Open Space

Introduction

State Planning Law requires the preparation of a local open space plan for the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of open space land within its jurisdiction along with a program for its implementation.

Background

Issues and Problems

1. Acquisitions of additional open space in an urbanized community.

2. Weighing the relative priority of open space against other community demands on land resources.

3. Determining actual open space needs and its distribution.

4. Obtaining more efficient usage of existing open space resources.

5. Loss of existing open spaces to urban development due to lack of an acquisition program.

Opportunities

1. Developing potential of existing open space resources represented by school playgrounds, flood control facilities, Edison right-of-ways, and city owned water sheds.

2. Creating usable open spaces from existing street right-of-ways through vacation, widening sidewalks, realignment , etc.

3. Utilizing redevelopment process as a tool to create new open spaces.

4. Acquiring excess freeway parcels for park purposes or use as noise buffer strips.

5. Achieving open space through standard zoning requirements, special development standards, bonus incentives provisions and transfer of development rights.

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Goals and Objectives

Goal:
Continued improvement in the quality of Pasadena's urban environment as defined in the quality and quantity of its open spaces.

Objectives:
1. Adequate open space to meet known and projected future community recreational needs.

2. Increase in recreational resources by multi-purpose uses of existing open spaces.

3. Supplementing of public-owned open spaces with private open space resources.

4. Creation of additional open space resources through new development concepts.

5. A wider use of existing open spaces throughout the community particularly in areas of greatest need.

IMPLEMENTATIONS STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

Strategy 100.0:
Enhancement of recreational open spaces.

Policies:
101.0 Public parkland shall be protected from nonrecreational uses: any loss of parkland through governmental action shall be replaced in-kind.

102.0 The development of new park facilities should be undertaken only after thorough study justifying needs and potential usage.

103.0 Park planning will take into consideration all related recreational factors.

104.0 Citizen participation shall play a major role in all phases of recreational open space planning from site selection to program development.

105.0 Unique opportunities to acquire additional land at minimum costs, having recreational possibilities may be pursued.

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106.0 Priorities in new facilities should go to those areas indicating the greatest need.

Program:
Development of a recreation master plan.

Strategy 200.0:
Achievement of maximum recreational benefit from existing open space resources.

Policies:
201.0 The City shall strive to maximize the recreational utility of existing parkland.

202.0 The recreational potential of existing public-owned lands should be investigated before further acquisitions are considered.

203.0 The school-park concept should be expanded and greater year-round use of school recreational facilities be encouraged.

204.0 Accessibility to major recreational centers should be expanded and improved to encourage greater participation.

205.0 The possibility of increasing usable open space from certain street system modifications should be studied.

Programs:
200.1 Continuation of program to partially turf school playground areas.

200.2 Development of low-intensity, natural parks in City watershed areas with hiking, cycling, and equestrian trails.

200.3 Development of equestrian/bicycle trails along Southern California Edison right-of-way.

Strategy 300.0:
Use of privately-owned open spaces to reduce demand on public resources.

Policies:
301.0 The provision of adequate open space shall be an integral requirement of City development regulations. Such requirements should be tailored to the recreational demands it would otherwise place on public resources.

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302.0 The City should develop incentives to encourage the provision of usable open space as a part of commercial and residential developments.

303.0 Performance-oriented requirements should supplant rigid zoning regulations as a means of obtaining maximum open space from private developments.

Programs:

300.1 Revision of Zoning Ordinance to require adequate open space designed around the intensity of the development.

300.2 Development of incentive-bonus system in Zoning Ordinance to encourage provision of open space beyond normal requirements.

300.3 Investigation into possibilities of developing arrangements for shared use of private open space.

References:

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