



RECREATION

- 7.1 Parks and Recreation Facilities
- 7.2 Preservation
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INTRODUCTION

Parks and open space provide opportunities for recreation, relief from urbanization, and enjoyment of the community's natural features. Recreation opportunities identified with this plan include the acquisition and development of new parks within the community, recreation improvements within Balboa Park, and canyon trails. The Recreation Element includes goals and policies addressing the following topic areas: Parks and Recreation Facilities, Preservation, Accessibility, and Open Space Lands and Resource-Based Parks. These goals and policies, along with the broader goals and policies of the General Plan and the Balboa Park East Mesa Precise Plan (BPEMPP), provide a comprehensive parks strategy intended to accommodate the community at full community development.

In addition to soliciting public input through various community meetings, in August of 2011 the City commissioned a Park and Recreation Needs Assessment for the Golden Hill, North Park and Uptown communities. The assessment was conducted by an independent research consultant to determine how and where people currently recreate, their priorities and preferences for future recreational uses and facilities within their communities, as well as consideration of Balboa Park as a recreational resource. The assessment consisted of an objective, statistically valid, random telephone survey. The survey results are considered representative of the broad and demographically diverse communities' recreational use patterns and opinions. The survey results are contained in a report presented to each community and were used to develop the recreation goals and policies of this community plan (refer to Appendix A, Park and Recreation Needs Assessment).

RECREATION ELEMENT GOALS

Parks & Recreation Facilities

- A sustainable park and recreation system that meets the needs of Golden Hill residents and visitors and which serves a variety of users, such as children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, and the underserved teenage population.
- Parks and recreation facilities that keep pace with Golden Hill's population growth through timely acquisition of available land and development of new facilities.
- Increase in the quantity and quality of recreation facilities in Golden Hill through the promotion of alternative methods, such as park equivalencies, where development of typical facilities and infrastructure may be limited by land constraints.

Preservation

- Preservation, protection, and enhancement of the integrity and quality of existing parks, open space, and recreation programs in Golden Hill.
- A sustainable park and recreation system that meets the needs of Golden Hill residents by using 'green' technology and sustainable practices in all new and retrofitted projects.
- Preservation, protection and management of the natural, cultural, and historic resources that serve as recreation facilities in Golden Hill.

Accessibility

- Enhancement of recreation facilities in Golden Hill by optimizing pedestrian, bicycle, public transit, automobile, and alternative modes of travel.
- Design of all new recreation facilities for an interconnected park and open space system that is integrated into and accessible to Golden Hill residents.
- Retrofit of all existing park and recreational facilities to meet the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to accommodate persons with all disabilities as feasible and as funding becomes available.
- A balance of recreational facilities in Golden Hill for programmed and non-programmed uses.
- Comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks and open space lands within Golden Hill, as well as to surrounding communities.

Open Space Lands & Resource-Based Parks

- An open space and resource-based park system in the Golden Hill Community that provides for the preservation and management of significant natural and man-made resources.
- Protection of the natural terrain and drainage systems of Golden Hill's open space lands and resource-based parks to preserve the natural habitat and cultural resources.
- A system of pedestrian paths and bikeways linking population-based parks with resource-based parks and open space lands within Golden Hill.

7.1 PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES STANDARDS

The General Plan's Recreation Element describes three categories of parks within the City of San Diego: open space lands, resource-based parks, and population-based parks (refer to Section RE-4, Open Space Lands and Resource-Based Parks for descriptions). Population-based parks and recreation facilities are typically located within close proximity to residents and are intended to serve the daily recreational needs of the neighborhoods and community. The General Plan standard is to provide a minimum of 2.8 useable acres of public park land per 1,000 residents.

There are six categories of population-based parks:

- Major park;
- Community park;
- Neighborhood park;
- Mini-park;
- Pocket park or plaza; and
- Special activity park

A recreation center, typically 17,000 square feet in size, should be provided for every 25,000 residents, and an aquatic complex should be provided for every 50,000 residents. The General Plan Recreation Element Table RE-2, Parks Guidelines, provides the descriptions and minimum standards for these park and recreation facilities.

EXISTING AND FUTURE POPULATION – BASED PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

At full community development, the projected population for the Golden Hill community is 24,010. Therefore, according to General Plan Guidelines for population-based parks, the community should be served by approximately 67 useable acres of park land at full community development. Additionally, the projected population warrants approximately one recreation center of approximately 16,000 square feet in size, and approximately one-half of an aquatic complex.

As of 2016, there are no existing population-based parks or recreation facilities within the community. Opportunities for new park land and recreation facilities are anticipated to come primarily through redevelopment of private and public properties and through the application of park equivalencies. The City's primary goal is to obtain land for population-based parks; however, where vacant land is limited, unavailable or is cost-prohibitive, the General Plan allows for the application of park equivalencies to be determined by the community and City staff through a set of guidelines.

GENERAL PLAN GUIDELINES

Parks: $24,095 \text{ people} \div 1,000 = 24.01 \times 2.8 \text{ acres} = 67.47 \text{ acres}$ of population-based parks.

Recreation Center (17,000 square feet): Serves population of 25,000. Future population of 24,095 people divided by 25,000 people = 0.96 Recreation Center = 16,385 square feet total.

Aquatic Complex: Serves population of 50,000. Future population of 24,010 people divided by 50,000 people = 0.48 Aquatic Complex.



A children's play area is one of the park amenities within Golden Hill Community Park.

Facilities that may be considered as population-based park equivalencies include the following.

- Joint use facilities;
- Trails through open space;
- Portions of resource-based parks;
- Privately-owned, publicly-used parks;
- Non-traditional parks, such as roof top or indoor recreation facilities; and
- Facility or building expansion or upgrades.

Golden Hill is an urbanized community where park equivalencies are appropriate for satisfying some of the community's population-based needs. The community and City staff identified and evaluated population-based park and recreation opportunities, as well as potential park equivalency sites, for their recreational value, uses and functions, public accessibility, consistency with General Plan policies and guidelines, and other land use policy documents (e.g., Balboa Park Master Plan and Balboa Park East Mesa Precise Plan [BPEMPP]).

Creation of joint use facilities within Golden Hill schools was considered and determined to be infeasible in the foreseeable future due to constrained sites. However, joint use should be pursued in the future if school sites are expanded or redeveloped, which may free up land that could be utilized for recreational purposes.

A variety of sites and facilities within and adjacent to the Golden Hill Community do, or could, serve as population-based parks or park equivalencies. Table 7-1 summarizes the proposed parks and equivalencies that have been identified to serve the community's park and recreation needs. The table also includes recommendations contained in the BPEMPP for the Neighborhood Edge of Balboa Park, as well as recommendations generated by the community and City staff for facilities outside of Balboa Park. These parks and park equivalency sites meet most of the community's population-based park requirements.

This plan also identifies potential projects that will provide all of the recreation center space and the aquatics complex facilities required to serve the community at the plan horizon. These represent significant achievements towards implementing the community's recreation goals.

Figure 7-1 depicts the approximate locations of existing and proposed open space, parks, recreation facilities and park equivalencies. Note: Identification of private property as a potential park site does not preclude permitted development per the designated land use or underlying zone. The City will continue to work with community members to seek future opportunities for provision of parks and recreation facilities. In addition to the inclusion of these projects in the Golden Hill Impact Fees Study, identification of potential donations, grants and other funding sources for project implementation will be an ongoing effort.



Bud Kearns Aquatic Complex, within Balboa Park, is to be expanded to serve both Golden Hill and North Park.



Golden Hill Recreation Center is to be expanded to provide additional multi-purpose rooms or other community-serving facilities.

FIGURE 7-1: PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE

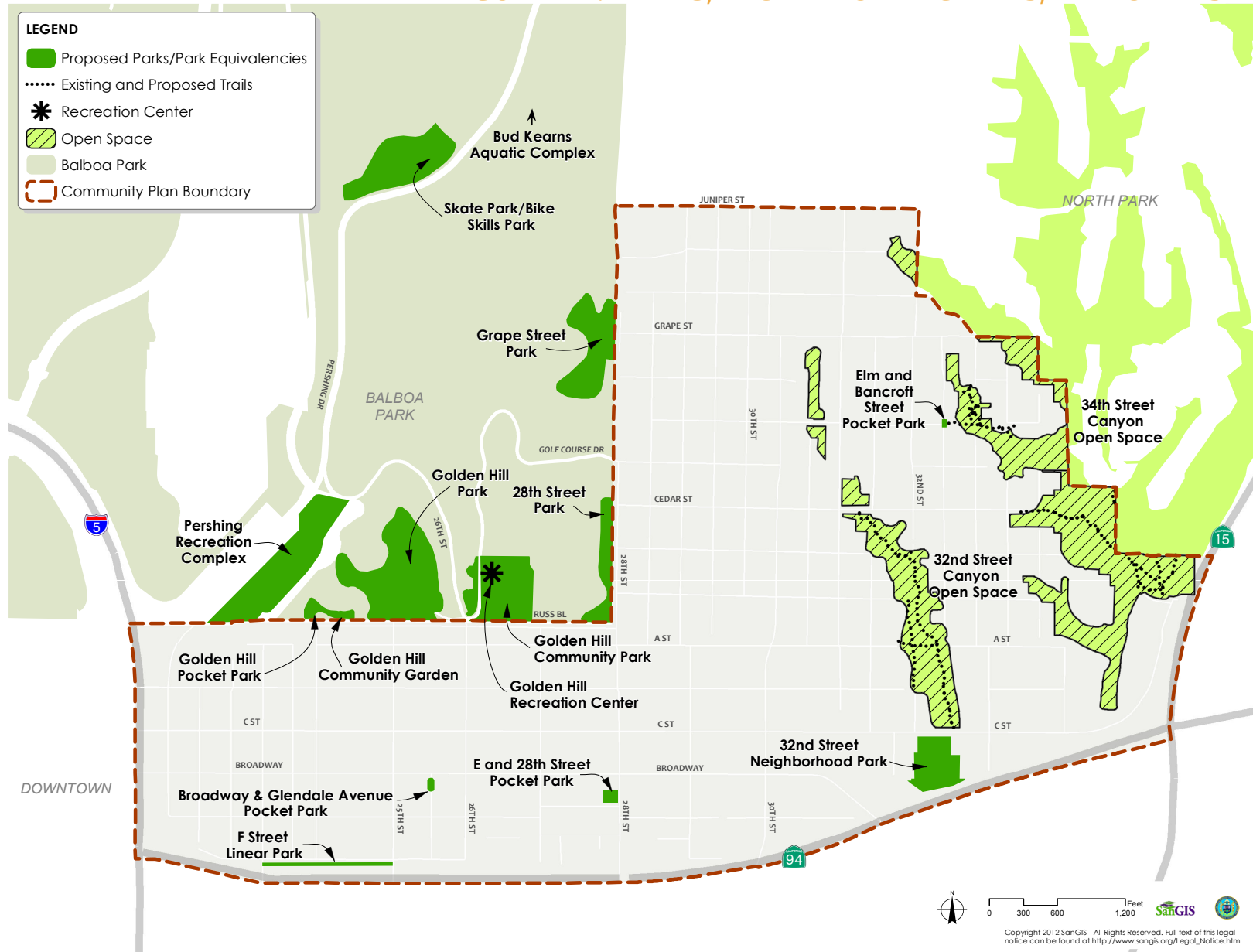


TABLE 7-1: POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PARKS/ RECREATION FACILITIES	EXISTING USABLE ACREAGE	FUTURE USABLE ACREAGE	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS
Major Parks - None				
Community Parks - None				
Neighborhood Parks				
32nd Street Neighborhood Park		3.81	Proposed neighborhood park located on 7 parcels of privately-owned property, between C Street and Broadway. The City Public Utilities Dept. may acquire the site for a groundwater production facility which could be incorporated into active and passive recreational facilities.	Acquire, design and construct passive recreational facilities, such as open turf areas, walkways, security lighting, site furniture, signage, public art and landscaping. If the City Public Utilities Dept. acquires land, coordinate active and passive recreational facilities on-site.
Mini-Parks - None				
Pocket Parks/Plazas				
Broadway and Glendale Avenue Pocket Park		0.08	Proposed pocket park located on undeveloped street right-of-way to accommodate passive recreational uses.	Vacate street right-of-way, acquire land, design and construct passive recreational facilities, such as walkways, security lighting, site furniture, signage, public art and landscaping.
E and 28th Streets Pocket Park		0.22	Proposed pocket park located on one parcel of privately-owned property, between E Street and 28th Street.	Acquire, design and construct passive recreational facilities, such as open turf areas, walkways, security lighting, site furniture, signage, public art and landscaping.
Elm and Bancroft Pocket Park		0.14	Proposed pocket park on street right-of-way to accommodate passive recreational uses.	Vacate street right-of-way, acquire land, design and construct passive recreational facilities, such as walkways, security lighting, site furniture, signage, public art and landscaping.
Special Activity Parks - None				

TABLE 7-1: POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

PARKS/ RECREATION FACILITIES	EXISTING USABLE ACREAGE	FUTURE USABLE ACREAGE	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS
Recreation Centers				
Golden Hill Recreation Center (within Balboa Park)	N/A	N/A	Existing 10,035 sq. ft. community-oriented recreation facility located in Golden Hill Community Park with existing amenities including an indoor gymnasium, a meeting room, kitchen and community clubhouse.	Expand recreation center to 16,320 sq. ft. by adding 6,285 sq. ft. in one or more building structures on site. Provide additional multi-purpose rooms and meeting rooms.
Aquatic Complexes				
Bud Kearns Aquatic Complex (within the Morley Field area of Balboa Park)	N/A	N/A	The existing historic Bud Kearns Pool and Clubhouse were built in 1933 and provide one community swimming pool and a building with changing rooms, showers and restrooms. (Shared between the Golden Hill and North Park communities).	Preserve, restore and renovate the existing historic Bud Kearns pool facility to serve the Golden Hill and North Park communities. Provide additional swimming facilities such as children's play pool, therapeutic pool and additional clubhouse pool building facilities to meet the needs of the community. The new facilities would augment and be complementary to the existing pool and clubhouse without compromising the historic character of the original pool and clubhouse.
Joint Use Facilities - None				
Trails: Usable acres credit for trails was determined by multiplying the linear footage of trail by 12'-0" width and divided by one acre in square feet (43,560).				
32nd Street Canyon Open Space Trails		1.00	Proposed trail amenities along existing trails located in the 32nd Street Canyon Open Space.	Design and construct trail amenities along existing trails (3,604 linear feet) such as trailheads, kiosk, wayfinding maps, interpretive signs, protective fencing, native landscaping, trash and recycling containers, and benches and overlooks, where needed and appropriate for the trail type as determined by City.

TABLE 7-1: POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

PARKS/ RECREATION FACILITIES	EXISTING USABLE ACREAGE	FUTURE USABLE ACREAGE	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS
34th Street Canyon Open Space Trails		1.35	Proposed new trail segment and trail amenities along existing trails located in the 34th Street Canyon Open Space.	Design and construct 142 linear feet of new trails and trail amenities along existing trails (4,754 linear feet), such as trailheads, kiosk, wayfinding maps, interpretive signs, protective fencing, native landscaping, trash and recycling containers, and benches and overlooks, where needed and appropriate for the trail type as determined by City.
Portion of Resource-Based Parks				
28th Street Park (within Balboa Park)		3.05	Proposed park equivalency located on 28th Street, with existing park amenities that include a children's play area, picnic tables, benches, lawn areas, and a comfort station.	Design and construct an additional 3.05 acres of passive recreational facilities by expanding the children's play area, providing additional picnic tables and benches, and upgrading/replacing the comfort station.
Golden Hill Community Garden (within Balboa Park)		0.28	Proposed park equivalency located on Russ Boulevard with an existing, approximately 5,000 square foot community garden area; operated and maintained by a non-profit entity.	Design and construct an additional 7,500 sq. ft. area and provide site amenities for gardeners and community visitors alike, such as additional gardening plots, potting shed, communal gathering or stage area, shade structure, passive seating/picnic tables, site furniture, fencing, security lighting, and public art.
Golden Hill Community Park (within Balboa Park)		7.26	Proposed park equivalency located on 26th Street with existing park amenities that include a multi-purpose lighted sports field which supports youth and adult softball and baseball, two outdoor basketball courts, one handball court, passive lawn areas with picnic facilities, a comfort station and a children's play area.	Design and construct expanded recreational and support facilities, including approximately 1.0 acre of additional parking and security lighting to accommodate future uses and special community events.

TABLE 7-1: POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

PARKS/ RECREATION FACILITIES	EXISTING USABLE ACREAGE	FUTURE USABLE ACREAGE	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS
Golden Hill Park (within Balboa Park)		12.53	Proposed park equivalency located on Russ Boulevard with existing park amenities that include a loop road with three small individual parking areas, passive multi-purpose turf areas and views to Downtown.	Design and construct additional park amenities to support neighborhood passive recreational uses, such as children's play area, picnic facilities and perimeter trail connecting to the Pershing Sports Complex, and enhance the gateway into the park area with park signage.
Golden Hill Pocket Park (within Balboa Park)		0.61	Proposed park equivalency located adjacent to the Golden Hill Community Garden area.	Design and construct passive recreational uses, such as a children's play area, parking area, security lighting, accessible walkways and landscaping.
Grape Street Park (within Balboa Park)		6.37	Proposed park equivalency located on Grape Street with existing park amenities that include a dog off-leash area, open lawn area, picnic tables, and a comfort station.	Design and construct upgrades to the dog off-leash area such as additional fencing and drinking fountains; provide passive recreation improvements, including children's play area site furniture, security lighting, walkways, landscaping; and upgrade/replace the comfort station.
Pershing Recreation Complex (within Balboa Park)		1.49	Proposed park equivalency located at the corner of Pershing Dr. and 26th Street. This site is currently used by City Central Operations Station facilities. This facility is a total of 15 acres in size and will be shared between North Park, Golden Hill, Uptown and Downtown.	Design and construct a community park/sports complex with active recreation facilities consistent with the recommendations in the BPEMPP, subsequent to relocation of non-park City facilities.
Skate Park/Bike Skills Park (within Balboa Park)		10.0	Proposed park equivalency located along Pershing Drive. Facility is a total of 20 acres in size and will be shared between North Park and Golden Hill.	Design and construct an above-ground skate park and/or Bike Skills/BMX track and support facilities, such as parking lot and portable restrooms. Amendment of the BPEMPP may be necessary.

TABLE 7-1: POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

PARKS/ RECREATION FACILITIES	EXISTING USABLE ACREAGE	FUTURE USABLE ACREAGE	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS	PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS
Privately-Owned Park Sites - None				
Non-Traditional Park Sites				
F Street Linear Park		0.38	Proposed linear park on street right-of-way on south side of F Street, extending from 22nd to 25th Streets, this will require the elimination of one traffic lane and parallel parking on the south side of F Street to accommodate passive recreational uses.	This project will require a Traffic Study to determine if one lane of traffic and parallel parking can be removed. If the Traffic Study allows changes to the street, the next steps would be to vacate the street right-of-way, acquire land, design and construct passive recreation facilities such as walkways, security lighting, site furniture, signage, public art and landscaping.
Facility or Building Expansion or Upgrade - None				

TABLE 7-2: SUMMARY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED POPULATION-BASED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

POPULATION-BASED PARKS	USEABLE ACRES
Existing Population-Based Parks and Park Equivalencies	0.00 acres
Proposed Population-Based Parks and Park Equivalencies	48.57 acres
Total Existing and Proposed Population-Based Parks and Equivalencies	48.57 acres
Population-Based Park Requirements at Full Community Development	67.23 acres
Population-Based Park Deficit at Full Community Development	18.66 acres
RECREATION CENTER	SQUARE FEET
Existing Recreation Center: Golden Hill Recreation Center	10,035 SF
Proposed Recreation Center addition: Golden Hill Recreation Center	6,285 SF
Total Existing and Proposed Recreation Center	16,320 SF
Recreation Center Requirement at Full Community Development	16,320 SF
Recreation Center Deficit at Full Community Development	No deficit
AQUATIC COMPLEX	UNIT
Existing Aquatic Complex	0.00
Proposed Aquatic Complex: Bud Kearns Community Swimming Pool	1.94*
Total Existing and Proposed Aquatic Complex: Bud Kearns Community Swimming Pool	1.94*
Aquatic Complex Requirement at Full Community Development	0.48*
Aquatic Complex deficit at Full Community Development	No deficit
<i>*Bud Kearns Community Swimming Pool will be shared. Greater Golden Hill requires 0.48 aquatic complex and North Park requires 1.46 aquatic complexes. The proposed larger facility will satisfy the combined requirements (1.94 aquatic complexes) for both communities.</i>	



28th Street Park will be expanded to include additional park amenities such as picnic tables, an exercise course, or seating areas.



It is recommended to improve Grape Street Park, within Balboa Park, by constructing new park amenities such as a children's play area or picnic areas, or by upgrading the dog off-leash area.

POLICIES

- RE-1.1** Pursue the land acquisition, design and construction of new public parks and recreation facilities with a special effort to locate them in park-deficient areas of the community.
- RE-1.2** Seek opportunities to increase park land through urban infill and redevelopment proposals and acquisition of available private property.
- RE-1.3** Pursue park equivalencies as opportunities arise and as identified in Table 7-1, Population-Based Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory and Recommendations.
- RE-1.4** Encourage new private development proposals to include recreational facilities within the project site to serve existing as well as new residents in areas of the community where there are land constraints. Provision of park and recreation amenities should be considered on rooftops of buildings and parking structures, and/or on the ground level or within new buildings.
- RE-1.5** As public agency land or buildings are redeveloped, active or passive recreation should be incorporated into the buildings or the site as space allows.
- RE-1.6** Increase recreational opportunities by acquiring and developing land for park and recreation uses through street/alley right-of-way vacations, including vacation of paper streets, where appropriate and legally defensible.
- RE-1.7** Encourage development of pocket parks and plazas within residential/mixed use developments and locate pocket parks and plazas adjacent to public facilities, such as libraries.
- RE-1.8** Promote safety by providing park designs that incorporate the City's "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" (CPTED) measures (also refer to General Plan Policy UD-A.17).

- RE-1.9** Implement recommendations contained in the Balboa Park East Mesa Precise Plan (BPEMPP) which specifically serve the existing and future park needs of the community as follows:
- A.** Provide improvements at the following park entries: Grape Street at 28th Street, Date Street at 28th Street, 25th Street at Russ Boulevard, and 26th Street at Russ Boulevard.
 - B.** Reconstruct/restore the historic stone fountain located at the head of the southwestern canyon in Golden Hill Park to its original character, and accommodate the use of reclaimed water when available.
 - C.** Create a neighborhood-oriented gateway feature at the entrance to Golden Hill Park, near the intersection of Russ Boulevard and 25th Street. Improvements may include a small plaza, water feature, public art, etc.
 - D.** Provide interpretative, wayfinding and regulatory signage for orientation to park users at view points and park entries.
 - E.** Provide a multi-modal bicycle facility and pedestrian walkway along Golf Course Drive connecting the Golden Hill Recreation Center to the Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse and the 28th Street Park entry at the corner of Date Street and 28th Street.
 - F.** Reorganize parking at the Golden Hill Recreation Center to provide approximately 140 spaces; remove parking along Russ Boulevard; and convert 64 park spaces on the west side of Golf Course Drive to temporary, overflow parking only.
 - G.** Plant new trees to replenish the historic landscape and augment those reaching maturity within the Balboa Park Neighborhood Edge adjacent to the Golden Hill community, including date palms as well as Savannah and Garden representative species.
 - H.** Replenish oak tree plantings within the Memorial Oak Grove and establish native perennial grasses and wildflowers within open areas in the grove.
 - I.** Provide adequate security lighting along sidewalks, pathways and within parking areas.
 - J.** Preserve, restore and renovate the existing historic Bud Kearns Community Pool facility to serve the Golden Hill and North Park communities. Provide additional swimming facilities such as children's play pool, therapeutic pool and additional clubhouse pool building facilities to meet the needs for the community. The new facilities would augment and be complimentary to the existing pool and clubhouse without compromising the historic character of the original pool and clubhouse.
 - K.** Design and construct the proposed Pershing Recreation Complex to serve the North Park, Greater Golden Hill, Uptown and Downtown communities.



The Golden Hill Community Garden located on Russ Boulevard, within Balboa Park, is to be expanded to incorporate amenities such as a stage/gathering area, picnic facilities, potting shed, security lighting and public art.

- RE-1.10** Expand the Golden Hill Recreation Center to approximately 16,320 square feet by enclosing underutilized exterior space, adding a second floor and/or constructing/expanding a secondary building on south side of the existing multipurpose field in order to accommodate the recreation needs of existing and future residents at full community development. Create multi-purpose rooms and meeting rooms in the expansion of the recreation center.
- RE-1.11** Design and construct a skate park/bike skills park within the former Arizona Landfill, if feasible, or elsewhere within the community at a location to be determined.
- RE-1.12** Pursue lease agreements with public agencies (e.g., San Diego Unified School District, Caltrans, etc.) to incorporate active or passive recreation into their existing sites or buildings where non-programmed space is available and appropriate for public use.
- RE-1.13** Evaluate the feasibility of a freeway deck or lid over SR-94 for the blocks fronting F Street in the vicinity of 25th Street. Consider park improvements within the freeway lid and pursue a lease agreement with Caltrans as needed.

7.2 PRESERVATION

The demand for park and recreation opportunities will continue to grow with the expected future population growth of the community. Undeveloped land for parks is difficult to find, making preservation of the existing open space and resource-based parks essential to providing recreation opportunities in this community. Preservation can include improvements to existing facilities to increase their life span, or expand their uses and sustainability. The Golden Hill Community Park and Recreation Center within Balboa Park will continue to serve as the main recreation venue for the community, but with increased demand and usage, the facilities will need to be upgraded and expanded with

sustainable and green technology features, optimizing the space to be fully utilized and to provide new recreation amenities that are needed by the community.

Preservation can also include the enhancement of resource-based parks and open space that provides a balance between protecting the natural resources and allowing for a certain level of public recreation use. For the Golden Hill community, this would mean concentrating active recreational use improvements towards larger resource-based parks, such as at Golden Hill Community Park and Recreation Center, and focusing passive use improvements at open space areas such as the 32nd and 34th Streets Canyons open space, portions of which are within the Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA). Aside from trails, only passive uses are allowed within the MHPA. Therefore, to protect the natural resources and still add recreation value, interpretive signs should be featured at open space parks to educate the public on the unique natural habitat, scenic value and the history of these places.

POLICIES

- RE-2.1** Preserve, expand and enhance existing park and recreation facilities to increase their life span and to optimize their uses and sustainability.
- RE-2.2** Expand/upgrade the recreation facilities within Balboa Park adjacent to the Golden Hill community consistent with the BPEMPP recommendations to meet existing and future demand, as described in Policies RE-1.8 and RE-1.9. Use sustainable methods and materials (such as native and low-water using plants), and “green” technology that also respects any historical significance of the area.
- RE-2.3** Enhance the quality of the exterior recreation spaces at the Golden Hill Recreation Center by fully utilizing all areas for recreation.

- RE-2.4** Protect and preserve the 32nd Street and 34th Street Canyons open space areas by providing interpretive signs to educate the public on their natural habitats and historic and scenic qualities.
- RE-2.5** Protect and preserve native species and the unique habitats they depend upon within the open space systems, consistent with the MSCP guidelines (also refer to the Conservation Element's Open Space, Landforms and Natural Habitats section).
- RE-2.6** Provide sufficient staff, volunteer, and economic resources to preserve and enhance existing parks and open space areas.

7.3 ACCESSIBILITY

Recreational accessibility within Golden Hill has three main components: 1) location of all facilities within walking distance of neighborhoods; 2) designing and constructing facilities to be accessible to the broadest population possible; and 3) ensuring that facilities are open for use by the general public with a balance between programmed and non-programmed activities.

All parks and recreation facilities are planned to be linked by a network of existing and proposed transit routes, bikeways and pedestrian paths. For guidance on future accessibility and linkages to parks and open space, see also the Mobility Element policies related to transit, bicycle and pedestrian routes.

All new and existing parks and recreation facilities are required to meet ADA guidelines when they are constructed or retrofitted for improvements or upgrades. This could include adding accessible pedestrian ramps, providing paved pathways at acceptable gradients that lead from a public street, sidewalk or parking area to a park destination (referred to as the



A pedestrian pathway along Golf Course Drive, viewed here from 28th Street, is planned to connect the Golden Hill Recreation Center to 28th Street.

“path of travel”), remodeling of restrooms and building interiors, and providing accessible interpretive signage along a nature trail.

Accessibility also means the availability of active and passive recreation to all community residents. The Golden Hill Community Park is programmed to allow organized sport leagues to use the facilities at specific times while making the facilities available at other times for unstructured play and impromptu users. The schedule is adjusted each year to make sure a balance is provided for community residents. When special uses are designed into parks, such as dog off-leash areas or community gardens, these areas should also include amenities, such as pathways, benches, exercise stations, or picnic tables on the perimeter that could accommodate more than one type of user and enhance the recreational and leisure experience. Special uses, such as dog off-leash areas and community gardens, would be required to undergo a City approval process prior to facility design.

POLICIES

- RE-3.1** Upgrade the Golden Hill Recreation Center to meet ADA guidelines while respecting any historic architectural significance and attributes.
- RE-3.2** Provide bus stops or accessible parking at all park and recreation facilities within Golden Hill.
- RE-3.3** Implement recommendations contained in the BPEMPP that specifically improve the existing and future accessibility between recreation facilities and venues and the community, particularly as follows:
 - A.** Construct a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the canyon north of Grape Street Park.
 - B.** Construct a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the canyon north of Date Street at 28th Street.
 - C.** Provide a continuous, multi-modal paved walkway and bicycle facility along Golf Course Drive.
 - D.** Convert the connector road between 25th and 26th streets within Balboa Park to pedestrian/bicycle and emergency vehicles access only. Maintain 26th Street as the main entry to Balboa Park and 25th Street as a one-way loop road through Golden Hill only.
 - E.** Provide a paved walkway along Russ Boulevard from Golden Hill Recreation Center west to the paved trails accessing the Pershing Sports Complex.
 - F.** Implement the pedestrian bridge proposed in the BPEMPP to connect the proposed Pershing Recreation Complex with the Inspiration Point area of Balboa Park. This connection would open up other venues for neighborhood-serving recreational uses which are currently difficult to access from east of Pershing Drive within Balboa Park.
- RE-3.4** Provide information kiosks and maps at key park sites and community gateways that identify all parks that serve Golden Hill and how to get to each by walking, bicycling or public

transit (also refer to Urban Design Element policies related to Gateways and Neighborhood Focal Elements).

- RE-3.5** Preserve, restore and provide accessibility upgrades to the Bud Kearns Community Swimming Pool and Clubhouse. Provide additional accessible aquatic facilities sized to accommodate both the North Park and Golden Hill communities' needs and multiple user types, including a new pool house, children's play pool, and therapeutic pool, to augment the existing facilities without compromising the historic character of the original pool and clubhouse.

7.4 OPEN SPACE LANDS & RESOURCE-BASED PARKS

Open space lands are City-owned lands consisting of canyons, mesas, and other natural landforms. This open space is intended to preserve and protect native plants and animals, while providing public access and enjoyment through the use of hiking, bicycling and equestrian trails (refer to Figure 7-1).

In Golden Hill, two open space canyons, 32nd Street Canyon and 34th Street Canyon, provide low intensity recreational uses such as hiking and bird watching. Any proposed improvements to the existing or new trail systems will be made in compliance with any applicable Natural Resource Management Plans or other governing documents.

Resource-based parks are located at sites of distinctive natural or man-made features and serve the citywide population and visitors alike. Balboa Park is a 1,200-acre regional facility contiguous to the southwestern edge of Golden Hill, as well as to Uptown and North Park. Balboa Park contains specialty gardens and horticultural interests, and it houses numerous arts, educational, recreational, and social and sports organizations, primarily on the Central Mesa.

POLICIES

- RE-4.1** Protect and enhance the natural resources of open space lands by re-vegetating them with native plants and installing open wood fences, where needed, adjacent to very sensitive areas to provide additional protection while still allowing views into the area.
- RE-4.2** Require all storm water and urban runoff drainage into resource-based parks or open space lands to be filtered or treated before entering these areas.
- RE-4.3** Preserve and protect existing open space canyon and trail systems within Golden Hill by providing authorized trails and interpretive signs that educate the public on the biologic and scenic value of the systems.
- RE-4.4** Provide recognizable entrances (trailheads) to the 32nd Street Canyon and 34th Street Canyon open space trails. The trailheads should include a kiosk and wayfinding map that shows how the canyons interface with the community.
- RE-4.5** Construct approximately 142 linear feet of new trails located on publicly-owned open space to connect with existing trails within the 34th Street Canyon trail system (actual new trail locations may vary due to environmental constraints). Co-locate trails and utility access roads on publicly-owned open space wherever possible.
- RE-4.6** Provide interpretive signs at trailheads to 32nd Street and 34th Street Canyons Open Space trail systems to educate users on the sensitive natural and cultural habitats and biologic and scenic qualities of these areas.
- RE-4.7** Evaluate utilization of paper streets for future park and open space opportunities by vacating street right-of-way and acquiring the land for design and construction of park amenities to support passive recreation, such as pathways, overlooks, seating, interpretive signs, and landscaping.



32nd Street Canyon Open Space Trail, viewed here from Cedar Street, will be enhanced with proposed trail amenities including trail kiosk signs, trash containers, and benches where appropriate.



An underused portion of Balboa Park adjacent to Golden Hill is identified as a park equivalency for a future pocket park with prominent views.