

Community Facilities and Services

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

SCHOOLS

Existing Conditions

One of the most important public services is the provision of schools and the offering of quality education to the residents of the community. The Uptown community is served by three public elementary schools: Florence, Alice Birney and Grant; one Junior High: Roosevelt; one High School: San Diego High; and three private schools. Enrollment figures for public schools are listed in Table 4 together with pertinent characteristics of the physical plants.

**TABLE 4
UPTOWN SCHOOL FACILITIES**

School	Enrollment		Facilities	
	Actual Jan-87	Forecasted Oct-87	Forecasted 1990	Total Capacity
ELEMENTARY:				
Birney	626	650	742	654
Florence	273	275	288	282
Grant	627	666	759	660
JUNIOR HIGH:				
Roosevelt	998	1,120	1,164	1,202
SENIOR HIGH:				
San Diego	1,235	1,461	1,557	1,727

Source: San Diego Unified School District
Long Range Facilities Master Plan: 1986-2000, January 1987.

The San Diego Unified School District provides aggregated forecasts and strategies for facility needs to the year 2000. Although less reliable and more subject to change, these long range forecasts provide general guidelines for district-wide facilities planning. Table 5 shows recommended solution strategies for each school based upon current information.

**TABLE 5
SOLUTION STRATEGIES FOR FACILITY NEEDS BY
SCHOOL AND YEAR**

School	Strategy
ELEMENTARY:	
Birney	Immediately implement double session kindergarten. Between 1991-2000 institute multi-track year-round school.
Florence	Add portables after 1991.
Grant	Grant Projected resident growth and space limitations will require a re-study of the magnet program.
JUNIOR HIGH:	
Roosevelt*	The combined forecast for Roosevelt and Memorial Junior High Schools indicate a need for up to ten portables at both sites.
SENIOR HIGH:	
San Diego*	Up to twelve additional portables will be needed between 1992-2000. An alternative to additional portables is to explore cooperative use of community college facilities.

* Located outside of the Uptown Community Plan boundaries.

Objectives

- Encourage private industry to adopt various schools to enhance the educational programs at each school in the Uptown community.
- Transform school facilities into the neighborhood focal point with a strong image and identity.
- Recognize that architectural excellence and economical construction are not mutually exclusive.
- Provide for the maximum utilization of school facilities while eliminating any overcrowding.
- Encourage full community use of school facilities during non-school hours for educational, recreational and cultural purposes.
- Construct school facilities if necessary to eliminate overcrowded conditions.

Recommendations

1. In conjunction with the school district, continuously monitor school enrollment to determine if overcrowding or underutilization of facilities is occurring and take the necessary actions to correct any imbalances.
2. Pursue joint use agreements whereby school facilities are made available for community use.
3. Any re-use of school sites should be subject to public review through the use of the Institutional (I) Overlay Zone, and should be consistent with the community plan designations for the surrounding area. All school sites should be rezoned as shown below at the time this plan is implemented. Given the key location of the school sites in Uptown, the possible future need for public facilities, and the mixture of surrounding uses, a discretionary permit should be required for new development. Public facility uses such as neighborhood park or community center should be given first priority for re-use of these sites before they are made available for private use or development.
 - a. Grant Elementary School - The non-open space portion of this site should be low medium density (10-15 du/ac).
 - b. Florence Elementary School - A medium-high intensity commercial/residential development should be permitted.
 - c. Alice Birney Elementary School and the Education Center - high intensity mixed-use development should be permitted along Park Boulevard and Normal Street with medium-high density residential on the remainder of the site.

LIBRARIES

Existing Conditions

There are presently two libraries in the Uptown community: the Mission Hills and University Heights libraries, the latter of which is located in the Greater North Park community plan area. The community is also served by the Central Library in Centre City.

The General Plan standards recommend one branch library for every 18,000 to 30,000 residents. While library facilities in Uptown are in conformity with this standard, it would be desirable to continue to maintain and enhance library services. Among such measures might be extended hours, expanded book and periodical collections, and additional staff to provide special programs and more personalized service.

Objective

- Promote a high level of library service that ensures residents access to a comprehensive selection of published materials.

Recommendations

1. Expand the Mission Hills library to approximately 10,000 square feet to meet the current standard for branch libraries.
2. Support the extension of hours, expansion of book and periodical collections, and hiring of additional staff as necessary to provide adequate access to a full range of published materials.

POLICE AND CRIME

Existing Conditions

The Uptown community is served by two police substations. The Central Area Substation is at 1400 Broadway in Centre City and the Western Area Substation is at 1222 Gaines within the Mission Valley community planning area.

Crime statistics for 1986 showed a higher crime rate in Uptown as compared to the citywide average. Because Uptown contains numerous canyons and has a high intensity of urban development, additional police service may be required to ensure a safe community.

Objectives

- Reduce incidence of criminal activity.
- Continue Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Continue the high level of police protection in the community.

- Incorporate defensible space considerations into the design of all projects.
- Establish a Community Relations Office in Hillcrest.

Recommendations

1. Neighborhood organizations should maintain a close relationship and have a continuing exchange of information with patrol officers.
2. Promote the development of Community Alert Programs where they do not presently exist.
3. Maintain a Community Relations Program between police and residents.
4. When feasible, introduce foot patrols to districts of high crime.
5. Projects should provide adequate lighting, visibility for surveillance, and gradations between public and private spatial territories.



SCHOOLS

- 1. SAN DIEGO HIGH
- 2. ROOSEVELT JUNIOR HIGH
- 3. ALICE BIRNEY ELEMENTARY
- 4. FLORENCE ELEMENTARY
- 5. GRANT ELEMENTARY
- 6. SAINT VINCENT'S MIDDLE (Private)
- 7. FRANCIS PARKER MIDDLE (Private)

LIBRARIES

- A. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
- B. MISSION HILLS

FIRE STATIONS

- FIRE STATION #3
- FIRE STATION #5
- FIRE STATION #8

POST OFFICE

PO - POST OFFICE



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

UPTOWN Community Plan
CITY OF SAN DIEGO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FIGURE
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FIRE PROTECTION

Existing Conditions

Existing fire protection facilities and programs adequately serve the needs of the Uptown population.

There are presently three fire stations serving Uptown. Station #8 is located at Goldfinch and Washington Street and is a standard four-person unit. Station #5 is located at Ninth and University Avenue and is a nine-person unit. Station #3 is located at State and Kalmia Street and is also a standard four-person unit.

The average response time for all three stations is 3-4 minutes, meeting General Plan standards.

A particular fire threat in Uptown is the open space canyons, from which damaging fires have occurred in the past. The Fire Department has an active program which promotes the clearing of canyon vegetation away from structures.

Objectives

- Maintain the high level of fire protection throughout the Uptown community.
- Support regular upgrading of Uptown fire stations as necessary to adequately respond to fires and emergencies.
- Encourage fire prevention programs.

Recommendation

Support the efforts of the Fire Department to educate and inform the community regarding fire prevention techniques.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY

Existing Conditions

Gas and electricity is provided by the San Diego Gas and Electric Company.

Undergrounding - Several gas and electric lines traverse the area. The City is actively involved in undergrounding of existing overhead power lines. Future projects include: First Avenue between Laurel Street and Brookes Avenue; Fourth Avenue between Laurel Street and Walnut Avenue; University Avenue between Washington Street and 3rd Avenue; and India Street between Olive Street and Washington Street.

Street Light Conversions - The City has established priorities for the conversion of street light fixtures which may be owned by the City or by the San Diego Gas and Electric Company. At present conversion programs are underway that will replace incandescent fixtures and mercury vapor fixtures with low-pressure sodium vapor units to achieve long-term energy cost reductions.

Conservation - San Diego Gas and Electric Company has a number of programs related to conservation, including commercial and residential energy audits, low interest loan programs for energy conservation, retrofit installations and rebates for solar water heaters.

Objectives

- Promote the provision of adequate gas and electric service.
- Maintain the compatibility of utility substations and transmission lines adjacent with development.

Recommendations

1. Support the efforts of San Diego Gas & Electric to provide adequate service.
2. Maintain access to energy facilities for repair and maintenance.
3. Buffer the physical and visual impacts of energy facilities on adjacent uses through the use of adequate landscaping and screening.

WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

Existing Conditions

In a continuing main replacement program, concrete sewer mains and cast iron water mains are being replaced. Replacement is currently scheduled based on breaks or blockages in the mains. As incidents mount, main replacement is scheduled for accomplishment through the annual Capital Improvements Program. According to the 1988 Fiscal year budget \$6,000,000 has been budgeted for sewer main replacement citywide with an annual increase of five percent thereafter and \$6,300,000 has been budgeted for water main replacement with an annual increase of five percent thereafter.

Objective

- Encourage the systematic improvement of water and sewer lines in the community; replace lines as needed.

Recommendation

The Water Utilities Department should continue the routine maintenance and replacement of the water and sewer facilities within the community. In addition, capital improvements to the system should be made where warranted.