

General Plan Implementation Review Committee

Planning and Development Department

AUGUST 4, 2020



The City Council of the City of Fresno hereby establishes a General Plan Implementation Review Committee (GPIRC) comprised of 17 members, two appointed by each councilmember and three appointed by the Mayor, to discuss the progress toward implementing the policies of the General Plan and to make recommendations to the Mayor.



Overview of Presentation

General Plan Chapter 5: Parks, Open Space, and Schools

- Relationship to General Plan Goals
- Summary
- Objectives and Policies



*The **Parks, Open Space and Schools** Element sets forth policy guidance for a broad spectrum of open spaces and community facilities in Fresno. These spaces will provide areas appropriate for agricultural or resource production and conservation; parks and open spaces for recreation; areas for protection of natural resources; and school sites which support neighborhood identity and cohesion. A key need addressed in the element is the shortage of parks and recreation space, particularly in established areas of the city, and a lack of access to these facilities for all Fresnoans. This element aims to provide those special places that support a sense of community and are vital to creating a livable and sustainable Fresno.*



Relationship to Goals

General Plan Goal 6

Protect, preserve and enhance natural, historic and cultural resources.

General Plan Goal 7

Provide for a diversity of districts, neighborhoods, housing types (including affordable housing), residential densities, job opportunities, recreation, open space, and educational venues that appeal to a broad range of people throughout the city.



Relationship to Goals

General Plan Goal 8

Develop Complete Neighborhoods and districts with an efficient and diverse mix of residential densities, building types and affordability which are designed to be healthy, attractive and centered by schools, parks, and public and commercial services to provide a sense of place and that provide as many services as possible within walking distance.

General Plan Goal 9

Promote a city of healthy communities and improve quality of life in established neighborhoods.



Relationship to Goals

General Plan Goal 12

Resolve existing public infrastructure and service deficiencies, make full use of existing infrastructure, and invest in improvements to increase competitiveness and promote economic growth.

General Plan Goal 13

Emphasize the City as a role model for good growth management planning, efficient processing and permit streamlining, effective urban development policies, environmental quality, and a strong economy. Work collaboratively with other jurisdictions and institutions to further these values through the region.



Relationship to Goals

General Plan Goal 14

Provide a network of safe well-maintained parks, open spaces athletic facilities, and walking and biking trails connecting the city's districts and neighborhoods to attract and retain a broad range of individuals, benefit the health of residents, and provide the level of public amenities required to encourage and support development of higher density urban living and transit use.



Summary



OPR Requirement

- Open Space is one of the seven general plan topics or elements required by California's Planning and Zoning Law.
 - Land Use
 - Circulation
 - Housing
 - Conservation
 - Open Space
 - Noise
 - Safety
 - Air Quality
 - Environmental Justice*



Parks Master Plan

- A Parks Master Plan was completed in December of 2017 pursuant to General Plan implementing policy POSS-1-b, Parks Implementation Planning.
- Highlights include:
 - Maintenance and life cycle replacement is underfunded
 - Park acreage needed to meet standards: 1,113 today and 1,769 in 2035;
 - Areas of Fresno have limited or no parks, creating “park deserts” most notable in Districts 1, 5 and 7
 - Parks are highly valued
 - PARCS staff operate as best they can with limited available resources to provide unique experiences to the community



Parks Level of Service Standards

- 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents for pocket, neighborhood and community parks
- 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents for regional, open space/natural areas and special use parks



Parks, Open Space, and Schools



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-1: Provide an expanded, high quality and diversified park system, allowing for varied recreational opportunities for the entire Fresno community.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

POSS-1-a: Parkland standard

POSS-1-b: Parks Implementation Planning

POSS-1-c: Public Input in Park Planning

POSS-1-d: Additional parkland in certain areas

POSS-1-e: Criteria for Parks in Development Areas

POSS-1-f: Parks and Open Space Diagram

POSS-1-g: Regional Urban Forest



Accomplishments:

- Parkland standard established (*POSS-1-a*)
 - The Parks Master Plan in Table 6.3 on pages 184 and 185, further clarified the needs by Development Area of our city
- Citywide Development Code (2015) (*POSS-1-a, POSS-1-b, POSS-1-e, POSS-1-f*)
- Inspiration Park is the first fully accessible park with multiple accessible amenities (*POSS-1-b*)
 - Playground, skate park, basketball, dog park, splash pad, sensory structure, ballfield
- Playground equipment purchased, replaced include specific accessible elements and include ADA access surfacing
 - Chandler, Einstein, Orchid, Fink White, Belcher, Holman, WWP, Holmes, Granny's
- Parks Master Plan (2017) (*POSS-1-b, POSS-1-c, POSS-1-e*)
 - There was much public participation in the Parks Master Plan process and there has been public participation for specific park master plans since the adoption
- Through the TCC grant the City is establishing a park just south of the new SCCCDC college campus (*POSS-1-b*)
 - The pedestrian and bike paths that are planned for the new campus will have an outlet near the park that will act as a connector to extend the pedestrian and bike paths of both facilities
- Establishing formal 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (*POSS-1-b*)
- Prop 68 Grant Applications (2019) (*POSS-1-b, POSS-1-d*)
- PARCS Department coordinating efforts with other City Departments (On Going) (*POSS-1-c*)
- PARCS working with Housing Division on Public Needs Hearings for CDGB Funds (*POSS-1-c*)
- Lingo Project which includes park space (*POSS-1-d*)
- New Park included at MLK Activity Center Development in Southwest Fresno (*POSS-1-d*)
- Southwest Fresno Specific Plan (2017) (*POSS-1-f*)
- New tree planting standards can be found in Public Works standards, Trail Design Guidelines, and Development Code (*POSS-1-g*)
- As part of the TCC grant SCCCDC is planting 490 trees on its 39 acre campus to help develop a more robust urban forest in the Southwest Fresno area (*POSS-1-g*)
- Joint application for a CalFire grant with Tree Fresno lead to the planting of over 1000 trees in the last 24 months (*POSS-1-g*)

Policies Referenced

- POSS-1-a
- POSS-1-b
- POSS-1-c
- POSS-1-d
- POSS-1-e
- POSS-1-f
- POSS-1-g

Policies Not Referenced



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-2: Ensure that adequate land, in appropriate locations, is designated and acquired for park and recreation uses in infill and growth areas.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

- POSS-2-a: Identify opportunities to site, develop and co-locate Fire and Police stations with needed parks and open space as joint-use facilities**
- POSS-2-b: Park and Recreation Priorities**
- POSS-2-c: Review of Development Applications**
- POSS-2-d: Recreation Opportunities near Freeway Corridors**
- POSS-2-e: Open Space Dedication for Residential Development**
- POSS-2-f: Freeway Landscaping**



Accomplishments:

- Parks Master Plan (2018) (*POSS-2-a, POSS-2-b*)
- Added park acreage (*POSS-2-b*):
 - CAD (.77 acres), Martin Ray Reilly in D7 (3.38 acres), Inspiration in D1 (8.3 acres), Almy Park in D3 (.41 acres), and Maxie L Park Expansion (.29 acres)
- Planned and Built Parks Projects (*POSS-2-b*):
 - Park at the Lingo Project
 - ADA Swings installed at Mosqueda Community Center (2020)
 - Added Splash Pads to Vinland and Mosqueda – currently in design – Melody and Fink White
 - Dog Park amenities installed at: Stallion, Belcher, Al Radka, Todd Beamer, Figarden Loop, Koligian and expansion of WWP Dog Park
 - BMX Bike Park at the Mary Ella Brown Community Center in Southwest Fresno (2019)
 - Maxie L. Parks planned expansion
- PARCS Project Administrator designated to attend Development Review meetings (*POSS-2-c*)
- Citywide Development Code, which includes parks and open space requirements (2015) (*POSS-1-c, POSS-2-e*)
- Agreement established with Caltrans for highway beautification funding (*POSS-2-f*)

Policies Referenced

- POSS-2-a
- POSS-2-b
- POSS-2-c
- POSS-2-d
- POSS-2-e
- POSS-2-f

Policies Not Referenced

- POSS-2-e



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-3: Ensure that park and recreational facilities make the most efficient use of land; that they are designed and managed to provide for the entire Fresno community; and that they represent positive examples of design and energy conservation.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

POSS-3-a: Centralized Park Locations

POSS-3-b: Park Location and Walking Distance

POSS-3-c: Link Parks with Walkways

POSS-3-d: Sidewalks to Connect Neighborhoods

POSS-3-e: Minimum Park Size for Active Recreation

POSS-3-f: Park Design Guidelines

POSS-3-g: Park Security and Design

POSS-3-h: Coordination with School Districts

POSS-3-i: Joint Use with Drainage Facilities



Accomplishments:

- PARCS Department coordinating efforts with other City Departments (On Going) (*POSS-3-a, POSS-3-b, POSS-3-c*)
- Southwest Fresno Specific Plan (2017) (*POSS-3-a*)
- Active Transportation Plan (*POSS-3-c*)
- Through the TCC grant SCCCD will be adding approximately two miles of pedestrian and bike paths to its campus connecting the campus to the surrounding community (*POSS-3-c*)
 - The campus pedestrian and bike paths will foster biking and walking to work, home and school.
 - The city through a CMAC grant is adding bike paths along Church Ave adjacent to the new West Fresno community college campus
- Planned energy efficiency audit (*POSS-3-f*)
- Recycled water to be supplied to Parks and Caltrans for use on 99, 41, and 180 (*POSS-3-f*)
- Citywide Development Code, which includes sidewalks and parks and open space requirements (2015) (*POSS-3-d, POSS-3-f, POSS-3-g*)
- Parks Master Plan (2018) (*POSS-3-f, POSS-3-g*)
- City investment in private security for Regional Parks – addresses vandalism, destruction, homelessness, ensuring parks are vacated “after hours” etc. - helps with mitigating damage to amenities (*POSS-3-g*)
- Joint Use Agreement with Fresno and Clovis Unified (On Going) (*POSS-3-h*)
- The PARCS Department in collaboration with Fresno and Central Unified School districts launches the Weekend Recreation and Fitness Program (WRFP) at a combined 17 school sites throughout the City of Fresno (*POSS-3-h*)
 - WRFP allows community members access to school grounds (greenspace) and amenities on weekends in addition to opportunities for participation in structured fitness activities, games, sports leagues and community events, conducted by PARCS staff. Since its inception over 107,666 have attended WRFP sites.
- The PARCS Department in collaboration with Fresno and Central Unified School launched the Summer Aquatics Blue Space Program (*POSS-3-h*)
 - Conducted at seven FUSD high school aquatic facilities, Blue Space gives citizens an option to enjoy daily community recreation swim and opportunities to register for swim lessons at an affordable cost. Average combined seasonal attendance is 19,287
- Joint Use Agreement with Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (On Going) (*POSS-3-i*)
 - FMFCD currently has 23 drainage basins designated as secondary use for recreational purposes within the City

Policies Referenced

- POSS-3-a
- POSS-3-b
- POSS-3-c
- POSS-3-d
- POSS-3-e
- POSS-3-f
- POSS-3-g
- POSS-3-h
- POSS-3-i

Policies Not Referenced



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-4: Pursue sufficient and dedicated funding for parks acquisition, operations, and maintenance.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

POSS-4-a: Supplemental Revenue

POSS-4-b: Operation and Maintenance Financing

**POSS-4-c: Improvements in Established
Neighborhoods**

POSS-4-d: Maintain Adopt-A-Park Program



Accomplishments:

- Acquisition efforts made through grant opportunities (*POSS-4-a*)
- Citywide Development Code, which includes parks and open space maintenance requirements (2015) (*POSS-4-b*)
- The PARCS Department works with neighborhood revitalization teams – (Lowell, King and El Dorado neighborhoods, etc.) on specific park project improvements (*POSS-4-c*)
- The PARCS Department has worked with over 50 individual groups on the “Adopt-a-Park” program and is currently revisiting the program to ensure improved alignment with volunteer resources and priority maintenance support tasks (*POSS-4-d*)

Policies Referenced

- POSS-4-a
- POSS-4-b
- POSS-4-c
- POSS-4-d

Policies Not Referenced



Break



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-5: Provide for long-term preservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of plant, wildlife, and aquatic habitat.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

POSS-5-a: Habitat Area Acquisition

POSS-5-b: Habitat Conservation Plans

POSS-5-c: Buffers for Natural Areas

POSS-5-d: Guidelines for Habitat Conservation

POSS-5-e: Pursue development of conjunctive habitat and recreational trail uses in flood control and drainage projects

POSS-5-f: Regional Mitigation and Habitat Restoration

POSS-5-g: Assistance in Valley Arboretum Master Planning



Accomplishments:

- Preserved area along FancherCreek (*POSS-5-a*)
- San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan Update (2018) (*POSS-5-b, POSS-5-d*)
- Citywide Development Code, which includes required buffers along San Joaquin River and FancherCreek (2015) (*POSS-5-c*)
- All approved tract maps along FancherCreek have dedicated easement for the channel, which includes space for FID Maintenance, and additional space for a landscaped trail (*POSS-5-c, POSS-5-e*)
- Development restricted along San Joaquin River bottom) (*POSS-5-d*)
- City has ongoing Coordination with SJRCD (*POSS-5-f*)
- City has pursued and been awarded grants for urban forest improvements (*POSS-5-g*)

Policies Referenced

- POSS-5-a
- POSS-5-b
- POSS-5-c
- POSS-5-d
- POSS-5-e
- POSS-5-f
- POSS-5-g

Policies Not Referenced



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-6: Maintain and restore, where feasible, the ecological values of the San Joaquin River corridor.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

POSS-6-a: San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan

POSS-6-b: Effects of Stormwater Discharge



Accomplishments:

- San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan Update (2018) (*POSS-5-a*)
- Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District conducts consistent testing and maintenance of basins (*POSS-5-b*)
- Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District basins filter water prior to entering San Joaquin River (*POSS-5-b*)
- Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has implemented the Post-Development Standards Technical Manual for all projects identified as priority projects (*POSS-5-b*)
 - This includes development that drains to FMFCD basins that ultimately discharges to the San Joaquin River

Policies Referenced

- POSS-6-a
- POSS-6-b

Policies Not Referenced



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-7: Support the San Joaquin River Conservancy in its collaborative, multiagency efforts to develop the San Joaquin River Parkway.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

POSS-7-a: Preserve Wildlife Corridors

POSS-7-b: Wildlife Corridor along San Joaquin River

POSS-7-c: Monitoring River Corridor Conditions

POSS-7-d: Buffer Zones near Intensive Uses

POSS-7-e: Natural Habitats and Historic Resources

POSS-7-f: River Bluffs

POSS-7-g: San Joaquin River Parkway - River West Fresno Project Area

POSS-7-h: Interlink City and San Joaquin River Parkway Trail Networks

POSS-7-i: Public Access to San Joaquin River Parkway Trail Networks



Accomplishments:

- The San Joaquin River Conservancy has acquired 2,608 acres on the San Joaquin River for conservation and public access purposes (*POSS-7-a, POSS-7-b*)
- San Joaquin River Conservancy has funded several restoration projects (*POSS-7-a, POSS-7-e*):
 - River Bottom Park
 - River West
 - Jenson Ranch
- Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District basins filter water prior to entering San Joaquin River (*POSS-5-c*)
- Citywide Development Code which includes required buffers along San Joaquin River and additional buffer standards (2015) (*POSS-7-d*)
- The River West Eaton Trail Extension (expected completion 2020) (*POSS-7-g, POSS-7-h*)
- SJRC, Fresno County, Madera County, and the City of Fresno are contemplating the formation of a Joint Powers Authority (*POSS-7-f, POSS-7-i*)
- Active Transportation Plan (2017) (*POSS-7-i*)

Policies Referenced

• POSS-7-a • POSS-7-d • POSS-7-g
• POSS-7-b • POSS-7-e • POSS-7-h
• POSS-7-c • POSS-7-f • POSS-7-i

Policies Not Referenced



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-8: Work cooperatively with school districts to find appropriate locations for schools to meet the needs of students and neighborhoods.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

POSS-8-a: Support School Districts' Programs

POSS-8-b: Appropriate School Locations

POSS-8-c: Park and School Site Coordination



Accomplishments:

- The city provides contracted services to the school districts with the Science program (mobile science mobile, science field trips, etc.) (*POSS-8-a*)
- The city provides contracted services to FUSD – recreational services as part of their SPARK program at 29 sites (*POSS-8-a*)
- SCCCD planned satellite campus in west Fresno (*POSS-8-a*)
 - In response to the TCC grant that was allocated to West Fresno, SCCCD leveraged and re-allocated \$70M dollars of its bond program to establish a new campus in West Fresno
- The City maintain a collaborative relationship with the school districts, reviewing and approving sites through the subdivision process to ensure that they are consistent with and supportive of the General Plan (*POSS-8-b*)
- The City coordinates land use plans and subdivision approvals with local districts and cooperates with them to ensure that school fees are collected prior to the issuance of building permits (*POSS-8-b*)
 - Substantial population growth, changing demographic characteristics, and funding constraints have made it difficult for school districts to meet growing student capacity demands - School districts have encouraged the City to work with both commercial and private developers in setting aside land to support urban infill and densification also provide in addition to developer fees provide the necessary capital outlay to support expansion of existing facilities
- FUSD adopted a District Facilities Master Plan in 2009 - updated in 2016 (*POSS-8-b*)
 - The plan is intended to revise and improve feeder patterns, adjust school boundaries to balance enrollment, improve building and site conditions, reduce the use of portable classrooms, and build new classrooms and facilities where needed.

Policies Referenced

- POSS-8-a
- POSS-8-b
- POSS-8-c

Policies Not Referenced



Accomplishments:

- FUSD is involved on an ongoing basis with the City to provide information and demographic data to support infrastructure improvements (such as crosswalk improvements and traffic signals) to facilitate safe and convenient walking and biking to schools (*POSS-8-b*)
- Active Transportation Plan (2017) (*POSS-8-b*)
- Grant opportunities applied for (*POSS-8-b*)
 - Active Transportation Program (ATP)
 - Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Safer Routes to School Resolution (2020) (*POSS-8-b*)
- School Locations discussed during the General Plan process, updated during the Southwest Fresno Specific Plan process (*POSS-8-b*)
- The City and SCCCDC worked to coordinate the siting of the new West Fresno satellite college campus (*POSS-8-b*)
- Through the TCC grant SCCCDC will be adding approximately two miles of pedestrian and bike paths to its campus connecting the campus to the surrounding community (*POSS-8-b*)
 - The campus pedestrian and bike paths will foster biking and walking to work, home and school.
 - The city through a CMAC grant is adding bike paths along Church Ave adjacent to the new West Fresno community college campus
- The City has joint use agreements with Central, Fresno and Clovis Unified School Districts (*POSS-8-c*)

Policies Referenced

- POSS-8-a
- POSS-8-b
- POSS-8-c

Policies Not Referenced



CHAPTER 10 OBJECTIVE

Objective POSS-9: Work with California State University, Fresno, and other institutions of higher learning in Fresno, to enhance the City's workforce, job creation, and economic development, as well as its image and desirability as a place to live.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

POSS-9-a: Economic Potential of Institutions of Higher Education in Fresno

POSS-9-b: Regular Coordination with Institutions of Higher Education in Fresno

POSS-9-c: University Neighborhood Planning



Accomplishments:

- FPU has added to the skilled workforce, particularly in the areas of education, social work, and health care. FPU's new Bachelors in Nursing program, starting this fall, will add much needed nurses to the Valley (*POSS-9-a*)
- FPU's Center for Community Transformation (CCT) has helped to spark 48 social businesses that accomplish social objectives while being sustainable (*POSS-9-a*):
 - The CCT launched a micro enterprise initiative in Fresno, Hanford and Merced that will help people with barriers start their own sole-proprietorships to provide for their families. The CCT has trained more than 100 local leaders in a specialized financial literacy curriculum designed for concentrated poverty neighborhoods and collaborates with the Housing Authority to train its residents
- FPU hosts free tax preparation and financial planning workshops focused on the residents of Southeast and West Fresno but open to all Fresno as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (*POSS-9-a*)
- FPU maintains a strong partnership with the Fresno Police Dept - FPU regularly shares its video surveillance with FPD, coordinates safety training with FPD, and hosts a ShotSpotter site (*POSS-9-b*)
- FPU's CCT leads the Mayor's Faith-Based Partnership Cabinet catalyzing collaboration with 26 diverse faith institutions (*POSS-9-b*)
 - The CCT co-sponsors the CCD Collective, most recently coordinating a housing survey of tenant vulnerability in light of the expiring COVID-19 eviction moratorium - The CCT also serves the Mayor's anti-human trafficking research initiative
- FPU is about to begin construction on its Culture and Arts Center, which will serve the university, Southeast Fresno, and the greater Fresno area with a 400-seat theatre, 100-seat black box theater, and an art gallery - The City of Fresno has supported the planning process (*POSS-9-c*)
- Through the TCC grant - SCCCDC and the City of Fresno worked together to coordinate the design and site layout of the Southwest Fresno satellite campus so that pedestrian and bike paths could be connected (*POSS-9-c*)
 - SCCCDC is also designing an open campus free of fencing to create a welcoming campus environment

Policies Referenced

- POSS-9-a
- POSS-9-b
- POSS-9-c

Policies Not Referenced



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