

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD POLICY

SUBJECT: Natural Parks

BACKGROUND: The Citizen's Study Committee Report of 1963 defines "Natural Parks" in broad terms. In May of 1967, incident to a study of San Clemente Park, the Park and Recreation Board determined that a policy on Natural Parks would be desirable. A special committee was formed to formulate a policy. The Policy, as formulated, is detailed below.

DEFINITION: A natural park is a relatively spacious area of scenic or wilderness character containing geological, ecological, or other scientific values, preserved as nearly as possible in its original condition, and providing for the type of recreation that will not harm the features or values that are the reason for the establishment of the park.

POLICY FOR  
PROVIDING:

This is the resource of all citizens of the City for:

1. Part of our cultural heritage - relatively large area of land untouched by civilization.
2. Educational opportunities dependent upon natural setting.
3. Other closely-related recreational opportunities dependent upon natural setting, such as hiking, viewing, photography, landscape painting, and horseback riding.
4. Contrast to crowded, man-made environment.
5. Open Space.

PRINCIPLES FOR  
ESTABLISHMENT:

In planning the park, full use should be made of a committee of experts in biology, geology, and history to insure that:

1. Outstanding features are preserved.
2. Trail systems and unique areas will not be spoiled by the park roads or other facilities.

PRINCIPLES FOR  
ESTABLISHMENT: (Continued)

3. The development is held to a minimum (see "Facilities" below).

4. A nature reserve is included where the necessary resources are available.

SIZE:

The park should have an atmosphere of spaciousness and be sufficiently large to include unique features and to take advantage of natural barriers. It should contain a minimum of 100 acres, preferably much more.

The setting of a minimum size should not preclude the possibility of establishing a smaller area where necessary to preserve an outstanding feature.

AGE SERVED:

The park should serve all ages.

FACILITIES:

Very few facilities are needed in this type of park. They should be limited to:

Restrooms

Trails

Family picnic areas

Perhaps a nature reserve

Off-street parking so located as to do least harm to area and so designed as to be integrated with the rest of the park

Minimum protective lighting only

Park roads should follow terrain and be limited to absolute minimum to provide service by maintenance crew

LANDSCAPING:

It may be necessary to supplement the existing growth with trees for shade and with groundcover for erosion protection, if possible, with California natives, characteristic of the habitat.

DEVELOPMENT,  
MAINTENANCE  
AND  
PRESERVATION:

To insure the preservation of the park, the maintenance and protective programs should be directed to the preservation of the geological, ecological and/or other scientific values for which the park was established, by two procedures:

1. As development programs are implemented and major alteration or extensive maintenance programs and improvements are undertaken, an ongoing committee established through the San Diego Society of Natural History should be consulted for guidance.
2. Rules and regulations for park usage should be designed for and in keeping with the preservation of the geological, ecological and/or other scientific values for which the park was established.

SUBSTANTIATION: Park and Recreation Board Minutes of 5/10/67 (page 331).