

# Chapter 4: Equitable Distribution of Recreational Opportunities

Carson City residents are fortunate to have access to an extensive network of open lands both within and surrounding the community, as well as a range of more formal community and neighborhood parks and sports facilities. The City has developed an extensive park system (765 acres) and, with many partners, offers an extensive array of recreational programs. In addition, the City provides many recreation facilities (baseball/softball fields, soccer/football fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic pavilions, etc.), as well as a community theater, aquatic facility with a 50 meter pool, a fairgrounds, and a number of natural parks and recreational pathways. In 1996 Carson City residents approved Ballot Question 18 – The Quality of Life Initiative, creating a supplemental sales tax revenue source (1/4 of a cent) for parks, open space, pathways and associated maintenance. This source has allowed development of many new facilities.

Notwithstanding, there are still park facility and recreation needs and desires in Carson City that are unmet, and some areas of the City have more park, pathways, and recreation resources than others. As it continues to grow, the City seeks to create more *equitable* (not necessarily equal) recreational resources for each of its neighborhoods, recognizing that the types of resources available in each area will vary based on the specific needs and wants of the community.

Also, the City will continue to grow by approximately 15% to 20% over the next 20 years and new residents will need additional facilities. In addition, parks have an important impact on the city's quality of life—which is related to the city's economic development objectives. Businesses and skilled workers are often attracted to communities that have a high level of parks, open space, pathways, and recreational opportunities. The City will place an emphasis on establishing more parks with a natural character, where possible, in response to expressed community preference.

Principles for achieving equity in the distribution of Parks, Open Space, Pathways, and Recreational Opportunities focus on:



*The City will place an emphasis on establishing more parks with a natural character where possible—as opposed to more formal turf areas.*

- Ensuring that new facilities are provided, as needed to serve new development; and
- Balancing the disparity in resources between neighborhoods.



A variety of parks and facilities allow people of all ages to participate in both active and passive recreational opportunities.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4: AN INTEGRATED, COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

*The City will continue to provide a diverse range of park and recreational opportunities to include facilities and programming for all ages and varying interests, both passive and active—to serve both existing and future neighborhoods.*

### GOAL 4.1—PROMOTE RECREATIONAL EQUITY AT A NEIGHBORHOOD LEVEL

#### 4.1a—Maintain/Enhance Existing Facilities

Improve the quality of existing park and recreational facilities and create additional facilities where possible in underserved locations. Continue to pursue opportunities to improve the City's existing community center/aquatic facility in Mills Park and construct a new recreation center in another location.

#### 4.1b—Match Improvements to Demand and Current Standards

New development will provide park facilities commensurate with demand created and consistent with the City's adopted standards. Continue to work with developers to identify opportunities for new park facilities in new neighborhoods based on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

#### 4.1c—Balance Parkland Disparity

Identify opportunities to balance the amount and types of parkland available within existing and future neighborhoods by focusing new neighborhood parks in areas currently underserved (or that will be underserved as the result of future infill/redevelopment) and in new neighborhoods using the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guide.

Establish an additional community park in the northern quadrant of the community.

## GOAL 4.2 EXPAND THE CITY'S CAPACITY AND EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY-WIDE RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

### 4.2a—Expand Recreation Opportunities

As the City grows, provide additional community parks, pathways, sports complexes, and indoor recreational facilities to meet the needs of future residents. To the degree land can be assembled, distribute future facilities to provide facilities convenient to all major quadrants of the city.

### 4.2b—Maintain and Expand Recreation Partnerships

More than many communities, Carson City has a large number of partners that significantly increase the quantity and quality of recreation services available to City residents. Continue to expand cost-effective sharing of facilities and resources with the City's existing and potential recreation partners.



*Recreational opportunities should be provided for all residents.*

## GOAL 4.3 EXPAND THE CITY'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK

### 4.3a—Open Space Master Plan

Continue to review future development proposals for consistency with the City's Open Space Master Plan and continue to coordinate with the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Carson River Advisory Committee on Master Plan issues.

### 4.3b—Open Space Network

Continue to pursue opportunities to expand or enhance the community's open space network using a range of available tools (as specified in the Open Space Master Plan) to help implement the objectives of this Master Plan.



*The City will continue to seek opportunities to enhance its open space network.*