.20		1														
Arcata School District Charter	7.82	√			2		3									2	
St. Mary's Catholic School/Laurel Tree Learning Center	13.67				1		2				1						
Trillium Charter	0.58															1	
Union Street Charter / Equinox Center	0.93															1	
Subtotal	24.89		1	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0
COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES																	
Humboldt State University ²	134.51			1	1	1	1			1	2	1	1		Y		1
Subtotal	134.51		0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1
OTHER SCHOOLS ³																	
Arcata Children's Center	0.36																
Juell's Nursery School	0.81																
Mad River Montessori Preschool	1.32																
Mistwood Center for Education	0.37																
Northcoast Children Services	0.32															2	
Northcoast Preparatory & Performing Arts	1.80																
Subtotal	4.99		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	236.24		3	1	7	2	12	0	3	2	8	1	2	0	1	11	1

¹ This category includes outdoor restrooms only.

² Other schools are noted for information only. Their facilities will not be counted in the needs assessment.

³ HSU also operates the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center, located in Eureka.

⁴ Total acres includes building foot prints and open space.

Table A-3: Arcata Park and Facility Inventory: Other Providers

PARK NAME	OWNERSHIP	TOTAL ACREAGE	ATHLETIC FIELDS				OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES			INDOOR FACILITIES			OTHER PARK AMENITIES					
			BASEBALL FIELD	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	SOFTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	SKATE PARK	TENNIS COURT	COMMUNITY CENTER	GYMNASIUM	POOL	COMMUNITY GARDEN	PICNIC SHELTER	PICNIC AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	Trails in linear feet/miles
SPECIAL USE AREAS																		
Arcata Pool N.H.P.R.D.	Public / Contract	0.00										1					Y	
Arcata Little League	Non-Profit		2															
Baywood Golf Course	Private Country Club	200.00								1 clubhouse		1					Y	18 holes golf
HealthSPORT ¹	Private	0.00									1	1					Y	
Subtotal		200.00	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	3	N/A
LINEAR PARK/GREENWAY																		
Hammond Coastal Trail	Humboldt County																	5.5
Subtotal		0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.5
NATURAL AREAS																		
BLM - Ma-l:el South	BLM	154.00																1 mile
Friends of the Dunes	Non-Profit	61.00													Y			1 mile
HBMWD Pump Station Parks	District	24.00												1	4		2	Disc Golf Course
Humboldt Bay Wildlife Refuge	USFWS	770.75													Y	1		Y
Jacoby Creek Land Trust	Land Trust	63.00																
Lamphere Christian Dunes	Fish and Wildlife	38.00																
Mad River Slough and Wildlife Area	California	294.78																Y
Mad River Beach and Coastal Areas	Humboldt County																	
Subtotal		1,405.53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	2	N/A
TOTAL		1,605.53	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	6	1	5	N/A

¹ HealthSPORT also has weight rooms, cardio areas, two studios and on-site childcare.

Table A-4: Arcata Park and Facility Inventory: Trails

TRAIL NAME	EXISTING MILEAGE	PROPOSED MILEAGE*	TOTAL MILEAGE	HARD SURFACED	SOFT SURFACED	SIGNAGE	TRAILHEADS WITH PARKING
Aldergrove Marsh	0.7		0.7		Yes		Yes
Arcata Baylands		0.9	0.9		Yes	Yes	Yes
Arcata Community Forest Trails	10.9	0.2	11.1		Yes	Yes	Yes
Arcata Community Park		0.5	0.5	Yes	---		Yes
Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary	4.4		4.4		Yes	Yes	Yes
Humboldt Bay Trail	0.0		0.0		Yes	Yes	Yes
Janes Creek Meadows	0.7		0.7		Yes		
McDaniels Slough	0.9		0.9		Yes	Yes	Yes
Redwood Park	0.5		0.5		Yes		Yes
Shay Park	0.3		0.3		Yes		
Sunny Brae Park		0.2	0.2		Yes		
United Indian Health Services	0.5		0.5	---	Yes	Yes	Yes
TOTAL	18.9	1.8	20.7	1	12	6	9

* Proposed trail acreage is an estimate based on 2009 anticipated routes, which have been further updated

Table A-5: Arcata Park and Facility Inventory: Trails by Type

TRAIL NAME	EXISTING MILEAGE	PROPOSED MILEAGE*	TOTAL MILEAGE	HARD SURFACED	SOFT SURFACED	SIGNAGE	TRAILHEAD WITH PARKING	NOTES
PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAILS								
Arcata Community Forest Trails	0.7		0.7		Y	Yes	Yes	
Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary	4.4		4.4		Y	Yes	Yes	
Redwood Park	0.2		0.2		Y		Yes	
<i>Subtotal</i>	5.3	0.0	5.3		3	2	3	
PEDESTRIAN, BIKE and EQUESTRIAN TRAILS								
Arcata Community Forest Trails	7.7		7.7					
<i>Subtotal</i>	7.7	0.0	7.7					
PEDESTRIAN ONLY TRAILS								
Aldergrove Marsh	0.7		0.7		Yes		Yes	
Arcata Baylands		0.9	0.9		Yes			
Arcata Community Forest Trails	2.5	0.2	2.7		Yes			
Arcata Community Park		0.5	0.5	Yes				
Janes Creek Meadows	0.7		0.7		Yes			
McDaniels Slough	0.9		0.9		Yes			
Redwood Park	0.3		0.3		Yes			
Shay Park	0.3		0.3		Yes			
Sunny Brae Park		0.2	0.2		Yes			
United Indian Health Services	0.5		0.5		Yes	Yes	Yes	Not City Owned or Maintained
<i>Subtotal</i>	5.9	1.8	7.7	1	9	1	2	
<i>TOTAL</i>	18.9	1.8	20.7	1	12	3	5	

* Proposed trail acreage is an estimate based on 2009 anticipated routes, which have been further updated in 2010.



Appendix B:

Design and Development Guidelines

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND SERVICE	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	CONFLICTING RESOURCES
All Parks	All parks in Arcata must meet minimum guidelines for design and development. Minimum resources for all parks are highlighted here.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide open space • Enhance City identity • Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size should be appropriate for park type and use 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park identification sign • ADA-compliant pathway system • Any required safety features • Site-appropriate landscaping (trees, shrubs, native flora and fauna) • Appropriate site furnishings (bike rack, benches, trash/recycle receptacles, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety lighting • Additional beautification and landscaping at appropriate sites (floral plantings, hanging baskets, lawns, gardens, etc.) • Active-use facilities and natural areas should be separated, but natural areas may be incorporated into all park types • Public art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities and/or landscaping that does not appropriately reflect the park environment, character, or intended use
Neighborhood Parks	Located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, neighborhood parks are small parks that provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents. Designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities, neighborhood parks often include amenities such as playground equipment, outdoor basketball courts, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. Neighborhood parks may include small scale natural areas, such as riparian areas, and can contribute to environmental sustainability by incorporating sustainable design elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide close-to-home opportunities for physical activity • Support family and small group gatherings • Enhance neighborhood identity • Preserve open space within neighborhoods • Promote health and wellness • Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically 1-5 acres • Serves residents located within walking and biking distance • Larger parks may serve residents within a ½ mile • Small parks (less than 1 acre) may serve residents within a ¼ mile or less 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloomfield Park • Cahill Park • Chevret-Vaissade Park • Ennes Park • Greenview Park • Janes Creek Meadows Park • Mountain View Park • Rotary Park • Stewart Park • Vinum Park • Westwood Manor Park • Windsong Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s play area* • Picnic tables and benches • Perimeter path or sidewalks • Open turf area/ multi-use field • At least one additional, active recreation resource (see next column)* • On-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports courts (basketball, tennis, wall ball, handball, racquetball, and/or volleyball courts) • Other small-scale active recreation resources (skate spot, horseshoe pits, par course, shuffleboard lane, etc.) • Table shelter, shade structure or gazebo • Informal sports fields (baseball, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Off-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination facilities or resources with citywide draw • Game-quality sports fields (baseball, football, soccer, softball) • Sports complexes • Community or recreation centers • Large-group facilities • Spray grounds or swimming pools (indoor or outdoor) • Permanent restrooms

*Neighborhood parks should include play area(s) to serve children ages 2-12, along with an additional active recreation resource, where feasible. The presence and design of these resources may be influenced by site constraints.

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND SERVICE	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Community Parks	Community parks are larger parks that provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. These sites generally include organized, active recreation, supported by facilities such as sport fields and outdoor courts. These parks also serve as community gathering spaces, offering a variety of facilities that can accommodate small or large groups, such as recreation centers, group picnic areas and shelters, rental space, festival space, amphitheaters, and large playgrounds. Since community parks generally attract a large number of people from a wide geographic area, support facilities are required, such as off-street parking and restrooms. Community parks may also include significant natural areas and trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a variety of accessible recreation opportunities for all ages• Serve as community gathering places, providing social opportunities that bring diverse groups of people together and build stronger families and communities• Contribute to community identity• Serve recreation needs of individual, families, small and large groups• Provide close-to-home opportunities for physical activity• Promote lifelong fitness, health and wellness• Connect residents to nature and relieve stress from urban living• Preserve open space• Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optimum size 15-30 acres• May draw residents from the entire community• Provides access from a collector or arterial street• Should be located to incorporate bus and transit access• Supports bicycle and pedestrian access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arcata Community Park• Redwood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children’s play area• Picnic tables and benches• Picnic shelter, group picnic area, shade structure or gazebo• Sport courts (basketball tennis, wall ball, and/or volleyball courts)• Open turf area• Multi-purpose trails and pathways• At least one additional, active recreation resource (see next column)• Off-street parking• Restrooms (permanent; sufficient to support large-group facilities; additional portables may be brought in for special events)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active recreation resources (bocce, handball/racquetball court, croquet court, disc golf course, fitness stations/ par course, tennis backboard, horseshoe pit, shuffleboard lanes, mini skate park, etc.)• Sports fields (baseball, football, rugby, soccer, softball, multi-purpose)• Special use trails and pathways (e.g., looped path, fitness or jogging trails, mountain biking, equestrian, nature or interpretive trails)• Community garden• Off-leash dog area• Outdoor stage• Upgraded utility service to support special events• Other facilities with community-wide draw (amphitheater/concert venue, arboretum, botanical garden, aquatic center, sports tournament complex; indoor nature center; multi-purpose recreation or community center)• Natural areas• Maintenance facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any development that damages protected natural areas or resources

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND SERVICE	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Special Use Areas	Special use areas include stand-alone recreation facilities not located within larger parks. These include single-purpose sites, such as community centers, aquatic centers, sports complexes, boat ramps, skate parks, outdoor theaters, urban plazas, and gardens. Outdoor areas may incorporate native plantings or small natural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote a variety of personal, social, and economic benefits depending on facility type and location• Provide local, citywide and/or regional opportunities for recreation, social and cultural activities• Serve recreation needs of targeted user groups• May attract new residents and businesses and support tourism• Contribute to community identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideal size is determined by use• The size of the service area is determined by the type of facilities and opportunities offered• The type of access required also depends on the use, but should include where appropriate pedestrian, bicycle, boat, public and private transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arcata Ball Park• Arcata Plaza• Arcata Skate Park• Bayside Park• Larson Park• Pacific Union Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Features and facilities to support a specialized recreation opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialized active recreation facilities (bocce courts, skate park, tennis center, climbing wall, gymnasium)• Sport fields or tournament complexes• Children’s play area• Multi-purpose community or recreation center, nature center• Motorized or non-motorized boat launch• Commercial ventures or features; concessions; farm market• Historical or interpretive facilities• Community garden, botanical garden, arboretum, greenhouse, farm extension• Off-leash dog area• Large-group areas, reunion venues, wedding space• Infrastructure to support large community events; festival space; stage/amphitheatre• Memorials, flag poles, or benches• Natural areas• Maintenance facilities• Multi-use trails• Parking (on-street or off-street as needed to support use)• Restrooms (permanent or portable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any resource, amenity, or facility that conflicts with the intended purpose of the site

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND SERVICE	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Linear Parks/Greenways	Greenways and linear parks include natural or built corridors used to link features together and provide green buffers between communities or around the city. Greenways and linear parks typically support trail-oriented activities, including walking, jogging, biking, skating, etc. These parks may incorporate smaller scale neighborhood park amenities, such as play areas, picnic areas, or exercise trails. Linear parks may include abandoned railroad lines, active transportation or utility rights-of-way, wildlife corridors, or elongated natural areas defined by drainage features or topographical changes. Greenways and linear parks may be of various lengths and widths, and these corridors typically support facilities such as viewing areas, picnic tables, or trailheads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance connectivity, creating more tightly-knit communities• Improve children’s access to schools• Provide opportunities for active, non-motorized transportation, promoting health and fitness• Increase opportunities to experience nature• Connect residents to nature and relieves stress from urban living• Contribute to community identity and quality of life• May protect valuable natural corridors• May contribute to the environmental health of the community, including protecting the tree canopy and improving water and air quality• Provide opportunities for nature-based recreation and environmental education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The size, shape, and service area will vary depending on its function and use• Trail corridors should be located to support or incorporate pedestrian, bicycle, automotive, bus and transit access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Janes Creek Linear Park• D Street Linear Park• Valley West Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green space (landscaped or natural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Picnic tables• Small group picnic areas and shelters• Multi-purpose or special use trails• Trailhead, trail kiosk, or entry• Interpretive and directional signage• Viewpoints, viewing blinds, or boardwalks• Par course• Small play area• Small active use amenity• Parking at trailhead (on-street or off-street)• Restroom (portable or permanent) at trailhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active-use facilities and natural areas should be separated

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND SERVICE	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Natural Areas	Natural areas are undeveloped lands left in a natural state for conservation or outdoor recreation. These parks are designed to protect and manage unique or significant natural features, such as rivers and streams, wetlands and marshes, steep hillsides, environmentally sensitive areas, and wildlife habitats. Some natural areas may have limited access due to resource conservation needs. Where appropriate, natural areas may support passive, outdoor recreation, such as trail-related opportunities, bird and wildlife viewing, environmental interpretation and education, and nature photography. The size and shape of the natural area will vary depending on the resource it protects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect valuable natural resources and open space• Contribute to the environmental health of the community, by providing a number of ecological benefits, such as shoreline protection, wildlife habitat, stormwater filtration, riparian corridor and wetland preservation, and erosion control• Contribute to community identity and quality of life• Improve the aesthetic quality and beauty of Arcata• Provide opportunities for nature-based recreation and environmental education• Promote conservation and stewardship• Enhance community and individual appreciation for nature• Improve health and wellness by providing a physical and mental refuge from the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The size, shape, and service area will vary depending on its function and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I 1th & M Street Wetland• Aldergrove Marsh• Arcata Baylands• Arcata Community Forest• Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary• Butcher Slough/Jolly Giant Creek Restoration Area• Jacoby Creek and Sunny Brae Forests A• Janes Creek Open Space• Janes Creek Meadows Open Space• Jolly Giant Creek Open Space• McDaniel Slough• Sellers Pond Open Space• Sunny Brae Park• Woodland Heights Park• Zehndner Avenue Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trail or pathway system• Trailhead, trail kiosk, or entry• Interpretive and directional signage• Viewpoints, viewing blinds, boardwalks, or viewing piers• Interpretive center, educational facilities or classrooms (indoor or outdoor)• Preservation areas (with no public access)• Picnic tables• Shelter or gazebo• Open grass areas• Nature-themed recreation elements or active recreation elements appropriate for natural areas (e.g., playground, ropes course, par course, Frisbee golf, canopy tours, mountain biking trails, dirt BMX course, etc.)• Dog play area (fenced or fenceless)• Parking (on-street or off-street)• Restrooms (portable or permanent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports facilities (fields, paved courts, etc.)• Any resource and level of development that conflicts with the intended purpose of the site• Any development that damages protected natural resources