

APPENDIX

Summary of Park and Recreation
Needs Assessment Survey



PARK AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

A park and recreation needs assessment was prepared for the Golden Hill, North Park and Uptown Communities by BW Research Partnership in August 2011 and presented to the community. The survey's findings were a component of the preparation of the Recreation Element.

Six key findings pertain to Golden Hill:

1. Individual activities (walking with or without a dog, jogging/running, and relaxing) were the most frequently reported activities in neighborhood parks and Balboa Park by residents in all three communities;
2. Golden Hill residents placed a high level of overall importance on expanding and improving the trails, paths, and walkways in and around their community (76%) and improving and enhancing existing park and recreation facilities (77%). An overwhelming majority of residents reported walking for exercise as the top use of neighborhood trails and walkways (81%). The majority of Golden Hill residents also considered developing new sports fields (54%) and increasing the amount of land for parks (52%) as a high priority;
3. The renovation and improvement of existing neighborhood parks was reported as the highest investment priority for future parks and recreation facilities (79%);
4. Golden Hill residents were essentially split in their preference of having smaller neighborhood parks closer to home (49%) compared to larger community parks with more resources (47%);
5. The improvement of school grounds so they can be better used by residents for recreational activities was reported as the highest alternative parks and recreation facilities investment priority in Golden Hill (71%); and

6. An overwhelming majority of residents supported the use of Balboa Park for local parks and recreation (74%), such as walking, running, jogging, or exercising; quiet times of reflection; bicycling or skating; children's play areas; picnicking; pick-up ball games and other related informal sports.

The survey identified the community's top six uses of neighborhood parks and outdoor recreational areas as:

- Walking (without a dog)
- Running or outdoor exercises
- Picnicking, sunbathing, reading, or relaxing outdoors
- Walking a dog(s)
- Quiet times of reflection
- Playgrounds for children

Investing in existing parks and recreational resources was reported as a high priority, most especially in the following nine potential investment areas:

- Renovate and improve existing neighborhood parks to increase use;
- Increase the amount of land for parks;
- Develop new sports fields, such as for soccer, football, or baseball;
- Develop new off-leash dog parks;
- Develop areas in parks that accommodate birthday parties or large picnic gatherings;
- Increase the number of City-owned gyms for indoor sports, such as basketball or indoor volleyball;
- Develop new recreational facilities, such as a community recreation center;

- Build new skateboard parks; and
- Build new swimming pools.
- Investment priorities for alternative parks and recreation facilities (park equivalencies) included eight areas of potential investment:
- Improving school grounds so they can be better used by residents for recreational activities;
- Small parks or trails that connect to existing parks including Balboa park;
- Public facilities that have multiple uses including children’s play area, as well as multi-purpose fields and courts;
- Parks developed on unused streets that no longer have vehicles on them;
- Plazas and gathering areas;
- Rooftop parks;
- Narrowing wide streets to provide linear parks along the streets; and
- Parks in private developments with some public access.

Lastly, the survey revealed that the top locations where the community recreates indoors are primarily City public recreation centers and non-profit recreation facilities (e.g., YMCA); however 36.5% of responders utilize private health clubs to meet their indoor recreation needs.

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