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RECREATION AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES ELEMENT

# HUNTINGTON BEACH

## **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the seven mandatory elements, other optional elements may be included within a community's General Plan. Section 65303 of the California Government Code states:

*The General Plan may include any other elements or address any other subjects which, in the judgment of the legislative body, relate to the physical development of the county or city.*

Huntington Beach's Recreation and Community Services Element is just such an optional element. It is specifically concerned with identifying, maintaining, and enhancing local parks and recreational services and facilities.

Once this is adopted by the City of Huntington Beach, it becomes a component of the General Plan, with the same legal status as the mandatory elements.

## **TECHNICAL SYNOPSIS**

The City of Huntington Beach's recreational opportunities consist of parks, golf courses, and coastal amenities, including approximately 9.5 miles of coastal parks and beaches. This first section summarizes the Technical Background Report's existing conditions discussion. The existing condition summary is followed by the Recreation and Community Services Goals, Objectives, Policies, Implementation Programs, and Implementation Matrix.

### **A. NON-COASTAL PARKS AND RECREATION**

#### **1. Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Huntington Beach contains 75 parks which encompass 758.61 acres. These include 10 mini parks totaling 4.85 acres, 52 neighborhood parks totaling 177.54 acres, 10 community parks totaling 168.33 acres, and three regional parks (Huntington Central Park, Blufftop Park and OC Regional Weider Park) encompassing 407.90 acres. Regional facilities adjacent to Huntington Beach include Sunset Aquatic Park in Seal Beach (95 acres/260 boat slips), Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley (632 acres), and Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve in Orange County (300 acres).

The future parks to be developed are as follows:

- a. Four neighborhood parks will be developed with the Holly-Seacliff Specific Plan.
- b. The proposed Harriet M. Weider Regional Park will link the Central Park with the Bolsa Chica State Beach. The 106 (approximate) acre passive park will provide tot lots, bicycle and pedestrian trails, equestrian trails, and a wetlands interpretive center.
- c. The five (5) acre Gibbs Park has a natural eucalyptus grove. This grove, which covers approximately 60 percent to 70 percent of the site, is a passive park with interpretive elements. The remainder of the park will provide traditional neighborhood park amenities.
- d. The 30 acre Bartlett Park with the historic Newland House, will be further developed, although the City has not determined what facilities will be established. Irby Park, an 11-acre site, has three developed acres and the City intends to develop two additional acres. The remaining six acres will be sold and the funds will be used for other park development. Although City Council has authorized surplusing the additional acreage, it has not been sold due to the extreme peat condition of the soil.
- e. Huntington Central Park is 343 acres of which 266 acres are developed with uses such as the Central Library, Shipley Nature Center and the 45-acre Sports Complex. The remaining 77 acres are planned for various passive and active recreation uses as depicted in the Central Park Master Plan of Uses (refer to Figure RCS-2). The Central Park Master Plan of Uses is periodically reviewed and updated as projects and improvements are implemented and new projects are proposed to be incorporated.

## **2. Community Centers**

Edison Community Center (21377 Magnolia Street) and Murdy Community Center (7000 Norma Drive) located in community parks, are the focal points for the majority of the recreation programs offered by the City of Huntington Beach. Instructional classes, tennis classes, youth sports, and adult softball are among the programs conducted at the centers. Inside the facilities are meeting halls, and game rooms with pool, table tennis, foosball, video games, and other table games. Outside areas include tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts, softball/athletic fields, racquetball/handball, tot play areas, horseshoe pits, and picnic areas. The centers also host extracurricular activities for many of the local schools and civic organizations.

## **3. Seniors' Center**

The Rodgers Seniors' Center, located at 1706 Orange Avenue, provides a variety of free services to the City's elderly population including: employment information, housing assistance, Golden State Senior Discount Program, utility tax exemption credit, paramedic assistance and Vial of Life Program, postal alert, voter registration, surplus commodities distribution, Handy Crafters Club, Singing Goodtimers, and other special activities.

Aging of the general population resulting in an increase of the senior population will increase demand for senior services. In 2006, the City's voters approved a new senior center in Central Park subject to entitlement and environmental clearances. The new senior center would be larger and more centrally-located than the current senior center and able to accommodate the existing and future demands of the City's growing senior population. The new senior center is included in the Central Park Master Plan of Uses (Figure RCS-2) in an area designated for high intensity recreation uses.

Huntington Beach operates an Outreach Center (1718 Orange Avenue) adjacent to the Rodgers Seniors' Center. The Outreach facility contains approximately 2,624 square feet. This Center houses offices and workrooms for ten employees and numerous volunteers. Outreach services for the elderly population are coordinated from this facility. These support services are:

Home delivered meals	Telecare
Case management	CHERISH (Community Helpers engaged in Restoring and Improving Senior's Home)
Transportation	Bright Outlook Newsletter
Information and Referral	Counseling/support groups

On a daily basis, staff members leave the Center and engage in fieldwork which comprises making visits to older adults' homes and linking them to other senior service providers in the community. Outreach serves 400 older adults on a monthly basis.

#### **4. Golf Courses**

The two publicly owned golf courses are 1) Driftwood Course an 11-acre, 9-hole pitch 'n' putt course, located on Pacific Coast Highway, and 2) Meadowlark Golf Course, a 96 acre, 18-hole course, located on Graham Street. In addition, the Seaclyff Country Club golf course is an 18-hole, 140-acre private course located on Palm Avenue.

Driftwood Golf Course is operated by a concessionaire who contracts with Mayer Corporation. The City of Huntington Beach Redevelopment Agency is the owner of the property, but has leased the land to the Mayer Corporation. Meadowlark Golf Course is on City-owned land and is also run by a concessionaire who reports to the City of Huntington Beach. Both Golf Courses are open to the general public.

#### **5. Huntington Beach City Gym and Pool**

The City Gym and Pool, located at 16th Street and Palm Avenue, offers indoor swimming, showers, volleyball and basketball courts, a recreation room, and meeting room. The 0.8 acre gym site is owned by the City of Huntington Beach.

#### **6. Oak View Center**

The Oak View Center, located on Oak Lane south of Warner Avenue, provides specialized recreation facilities for the Oak View neighborhood. Facilities include a neighborhood park with play equipment and a basketball court, a multi-purpose meeting hall/gymnasium, additional meeting rooms, a kitchen, and a recreation room. Day care services and a Police substation are also located at the Center.

#### **7. Bikeways**

Specific information on bikeways is discussed in the City of Huntington Beach Circulation Element.

## **8. Equestrian Trail System**

The City maintains approximately two miles of horse trails located in Huntington Central Park. A 25-acre privately developed and maintained equestrian center is available for public use. Riders also utilize trails in the residential area located south of Ellis Avenue between Edwards and Golden West Streets.

The City's Trails Implementation Plan contains the adopted Equestrian Trails Plan which emphasizes equestrian use west of Golden West Street within Huntington Central Park and ultimately extends the trail system into the Bolsa Chica area. The Harriett M. Weider Regional Park is planned to provide pedestrian, equestrian, and bike trails connecting Central Park with Bolsa Chica State Beach (equestrians will not be able to access the beach from this trail).

## **9. Newland House**

The Newland House, located on a bluff near the northeastern corner of Beach Boulevard and Adams Avenue, is the former home of Huntington Beach pioneers William and Mary Newland. Built in 1898, the house and adjacent grounds were restored to preserve the site and are operated and maintained by the Historical Society through a lease agreement with the City. The site also contains public meeting space. For information on the historic significance of the site, please see the Historical Resources Section of the Technical Background Report.

# **B. COASTAL/RECREATION FACILITIES**

## **1. Municipal Pier**

The City of Huntington Beach Municipal Pier is located at the intersection of Main Street and the Pacific Coast Highway and serves as the focal point of the City's downtown area.

The pier's facilities include a lifeguard tower, observation and fishing platforms, bait and tackle stand, "end of the pier" restaurant, and temporary public restrooms. Future facilities will include a snack shop, permanent rest rooms, bait and tackle shop, and pier plaza.

## **2. Beaches**

Huntington Beach contains approximately 9.5 miles of shoreline, including the Bolsa Chica and Huntington State Beaches, operated by the California State Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Huntington City Beach and Sunset Beach, operated by the City. The City of Huntington Beach also operates a portion of Bolsa Chica State Beach from the Pier to Seapoint Street.

The four beaches have an annual visitation rate of 11 million visitors. These beaches encompass a total of approximately 433.37 acres and provide regional recreational opportunities for sunbathing, swimming, surfing, bodysurfing, and sand volleyball. Except for Sunset Beach, fire rings are also available for barbecues and evening campfires. Offshore clam beds and a variety of game fish also attract divers and surf fishermen to the Huntington Beach shoreline. A trail extends the length of this shoreline north to Warner Avenue, allowing for bicycle riding, jogging and walking separated from vehicular traffic. The beaches have been the sites of many national and international surfing contests and are among the best surfing areas on the West Coast.

Huntington Harbour contains four small beaches. Two beaches are located at the Huntington Harbour entrances to Davenport and Humboldt Islands and two beaches are adjacent to Trinidad and Seabridge parks. Sunset Beach contains one small beach at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Pacific Coast Highway.

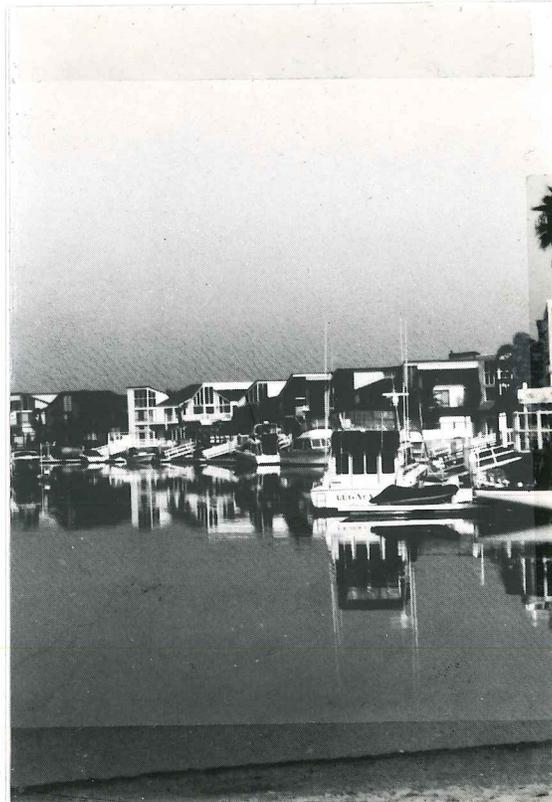
**a. Recreational Vehicle (RV) Camping**

The Sunset Vista Camper Facility, located on Pacific Coast Highway in the Huntington City beach parking lot at Lake Street, is a City-operated recreational vehicle camping site offering 150 spaces from September 15 through May 31.

In addition, the State Department of Parks and Recreation allocates 100 spaces for camping at the Bolsa Chica State Beach. The spaces are available year-round, with a maximum two-week stay. The City beach also offers a similar program for en route RV camping between June 1 and September 14.

**b. Huntington Harbour**

Huntington Harbour is an 860-acre residential development oriented around a network of manmade channels located in the northwest corner of the City. The waterways provide significant opportunities for boating which is the major recreational use of the area. The City operates three boat slips for public use. Public access to the channels is provided in several areas where boats can be rented, such as the City-operated public boat ramp located adjacent to the Warner Fire Station at Warner Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway. An additional boat ramp is located at the Sunset Aquatic Park in Seal Beach. The City also operates Percy Dock across the harbor from Warner Dock; the Percy Dock includes a parking lot and a dock but does not include a ramp.



## C. FUTURE RECREATIONAL NEEDS

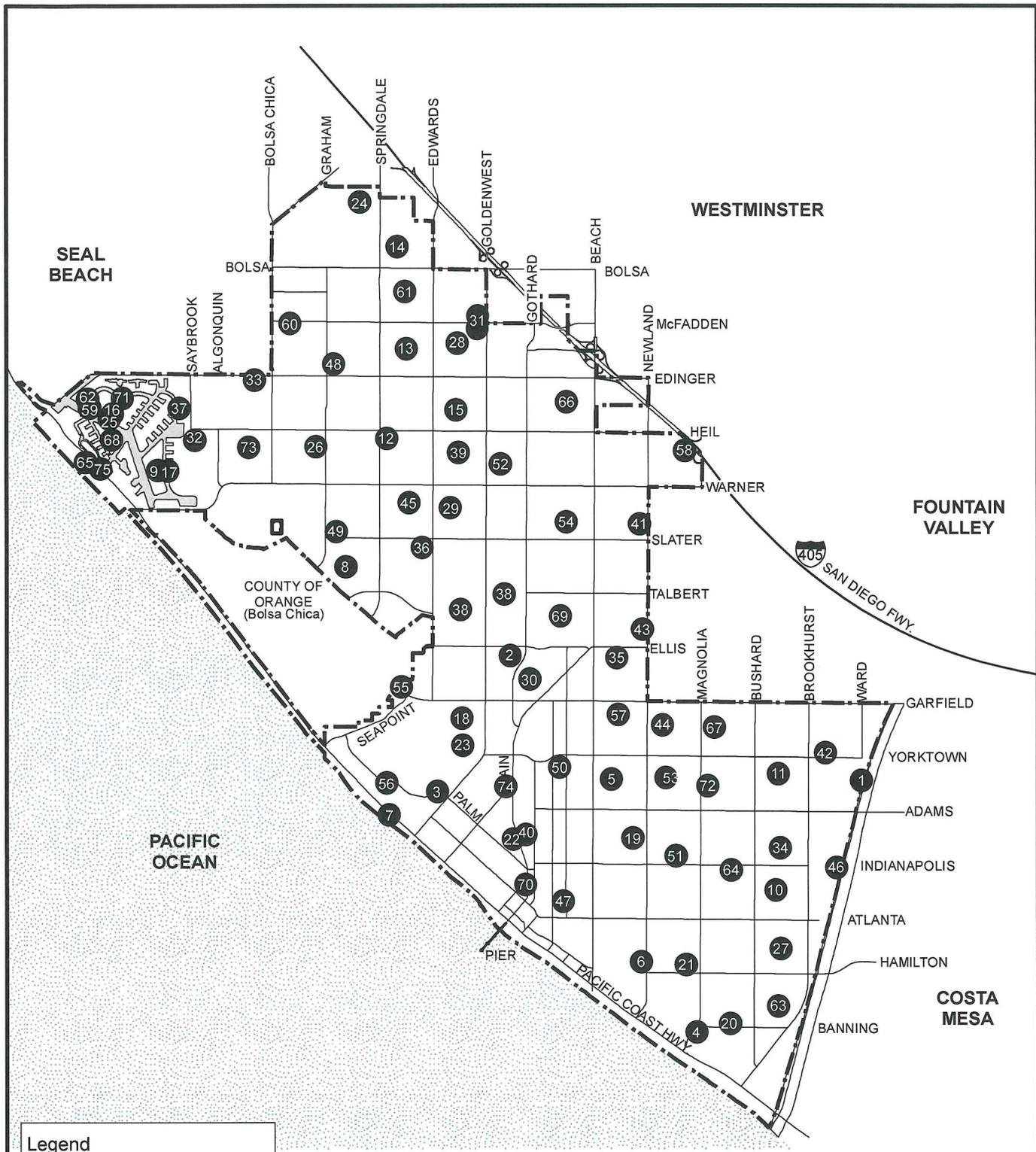
The City has set its park standard at five acres per 1,000 people. The City's population is 204,784, based on the January 2010 estimate from the State Department of Finance for Huntington Beach and an estimate of 1,300 for the Sunset Beach community. Based on the 2010 population and the City's standard, the City should have a total of 1,023.92 acres of parkland in 2010. City parks encompass approximately 859.12 acres, including the City-owned public golf course and the City beaches encompass approximately 207.99 acres. Therefore, the City contains 1,067.11 acres of parkland, which exceeds the defined standard.

Under the Quimby Act, in-lieu funds can be used for park renovation, acquisition, and development. Recreation programs are funded through service fees and by the general fund.

Many of the local school sites provide recreational amenities and facilities to the surrounding neighborhoods, including youth sports fields. Recent population trends and budget constraints have led to school closures. Some school districts have sold or are contemplating selling the closed school sites for residential or other development. Since the schools provide recreation sites, their closure and potential future development could remove the public recreational amenity from the neighborhood. The city of Huntington Beach should assess and determine the value of acquiring the sites or portion of the sites for public use.

## ISSUES

1. The impact of growth on recreation and park facilities needs to be assessed and accommodated (*RCS 2.1.1, RCS 3.1.1, RCS 3.1.5, and RCS 5.1.2*).
2. Closed school facilities should be evaluated as to whether the need exists to utilize a portion of each site for a neighborhood park and/or youth services (*RCS 1.1.7 and RCS 5.1.1*).
3. Adequacy of recreation programs and available park acreage should be periodically assessed to ensure adequacy (*RCS 1.1.2, RCS 2.1.1, RCS 2.1.4, and RCS 4.1.2*).
4. Parks which feature areas of natural environment should be provided (*RCS 1.1.2*).
5. Adequate funding for park and beach maintenance and renovation should be maintained to ensure park usability (*RCS 2.1.2, RCS 2.1.3, RCS 6.1.2, and RCS 7.1.1*).
6. Quimby Act in-lieu fees and alternative funding methods for park development and renovation should be periodically evaluated (*RCS 8.1.1 and RCS 8.1.6*).
7. The City should assess the impact of increases in the population or demand for community center services and should plan accordingly (*RCS 2.1.1 and RCS 3.1.1*).
8. The aging of the general population and increases in the senior population will increase demand for senior services. The City should assess possibilities for building a new multi purpose Senior Center and incorporate the Outreach Center to meet increased demands (*RCS 1.1.1, RCS 3.1.2, and RCS 3.1.5*).
9. The City is required to devise an implementation plan addressing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 (*RCS 1.1.1, RCS 3.1.6, and RCS 4.1.3*).
10. All designated park lands need to be preserved with proper land use designation (*RCS 2.1.1, RCS 3.1.3, and LU 7.1.1*).
11. Parks that feature active recreational facilities and team sports facilities should be provided (*RCS 1.1.4, RCS 2.1.2, and RCS 3.1.2*).

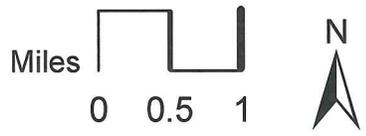


**Legend**

- - - City Boundary
- ① Park Index Number

Source: City of Huntington Beach GIS, 2011  
 NOTE: Refer to Table RCS-1 and RCS-2 for name, location and description of facilities

**PARK / RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**  
 CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH GENERAL PLAN



**FIGURE RCS-1**

	Map Location (see Figure RCS-1)	Acres	Barbeque or Fire Rings	Basketball	Beach	Bicycle Path	Camping	Child Play Area (Tot Lot)	Community Bldg./ Recreation Ctr.	Equestrian Trails	Fishing	Frisbee Golf Course	Gymnasium	Horseshoes	Lake	Nature Center	Open Play Area (Grass)	Picnic Tables	Racquet Ball / Handball	Rental Facility	Skateboard Park	Soccer	Softball/ Baseball	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Undeveloped	Viewpoint	Volleyball
Arevalos Park	1	2.58						●									●											
Baca Park	2	14.35	●					●									●	●										●
Bailey Park (formerly Seacliff #1)	3	0.59															●	●										
Banning/Magnolia Park	4	1.18																							●			
Bartlett Park	5	27.73						●												●								
Bauer Park	6	2.04	●					●									●	●										
Bluff Top Park	7	19.66			●												●	●									●	
Bolsa View Park	8	2.70	●					●									●	●										●
Booster Park	9	0.85						●									●											
Burke Park	10	2.50						●									●											●
Bushard Park	11	2.38						●									●	●										
Carr Park	12	10.72						●		●		●					●	●										
Circle View Park	13	2.31						●									●											
Clegg-Stacey Park	14	2.80						●									●											
College View Park	15	2.70						●									●											
Conrad Park	16	2.71	●					●									●	●										●
Davenport Beach Park	17	0.46		●													●											
Discovery Well Park	18	6.60	●					●									●	●										
Drew Park	19	2.28	●					●									●	●										●
Eader Park	20	2.68						●	●								●											
Edison Park	21	39.69	●	●				●	●			●					●	●	●				●	●		●		●
Farquhar Park	22	3.52						●									●	●										
Finley Park (formerly Seacliff #2)	23	0.56						●									●	●										
Franklin Park	24	1.52						●									●	●										
French Park	25	0.33								●							●											
Gibbs Park	26	6.83						●								●	●											
Gisler Park	27	11.67						●									●	●										
Glen View Park	28	3.02						●									●	●										
Golden View Park	29	2.81						●									●	●										●
Green Park	30	4.04	●					●									●	●						●				●
Greer Park	31	10.44	●					●						●			●	●					●					
Harbour View Park	32	4.02						●	●								●	●		●								
Haven View Park	33	2.95						●									●	●										●
Hawes Park	34	2.68						●									●	●										
Helme Park	35	2.02	●					●									●	●										
Hope View Park	36	3.61						●									●	●										
Humboldt Beach Park	37	0.48		●				●									●											

CITY PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (page 1 of 2)

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH GENERAL PLAN

TABLE RCS-1

	Map Location (see Figure RCS-1)	Acres	Barbeque or Fire Rings	Basketball	Beach	Bicycle Path	Camping	Child Play Area (Tot Lot)	Community Bldg./ Recreation Ctr.	Equestrian Trails	Fishing	Frisbee Golf Course	Gymnasium	Horseshoes	Lake	Nature Center	Open Play Area (Grass)	Picnic Tables	Racquet Ball / Handball	Rental Facility	Skateboard Park	Soccer	Softball/ Baseball	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Undeveloped	Viewpoint	Volleyball
Huntington Central Park	38	343.24	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●			●	●	
Irby Park	39	10.91						●	●								●	●										
Lake Park	40	4.75						●	●				●				●	●		●								
Lake View Park	41	2.16						●	●								●	●		●								
Lamb Park	42	2.60																								●		
Lambert Park	43	3.50															●											
Langenbeck Park	44	17.02		●				●									●	●									●	
Lark View Park	45	3.65						●	●								●	●									●	
LeBard Park	46	4.99						●	●								●	●							●			
Manning Park	47	2.46		●				●	●								●	●									●	
Marina Park	48	9.34	●	●				●	●								●	●	●				●		●		●	
Marine View Park	49	2.96						●	●								●	●										
McCallen Park	50	5.84		●				●	●			●					●	●					●					
Moffett Park	51	2.38						●	●								●	●									●	
Murdy Park	52	16.04	●	●				●	●				●				●	●			●		●		●		●	
Newland Park	53	2.94						●	●								●	●			●						●	
Oak View Park	54	1.31		●				●	●			●					●	●			●						●	
Orange County Regional Park (Weider)	55	45.01						●	●								●	●								●		
Pattinson Park	56	3.51		●				●	●								●	●										
Perry Park	57	1.88						●	●								●	●										
Pleasant View Park	58	2.17						●	●								●	●										
Prince Park	59	0.22								●							●	●										
Robinwood Park	60	1.41						●	●								●	●										
Schroeder Park	61	2.37						●	●								●	●										
Seabridge Park	62	3.91			●			●	●								●	●									●	
Seeley Park	63	3.37		●				●	●								●	●										
Sowers Park	64	2.65						●	●								●	●										
Sunset Beach Greenbelt Park	65	6.41						●	●								●	●										
Sun View Park	66	2.45						●	●								●	●										
Talbert Park	67	5.44						●	●								●	●										
Tarbox Park	68	0.44						●	●								●	●										
Terry Park	69	4.81		●				●	●								●	●										
Triangle Park	70	1.11						●	●								●	●										
Trinidad Park	71	0.75			●			●	●								●	●										
Wardlow Park	72	8.36						●	●								●	●										
Wieder Park	73	4.80		●				●	●								●	●					●					
Worthy Park	74	6.61		●				●	●								●	●										
11th Street Beach Park	75	0.17						●	●								●	●										

School Park and Recreation Facilities  
 Table RCS-2

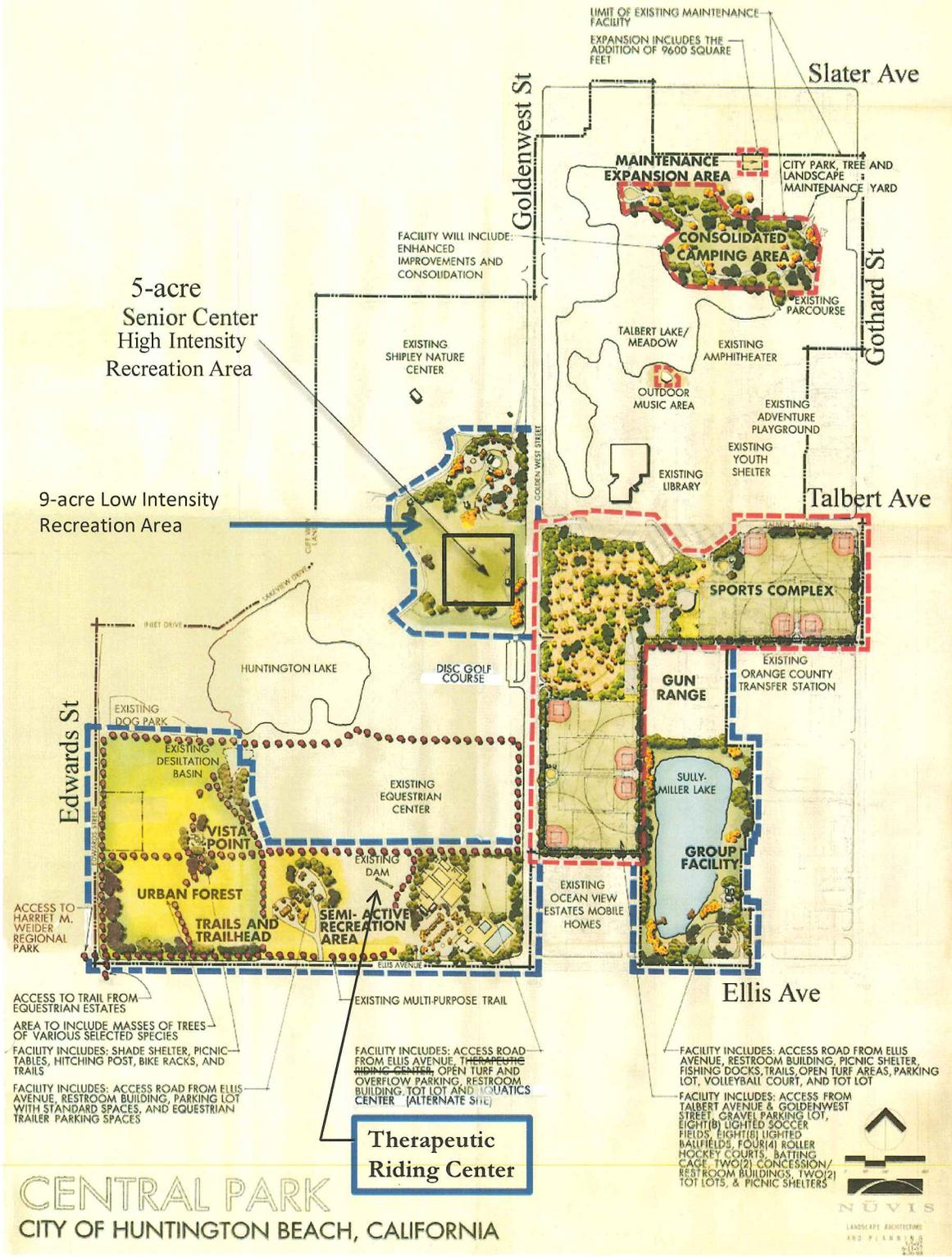
School	Acres	Grass Acres	Baseball	Softball	Basketball	Soccer	Football	Volleyball	Tennis	Handball or Racquetball	Roller Hockey	Skateboard Area	Pool	Field Hockey	Gymnasium
<b>Ocean View School District</b>															
Circle View	13.6	6.4		●	●										
College View	13.7	10.6	●			●									
Golden View	10.3	4.5	●												
Harbour View	13	10.7	●	●		●									
Hope View	13.7	10.6	●			●									
Lake View	13.7	10.6	●			●									
Marine View	13.7	9.7		●		●									
Mesa View	12.1	6.5	●			●									
Oak View	13.1	10.8	●			●									
Spring View	14	10.7	●			●									
Sun View	13.9	10.7	●			●									
Village View	13	8.3	●			●									
<i>Crest View</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>9</i>	●												
<i>Glen View</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>8.5</i>	●			●									
<i>Haven View</i>	<i>14.5</i>	<i>9.1</i>	●			●									
<i>Lark View</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>7.5</i>	●			●									
<i>Meadow View</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7.5</i>	●			●									
<i>Park View</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>2.7</i>	●												
<i>Pleasant View</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>6.4</i>	●			●								●	
<i>Robinwood</i>	<i>6.1</i>	<i>6.1</i>													
<i>Rancho View</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>6</i>	●												
<b>Huntington Beach City School District</b>															
Dwyer	11.4	7	●	●	●	●	●	●							
Smith	9.8	3	●	●	●	●	●	●							
Eader	13.9	8	●	●	●	●	●	●							
Kettler	9.7	4.5	●	●	●	●	●	●							
Hawes	8.01	5	●	●	●	●	●	●							
Moffett	8.12	4	●	●	●	●	●	●							
Perry	10.5	5	●	●	●	●	●	●							
Sowers	14.3	7	●	●	●	●	●	●							
<i>Huntington Seacliff</i>	<i>8</i>														
<i>Peterson\Clapp</i>															
<i>Burke</i>	<i>7.72</i>	<i>3</i>	●	●		●	●								
<i>Gisler</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>10</i>	●	●		●	●								
<i>Le Bard</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>6</i>	●												

**School Park and Recreation Facilities**  
**Table RCS-2**

School	Acres	Grass Acres	Baseball	Softball	Basketball	Soccer	Football	Volleyball	Tennis	Handball or Racquetball	Roller Hockey	Skateboard Area	Pool	Field Hockey	Gymnasium
<b>Westminster School District</b>															
Glegg	9	6.5		●	●	●		●		●					
Stacey	20	17	●	●	●	●	●	●		●					
Schroeder	10	8.3		●	●	●		●		●					
<i>Franklin</i>	<i>8.81</i>	<i>6</i>		●	●			●							
<b>Huntington Beach Union High School District</b>															
Edison High	47	24	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●		●
Huntington High	33	20	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●			●
Marina High	52	28	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●		●
Ocean View	43	27	●	●	●	●	●	●							●
Education Center	19	6				●									
<b>Fountain Valley School District</b>															
Newland	14	12	●	●	●	●		●		●					
Oka	8	6	●	●	●	●		●		●					
Talbert	13	11	●	●	●	●		●		●					
<i>Wardlow</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	●	●	●	●		●		●					
<i>Arevalos</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	●	●	●	●		●		●					
<i>Lamb</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	●	●	●	●		●		●					

Note: Schools listed in italics indicate closed sites.

# CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN OF USES



CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN OF USES  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH GENERAL PLAN

FIGURE RCS-2

## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**

The following section presents the goals, objectives, policies, and programs for Recreation and Community Services (see **Figure RCS-1 and Table RCS-1**) in the City of Huntington Beach. At the end of each policy is a reference to the appropriate implementation program. Each implementation program's schedule and possible funding sources are indicated in the Recreation and Community Services Implementation Matrix.

### **Recreational Programming**

#### ***Goal***

##### **RCS 1**

**Enrich the quality of life for all citizens of Huntington Beach by providing constructive and creative leisure opportunities.**

#### ***Objective***

##### **RCS 1.1**

Encourage recreational opportunities unique to Huntington Beach which will enhance visitation and economic development.

#### ***Policies***

##### **RCS 1.1.1**

Provide leisure opportunities through programs and activities that serve the general population as well as the specialized needs of the disabled, children, and elderly. (*I-RCS 1, I-RCS 2, I-RCS 3, and I-RCS 4*)

##### **RCS 1.1.2**

Combine sites that contain historic or natural features with recreational learning opportunities, where possible. (*I-RCS 1 and I-RCS 2*)

##### **RCS 1.1.3**

Enhance the Pier area and the surrounding beach area to function as the "hubs" of tourist and community activity. (*I-RCS 1 and I-RCS 5*)

##### **RCS 1.1.4**

Encourage and facilitate the development of a wide variety of revenue generating recreational activities such as "corporate" picnic facilities, wedding facilities, infant, child, or senior day care, fishing facilities, golf courses, driving ranges, batting cages, roller hockey, sports fields, etc. (*I-RCS 6*)

##### **RCS 1.1.5**

Provide the highest quality of services to park and recreation facilities users through adequate staffing and technically trained staff. (*I-RCS 7*)

##### **RCS 1.1.6**

Continue, and strive to improve existing joint use and maintenance agreements between other public agencies, including but not limited to the local school districts, and seek new opportunities to share established and/or limited financial, property, and facility resources for the common benefit of Huntington Beach residents. (*I-RCS-7 and I-RCS 8*)

##### **RCS 1.1.7**

Consider reinstating after-school and summer programs on school playgrounds and fields. (*I-RCS 7*)

##### **RCS 1.1.8**

Provide quality services and programs for a growing seniors population. (*I-RCS 2 and I-RCS 7*)

### **Park Acquisition**

#### ***Goal***

##### **RCS 2**

**Provide adequately sized and located active and passive parklands to meet the recreational needs of existing and future residents, and to preserve natural resources within the City of Huntington Beach and its sphere of influence.**

#### ***Objective***

##### **RCS 2.1**

Create an integrated park system that is complementary to existing and proposed development as well as the natural environment.



Central Park



**Policies**

**RCS 2.1.1**

Maintain the current park per capita ratio of 5.0 acres per 1,000 persons, which includes the beach in the calculation. (*I-RCS 5 and I-RCS 7*)

**RCS 2.1.2**

Consider the following when adopting the plan for acquiring and accepting parkland:

- a. City's needs for open space and recreation and sports facilities based on current and projected needs;
- b. City's needs for open space, recreation and sports facilities based on the location of existing open space, and recreation and sports facilities, including school recreation and sports facilities;
- c. Preservation of natural resources, and historic and cultural areas;
- d. Ease of accessibility;

- e. Usability of proposed parklands (i.e., topography and other landform constraints); and
- f. Consistency with the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. (*I-RCS 1, I-RCS 4, and I-RCS 9*)

**RCS 2.1.3**

Require parkland acquisitions to be fiscally efficient and beneficial to the needs of the community. (*I-RCS 7 and I-RCS 10*)

**RCS 2.1.4**

Identify park type and facility needs as a basis for future selection of specific park or recreation sites. (*I-RCS 4, I-RCS 7, and I-RCS 11*)

**RCS 2.1.5**

Provide for the inclusion of recreational trails in new developments which link with the existing or planned trails. (*I-RCS 1 and I-RCS 5*)

**Park Planning, Design, and Development**

**Goal**

**RCS 3**

**Develop park sites to provide diverse recreational and sports facilities that meet the residents' and visitors' active and passive recreational needs.**

**Objective**

**RCS 3.1**

Incorporate recreation features and facilities responsive to the preferences of the resident population bases that will utilize the services.

**Policies**

**RCS 3.1.1**

Design neighborhood park features and facilities that are responsive to the recreational preferences expressed by the park users and local neighborhood residents. (*I-RCS 9*)

**RCS 3.1.2**

Provide a variety of amenities within recreation areas in order to accommodate persons with different interests. (*I-RCS 4*)

**RCS 3.1.3**

Develop public parks and recreation facilities that link trails and existing recreational facilities. (*I-RCS 4, I-RCS 5, and I-RCS 7*)

**RCS 3.1.4**

Provide a balance between community needs and public financing constraints. (*I-RCS 7 and I-RCS 10*)

**RCS 3.1.5**

Establish development guidelines to foster park development that suits the changing conditions of Huntington Beach. (*I-RCS 9 and I-RCS 12*)

**RCS 3.1.6**

Design recreational facilities to the accessibility requirements as specified in State and Federal laws such as the American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility. (*I-RCS 1 and I-RCS 9*)

**RCS 3.1.7**

Develop and/or retrofit park and recreation sites in ways which maximizes efficiency and minimizes maintenance cost. (*I-RCS 1 and I-RCS 7*)

**Renovation and Upgrading of Existing Parks and Facilities**

***Goal***

**RCS 4**

**Ensure recreation facilities are renovated and upgraded to meet the current recreational interests of adults and youth.**

***Objective***

**RCS 4.1**

Improve and modernize existing parks and facilities to overcome existing design deficiencies and deteriorated conditions.

***Policies***

**RCS 4.1.1**

Evaluate all physical facilities for renovation needs every five years. Develop a capital improvement program for the renovation of those facilities determined to require renovation. (*I-RCS 7*)

**RCS 4.1.2**

Initiate an equipment “modernization” program to enhance the provision of services to local residents and visitors. (*I-RCS 7*)

**RCS 4.1.3**

Renovate recreational facilities to the accessibility requirements as specified in State and Federal laws such as the American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility. (*I-RCS 7*)

**RCS 4.1.4**

Explore joint projects for maintenance, renovation and upgrading of recreation and sports facilities with other public and private agencies. (*I-RCS 7*)

**Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks**

***Goal***

**RCS 5**

**Provide parks and other open space areas that are efficiently designed to maximize use while providing cost efficient maintenance and operations.**

***Objective***

**RCS 5.1**

Distribute future developed park and recreation center sites to equitably serve neighborhood and/or community needs while reducing costs.

***Policies***

**RCS 5.1.1**

Review the parks and recreation facilities relationship with the local schools. The review should include:

- a. the concept of providing both school recreation facilities and park facilities at the same site;
- b. information submitted by the school districts regarding the financial and fiscal impacts to the school districts in preserving closed school for park purposes without adequate compensation to the school districts;
- c. the determination of each school’s contribution in providing recreational opportunities to the neighborhood; and
- d. the identification of an “alternative” plan to provide the recreational opportunities in the event of a school closure. (*I-RCS 7 and I-RCS 8*)

### **RCS 5.1.2**

Future community and neighborhood park and recreation sites shall be located in accordance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Huntington Beach. (*I-RCS 4*)

## **Beaches**

### ***Goal***

#### **RCS 6**

**Provide a beach environment which enhances the enjoyment of the natural resources by the community.**

### ***Objective***

#### **RCS 6.1**

Maintain the beach resources depicted on **Figure RCS-1** as a fundamental element to conserve.

### ***Policies***

#### **RCS 6.1.1**

Protect and enhance local beaches and wetlands because of their inherent environmental, ecological, and/or aesthetic contributions to the community through land use regulation. (*I-RCS 13*)

#### **RCS 6.1.2**

Conduct an inventory of existing beach facilities on a periodic basis to determine requirements of renovation and/or future capital improvements, prepare a capital improvements program and adopt a prioritization schedule for improvement. (*I-RCS 7*)

#### **RCS 6.1.3**

Enhance the beach concession stands, bicycle and pedestrian paths, restrooms, camping areas, and parking facilities to function as activity centers. (*I-RCS 3*)

#### **RCS 6.1.4**

Investigate the feasibility of providing year round camping sites. (*I-RCS 2*)

#### **RCS 6.1.5**

Provide a level of beach related facilities, maintenance, and lifeguarding that enhances the enjoyment of the natural resources by the community. (*I-RCS 2, I-RCS 3, and I-RCS 7*)

## **Operations and Maintenance**

### ***Goal***

#### **RCS 7**

**Operate and maintain City parks and recreation facilities in the most safe, effective, and efficient manner.**

### ***Objective***

#### **RCS 7.1**

Enhance park and recreation sites in ways which maximize efficiency and minimize maintenance cost.

### ***Policy***

#### **RCS 7.1.1**

Design recreation facilities and programs that are functional, efficient and affordable. (*I-RCS 7 and I-RCS 9*)

## **Economics and Financing**

### ***Goal***

#### **RCS 8**

**Ensure that park development is appropriately phased to coincide with the demand for services as well as the City's fiscal resources.**

### ***Objective***

#### **RCS 8.1**

Define basic objectives, financing and alternative non-traditional means for timely and balanced development and operations of park and recreational facilities.

### ***Policies***

#### **RCS 8.1.1**

Aggressively pursue all forms of Federal, State, County, corporate, private foundation and endowment support to assist in acquisition, development, programming, operations, and maintenance of park and recreation resources. (*I-RCS 2 and I-RCS 10*)

#### **RCS 8.1.2**

Encourage neighborhood groups, organizations, clubs and businesses to take a greater interest and financial responsibility in the improvement and operations of the parks and recreational facilities through a) the donation of goods, services, and financial support, and b) creation of such programs as the adopt-a-park program. (*I-RCS 7, I-RCS 14, and I-RCS 15*)

**RCS 8.1.3**

Encourage commercial recreational facilities to provide recreational services and facilities that may or may not otherwise be provided by the City. (*I-RCS 2 and I-RCS 15*)

**RCS 8.1.4**

Revenue generating facilities shall be encouraged where appropriate in the future design and programming of parks. (*I-RCS 6*)

**RCS 8.1.5**

Update, on a periodic basis, the park in-lieu fee assessed to all new development. (*I-RCS 2 and I-RCS 7*)

**RCS 8.1.6**

In addition to Quimby fees, explore alternate funding sources, such as Meadow Lark Golf Course and other revenue generating recreation facilities, for park development. (*I-RCS 7*)

**IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS**

**I-RCS 1**

**Development/Design Review**

Require, through the development/design review process:

- a. that all Huntington Beach facilities have barrier-free access;
- b. the protection, enhancement and sensitive development of park and open space areas which possess scenic, environmental, historic, and cultural values;
- c. that all park and recreation facility sites have numerous access points to roads, paths, and trails;
- d. the construction and dedication of recreational trails, determined to enhance and/or link the existing trails system; and
- e. that all parks are evaluated regarding the need for multi-sport athletic fields.

**I-RCS 2**

**Feasibility Studies**

Conduct the following feasibility studies. If determined feasible, implement the study's findings:

- a. consider integrating the physically or developmentally disadvantaged into regular recreation department programming efforts and consider amending existing programs or adding new programs to meet the integration needs;
- b. consider providing after school and summer day care for school age children. Include in the study, the possibility of utilizing existing school facilities;
- c. consider providing day care to infants and preschool children;
- d. consider establishing teen centers and other activities/services in Downtown and other areas where teens congregate;
- e. consider providing senior day care programs serving those seniors who require additional care but not full-time nursing care;
- f. determine the active recreational uses acceptable to local residents and consistent with City needs for Irby Park;
- g. consider establishing interpretive, historical and environmental education facilities and programs utilizing various natural and cultural resources found in Huntington Beach;
- h. consider utilizing a grants and endowments coordinator to increase the depth and effectiveness of lobbying and funding procurement efforts for parks and recreation as well as other applicable City programs and functions;
- i. consider working with youth sports groups to determine their facility needs and how those needs can be met on parks and schools;

- j. consider encouraging private industrial and office developments to provide recreational facilities (e.g., athletic clubs) specifically targeted toward the day-use working population. If determined feasible, develop planning guidelines or incentives that encourage the developments to provide the recreation facilities; and
- k. consider constructing and operating a year round camping facility.

**I-RCS 3**  
**Specialized Programs**

Develop the following programs as funding permits:

- a. specialized programs for those physically or developmentally disadvantaged who are unable to integrate into mainstream programs;
- b. lifeguard training which includes “in-house” and extension courses and seminars focusing on swift water rescue, riptide/undertow rescue and scuba assisted rescue; and
- c. capital improvement program which includes the construction and rehabilitation of beach and park amenities (concession stands, paths, restrooms, etc.).

**I-RCS 4**  
**Master Plans**

- a. Develop a system wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan which:
  - anticipates new recreation needs;
  - establishes guidelines for new park and recreation facility development;
  - incorporates the renovation plan;
  - incorporates the Central Park Master Plan, the Beach/Pier Plaza Master Plan, and the Trails Plan;
  - establishes an implementation strategy and phasing;
  - identifies funding;
  - designates maintenance responsibilities; and
  - explore the possibility for shared use and shared maintenance for facilities.

- b. Utilize park acreage and recreational facility development projections contained in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Growth Management Element as a guideline in the assessment of particular sites of the future acquisition or dedication of parkland.
- c. Adhere to the implementation and prioritization established in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- d. Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years.

**I-RCS 5**  
**Land Use Element**

Implement the Land Use Programs **I-LU 1, I-LU 2, I-LU 4, and I-LU 7.**

**I-RCS 6**  
**Private Operator Programs**

Pursue the establishment of new facilities which can be better operated by private investors/operators and solicit proposals from qualified entities for the development and management.

**I-RCS 7**  
**Special Studies/Reviews**

- a. Conduct a study to determine the benefits of providing recreational programs at local schools.
- b. Conduct a study to review the adequacy of all beach lifeguard and rescue services. Develop programs to remedy any deficiencies determined to exist in personnel training and equipment.
- c. Evaluate staffing needs every three years. Evaluation should:
  - determine the number of staff persons and the types of staff persons necessary for program operation; and
  - develop training programs including “in house” and extension courses and seminars.

- d. Determine if the City's parkland ratio (5.0 acres per 1,000 persons), which includes the beach in the calculation, is adequate. Modify the parkland ratio, if determined necessary, and update all Quimby and other sources of parkland acquisition and acquisition funding to reflect the new ratio.
- e. Perform a cost and benefit analysis prior to acquiring any new lands.
- f. Review and update acreage and park facility requirements every five years to ensure that the residents needs and demands are met.
- g. Conduct a City-wide recreational circulation study and incorporate into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This would combine the aims of the State Trails Plan, the County Equestrian Trails Plan, the Local Coastal Plan (Coastal Access), and the Circulation Element of the General Plan into a unified and coordinated trails plan for Huntington Beach. Issues such as implementation strategy, funding and the establishment of design criteria and maintenance responsibilities should be included in this plan.
- h. Conduct a park and recreational facilities renovation study to determine each site's maintenance and renovation needs, including Federal and State laws such as American's with Disabilities Act accessibility standards. Develop a prioritization and phasing program, and establish a Capital Improvements Program. Implement the Capital Improvements Program. Update the renovation study, prioritization and phasing program, and the Capital Improvements Program every three years.
- i. Evaluate recreational equipment and tools to ensure they function adequately, thereby, maximizing the recreation staff's efficiency. Develop a "modernization" program to rectify deficiencies that are noted in the study.
- j. Determine each school's recreational and sports field contribution and determine alternate recreational resources available to the neighborhood in the event of school closure. In addition, establish alternative recreation options including the leasing and/or acquisition of school facilities.
- k. Conduct an in-house review of all equipment and recreation facilities in order to achieve the highest efficiencies possible in operation and maintenance costs.
- l. Consider utilizing a marketing process to establish and market urban forest programs, commercial recreation opportunities and gift catalogs, and to solicit donations and other creative funding opportunities.
- m. Review the park in-lieu fee which is established by City Council and is based on the Quimby Act formula utilizing local residential land value. In the past, the City has approved a park in-lieu fee less than the maximum permitted by the formula. Establish a link between the fee that is adopted using a percentage of the total allowable in-lieu charge based upon the formula. Once the percentage is established, evaluate local residential land values and adjust the fee structure, every five years.
- n. Consider establishing a non-profit foundation or retaining a private consultant to a) solicit private organizations to sponsor public recreation activities, supply equipment and uniforms, donate facilities, and b) act as a vehicle to provide clear tax advantages to donors and contributors of funds and resources.

#### **I-RCS 8**

##### **Intra-agency Coordination**

- a. Convene an intra-agency study session to review the joint use concept. The review should include the advantages and disadvantages of continuing the practice of sharing school and park facilities and of joint use maintenance agreements. Based on study session findings, develop policy guidelines to direct existing relations and future relations.
- b. Coordinate with school and Local, State and Federal agencies to ensure the proper protection and/or enhancement of the City's open space and recreational resources.

- c. Establish and coordinate an inter-agency relationship between the City and the school districts to ensure that the use of school properties and facilities by the City or the community for non-educational purposes does not affect the school districts.

#### **I-RCS 9**

##### **Design Guidelines**

- a. Develop a set of guidelines to evaluate the potential parkland acquisitions; establish an inter-agency City staff review team to implement these guidelines and conduct future parkland acquisition evaluations.
- b. Develop park and recreation facility development guidelines for each discernibly different area of the City. Provide the guidelines to developers. Guidelines should include:
  - park or recreation facility character and size;
  - amenities or facilities to be provided at each site;
  - onsite circulation requirements; and
  - required pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access.
- c. Prepare landscape and design guidelines and standards emphasizing methods for maintenance, energy and water cost reductions for existing and future sites.

#### **I-RCS 10**

##### **Prerequisite Funding**

Adequate development, maintenance, and operation funding shall be a prerequisite to developing additional park acreage or recreation facilities.

#### **I-RCS 11**

##### **Park/Recreation Classification System**

Apply the park classification system established in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as the minimum level of acceptable size and development character as suited to the needs of Huntington Beach residents.

#### **I-RCS 12**

##### **Year Round Amenities**

Require facilities, including beach related facilities, to be developed with amenities which can be used during all of the seasons.

#### **I-RCS 13**

##### **Beach Area Protection**

Identify and locate beach areas which must be protected through the land use regulations proposed in the Land Use Implementation Programs section of the Land Use Element. Identify those beach areas that will accept limited recreational development (e.g. firepit rings, volleyball equipment, swings, etc.) without destroying the natural beauty.

#### **I-RCS 14**

##### **Volunteers**

Solicit volunteer groups (local scouts, local ecological groups, churches, etc.) to coordinate and work annual volunteer “clean up” sessions or other programs at recreational facilities.

#### **I-RCS 15**

##### **Corporate Funding**

Solicit other corporate funding programs to fund and sponsor maintenance and other volunteer programs at recreational facilities.

No.	Name	ADMINISTRATION										CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH										SCHEDULE			
		Community Development Department	Community Services Department	Economic Development Department	Fire Department	Library Services Department	Police Department	Public Works	Planning Commission	City Council	School Districts	County of Orange	Other	General Funds	Assessment Districts	Development Fees	Redevelopment Tax Increment Revenue	Grants	Other Approved Fees	State Funds	Federal Funds				
PROGRAM		CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH										CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH										SCHEDULE			
		RESPONSIBLE AGENCY										FUNDING SOURCE													
RCS-1	Development / Design Review	●	●					●	●						●	●									Ongoing *
RCS-2	Feasibility Studies	●	●					●				●			●										Ongoing *
RCS-3	Specialized Programs		●									●			●	●	●	●							Ongoing *
RCS-4	Master Plans	●	●					●				●			●										Ongoing *
RCS-5	Land Use Element	●													●										Ongoing *
RCS-6	Private Operator Programs	●	●						●	●					●				●						5 Years upon Plan Adoption *
RCS-7	Special Studies / Reviews	●	●					●	●	●	●				●										Ongoing *
RCS-8	Intra-Agency Coordination	●	●					●	●	●	●				●										Ongoing *
RCS-9	Design Guidelines		●					●	●						●										5 Years upon Plan Adoption *
RCS-10	Prerequisite Funding		●					●							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Ongoing *
RCS-11	Park / Recreation Classification System		●												●										Ongoing *
RCS-12	Year Round Amenities		●					●							●	●	●								Ongoing *
RCS-13	Beach Area Protection	●	●					●							●										1 Year upon Plan Adoption *
RCS-14	Volunteers		●												●										2 Years upon Plan Adoption *
RCS-15	Corporate Funding		●												●										2 Years upon Plan Adoption *

\* As funding permits

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM MATRIX

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH GENERAL PLAN

