

# **CATHEDRAL CITY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

**Cathedral City, California**



**68-700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero  
Cathedral City, CA 92234**

**December 2005**

# Table of Contents

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
<b>Section 1 CATHEDRAL CITY COMMUNITY PROFILE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Section 2 CATHEDRAL CITY POPULATION</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Section 3 CATHEDRAL CITY COMMUNITY RESOURCES</b>	<b>16</b>
-Cathedral City Resources	17
-School Facilities	21
-Non Profits	23
-Library	23
-Commercial Enterprise	24
-Adjacent City Resources and Programs	25
-Riverside County	26
-Homeowners Associations	27
-Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District	27
-Conclusions	27
<b>Section 4 CATHEDRAL CITY PUBLIC INPUT</b>	<b>29</b>
-Focus Groups	29
-Process	30
-Results	31
Special Interest Groups	31
General Public Groups	33
Senior Citizens	35
Middle School Youth	36
Neighborhood Groups	37
-Trends	38
-Capstone Meeting	39
-Key Group Interviews	40
-Field Observations	41
-Field Interviews	41
-Elected and Appointed Officials Survey	42
<b>Section 5 PARKS AND RECREATION STANDARDS</b>	<b>45</b>
-National Park Standards	45
National Park Standards Comparative Summary	46
-Quimby Act (State of California) Standards	46
Quimby Act Formula – Dedication of Land	48
Quimby Act Formula – Fees In-Lieu of Dedication of Land and Land Acquisition Costs	50
Quimby Act Formula – Credits Against Payment of In-Lieu Fee	52
-Cathedral City General Plan Standards and Consistency with Quimby Act Requirements	54

-Cathedral City Parkland Assessment	55
-Park Facilities Assessment	56
Golf Courses	56
Baseball – Softball fields	58
Soccer	58
Tennis Courts	58
Swimming Pool	58
Football Fields	59
Recreation Center	59
Basketball Courts	59
Programs	59
-Conclusions	60
<b>Section 6   IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b>	<b>61</b>
-Parks	61
-Park Improvement Costs	66
-Swimming Pool	68
-Sports Field Complex	69
-Community Center	70
-Tennis Courts	71
-Spraygrounds	71
-Trails	72
-Golf Courses	73
-Open Space	73
-Programs	74
-Time Frame	75
<b>Section 7   FUNDING OPTIONS</b>	<b>76</b>
-Reverse Annuity Purchase	76
-Historic Preservation Grants-in-Aid	76
-General Fund Appropriation	76
-Special Tax Levy	77
-Special Assessment	77
-Zoning and Subdivision Fees	77
-Fees and Charges	78
-Land and Water Conservation Fund	78
-Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program	78
-Community Development Block Grant	78
-Corporate Giving	79
-Private Foundation Grants	79
The Tony Hawk Foundation	79
Baseball Tomorrow Fund	79
Finish Line Youth Foundation	80
Foundation Center Bulletin: Athletics & Sports	80
Hasbro Children’s Foundation	81
NRA Foundation	81
Tiger Woods Foundation	81
Potential Resources for Playground Safety	81
Funding	
United States Handball Association	82
United States Soccer Federation Foundation	82
Women’s Sports Foundation Funding Opportunities	82

-Parks and Recreation Foundation	82
-Citizens and Neighborhood Funding Groups	82
-New Membership Program	83
-Gift Catalog	83
-General Obligation Bond	83
-Revenue of Enterprise Bond	84
-The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act	84
-Park Dedication Ordinance	84
-Venue Taxes	85
-Public Improvement Districts	85
-Tax Increment Financing	85
-American Hiking Society National Trails Fund	85
-Tire-Derived Product (TDP) Grant Program	86
-Funding Sources	87

**Appendix A Land Improvement Costs 88**

**TABLES**

**Section 2:**

Table 2-1	Population Increase in Cathedral City	9
Table 2-2	Population Percentage by Gender in Cathedral City	10
Table 2-3	Youth Age Distribution in Cathedral City	10
Table 2-4	Economic Characteristics	11
Table 2-5	Current School Enrollment – Cathedral City	11
Table 2-6	Workforce by Employment Sector	12
Table 2-7	Household and Family Income	12
Table 2-8	Population Growth	13
Table 2-9	Population Growth in Cathedral City	13

**Section 3:**

Table 3-1	Existing Local Parks	17
Table 3-2	Existing Park Facilities and Amenities	17
Table 3-3	City Acquired, Undeveloped Parkland Sites	19
Table 3-4	Public and Private Schools in Cathedral City	21
Table 3-5	Regional Parks and Reserves in Central and Eastern Riverside County	26

**Section 4:**

Table 4-1	Citizen Participation and Focus Group Schedule	30
Table 4-2(a)	Elected and Appointed Officials Survey Results List of Priorities	42
Table 4-2(b)	Elected and Appointed Officials Survey Results Leader Based Recreational Programs	43
Table 4-2(c)	Elected and Appointed Officials Survey Results Critical Needs	44

<b><u>Section 5:</u></b>		
Table 5-1	National Park Standards (Recommended Benchmarks)	45
Table 5-2	National Standards for Parks Facilities (Recommended Benchmarks)	46
Table 5-3	Cathedral City General Plan Standards for Park Areas	54

<b><u>Section 6:</u></b>		
Table 6-1	Park Development Phases	62
Table 6-2	Recommended Park Improvements and Facilities	63

## **MAPS**

<b><u>Section 3:</u></b>		
Map 3-1	Existing Local Parks	18
Map 3-2	City Acquired Land for Future Parks (Undeveloped Parkland)	20
Map 3-3	Public and Private Cathedral City Schools	22

<b><u>Section 5:</u></b>		
Map 5-1	Location of Existing Parks, General Plan Distance Requirements, and Parkland Deficient Areas	57

<b><u>Section 6:</u></b>		
Map 6-1	Location of Existing and Planned Parks, General Plan Distance Requirements, and Parkland Deficient Areas	65
Map 6-2	Parkland Acquisition Potential Sites	67

# Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is for the time period between 2005 to 2015. The Plan includes seven Sections that are summarized as follows:

1. Section 1 identifies the organization of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and gives an overall community profile.
2. Section 2 provides an analysis of past population patterns, the current distribution and description of the residents and future population projections and estimates of resident growth. The 2005 Cathedral City population was estimated at 53,281, and upon build-out of the Cathedral City General Plan, the population is projected to be 69,500 residents.
3. Section 3 identifies existing community resources including currently existing parks and recreational lands and facilities. There are currently seven parks available to residents and visitors that are primarily provided by the City totaling 28.55 acres. Programs available in near-by communities available to Cathedral City residents are also identified.
4. Section 4 describes the public input captured during a series of meetings and workshops held in May 2005 regarding public parks and recreation services provided for residents and visitors in Cathedral City. During the public participation workshops, residents, appointed and elected officials identified existing park deficiencies and made recommendations related to desirable park locations and facilities.
5. Section 5 compares the currently available parks and recreation resources to the existing national, state and local parks and recreation standards that are based on population and distance formulas. The State Quimby Act Formula is described and the Section recommends the adoption of a Quimby Ordinance to acquire the additional 33.54 acres of parkland needed during the planning period. Upon the projected buildout of 69,500 residents, the City needs to provide 208.5 acres of parkland to be consistent with the established City General Plan standards.
6. Section 6 provides an implementation plan consisting of the specific recommendations that are appropriate for the City to consider. Priorities are established and a list of the suggested actions and possible funding options for the recommendations are identified. Timelines are identified for the acquisition and development of the priority schedule.
7. Section 7 identifies numerous funding options that can be used to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
8. Appendix A summarizes the anticipated improvement costs of the recommended facilities to be located in the City parks.

# Cathedral City Community Profile

1



This document represents the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Cathedral City for the time period of 2005 to 2015. The most critical element of this report is the Implementation Plan consisting of the specific recommendations that are appropriate for the City to consider. Coupled with these recommendations is a priority listing of the suggested actions and possible funding options for the recommendations.

Preceding the Implementation Plan are several sections of information that have been gathered or generated that consist of data that serves as the justification and basis for the recommendations. These sections are: (1) an analysis of past population patterns, the current distribution and description of the residents and future population projections and estimates of resident growth, (2) an analysis of currently existing parks and recreation resources provided to residents and visitors of Cathedral City by the City government and also by other groups, (3) an analysis of currently available parks and recreation resources to nationally and locally established parks and recreation standards that are based on population and distance formulas, (4) an analysis of public input, appointed and elected official input and observations and interviews with staff and citizens.



Cathedral City is located in the Coachella Valley, in eastern Riverside County. The City is bordered on the west by the City of Palm Springs and on the east by the City of Rancho Mirage. The City currently consists of 19.5 square miles of land, extending from the Santa Rosa Mountains on the south to Edom Hill on the north. There are 12,502 acres of land located within the City limits.

In 2003, the existing Parks and Recreation Department was removed from City financial support due to budget constraints. The City has still maintained a five member citizen based Parks and Recreation Commission to give advice to the City Council regarding issues important to the residents.

To assist with the operations and maintenance of the existing park land, a series of Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance Districts (LLD's) were formulated as benefit assessment districts to provide electrical power to street lights, irrigation of landscape and maintenance of parkways. Currently, there are 11 LLD's with assessments that range from \$11.29 per household to \$275.18 per household.

The City also has entered into a service agreement with the Cathedral City Senior Center and Boys and Girls Club to provide financial assistance for program provision. The Fiscal Year 2005-2006 amount is \$41,555.



# Cathedral City Population

2

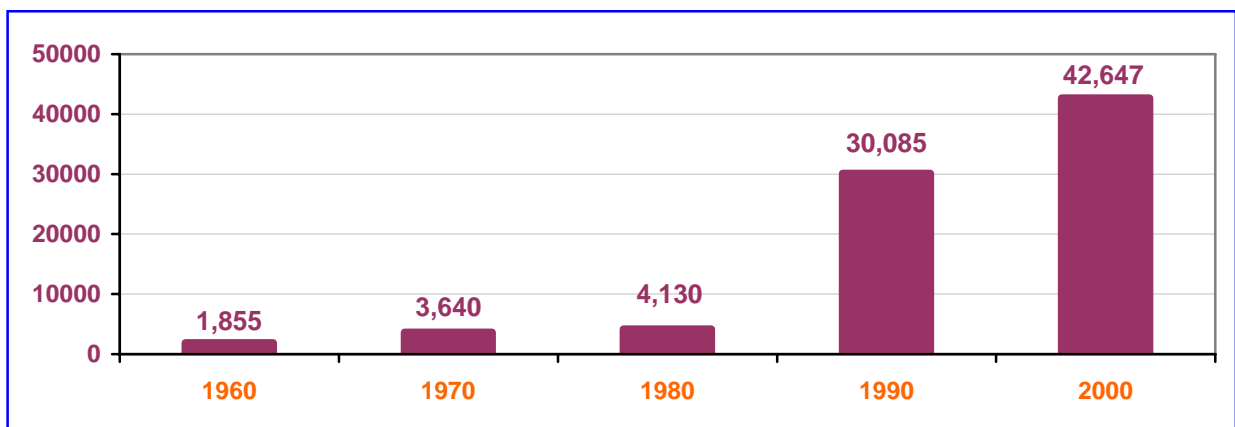


The following is a review of the past, present and projected resident population figures for Cathedral City. This information is helpful in determining the appropriate extent, design and need for various elements in the parks and recreation system.

ESRI, a company specializing in geographic and demographic data, provided a report that included accurate and up to date demographic data. This information was combined with other local sources, such as the US Census and the California State Office of Finance - Demographics Unit, to profile the population of Cathedral City.

The earliest population data of relevance is from 1960, when there were 1,855 residents living in what is now Cathedral City. The population increased to 42,647 individuals over the next forty year period to the year 2000. The following table displays the population increases over that forty year time period:

Table 2-1  
Population Increase in Cathedral City



The percent increase from 1990 to 2000 was 41.8%. The size of Cathedral City currently is 19.5 square miles and there are about 3.03 persons per household according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

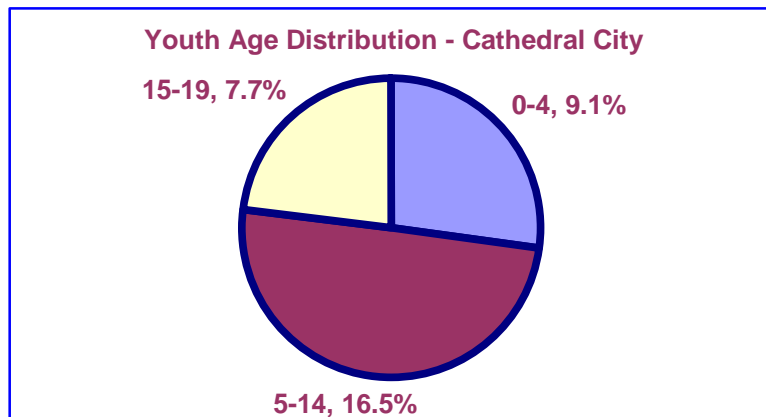
The 2000 US Census and the 2005 ESRI update provide key descriptive information that helps to better understand the dynamics of the residents of Cathedral City. The gender distribution of the residents is about even and generally mirrors that of the nation as a whole. The 2005 Cathedral City population was estimated at 53,281. This consists of 17,230 households and 11,935 family units.

Table 2-2  
Population Percentage by Gender in Cathedral City

GENDER	2000	2005	UNITED STATES
Male	50.7%	50.6%	49.1
Female	49.3%	49.4%	50.9

The 2005 median age of the residents is 32.0, just under the national average of 35.3. Both the under-5 age and over-65 age categories are comparable to the national average. The adult and youth age distribution are critical for appropriate parks and recreation planning. As a consequence, the following detailed breakdown is provided. Note that the age percentages are of the total population.

Table 2-3  
Youth Age Distribution in Cathedral City



The 20–64 age category represents 54.6% and the 65+ age category consists of 12.1% of the residents.

The ethnic distribution indicates that 50% of the population is Hispanic, 42% of the population is White, 3.5% is Asian and 2.5% is Black.

An important reflection of the community is economic vitality and available personal resources to purchase private parks and recreation services as opposed to public provision. The number and percent of residents below the federal poverty level is slightly higher than the national average and the median household, median family and per capita income levels are mixed compared to the national average.

Table 2-4  
Economic Characteristics

<b>ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>CATHEDRAL CITY</b>	<b>UNITED STATES</b>
Families below poverty level	10.2%	9.2%
Individuals below poverty level	13.6%	12.4%
Median household income	\$45,806	\$41,994
Median family income	\$47,604	\$50,046
Per Capita income	\$19,191	\$21,587

The majority of households (68.6%) are defined as family households and of these 39.3% have children under 18 years of age in the home. About one fourth (23.2%) of the households have the householder living alone. Current school enrollment figures are helpful in understanding the distribution of youth in Cathedral City. The majority of children are in grades 1-8 and the next largest category is grades 9-12.

Table 2-5  
Current School Enrollment - Cathedral City

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>
Preschool	4.0 %
Kindergarten	6.4 %
Grades 1 - 8	53.1 %
Grades 9 - 12	23.8 %
College	12.7 %

Currently, 60.3% of the population over 16 years of age is in the labor force and 50.8% of both parents with children under age 6 in the home are in the labor force. The work distribution by employment sector indicates that the majority of workers are in the service, sales or management / professional areas.

Table 2-6  
Workforce by Employment Sector

CATEGORY	PERCENT
Management / Professional	22.0
Service occupations	30.5
Sales and office	25.4
Farming	0.3
Construction	13.1
Production / Transportation	8.7

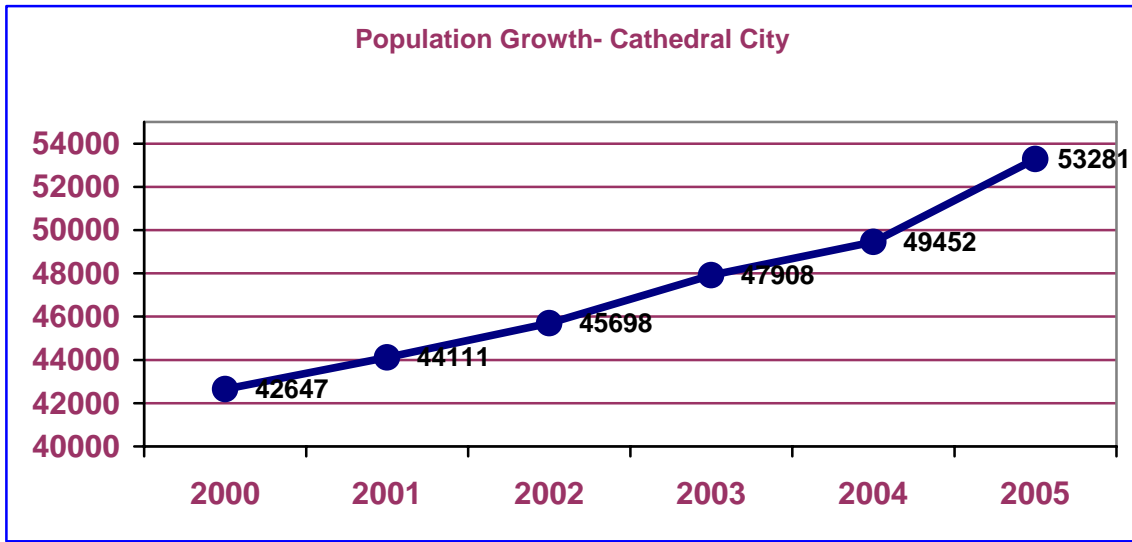
The following is the 2005 income breakdown by household and by family for the residents of Cathedral City. The majority of the residents' income is in the middle income brackets:

Table 2-7  
Household and Family Income

INCOME	HOUSEHOLD	FAMILY
Less than \$15,000	12.0%	4.6%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	12.7%	14.4%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11.9%	15.4%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	17.5%	19.0%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21.2%	22.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10.7%	9.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	9.0%	6.8%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2.7%	7.3%
\$200,000 or more	2.3%	0.9%

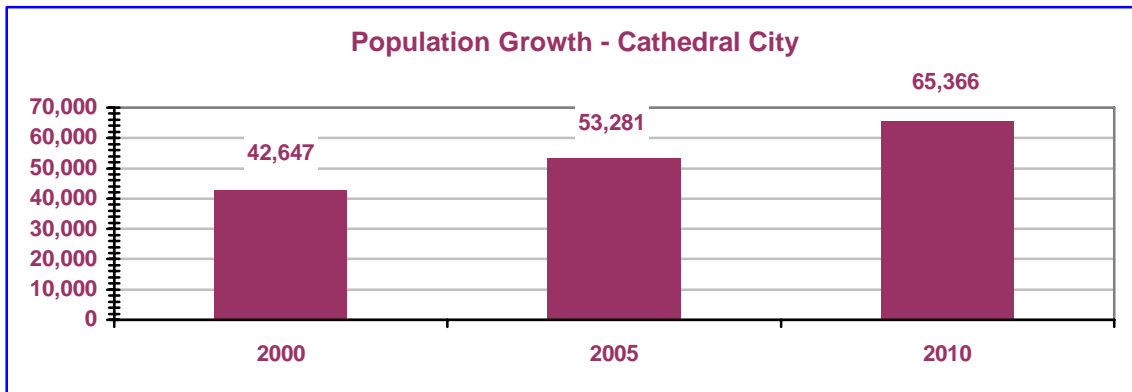
The population growth rate has shown a steady increase from 2000 to 2005. The following is the growth pattern of the population over the past five years:

Table 2-8  
Population Growth



The percent of population increase from 2004 to 2005 was a moderate 2.4%. The population projections from 2005 to 2010 indicate a continual growth pattern. It is anticipated that the annual growth rate will be 4.17% in population, 3.98% in households, and 4.00% in families.

Table 2-9  
Population Growth in Cathedral City



The projected 2010 population for Cathedral City estimated at 65,366, with a build-out population of the City of 69,500 occurring around the year 2015. For the purposes of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the build-out population figure will be used for Master Planning purposes.

The shift in age from 2005 to 2010 is estimated to be minimal with about the same percent of population in each of the age categories. The Hispanic ethnicity is expected to increase about 5% in that five year time period. The gender distribution is projected to remain at about the same percent difference.

In summary, the population and resident characteristics reveal the following:

- Cathedral City has experienced steady growth from 1960 to 2000. From 1990 to 2005, the growth could be termed significant.
- The community is similar to the country as a whole in gender distribution, median age and residents under age 5 and over age 65.
- The largest age category is the working adult sector and generally equal age sizes exist in the pre / grade school, school age and retirement age categories.
- The community's ethnicity is weighted toward Hispanic followed closely by White. A limited Asian and Black population exists in the community.
- The resident's family and household income are slightly higher than the national average in proximity to the poverty level, and lower than the national average in median household and family income and per capita income.
- The typical resident is constituted as a family with more than a third with children at home. About one fourth of the residents live alone.
- The largest school age group are elementary / middle school, followed by high school.
- The majority of the adult population is in the work force and about half of the homes with children have both parents working.

- The largest income bracket of residents is in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 range, but the lower brackets down to \$15,000 per year and lower also represent large segments of the community.
- The past growth rate in population has been increasing over time in a steady and positive direction. The rate is in the 2.4% per year range.
- The future growth rate is expected to increase at an annual measure of 4.17% with the community consisting of about the same gender, age and household composition. There is an expected Hispanic ethnicity increase of about 5% over the next five years and other ethnicities will increase at about the 2% rate.

# Cathedral City Community Resources

3



The array of currently provided parks and recreation resources and programs were inventoried and reviewed to bring into clear focus those options that are available to residents and visitors of Cathedral City. The parks and recreation services provided by the City government as well as other appropriate and logical vendors such as nearby cities, schools, non profits and the business community were evaluated. The review was limited to only those types of resources and programs that would be typically provided to citizens as a function of public services.





## ■ CATHEDRAL CITY RESOURCES

There are currently seven parks available to residents and visitors that are primarily provided by the City government or in conjunction with the school district or with private business support. Table 3-1 describes the existing parks within Cathedral City, and Map 3-1 illustrates the location of the parks shown in the table.

Table 3-1  
Existing Local Parks

PARK NAME	TYPE	ACREAGE	PROVIDER
1. Panorama	Existing Local	7.50	City
2. Agua Caliente	Existing Local	6.00	School District
3. Century	Existing Local	5.00	City
4. Patriot	Existing Local	6.00	Business
5. Town Square	Existing Local	1.17	City
6. Buddy Rogers	Existing Local	2.75	Business
7. Memorial Park	Existing Local	0.13	City
<b>Total</b>		28.55	

These seven parks constitute 28.55 acres and are spread throughout the City proper. The following is a display of the amenities currently available at these park sites:

Table 3-2  
Existing Park Facilities and Amenities

	Ballfield	Basketball	Volleyball	Tennis	Soccer fields	Open grass	Playground	Picnic areas	Spray pool	Restroom	Walking path	Shade structure
Agua Caliente	2	2	1		1	1	1	1				1
Century	1	1	1	1		1	1	4		1	1	4
Panorama	1	1	1	2		1	1	4	1	1	1	4
Patriot							1	1				1
Buddy Rogers	1		1	3	1		1	4		1		4
Town Square						1		1	1	1	1	2
Memorial Park						1						

Map 3-1  
Existing Local Park Locations

As described in Table 3-3 and shown on Map 3-2, Cathedral City has acquired the following undeveloped park land sites:

Table 3-3  
City Acquired, Undeveloped Park Land Sites

LOCATION	AMOUNT
1. Next to James Workman Middle School	17.19 acres
2. Next to the Salvation Army building on Landau	12.49 acres
3. In the Whitewater neighborhood	5.05 acres
4. Railroad track area north end of town	19.31 acres
5. Adjacent to Rancho Mirage	26.44 acres
6. Western part of Cove	65.93 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>146.41 acres</b>

Cathedral City provides the Fountain of Life in Town Square, an award winning interactive fountain providing artistic beauty and a “sprayground” water element. This fountain serves as an attraction where children and adults play in the water. The fountain’s use is guided by a city ordinance regulating appropriate use.



Map 3-2

At this time, Cathedral City owns a community center. The center currently hosts a dance program using a contract with a local professional. This building is scheduled for removal from the City inventory in the next 6 – 12 month time period.

With the exception of a contract with the dance program, Cathedral City government does not provide any direct recreation program services.

## ■ SCHOOL FACILITIES

Public, as well as private schools, provide resources similar to publicly provided parks and recreation services. These school sites offer physical resources such as parks, playgrounds, ball fields and, depending on the school, before/after school education and recreation options.



As described in Table 3-4 and shown on Map 3-3, Cathedral City has eleven public and private schools:

Table 3-4  
Public and Private Schools in Cathedral City

<b>PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – CATHEDRAL CITY</b>
1. Rio Vista Elementary
2. James Workman Middle
3. Landau Elementary
4. Agua Caliente Elementary
5. Mt. San Jacinto High
6. Sunny Sands Elementary
7. Cathedral City High
8. Nellie N. Coffman Middle
9. Cathedral City Elementary
10. First School of the Desert
11. Calvary Bible School
12. Kings School

Map 3-3  
Location of Public and Private Schools in Cathedral City

## ■ NON PROFITS

Within the City boundaries is the Cathedral City Boys and Girls Club. There is one center but programs are conducted at two additional sites. The primary program thrust is after school programs, but summer and off school day camps are also offered. There are six program elements:

- Character and Leadership Skills
- Health and Lifetime Skills
- Sports, Fitness and Recreation
- Education and Career Programs
- Arts
- Specialized Programs

The Cathedral City Senior Center offers a number of activities and support services for the senior population. The current facility will be closing and moving into the Tierra del Sol Housing site. Programs offered for seniors include:

- Meals
- Table Games
- Arts and Crafts
- Writing
- Card Games
- Acting
- Dance
- Spanish
- Crochet
- Exercise
- Music
- Special Events

## ■ LIBRARY

Cathedral City Library is a 20,000 square foot community site with community information, reference center, computers, books and magazines. The site provides three study rooms, a community room, local history collection, Spanish language collection, adult literary program and a story room. Library-based activities are provided for:

- Children
- Adults
- Bilingual Population
- Students
- Senior Citizens

## ■ COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE

There are two businesses in or about Cathedral City that provide services generally typical of a public parks and recreation system. They are Boomers and Big League Dreams Sports Park. Boomers is an attraction park with:

- Batting Cages
- Game Room
- Miniature Golf
- Simulation Theatre
- Bumper Boats
- Go-Karts
- Rock Wall

Big League Dreams (pictured) is a sports complex that models fields after major league baseball stadiums and offers:



- Five Softball Fields
- Batting Cages
- In-Line Skating
- Leagues, Tournaments, Practice, Teams and Special Events
- Tot-Lot
- Covered Basketball Courts
- Mini-Soccer Fields

In addition to these options, there are five public/private golf courses that are all open and available for public play. These courses are:

- Cimmaron Golf Course
- Desert Princess Country Club
- Desert Cove Golf Course (Approved and obtaining permits)
- Date Palm Country Club
- Cathedral Canyon Country Club

There are other smaller vendors such as the Desert Hockey Association that works to serve the residents with sport specific options.



## ■ ADJACENT CITY RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS

Adjacent to Cathedral City and within reasonable travel distance is Palm Springs. Residents have indicated that it is common for them to utilize resources and programs of this city. The Cathedral City residents pay (depending on the program) additional non-resident fees for program participation. The use of open physical resource sites is not limited to city residents.

Palm Springs offers an array of recreation programs including:

- Special Events
- Aquatics
- After School Programs
- Fitness Classes
- Music
- Dance
- Tennis
- Self Defense
- Camps
- Sports Leagues
- Track and Field
- Summer Concert Series

Palm Springs also provides the following parks and recreation physical site resources.

- Tahquitz Creek and Mesquite Golf Courses
- 8 Parks
- Tennis Courts
- Olympic Size Swim Center
- Baseball Stadium
- Soccer Fields
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Skate Park
- 2 Recreation Centers
- Playgrounds
- Multi-purpose Fields
- Jogging Course
- Bike Paths
- Basketball Courts
- Arts Center

In Palm Springs is the YMCA of the Desert. This facility and associated programs are after school/work, evening and on Saturdays. Programs are offered for:

- Preschool/Kindergarten
- Teens
- Camps
- Fitness and Well-Being
- Off-School Tracks
- Computers
- Childcare
- Sports
- Special Events
- Self Defense
- Arts

## ■ RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Available to residents and visitors of Cathedral City are the 30,000 acres of parks, historic parks, mountain parks, desert parks and river parks provided by the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District. The following are their provided resources. Some parks are closer to Cathedral City residents than others:

Table 3-5  
Regional Parks and Reserves  
in Central and Eastern Riverside County

Western Valley	Camping / RV	Group Camping	Equestrian	Boating	Trails	Fishing	Hiking	Interpret	Day Use
Bogart Park	X				X	X	X		X
Box Springs Mountain					X		X		
Hidden Valley Wildlife			X		X		X	X	
Kabian Park					X		X		X
Lake Skinner Recreation Area	X	X		X	X	X			X
Louis Robidoux Nature Center							X	X	
Martha McLean-Anza			X		X		X		X
Narrows Park Rancho Jurupa Park	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
Santa Rosa Plateau Reserve							X	X	X
Historic Parks	Camping / RV	Group Camping	Equestrian	Boating	Trails	Fishing	Hiking	Interpret	Day Use
Gilman Historic Ranch & Museum								X	
Jensen-Alvarado Ranch								X	
Mountain Parks	Camping / RV	Group Camping	Equestrian	Boating	Trails	Fishing	Hiking	Interpret	Day Use
Hurkey Creek Park	X	X					X		X
Idyllwild Park	X	X			X		X	X	X
Idyllwild Nature Center					X		X	X	X
Lawler Lodge Park									
McCall Memorial Park	X	X	X		X				X

<b>Desert Parks</b>	<b>Camping / RV</b>	<b>Group Camping</b>	<b>Equestrian</b>	<b>Boating</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Fishing</b>	<b>Hiking</b>	<b>Interpret</b>	<b>Day Use</b>
Lake Cahuilla	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
<b>Colorado River Parks</b>	<b>Camping / RV</b>	<b>Group Camping</b>	<b>Equestrian</b>	<b>Boating</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Fishing</b>	<b>Hiking</b>	<b>Interpret</b>	<b>Day Use</b>
P.V.I.D. Fishing Access									X
Mayflower Park	X			X		X			X
Blythe Marina Estates									

## ■ HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS

Within Cathedral City are a number of gated housing communities that provide their residents, as part of the Home Owners Association fees, recreation facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, fitness centers and passive green space. For some of the residents of the City these resources are available and are used as parks and recreation styled outlets.

## ■ COACHELLA VALLEY RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

Within the Coachella Valley is the Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District, which serves fourteen different cities within the community. The District maintains a number of physical resources such as parks, community recreation centers, swimming pools and ball fields. In addition, the District provides youth, teen, adult and senior citizen recreation programs. At this point in time, Cathedral City is not within the contract jurisdiction of the District, but some of the residents travel to use both District resources and programs.

## ■ CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are appropriate given community resources:

- The City provides seven existing local parks with ball fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts, tennis courts, and soccer

fields. Also provided at these sites are amenities such as open grass, playgrounds, picnic areas and restrooms.

- The City has acquired additional park land that is spread throughout the community.
- Other agencies adjacent to and within Cathedral City provide additional resources that may impact City residents. Palm Springs, school facilities, non profit groups, county government and private enterprise do make available various parks and recreation resources.

# Cathedral City Public Input

## 4



This section consists of the process and results of public input captured regarding public parks and recreation services provided for residents in Cathedral City. Public involvement is critical to the planning process and residents, users and well informed citizens can provide important and informative insight to the planning of the current and future parks and recreation system.

Six public involvement approaches were utilized to solicit and understand public concerns and attitudes; they were: (1) a series of five focus groups, (2) a capstone public interest meeting, (3) a number of key individual and group interviews, (4) parks and recreation site field interviews, (5) parks and recreation site field observations, and (6) a survey of Cathedral City elected and appointed officials.

### ■ FOCUS GROUPS

On May 25 and 26, 2005 Cathedral City conducted six (6) focus groups inviting citizens to identify, discuss and prioritize key issues regarding the provision of parks and recreation services for residents. Each focus group covered essentially the same key issues but citizens were free and encouraged to shift the discussion as they felt necessary to capture and communicate their thoughts and feelings.

The six (6) focus groups consisted of citizens and citizen organization representatives as described in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1  
Citizen Participation and Focus Group Schedule

DATE	TIME	GROUP	PLACE	NUMBER
May 25	5:30 pm	Special Interest Groups	City Hall	17
May 25	7:30 pm	General Public	City Hall	13
May 26	9:00 am	Senior Citizens	Senior Center	20
May 26	2:30 pm	Middle School Students	Workman School	6
May 26	5:30 pm	General Public	City Hall	14
May 26	7:30 pm	Neighborhood Groups	City Hall	17

The citizens were asked to record their name, address, phone number and email address. Two of the focus groups (middle school students, second general public group) were video-taped by the local news station for airing on the evening of May 26. Citizens were selected and invited to attend the focus groups by members of the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, City professional staff, school personnel and through the City web page system.

## ■ PROCESS

Through the use of an independent facilitator, the citizens were asked to respond to a number of open ended questions that focused on past, present and future parks and recreation services provided to Cathedral City residents. The citizens were free to respond to these questions and encouraged to shift the discussion of issues as that particular group felt necessary. The citizens were well engaged, responded openly and freely and shared their experiences, concerns and recommendations. The “question set” used in each of the focus groups consisted of:

- How important are public provided parks and recreation services to you and your family?
- Who should be the primary focus of these services?

- What resources are currently used by citizens? What is the quality of those resources?
- What are the most important parks and recreation physical resources needed in Cathedral City? What are the most important parks and recreation program provisions needed by citizens?
- Are there barriers/solutions to meeting the needs of residents?
- Are citizens willing to be part of solution strategies to any identified existing gaps?
- What is the current “state of feeling” of the citizens regarding city government and the provision of services?
- Is there a “willingness” of citizens to financially assist with existing gaps in services?

Other issues were added by citizens in some of the focus groups that were related to these key issues. These responses are also entered into the response sets.

## ■ RESULTS

The comments of the citizens were organized into response sets or community held belief structures and are reported by group (it should be noted that the two general public focus groups results were combined).

### ■ Special Interest Groups

These groups of residents were citizens or citizen representatives from special interest groups that have direct association with parks and recreation interests. They included such groups as aquatics, ice rink, library, arts, soccer, basketball, skate park, dance, non profit youth groups, chamber of commerce, public schools, land developers, arts center, and private recreation vendors.

- Government provision of public parks and recreation is very important and should generally be directed toward the youth.

These types of services provide youth with safe and appropriate options and provide structure to their development. These services need to be affordable, conveniently located and in a location that provides for multiple experiences.

- The majority of resources for youth are outside Cathedral City boundaries and require the use of facilities, resources and programs provided by out of city volunteer groups, other city agencies or private vendors. In some and perhaps most situations this places a hardship on families and requires transportation solutions, time restrictions, additional costs and a loss of community identity and commitment. Family groups do use the existing parks but primarily as a passive rather than active recreation option.
- The most critical parks and recreation physical resource need is for a community sports complex that provides for a variety of sports options at one location. The majority of sport venues, if properly planned, designed and cooperatively used would resolve the majority of significant resource needs. The group envisions a location close to public schools, cooperatively used by a multitude of groups, funded by multiple user groups (City, schools, non profits, private vendors and where possible by other proximate cities). Built within the complex design would be indoor space options for arts, enrichment experiences, educational offerings and outdoor swimming.
- Program offerings should be youth focused, sport and culturally based with leadership, structure, and purpose. The already existing volunteer, parent and school programs should be augmented by a more well balanced and comprehensive set of offerings.
- The lack of vision, leadership, cooperation, government based commitment, land, and funding are the most recognized barriers to progress. Solutions include joint use agreements between the City, schools, non profits, private vendors and other cities to share services and costs. There is believed to be a commitment on the part of these special interest groups that work groups could be organized to seek land donations and create fair and equitable user fee structures, but long term operation and maintenance would fall to the City.



- These special interest groups feel some level of frustration with City government response but are more interested in future actions and feel that there is a new sense of willingness on the part of both the City government and special interest group leadership to combine forces toward solutions. Sports organization fees could be committed to City efforts if authentic action is taken.

### **■ General Public Groups**

Two focus groups were held in which the general public was invited to participate. These citizens were either asked to attend by City leaders or volunteered out of interest in community affairs. The citizens participating were varied in gender, ethnicity, geographic residence and interest.

- The public provision of parks and recreation services were considered “a high need”, “very important” even at a crisis moment in the community. These citizens feel that all age groups should have services provided to them but youth and families should be the primary focus of public efforts. The City could do much to bring residents together in commitment, image, identity and sense of community through a more identifiable parks and recreation effort, resources and focus.
- Again, the term “crisis” was used to describe the seriousness of the gap between current City based resources and the current level of need of citizens and families. Most citizens feel that public services are provided better by other associated cities and they feel a need to “flee” to these other cities to receive services. As a consequence, citizens feel that significant dollars are spent in other cities for user fees, meals, equipment, transportation and associated costs of participation. Existing parks are used by residents close to those parks, are well kept and serve passive recreation needs.
- The most needed new parks and recreation resources include a public swimming pool, sports complex and walking and biking trails. However, citizens also felt that Cathedral City should have a parks and recreation resource that is unique to the City and would draw other Valley residents to the City to participate

in activities at that site. No specific agreement existed as to a unique concept but an ice skating rink was thought of as an example in which a multitude of special events, fairs and festivals could be offered during the “down time”. Both the sports complex, to host traditional youth and adult sport venues, as well as a comprehensive swimming pool, could be joint ventures with the schools.

- Though programs should be available for all residents, quality, affordable, safe and convenient after school and summer youth programs were the priority. The programs should accommodate “off track” school schedules, be both active and educationally oriented and have leadership and purpose, where “watching over” youth is not sufficient, but programs where youth can improve, grow, and advance should be the hallmark of program provision. Key words used to describe program offerings included: safe, centralized, time sensitive, affordable, quality, active based, and educationally focused.
- Citizens feel that lack of communication, lack of sense of community, a downtown rather than community wide focus, and a lack of land and funding are the most significant obstacles to parks and recreation programs. The City government based solutions include: identify available land, lock in land purchase/trade now, commit to parks and recreation as a service and seek new revenue sources rather than depend on the current tax base. A specific effort to joint venture with Rancho Mirage should be a high priority.
- Citizens are only willing to be part of the solution if the City communicates clearly and provides understandable marketing and educational materials that speak directly to cost and service issues. The commingling of funding packages for services interferes with citizen understanding, commitment and funding support. Concrete results from the City are believed to be the best way to convince residents that the City can be trusted.
- Citizens feel that some hidden financial resources are available and usable if approached appropriately. For example, some operation and maintenance funds could come from sports organization user fees, concession sales, community supported

grants, and joint use agreements. Some level of specific parks and recreation assessment is believed to be supportable, if properly marketed.

### ■ Senior Citizens

This group of citizens represented those residents who primarily used the senior center and rely on public transportation, are in need of government services and have limited and fixed income. Several of the residents spoke Spanish only and a Spanish-English translator was available to assist. These groups' responses were more specific to their needs.

- All parks and recreation services provided for senior citizens need to have public safety, transportation assistance, centralized services, affordability and lack of duplication as the primary elements.
- Lack of space, fear of existing program loss, and a need for both centralized and satellite sites are the most significant concerns of seniors.
- Programs that are diverse, provide appropriate nutrition, highlight friendships, and can assist with appropriate exercises are important.
- Concerning general public parks and recreation services in Cathedral City proper, the seniors desire community theater offerings, music, exercise, social opportunities, swimming exercise based programs, and bus trips.
- Seniors perceive that existing parks and recreation services are not designed for them nor are they used by seniors. Safety, vandalism (vacant lot clean up, shopping cart abandonment, mail box theft) and lack of belonging to the community are the primary reasons. Parks are used only if the senior citizen's family assists.
- Solutions to current lack of programs could be assisted by the City joining with non profit groups, religious organizations and aligning with district/valley wide programs and services.

- Tax base issues are critical to seniors and seniors are cautious about City efforts that do not put people first. Measurable actions rather than promises are seen as solutions for seniors.

### ■ Middle School Youth

Students from both James Workman Middle School and Nellie Coffman Middle School were invited to participate in the focus group sessions. The students from Nellie Coffman were not available but students from James Workman Middle School actively participated in the discussion groups. The students took the opportunity seriously and worked hard to be clear and accurate in their responses.

- The provision of public provided parks and recreation services was ranked as very high by the youth. The youth were unclear if Cathedral City government was the direct provider of the services that they used. These students were active participants in a wide range of recreation activities that were in fact provided by volunteer-parent based groups, non profits, private vendors and services of other cities.
- The youth had strong feelings about both the types of resources needed and programs desired by the youth. The most important physical resource needed was a sports park with an indoor complex. This resource was seen as a place for youth to go that is not the school but that they can see friends from all schools. The site needs to be safe, have adult supervision (that understand youth) and provides a wide range of both recreation and education based options.
- They were quick to recommend the types of recreation activities that they would participate in. They were: youth self defense, drug awareness/prevention, peer counseling, arts/crafts, dance, gymnastics, cheerleading, exercise, sports, acting and music lessons, skateboard and BMX training. Also, desired were field trips, tutoring and computers.
- Current park facilities are used by the youth with families; however, they rate the restrooms as dirty and the parks as overcrowded and not convenient to use unless with their family. Private vendor services are used by some youth and they feel

as if those sites are nice, but more expensive. The youth feel that they can contribute to the funding of new resources and programs by donating community service work hours, assisting as volunteers and leaders, having use discounts due to good grades and diverting already spent recreation dollars from movies and commercial enterprises to public based programs. The youth estimate that they or their parents spend \$25-50 per month on commercial based recreation options.

- The youth desire to be part of a “Youth Council” that could advise the Parks and Recreation Commission on matters of concern of the youth. Most youth report that their friends go outside of the City to be part of sports teams and to use other facilities. Rather strong statements were made about additional resources provided in the high school area so that families will need to travel less. Students suggested a site where all family members could participate at one time.

### **■ Neighborhood Groups**

A focus group was held in which citizens who lived in or represented a number of neighborhood areas were able to share ideas and concerns. The neighborhood areas included: Panorama, Rio Vista, Landau Manor, La Posada Cove, Landau Homes, Century Park, Dream Homes and Alicante Tract. Spanish interpreters were available for use by some of the residents.

- Government provided parks and recreation services were viewed as very high and essential though police and fire services were of the same or higher level of priority. The citizens feel that services should be available for all segments of society but that children’s programs were the most important.
- The citizens indicated that the majority of parks and recreation services are not available within the City proper and it was a common practice to use the resources and services of other communities and agencies to meet individual and family needs. This was deemed as “unacceptable” to residents and contributes to a lack of community, poor City image and significant misunderstanding of the use of public dollars. Additionally, residents calculated that significant tax dollars were spent by parents and families in other communities (for

parks and recreation services and associated expenditures) that should remain in Cathedral City.

- The most important parks and recreation resource needed by community residents was an outdoor swimming pool or the addition of water features (spraygrounds) in already existing parks. The most important program provision is after school and summer recreation programs for youth. These programs need to be safe, well organized with trained and appropriate adult supervision.
- Local tax dollars is considered the most significant barrier to achieving the types of services and resources desired by residents. The idea of joint use agreements, joint funding models and connecting the City with the schools, and perhaps other cities is the suggested solution.
- Citizens are willing to join and support efforts to help solve local parks and recreation issues if the City government communicates clearly with accurate information. The use of LLD's must be seen as temporary, downtown development is important and maintaining a small town feel is desired.

## ■ TRENDS

The common thoughts, themes and trends identified by citizens regardless of focus group identity are described as follows:

1. The provision of public parks and recreation resources and services is of high priority to citizens but most citizens leave Cathedral City to use programs and facilities of other city governments and pay an additional fee as a non-resident user.
2. The parks and recreation services should primarily be directed to youth and families and be focused on after school and summer programs. These programs need to be well designed, supervised and sports and education oriented.
3. The most desired new parks and recreation resource need is a community sports park with an outdoor swimming pool. The park should provide for a full range of sport options (baseball,

softball, soccer, tennis, swimming, etc) as well as cultural arts options.

The residents are concerned with City government vision, communication, image, commitment, and funding. The concept of joint use, joint managing and joint funding with the City and other groups such as schools, non profits and the business community seemed the most logical solution to the current barriers facing the City.

## ■ CAPSTONE MEETING

On July 6, 2005 a public interest group Capstone meeting was held in which each of the participants from the previous six focus groups was invited to attend. At this meeting the results of the six focus groups were reviewed and citizens were asked for comment and to make further deliberation. The Capstone meeting was well attended and the following general conclusions were made:

- The results of the individual focus groups were verified as accurate and the opportunity to view the other groups' thoughts was informative.
- The citizens agreed that the most realistic method of funding future parks and recreation services needs to be by a series of joint-user agreements, partnerships and community wide commitment.
- The primary theme was that services for the youth were critical, "...we can not lose a generation of children...", and that sport based programming seemed most logical.
- The City needs to clarify parks and recreation priorities for the future, communicate those priorities clearly to the citizens and remain committed to that plan of action.

## ■ KEY GROUP INTERVIEWS

Between July 5 and 8, 2005 a number of interviews were conducted with key individuals and groups within Cathedral City. These interviews included: City professional staff, elected officials, appointed citizen commission members and representatives from community agencies that provide parks and recreation focused services. The following are thoughts, concerns and recommendations by these individuals and groups as they pertain to Cathedral City parks and recreation services:

- There appears to be a number of low cost, high quality not-for-profit and private enterprise vendors that provide primarily program based services but also physical resource services. These groups should be encouraged to maintain involvement in community service provision.
- The City might best serve the residents by operating under the “broker” model rather than “direct provider” model of parks and recreation services. In this way, the City facilitates and assists others in providing services, while at the same time keeping City expenses at a minimum.
- The Landscape and Lighting Service Districts (LLD’s) should be studied further to determine if they are a meaningful and acceptable way to provide physical resource maintenance and operations for parks. Though there is a mix of feelings regarding this approach, there appears to be general satisfaction.
- Contracting services or joint venturing seems to be a logical and cost effective method of providing future parks and recreation services. City tax base levels will not be able to meet all public desires, since the Cathedral City General Fund receives only \$12.20 in annual property taxes from each household.
- The most clearly articulated need for the future appears to be a swimming pool and sports complex. The most logical location would be in the vicinity of already existing public schools.



## ■ FIELD OBSERVATIONS

During May 25-26 and July 5-9, 2005, observations were made of residents and visitors who were utilizing Cathedral City provided parks and recreation services. The users were unaware of these observations and their behavior, conduct and use of these resources was monitored. The following observations were noted:

- The parks were utilized by all age groups, by individuals, small and large groups and by families.
- Weekend use was greater than weekday and weekend use was more group oriented than individual.
- The primary activities were sports experience or family / large group picnic in focus.
- The litter receptacles were overflowing most of the time and litter associated with public use was present. Restrooms ranged from clean and comfortable to damaged and somewhat unsecured.
- Noise levels for homeowners in adjacent areas as well as traffic congestion, street parking, night lighting and litter were common.
- No specific inappropriate behavior was present but some park use congestion and concern over user space was observed.

## ■ FIELD INTERVIEWS

During the same time allotments as the field observations, a series of on-site, in-field interviews were conducted with park users. The users were approached and asked about their impressions of the parks and their use. The following comments were made:

- Individuals not from the general area use the parks and at times “push off” more local users of the parks. It is felt that users not from the general park area do not use the park resources with respect.

- Sprinklers often water streets and less needed park areas and comments made to City government do not seem to remedy the problem.
- Some users felt that more outdoor basketball venues would be helpful and used during most of the year.
- Parks adjacent to schools were used more by school groups and parents felt that the park was an appropriate extension of the school area.
- Users indicated that their use of the parks was primarily for passive use such as picnics, green space, schools and relaxation. The second preferred use was sports such as soccer and basketball.

## ■ ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS SURVEY

During July and August 2005, a survey was sent to the elected and appointed officials of Cathedral City. The intent was to draw from these officials, their unique sensitivity to citizen needs specific to three parks and recreation issues: (1) from a city wide perspective, what parks and recreation physical resources are needed over the next 5-10 year time period, (2) what leader based recreation programs should be offered to City residents, and (3) what are the most critical parks and recreation issues facing the City at the present time.

The elected and appointed officials indicated that the most needed physical parks and recreation resources are:

Table 4-2 (a)  
Elected and Appointed Officials Survey Results  
List of Priorities

PRIORITY	PHYSICAL RESOURCE
1	Additional parkland that can provide passive and active recreation pursuits such as playground areas, picnicking, table games, bocce ball, etc.

PRIORITY	PHYSICAL RESOURCE
2	Outdoor swimming pool that provides instruction, open use, competition and water features
3	Sports fields, specifically soccer, baseball, softball and football
4	Enhanced trail system, through the City and connecting to other cities and to less urban environs
5	Specialty parks, specifically skateboard, dog park, regional sports
6	Community center with both indoor and outdoor facilities such as gymnasiums, fitness rooms, arts and crafts, etc.

The elected and appointed officials indicated that the most important leader based recreation programs are:

Table 4-2 (b)  
Elected and Appointed Officials Survey Results  
Leader Based Recreational Programs

LEADER BASED RECREATION PROGRAM
Sports programs including instruction and competition opportunities in swimming, tennis, baseball, basketball
Arts programs including instruction or open use opportunities in dance, drama, vocal, musical instrument, crafts
Aquatic programs including instruction, competition, exercise, open use
Daycare, after school, summer based programs that are education and sport based

The elected and appointed officials also offered perspective on what they thought were the most pressing needs of residents when considering public parks and recreation services. The following were the critical needs:

Table 4-2 (c)  
Elected and Appointed Officials Survey Results  
Critical Needs

<b>MOST PRESSING NEED</b>
Funding for parks and recreation services, capital items, operations and maintenance
Joint use agreements for programs, facilities and funding coupling City resources with others such as the school district, non profits, CVRPD, and adjacent communities
Sport venues that allow youth, teen and adults in-City opportunities
Land acquisition for the purpose of securing land for future parks and recreation purposes

# Parks and Recreation Standards



The purpose of this Section is to identify and compare various park and recreation standards with the current and future parkland inventory in Cathedral City. Comparisons include National, State (Quimby) and City General Plan standards. In addition, this Section identifies the standards for various park facilities and compares the standard to the current and future park facility inventory.

## ■ National Park Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association, in conjunction with local communities across the country, has established parks and recreation standards that are based on population and distance formulas. These standards are an attempt to help local communities understand the number, type and size of parks and recreation resources necessary to meet citizen needs. Table 5-1 displays the national standards for park provision:

Table 5-1  
National Park Standards (Recommended Benchmarks)

PARK TYPE	SUGGESTED SIZE	SERVICE RADIUS	POPULATION PER 1000
Mini-park	1 acre or less	¼ mile	¼ to ½ acre
Neighborhood	15+ acres	¼ to ½ mile	1 to 2 acres
Community	25+ acres	1 to 2 miles	5 to 8 acres
Regional	200+ acres	1 hr. drive	10+ acres
Reserve	1000+ acres	1 hr. drive	Variable

These standards represent the ideal benchmark for a public parks and recreation service to provide. Based on the geographic location of the City and available land resources these standards may be helpful.

Table 5-2 displays the national standards for different types of parks and recreation facilities:

Table 5-2  
National Standards for Park Facilities (Recommended Benchmarks)

FACILITY TYPE	SERVICE RADIUS	POPULATION UNITS
Badminton	¼ to ½ mile	1 per 5,000
Basketball	¼ to ½ mile	1 per 5,000
Handball	15-30 min. drive	1 per 20,000
Hockey	30-60 min. drive	1 per 100,000
Tennis	¼ to ½ mile	1 per 2,000
Volleyball	¼ to ½ mile	1 per 5,000
Baseball	¼ to ½ mile	1 per 5,000
Football	15-30 min. drive	1 per 20,000
Soccer	1-2 miles	1 per 10,000
Softball	¼ to ½ mile	1 per 5,000
Archery	30 min. drive	1 per 50,000
Golf course	½ to 1 hour drive	1 per 50,000
Swimming pools	15-30 min. drive	1 per 20,000

The above listed National Standards are recommended for public provided parks and recreation systems, although the standards may differ accordingly to community preferences. (See Section 4 public input). In many communities other public agencies such as public schools, county, state and federal agencies, as well as non profit agencies, assist by providing facilities for residents.

**National Park Standards Comparative Summary:**

National Park Standards would require the provision of 5 to 8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. As identified in Section 3 (Cathedral City Community Resources), the current park inventory of 28.55 acres does not meet the recommended National Standards.

**■ Quimby Act (State of California) Standards**

The Quimby Act (Government Code Section 66477) allows the City, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or the payment of in lieu fees, or a combination of both for park and recreational purposes as a condition of subdivision map approval. The amount of the land to

be dedicated or the fee to be imposed in lieu thereof is limited by statute and must be based upon policies and standards contained in an adopted general or specific plan.

Pursuant to the Quimby Act, the City may impose land dedications and/or in lieu fees as a condition of subdivision map approval provided that:

- The Quimby Program ordinance must have been in effect for a period of 30 days prior to the filing of a tentative or parcel map in order to collect fees or require dedication. [Gov. Code, § 66477 (a)(1)]
- The Quimby Program ordinance must specify definite standards for determining the amount of land to be dedicated and the in-lieu fee to be imposed. The maximum dedication and/or fee allowed under the Quimby Act is the amount necessary to provide 3 acres of park land per 1,000 residents residing within a subdivision, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community park area exceeds 3 acres per 1,000 residents. In that case, the maximum dedication and/or fee is equal to the existing standard, not to exceed 5 acres per 1,000 residents residing within a subdivision. The required land dedication or in-lieu fee is based upon residential density, which is determined based on the approved or conditional approved tentative map or parcel map and the average number of persons per household based on the most recent federal census. [Gov. Code, § 66477 (a)(2)]
- The land dedicated and fees collected may only be used for the purpose of developing new or rehabilitating existing neighborhood or community park or recreational facilities to serve the subdivision. [Gov. Code, § 66477 (a)(3)]
- The park and recreational facilities must be based upon definite principles and standards contained in an adopted general or specific plan. [Gov. Code, § 66477 (a)(4)]
- The amount and location of land to be dedicated or fees to be paid must bear a reasonable relationship to the use of the park and recreational facilities by future residents of the subdivision. [Gov. Code, § 66477 (a)(5)]

- The City must develop a schedule specifying how, when, and where it will use the land or fees, or both, to develop park and recreational facilities to serve the residents of the subdivisions. Fees collected under the ordinance have to be committed within 5 years of the payment of such fees or the issuance of building permits on one-half of the lots created by the subdivision, whichever occurs later. If the fees are not committed, they, without any deductions, shall be distributed and paid to the then record owners of the subdivision in the same proportion that the size of their lot bears to the total area of all lots within the subdivision. [Gov. Code, § 66477 (a)(6)]

### **Quimby Act Formula - Dedication of Land**

According to Government Code Section 66477 (Quimby Act), the amount of land to be dedicated or in-lieu fees to be imposed shall not exceed the amount necessary to provide three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, unless certain criteria are met. This is consistent with the Cathedral City General Plan policy to use the Quimby Act to provide 3 acres of community and neighborhood parks per 1,000 population. Since the City currently provides less than 3 acres per 1,000 residents, the City cannot impose a higher standard through the Quimby Program. The following formula determines the amount of land to be dedicated:

$$\begin{array}{rcccl}
 & & 3.03 & & \\
 \text{Number of} & & \text{(Average Number of} & & \\
 \text{Dwelling Units} & & \text{Person Per Dwelling} & & \\
 \text{Based on} & \times & \text{Unit} & \times & \\
 \text{Proposed Map} & & \text{According to 2000 U.S.} & & \\
 & & \text{Census)} & & \\
 & & & & 0.003 \\
 & & & & \text{(3 Acres Per} \\
 & & & & \text{1,000 Residents)} \\
 & & & = & \text{Number of Acres} \\
 & & & & \text{to be Dedicated}
 \end{array}$$

### **Conditions of Dedication of Land:**

The conditions of approval for a land dedication shall be based on the following:

- The natural features of the area; the topography and geology;
- The availability of access;
- The location;



- The size and shape of the subdivision;
- The land available for dedication; the feasibility of dedication;
- The availability of park sites for acquisition, development, improvement, or rehabilitation, in case land dedication is considered not feasible;
- The location of existing and proposed park sites;
- The suitability for patrol, supervision and maintenance; and,
- The compatibility of dedication with the City's general plan and other plans pertaining to parks and recreation adopted by the City.

Whenever land is dedicated, the subdivider shall, without credit, provide the following for the benefit of the land dedicated:

- Full street improvements and utility connections including, but not limited to, curbs, gutters, relocation of existing public utility facilities, street paving, traffic control devices, street trees, and sidewalks to the dedicated land;
- Fencing consistent with city improvement standards along the property lines of the subdivision which are contiguous to the park;
- Improve the drainage through the park site;
- Minimal physical improvements, not including recreational facilities, building, or equipment, which the City determines are necessary for acceptance of the land for park and recreational purposes;
- Access from the park and recreational facilities to an existing or proposed public street, unless the City determines that such access is unnecessary for maintenance of the park area or use of the park by the residents of the area;
- Water, sewer, grading and drainage improvements in addition

- to those grading, drainage, irrigation and planting improvements required under other City ordinances;
- All land to be dedicated and improvements to be made should be approved by the City prior to the approval or disapproval of a subdivision; and,
  - All grading plans for land to be dedicated shall be reviewed and approved by the City for conformance with the City's general plan and any other parks and recreation plans and the needs of the City.

### **Quimby Act Formula – Fees In-Lieu of Dedication of Land and Land Acquisition Costs**

The Quimby Act provides that the amount of fees to be paid must bear a reasonable relationship to the use of the park and recreational facilities by future residents of the subdivision. As the City plans to acquire, develop, and construct new park facilities or rehabilitate existing park facilities, fees in-lieu of dedication of land shall be based on land acquisition costs as permitted by the Quimby Act.

The principal assumption used to determine parkland acquisition costs for a particular subdivision, and subsequent fee amounts, is that the costs depend on the fair market value of unimproved land within the subdivision which otherwise would have been dedicated. If a subdivision meets its Quimby Program obligation through payment of an in-lieu fee, rather than dedication of land, the land value component of the fee should be equal to the market value of the unimproved land for which the fee was substituted, because the land required to be dedicated would necessarily be unimproved. For the purpose of calculating the fee, the per acre fair market value of the land within the subdivision shall be based on the value of such land as if it were improved only with those improvements specified in the previous section of this report (the Quimby Act Formula – Dedication of Land). The following three methods can generally be used to determine the fair market value of the Unimproved Land within the subdivision.

1. Assessed land value based on records of the Riverside County Assessor's Office;

2. Current sale prices of land within, or in the vicinity of, the subdivision; or
3. Appraised land value based upon the determination by a qualified appraiser.

As land values may be different for proposed subdivisions within various parts of the City, the fee in lieu of land dedication will be determined on a project-by-project basis by the City. The proposed Quimby Program ordinance requires that the subdivider provide an estimate of the Unimproved Land value based on the following:

1. Current appraisal;
2. Current assessed land value based on records of the County of Riverside Assessor’s Office;
3. Actual sale prices of land within, or in the vicinity of, the subdivision; or,
4. Other information on current land value within the subdivision.

The City may consider this information when setting the land component of the fee for a particular subdivision. The following formula determines the payment of a fee in lieu of land dedication:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \text{Number of Dwelling} & & & & & & \\
 \text{Units Based on} & & & & & & \\
 \text{Proposed Map} & \times & \begin{array}{c} 3.03 \\ \text{(Average Number of} \\ \text{Persons Per Dwelling} \\ \text{Unit According to latest} \\ \text{U.S. Census)} \end{array} & \times & 0.003 & \times & \text{Park Cost Per Acre} \\
 & & & & & & \text{(land acquisition)} \\
 & & & & & & = \text{Total} \\
 & & & & & & \text{In-lieu Fee}
 \end{array}$$

The average number of persons per dwelling unit may be revised based on an updated U.S. Census or by a census taken pursuant to Chapter 17 (commencing with Section 40200) of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 4 of the California Government Code. Land acquisition costs may vary throughout the City, and therefore in-lieu fee amounts may vary depending on the specific subdivision project under consideration for approval.

To meet current needs and future demand for park or recreational facilities, the land dedications and/or in-lieu fees, together with funds received by the City from additional sources, will be used for the purpose of acquiring land. Facility Improvements or rehabilitating

existing park or recreational facilities will utilize other financial means besides Quimby for this purpose. The location of parks in the City need to be generally available to residents within a subdivision for which a subdivision map has been approved or conditionally approved. In *Associated Home Builders v. City of Walnut Creek* the court held that park facilities do not necessarily have to be physically located within the subdivision. Consequently, the court ruled that parks have to be only generally available to serve subdivision residents.

### **Quimby Act Formula – Credits Against Payment of In-Lieu Fee**

The subdivider may receive a credit against the payment of fees or the dedication of land as follows:

1. Common interest developments, as defined in Section 1351 of the Civil Code, shall be eligible to receive a credit, as determined by the City Council, against the amount of land required to be dedicated or the amount of the fee imposed pursuant to this section, for the value of private open space within the development which is usable for active recreational uses.
2. A credit may be given against the requirement for the payment of fees or the dedication of land required by this section for the reasonable value of park and recreation improvements, including any equipment, provided by the subdivider to the dedicated land. The amount of the credit shall be determined prior to the approval or conditional approval of the tentative map or parcel map. The granting of a credit shall be made by the City Council and shall be based on an approved set of improvement plans. However, the City reserves the right to require in-lieu fees if it finds the improvements unacceptable.
3. A credit may be given where private areas for park and recreational purposes are provided in a subdivision and such areas are for active recreational uses, to be privately owned and maintained in common by the future owner(s) of the development. Such areas may be credited against up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the requirement of land dedication or fees at the discretion of the City Council; provided, that the City Council determines that it is in the public interest to grant

such credits and that all of the following standards either have been or will be met prior to approval of the final map or development permit:

- a. That yards, court areas, setbacks, and other open space areas, as may be required to be maintained by the Cathedral City Municipal Code, the building code and other regulations, shall not be included in the computation of such private areas;
- b. Evidence is provided that the private ownership and maintenance of the area will be adequately provided for by recorded written agreement, covenants or restrictions;
- c. That the use of the private area is restricted for park and recreational purposes by an open space easement or other instrument; and,
- d. That the proposed private area is reasonably adaptable for use of park or recreational purposes, taking into consideration such factors as size, shape, topography, geology, access and location.
- e. "Active recreational uses" mean, for the purposes of this section, recreation facilities occurring on usable level land (five percent maximum slope) in a planned development which are designed to provide individual or group activities of an active nature including, but not limited to, open lawn, sports fields, court games, swimming pools, children's play areas, picnic areas, golf courses, and recreational community gardening. Active recreational uses do not include natural open space, nature study areas, open space for buffer areas, steep slopes, or scenic overlooks. Credits for areas within water courses, drainage areas, or water bodies may be granted only if:
  - (i) Such areas are suitable for active recreational use;
  - (ii) Such areas will actually be used for active recreation; and
  - (iii) The proposed type of active recreational use to be located within such areas is allowed or otherwise

permitted by the City's general plan or other plan adopted by the City for parks and recreational facilities.

- f. Notwithstanding the twenty-five percent (25%) limitation as set forth above, a private open space credit in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the requirement of land dedication or fees payment may be granted by the City Council provided that the proposed recreational use is cited in the City's General Plan or other plan adopted by the City for parks and recreational facilities.

### ■ Cathedral City General Plan Standards and Consistency with Quimby Act Requirements

Pursuant to the Quimby Act, the City must have adopted a general or specific plan containing policies and standards for parks and recreation facilities, which are in accordance with definite principles and standards. The Parks and Recreation Element of the City's General Plan (adopted July 31, 2002) states, that "the City will utilize the Quimby Act to provide at least three acres of community and neighborhood parkland per 1,000 population." The General Plan establishes definite planning guidelines for park facilities, which address distribution, size, and service radii for neighborhood and community parks. Ideally, all residents need to be within all three categories of parks. These General Plan guidelines are summarized in Table 5-3.

Table 5-3  
Cathedral City General Plan Standards for Park Areas

Category	Type of Park Area	Acres/1,000 Population	Ideal Site Size/Minimum	Radius of Area Served
I.	Community Parks	5.00	50 ac/20 ac	4.00 miles
II.	Neighborhood Parks	1.00	15+ac/15 ac	0.50 miles
	Playgrounds	1.00	15+ac/15 ac	0.50 miles
	Playfields	1.00	15 ac/15 ac	1.50 miles
III.	Mini Parks	0.25	1 ac/0.5 ac	0.25 miles

The Cathedral City General Plan includes the following policies and programs related to the Quimby Act:

- The City will strive to distribute parks and recreation facilities in a manner that is convenient to City neighborhoods and proportionally balanced within population concentrations.
- City staff shall identify and prioritize park development projects based upon need, land availability, and funding.
- The City will promote the development of parks in all neighborhoods lacking proximity to park facilities.
- Require developers of new residential projects to provide on-site recreational and/or open space facilities to offset the demand for park facilities generated by the projects' residents.
- The City shall consider alternative methods of providing park and recreational amenities to meet future population demands.
- Develop a program by which the City can accept parkland gifts and dedications that would be beneficial to the community.
- Aggressively pursue all funding sources available for parks and trails, including grants, developer contributions, donations, and dedications.

## ■ CATHEDRAL CITY PARKLAND ASSESSMENT

Cathedral City provides seven parks (as shown on Table 3-1 and Map 3-1) spread throughout the city, which constitute 28.55 acres of developed space for recreation use. The standard established by the National Recreation and Park Association for community level parks is 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 residents. The Quimby Act and City General Plan establish a standard of 3 acres per 1,000 residents.

The City does not exceed the 3 acres per 1,000 resident parkland ratio. Therefore, if the City adopts a Quimby Ordinance, the maximum dedication and/or fee allowed under the Quimby Act will be limited to 3 acres per 1,000 residents. Currently, the City provides

28.55 acres of parks to its 53,281 residents. Based on the Quimby Standard of 3-acres of park per 1,000 residents; the City currently requires an additional 131-acres of neighborhood and community parks to serve its current residents.

New residential development will generate additional residents who will increase the demand for community and neighborhood parks and recreation facilities within the City. To meet the increased demand from new development, the City will require an additional 48.95 acres of community and neighborhood parks at an estimated build-out population of 69,500 residents.

As identified in Table 3-3 (Resources), the City has 146.41-acres of land that could be developed as parks in addition to the 28.55 acres of existing parks. Therefore, an additional 33.54 acres of land will need to be acquired and improved to meet the build-out conditions and anticipated future demand for community and neighborhood parks.

Map 5-1 shows the location of all existing parks with the population radius served by the facility. Although all existing City parks do not comply with the ideal site size/minimum requirements as set forth in the City General Plan, it is understood that “ideal size or ideal minimum” cannot always be achieved. The radius served has been adjusted proportionately to the size of the park. Therefore, Cathedral City needs to develop existing city-owned land and purchase new parkland within the parkland deficient areas as shown on Map 5-1.

## ■ PARK FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

The following section compares the existing City parks and recreation facilities to nationally accepted standards described in Table 5-2:

### ■ Golf Courses

Cathedral City as a government entity does not provide a public play golf course. Available within and around Cathedral City are five golf courses: Cimarron Golf Club, Cathedral Canyon Country Club, Desert Princess Country Club, Date Palm Country Club and Outdoor Resorts of America Country Club. Cimarron is public play and the others require a sponsorship. The national standard for golf course provision is one course per 50,000 residents in a twenty to twenty-five mile radius. The community residents have available this resource greater than the national standard.



Map 5-1  
Location of Existing Parks,  
General Plan Distance Requirement  
and Parkland Deficient Areas

## ■ Baseball – Softball Fields

Baseball and softball fields can be used as common sites if the initial design is such that the area meets both sports' varying distance/design criteria. There are six city fields at five different locations. The national standard calls for one field per 5,000 residents. Therefore, Cathedral City does not meet this national space standard. The public schools do add a number of field options as does Big League Dreams Sports Complex. When all providers are considered, then the standard is met.

## ■ Soccer

There are three soccer fields available at three different sites. The national standard for soccer fields is one field per 10,000 residents. Cathedral City is below the national standard. The public schools do provide a few additional fields but this sport resource is still below the national standard.

## ■ Tennis Courts

The national standard for tennis courts is an aggressive and distance close benchmark. The standard calls for one court per 2,000 residents in a ¼ to ½ mile radius. This implies a neighborhood based approach for this provision for which there is not always land available or site maintenance possible. Cathedral City provides six courts at four different sites. This places Cathedral City below the standard for tennis court provision. The public schools do provide some tennis options which are controlled by the school and therefore may or may not be open to the general public.

## ■ Swimming Pool

Cathedral City does not own or operate a public swimming facility. The standard established nationally is one city pool per 20,000 residents able to accommodate 3-5% of the population at one time with a specific per person usage area. The public schools and other appropriate providers also do not offer a public pool option.

## ■ Football Fields

The availability of public use football fields is unusual but the national standards recommend one field per 15,000 residents. The concept is that football fields are generally provided by school districts and meet the needs of the community. The City does not provide a facility but the public school system does. Many communities use open play areas and other sport ball fields to meet the football interest.

## ■ Recreation Center

Cathedral City does provide one indoor recreation complex which is currently scheduled to be removed from the City's inventory. The converted building is currently contracted out to a dance vendor. The national standard calls for ½ square foot per resident. In some communities the public school gymnasiums are accessible as evening community centers where joint use agreements have been met. As a consequence the City does not meet the national standard for recreation center provision.

## ■ Basketball Courts

These resources are usually included at park sites or within an indoor recreation center. Cathedral City provides four outdoor courts and no indoor court options. The national standard calls for 1 court per 5,000 residents. Cathedral City is below the national standard. The public schools and the Boys and Girls Club Center do provide some additional courts but the standard is still not achieved.

## ■ Programs

At this point, Cathedral City does not provide any direct recreation programs. The City does contract with a private dance instructor for co-sponsored dance instruction. The public schools do offer limited school-based programs for youth and the Boys and Girls Club does maintain an array of after school, evening and summer programs for youth. There are a number of parent and volunteer led sports programs that are funded by fees and charges that meet the needs of a certain portion of the population. Also, Big League Dreams Sports Park does host a number of non profit volunteer led programs. Boomers provides recreational outlets and some special events.

## ■ CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are appropriate given comparisons to national, state and local standards, distance radius and population figures:

- The majority of the physical resources provided by Cathedral City do not meet the current national provision benchmarks when population and distance are factored, nor the Quimby Act standard.
- The resources of golf courses and football fields are provided by sources outside the City government and are sufficient to meet national provision standards.
- The resources of softball-baseball fields and basketball courts are partially met when compared to standards. Private vendors and non profits provide important assets to the City.
- The resources of parkland, soccer fields, tennis courts, swimming pools and recreation center space is not current with nationally established space standards.
- City provided recreation programs are minimal in offerings and school, non profit and volunteer led programs are available. The City provision of programs would not meet benchmark status.
- The City needs to adopt and implement the conditions and policies of the Quimby Act (Government Code Section 66477) providing for development of park and recreation facilities through land dedication and/or payment of fees.

# Implementation Plan

6



Described within this section are those recommendations and strategies for consideration by Cathedral City. The rationale for these actions is based on the careful analysis and combined influence of:

- The resources and programs currently provided for residents by Cathedral City and also by other appropriately considered agencies and groups
- The population of the City, its past growth patterns, current description of residents and future projections and estimates of the population
- The perceptions, ideas, values and thoughts of the residents, appointed and elected officials as captured by focus groups, interviews, observation and meetings
- The comparison of the existing resources and programs to both nationally and locally accepted standards for those resources and programs, establishing some balance between national and local benchmark norms

## ■ PARKS

PRIORITY: HIGH	RECOMMENDATION:
PARKLAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT	

Cathedral City provides a limited number of existing parks with associated acreage that does not meet either locally authorized or nationally accepted space standards by population and distance factors. The City has acquired additional land in an effort to secure current and future parkland zones. The population highly values the existing parks and desires additional parkland, calling for specific types of park associated amenities. The funding for the current parks operations and maintenance is a concern with a combination of

general tax funds and benefit assessment zone funds being utilized. The population of Cathedral City is expected to grow in rather significant numbers over the next five to ten year time period.

It is recommended that Cathedral City continue to develop existing City-owned land and purchase new parkland within the parkland deficient areas as shown on Map 5-1, and organize funding for the development and maintenance of existing and additional parkland.

As described in Table 6-1, parkland development will occur in three phases. From 2005 to 2010 it is critical that the City develop the existing 146.41 acres of parkland and also acquire approximately 33.54 acres of new parkland. From 2010 to 2015 it is essential that the City develop the 33.54 acres of new parkland.

Each time the City amends the General Plan or annexes property into the City, the staff report needs to identify the impact on population build-out projections, necessary parkland required to serve the amended plan area and the parkland projection should be revised accordingly. As a part of project approval, the project applicant shall mitigate their impact on the provision of any additional parkland required. Also, as a part of the annual General Plan Status Report, an analysis should be conducted to determine whether or not the parkland inventory needs to be adjusted based upon the existing and projected population.

Table 6-1  
Park Development Phases

Phase	Timeframe	Description
I	2005 to 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the existing 146.41 acres of parkland</li> <li>• Acquire approximately 33.54 acres of new parkland</li> <li>• Annual monitoring conducted to determine whether or not the parkland inventory needs to be adjusted.</li> </ul>
II	2010 to 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the 33.54 acres of new parkland</li> <li>• Annual monitoring conducted to determine whether or not the parkland inventory needs to be adjusted.</li> </ul>

Phase	Timeframe	Description
III	After 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual monitoring conducted to determine whether or not the parkland inventory needs to be adjusted.</li> </ul>

The location and development of park sites within the planning period should be close to other public use locales (as possible) such as schools, non profit organizations, libraries, public corridors and other existing sites with comparable uses. Map 6-1 (Parkland Development Needs) shows the location of schools in relation to existing parks, City owned land (future park resource) and the General Plan distancing requirements with a recommendation on the park functional classification and possible facilities within the park.

The parks near schools should be more regional in nature rather than mini or neighborhood size parks and designed to accommodate a large array of use options such as sports fields, playground areas, amphitheater, spraygrounds, and active and passive pursuits. A partnership for parks programs should be considered.

Amenities that should be considered in the parks identified in Map 6-1 are as follows:

Table 6-2  
Recommended Park Improvements and Facilities

Number on Map 6-1	Recommended Park Facility	
	I. COMMUNITY PARK	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-purpose Fields</li> <li>Tennis</li> <li>Restroom Facilities</li> <li>Tot Lot</li> <li>Basketball Courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jogging/Walking Trail</li> <li>Sprayground</li> <li>Picnic Facilities</li> <li>Parking</li> <li>Lights</li> </ul>
2	Passive Park Facility	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrooms</li> <li>Interpretive Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking Trails</li> <li>Picnic Facilities</li> </ul>
	II. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	
3	Multi-purpose Fields	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrooms</li> <li>Tot Lot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jogging/Walking Trails</li> </ul>

4	Soccer Fields	
	• Restrooms	• Lighting
	• Snack Bar	• Parking
5	Community Center	
	• Dog Park	• Basketball Courts
	• Picnic Area	• Tot Lot
	• Sprayground	• Lighting
	• Multi-purpose Fields	• Parking
6	Multi-purpose Fields	
	• Restrooms	• Picnic Facilities
	• Tot Lot	• Basketball Courts
Amenities that should be considered in the parks identified in Map 6-2 are as follows:		
7	• Swimming Pool	• Skateboard Park
	• Lockers, Showers, Restrooms	• Tot Lot
	• Community Center	• Parking
	• Basketball Courts	• Lighting
8	• Walking Trails	
	• Open Spaces	
9	Address parkland development issues upon General Plan Amendments, Plan of Services and Annexation of Property	
10	• Walking Trails	
	• Open Spaces	

NOTE: Memorial Park was identified as a suitable location for an initial dog park by the Parks and Recreation Commission at a special meeting held on November 8, 2005.



Map 6-1  
Parkland Development Needs  
Location of schools in relation to Proposed Park Functional  
Classification (including possible facilities within the park)

## **Park Improvement Costs**

Costs to improve parkland may include construction and installation costs for park improvements or equipment. The City Finance Department provided park improvement costs for community and neighborhood park facilities and the amount of parkland expected to be developed. The park improvement costs will be dependent upon the facilities and amenities provided for on each park site. The detailed park improvement cost estimates are presented in Appendix "A".

The Quimby Act requires that the City "develop a schedule specifying how, when, and where it will use the land or fees, or both, to develop park or recreational facilities." In-lieu fees cannot be used for maintenance or to provide services, and are to be solely used for the acquisition of parkland according to the park schedule.

The Park Acquisition Map shown in Map 6-2 was prepared to meet this requirement. Map 6-2 shows vacant parcels within park deficient areas meeting the size requirements set forth in Table 5-3 General Plan. The City intends to assemble contiguous vacant land identified in the Park Schedule through land dedications and/or fees paid in-lieu thereof consistent with the adopted policies and requirements of Quimby and AB1600, along with funds from additional sources.

Map 6-2  
Parkland Acquisition Potential Sites

## ■ SWIMMING POOL

<b>PRIORITY: HIGH</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>
DEVELOPMENT OF AN AQUATIC FACILITY	

At this point in time, neither Cathedral City nor other public entities within the City provide either an outdoor or indoor swimming pool facility. The national space standards recommend two pools for a community the size of Cathedral City and as growth continues a third pool option would be justified. The residents spoke of a swimming pool complex as a high priority and the citizens desire to joint venture with community partners to secure joint use, management, upkeep and funding.

Consideration should be given to the creation of a joint use agreement with community partners regarding a new swimming pool venture. The cost, maintenance and management concerns could be shared by a variety of community partners. In order to appeal to all user and potential user groups (recreation, competition, exercise and instruction), multiple design features should be considered.

It is not uncommon with the provision of an outdoor swimming pool to provide a number and variety of unique water features with the pool. Rarely are new pools added to the community profile that are “traditional” rectangular shape in design that do not provide for a variety of interest, skills and venues. Some water features that currently are of interest include: zero depth entry: this allows for a beach type entry/exit to the pool that accommodates young children, the elderly, disabled and beginning swimmers; water fountains: a variety of fountains are available that display water in different patterns, sequences and provide playful fun and variety; slides and boards: fast paced movement and angles interest some swimmers as does the traditional diving board; floating areas: water movement areas that allow the swimmer to float and move about with a flotation device are not uncommon; props: where, for example, the lifeguard stand looks like a castle; spray stations: portable and moveable uprights can be aligned that add not only a cooling effect but fun water play in sprays of water; play structures: themed structures that are fun for play, interesting to see and add a different look and feel to the pool area.

A location close to the existing school sites would be appropriate and the recommended time frame is from 2005-2008. It should be the intent that this complex be large enough to meet all pool needs over the next 10-15 years.

## ■ SPORTS FIELD COMPLEX

<b>PRIORITY: HIGH</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT OF A SPORTS FIELD COMPLEX</b>	

Cathedral City currently provides about half of the number of sports fields (softball/baseball and soccer) as called for by nationally accepted space standards. Residents highly value the existing resources and have sensed the clear need for additional options given limited practice and play areas resulting in limited practice time, game opportunities and youth and adult roster limitations. The youth and teen age population lines as well as the total population are expected to grow substantially over the next 5 and 10 year periods. Joint venturing a complex with the schools, non profits, the Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District and business enterprise could yield the sharing that would make this provision usable by appropriate groups and more equitable in development, construction and maintenance costs.

It is recommended that the City add 10 new soccer fields and 10 new baseball/softball fields to the City’s inventory over the next ten years. From 2005 to 2010 the City should incorporate six fields of each type into the development and planning of the new park sites that should come into public use and availability. From 2010 to 2015 the City should add an additional 4 soccer fields and an additional 4 baseball/softball fields to the land base. The design should be of high quality with lighting, restrooms, concessions and parking areas. It is suggested that the City create joint use operation, maintenance and cost agreements with the school district, parent led clubs and sport associations to support this venture. It seems reasonable to couple the sports field complex idea with one or two of the regional park designs. The City is cautioned that joint use agreements are critical and that clubs, associations and users have a significant impact and value to the care and provision of these sites. A location at the city owned land near Rancho Mirage would be appropriate.

## ■ COMMUNITY CENTER

<b>PRIORITY: HIGH</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>
DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTER(S)	

Cathedral City does not provide a recreation based community center and therefore does not meet national space standards. For a community the size of Cathedral City a center should currently be in the size of approximately 100,000 square feet. The City does have a small facility that is contracted to a dance instruction vendor that will be removed from the City inventory soon. The citizens recognize a need for such a facility and see it as useful as a place to provide high quality after school and summer programs for youth and day and evening programs for adults. Also observed by residents is the need for quality day care options that are instructionally and recreationally based. The population will increase over the next few years with a strong youth and teen age population line.

It is recommended that consideration be given to the design, construction and operation of two community recreation centers, rather than a single site. Each center should be in the area of 50,000 square feet and placed in areas that provide for easy access, public transportation and adjacent to or in conjunction with other parks and recreation ventures such as parks, sport fields or a swimming complex. The first phase development should occur in the 2008 to 2010 time frame and the second phase should come into existence in the 2012 to 2015 time frame. The components of the facility should be viewed for all ages and interest levels but with specific concern for after school, summer youth, and day care provisions. The currently vacant Salvation Army property should be viewed as an appropriate site that could be leased or joint ventured for the community center purpose.

In conjunction with these new indoor sites, additional outside uses could include tennis courts, in-line skating, skateboarding and outdoor basketball. Some consideration should be given to leasing space to non profit organizations who might serve as an appropriate program vendor. A location by the Salvation Army city owned land would be appropriate.

## ■ TENNIS COURTS

<b>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>
TENNIS COURT DEVELOPMENT	

The City currently provides six tennis courts, which is below the national standard for this type of recreational option. The courts are generally in good repair but some attention needs to be given to existing resources. The school district does provide a number of tennis outlets that, on a site specific basis, may be used by the general public. The trend nationally is to centralize tennis courts into groups of 12-14-16-18 rather than single or double placed neighborhood styled courts. Citizen input was limited in expressing need for additional courts.

It is recommended that the currently provided tennis courts be brought into proper use standard of care so that the courts are usable and safe. It is also recommended that the City seek a joint use agreement with the school district to share maintenance and operations costs for tennis court use after school and at non-school times. This recommendation is for the 2005 to 2008 time period. It is also recommended that the City plan, develop and construct a set of tennis courts in the 10-12-14 court range at a site adjacent to or in conjunction with other new parks or recreation center sites. This phase is recommended for the 2010 to 2015 time frame. The bay of courts should be fenced, lighted and secured, with possibly a vendor to provide tennis instruction and competition opportunities. A location by either the James Workman Middle School, the city owned land near Rancho Mirage, or by the Salvation Army city owned land would be appropriate.

## ■ SPRAYGROUNDS

<b>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>
DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY AND SPRAYGROUNDS	

A sprayground is a relatively new, innovative feature at swimming pools and in parks. Built after the concept of playground equipment are water features that spray water from different playground equipment. The results include a fun, cooling and refreshing play experience. There are no space standards for these features but the

citizens of Cathedral City did speak to the desire for these types of experiences. These features should be designed into existing and new play area equipment areas.

The City should continue to evaluate the older playground equipment and surfacing and systematically repair or replace, as necessary, the structures. Discarded equipment should be removed so that they do not serve as an attractive nuisance. All new structures should be inspected for compliance to safety and design standards. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission booklet entitled, “Handbook for Public Playground Safety” and the ASTM document entitled “Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specifications for Playground Equipment for Public Use” should be consulted. From 2005 to 2015, as new play equipment is repaired, installed or considered, the sprayground concept should be considered.

## ■ TRAILS

<b>PRIORITY: MEDIUM</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>
ESTABLISH A TRAIL STUDY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE	

The citizens expressed some interest in the provision of a City wide walking, biking and jogging trail system. There are no specific standards for the number of trails per population or per community size, however there are specific design standards when trails are planned (see [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org))

Cathedral City should create a Trails Study and Planning Committee consisting of representatives that are interested in and have some knowledge of walking, jogging, and bicycling trail systems. The purpose of the committee would be to:

- Serve as the primary committee to receive communication about trails, dialogue, study and prioritize possible trail systems
- Review draft trail plans that work to interconnect local elements into a larger system
- Make recommendations regarding localized, as well as a larger trail system that interconnects recreation, transportation and scenic elements



- Seek implementation of a trail system plan at both local and larger levels

The community should organize work actions that take place in the 2010 to 2015 time period.

## ■ GOLF COURSES

<b>PRIORITY: LOW</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>
<b>GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT</b>	

Cathedral City does not provide a public play golf course; however, there are several public play and public/private play golf courses in and around the City proper. The national standard would call for a City provided course but given the availability of existing courses, cost and lack of land base the City standard is met. Citizens did not speak to the need for this type of parks and recreation feature.

It is recommended that Cathedral City not consider the development of a City owned and managed public play golf course. There are sufficient public play options within the national standard established service zone. It is recommended that to the extent possible, instruction programs be provided that are low cost and high quality that youth and adults may learn how to play the game. It may be necessary for the City to co-sponsor golf clinics and instruction programs with existing public play courses.

## ■ OPEN SPACE

<b>PRIORITY: LOW</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>
<b>OPEN SPACE PLANNING</b>	

There are no nationally established standards for open space, but visionary planning does suggest the preservation of areas that are left in natural states used for low level impact passive uses. The City has purchased land in the Cove area that may serve this purpose.

Cathedral City should create a City Wide Open Space Study and Planning Committee. The purpose of this group would be to seek and

receive ideas, plans and studies regarding the creation of a City Wide Open Space Plan. Members of this committee should be a combination of both citizens and technical experts interested in open space.

## ■ PROGRAMS

Recreation and park resources require extensive planning with long range strategies to assure that a significant investment is warranted. Programs, on the other hand, are fluid, ever-changing and specific to the community, current interests, weather patterns and playing seasons of the year. As a consequence, recreation programs considered for the future should be driven more by general policy statements than specific recommendations. There are several program policies that are appropriate:

- The City should be the primary clearinghouse of public provided recreation programs. Several vendors provide programs and it is not necessary for the City to duplicate or compete with these options. However, it is recommended that the City take leadership in assuring that public access, sensitivity to economics, age, skill, public safety, and the monitoring of a full range of balanced and varied programming is provided.
- The City should join with all other providers and enter into joint agreements to provide clearinghouse information through combined newspaper advertisement supplements. The City should serve as a common entity for calendaring of events, schedules and locations to avoid conflict
- The City should sponsor the training of officials, referees, club and association leadership and function as an assisting administrative arm for these providers, bringing together the common needs and providing solutions.
- The City should consider the facilitator or broker role and not the direct program leader role when providing recreation programs. Joint agreements should be designed that support the program provision for City residents without creating competition with already existing appropriate clubs and organizations.

- The City should provide leadership in the hosting of a yearly summit that brings together the City, the County, the school district, private vendors and the not-for-profit associations and clubs to discuss and design a connected effort of both program provision and site management. It is clear that all groups want to work together for the common good of the community. Specific plans to join forces rather than have unintended duplication and competition can be achieved.

The City should investigate the possibility of contracting with the Coachella Valley Recreation and Park District (CVRPD) as the City’s primary parks and recreation program services vendor. The District currently has trained professional staff that provide youth, teen, adult and senior citizen programs at both CVRPD sites and locations that are provided by other groups. The District has experience in joint venturing with communities in need.

## ■ TIME FRAME

It is recommended that Cathedral City consider four actions that are deemed high priority (parks, aquatic facility, sports fields, community center), three strategies that are considered medium priority (tennis courts, spraygrounds, trails) and two items that are low priority (open space, golf course). Parks Phasing refers to the phasing schedule identified in Table 6-1. The following is the suggested implementation time frame for these recommendations:

Recommendations	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Parks											
Phase 1	●	-----				●					
Phase 2						●	-----				●
Phase 3											● ⇨
Aquatic Facility	●	-----	●								
Sports Fields	●	-----				●					
Community Center				●	-----	●		●	-----		●
Tennis Courts											
Phase 1	●	-----	●								
Phase 2						●	-----				●
Spraygrounds	●	-----									●
Trails						●	-----				●
Open Space						●	-----				●
Golf Course	No action										

# Funding Options

## 7



Besides existing fiscal resources that may be available to assist in the provision of these recommendations, additional funding models are available. Cathedral City is anticipating a multiyear budget concern and general fund dollars will have limited availability over this time period. The following is an overview of some possible funding options that may be aligned with the priorities.

### ➤ **Reverse Annuity Purchase**

- Property owners interested in releasing their land holdings to the community for parks, recreation and public use may join forces with the City and enter into a reverse annuity purchase. The community purchases the property by paying installments to the seller throughout the seller's lifetime. Upon the seller's death, the community agency receives the title to the property. The seller is provided income and significant tax reduction and the community is able to preserve for future use key land sites.

### ➤ **Historic Preservation Grants-in-Aid**

- This program provides federal funds channeled through the National Park Service to the State Department of Parks and Recreation. Up to 50% of eligible costs are matched for acquisition, rehabilitation and preservation of sites that are currently listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places or are eligible for such inclusion.

### ➤ **General Fund Appropriation**

- One of the most frequently used methods of obtaining money for the annual operating budget is to receive an appropriation from the general fund of the overall governmental unit. The money from the general tax fund is usually levied on the taxable property of the taxing district. The general fund appropriation is the most common funding source; however, at this time the

Cathedral City general fund has no excess operating revenues to support park development or programs.

➤ **Special Tax Levy**

- The Special Tax levy is a special tax earmarked for parks and recreation and is spent only for the specified earmarked source. A special tax levy alleviates pressure from the general fund and eliminates competition for special projects with other community agencies. As an example, Texas has a cigarette tax of \$.01 per pack and generates a multi-million dollar amount for local parks, recreation and open space projects. In California, Proposition 4 sets maximum limits for special tax levies and also requires a 2/3 majority voter approval.

➤ **Special Assessment**

- Similar to special assessments used to finance improvements for streets, curbs, sidewalks, sewers, and other such project improvements or additions, a parks and recreation assessment to specific community areas could be approached in a special assessment basis. In Maryland, there exists a tax on transfer of real estate that provides funds for open space acquisition. This .05% tax generates multi-million dollar funding, which assists in paying off parks and recreation bonds. There are also special assessment districts for specific parks and recreation resources. In California, Proposition 218 sets special election requirements related to any special assessments.

➤ **Zoning and Subdivision Fees**

- Special assessment fees could be placed in specified zoned areas, where extensive subdivision is occurring to pay for needed parks and recreation resources for that area. The subdivision fee is paid by the developer to insure public construction of the needed resources. Various city ordinances in California allow a \$3000 per building permit fee on all new housing construction, which is earmarked for park development and recreation program provision for that subdivision area of the community. The amount of total dollars generated is

dependent upon building growth but stays proportionate to growth.

➤ **Fees and Charges**

- Pay as you play is a vital and acceptable method of funding parks and recreation resources, programs, and facilities. The assessment is placed upon the user to help defray the overall cost of the provision. Only realistic fees and charges can be established and must reflect the ability of the user to pay for those provisions. Several approaches from entry fees, fishing and hunting license fees, and registration charges to Indiana's approach of registration fees on recreation equipment are examples of this method.

➤ **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

- Established in 1965, the LWCF's purpose is to provide federal funds for the purpose of financing the current outdoor recreation needs of the American public. The two primary purposes of the LWCF are to provide funds for existing federal managing agencies and to provide grant-in-aid funds to states to be passed on to local units of government. These funds must be dispersed on a 50/50 match basis with the local unit. Contact the State Parks and Recreation Agency or the Regional National Park Service office.

➤ **Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program**

- This program is on its last phase of provision but its primary purpose is to provide rehabilitation grants, innovation grants, and recovery action program grants. The federal funds processed through the National Park Service are to provide for rebuilding and remodeling, as well as personnel, equipment and supplies, and also for community assessment and planning.

➤ **Community Development Block Grant**

- The Open Space Program of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is important to parks and recreation provisions. The primary purpose of the CDBG program is to use federal funds to assist local government in dealing with the problems of urban blight and to benefit low and moderate income groups. These

funds cannot be used for maintenance of parks and recreation facilities but can be utilized for acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities.

➤ **Corporate Giving**

- Corporations may choose to sponsor various parks and recreation programs, as well as provide major funding for new projects. As an example, the “Adopt-a-Park” program, wherein a corporate group agrees to pay the operation and maintenance costs of a park for a specific period of time as a contribution to the local community. An additional approach is the “5% Program”, which is based on the IRS rule allowing a 5% write-off for corporate gifts to community service agencies.

➤ **Private Foundation Grants**

- Private foundations and other philanthropic organizations are excellent sources of financing local programs. A specific example is the Hershey Track and Field Program or the Wells Fargo Fitness Trail Program. The Mott foundation provides funds for community school education efforts, as well as other foundations providing funds for special efforts. The state of Indiana has the National Heritage Protection Fund with the purpose of providing money for land acquisition for future nature preserves. Several examples are given in this report. Other examples include:

✓ **The Tony Hawk Foundation**

This foundation supports the conceptualization, development, construction and access to skate park projects. The foundation’s specific interest is to support projects in under-served communities that plan free, accessible and permanent parks. It also provides technical assistance on design, promotion and training. Visit [www.tonyhawkfoundation.org](http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org).

✓ **Baseball Tomorrow Fund**

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. The mission of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund is to promote and enhance the growth of

baseball in the United States, Canada and throughout the world by funding programs, fields and equipment purchases to encourage and maintain youth participation in the game. Grants from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund are designed to be sufficiently flexible to enable applicants to address needs unique to their communities. The funds may be used to finance new programs, expand or improve existing programs, undertake a new collaborative effort, or obtain facilities or equipment necessary for youth baseball or softball programs. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund is intended to provide funding for incremental programming and facilities for youth baseball and not as a substitute for existing funding or fundraising activities or to provide routine or recurring operating costs or funding for construction or maintenance of buildings. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund supports equal opportunity in its grant making. The opportunities that prospective grantee organizations provide for minorities and women are considered in evaluating proposals. Visit the Baseball Tomorrow Fund website at [www.baseballtomorrowfund.com](http://www.baseballtomorrowfund.com).

✓ **Finish Line Youth Foundation**

Youth athletics and wellness programs are the focus of the Finish Line Youth Foundation. The Foundation provides funding to organizations in the communities in which company stores are located. Finish Line operates over 410 stores in 41 states. To find out if the community qualifies, go to [www.finishline.com](http://www.finishline.com) and choose Store Locator.

✓ **Foundation Center Bulletin: Athletics & Sports**  
[http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_athletics.jhtml](http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_athletics.jhtml)

The RFP (Request for Proposals) Bulletin is published weekly by the Foundation Center. Each RFP listing provides a brief overview of a current funding opportunity offered by a foundation or other grantmaking organization. Interested applicants may read the full RFP at the grantmaker's Web site or contact the grantmaker directly for complete program guidelines and eligibility requirements before submitting a proposal to that grantmaker.



✓ **Hasbro Children's Foundation**

<http://www.hasbro.org>

The mission of the Foundation is to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged children through age 12 by supporting innovative, model, direct-service programs in the areas of health education and social services. The Foundation also funds universally accessible play spaces. Most often, local grants for model community programs range from \$500 to \$35,000. For multi-site expansions, awards are from \$35,000 and up, granted over a period of one to three years. Priority is given to economically disadvantaged areas for playground refurbishment and/or new construction. For more information, contact Hasbro Children's Foundation, 32 W.23<sup>rd</sup> St., New York, NY 10010.

✓ **NRA Foundation**

<http://www.nrafoundation.org>

The NRA Foundation National and State Fund grants are focused on the following general categories: Youth Programs, Ranger Improvement and Development, Public Safety, Education and Training, Wildlife and Natural Resource Conservation and Constitutional Research and Education.

✓ **Tiger Woods Foundation**

<http://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.com>

Founded in 1996 by Earl and Tiger Woods, the Tiger Woods Foundation empowers young people to reach their highest potential by initiating and supporting community-based programs that promote the health, education and welfare of all of America's children. Through junior golf clinics, educational programs and benevolent giving, the Foundation has interacted with over 85,000 children across America.

✓ **Potential Resources For Playground Safety Funding**

<http://www.uni.edu/playground/resources/funding.html>

This website, sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa National Program for Playground Safety, identifies funders who may assist in providing safer playground equipment for schools and other public facilities.

✓ **United States Handball Association**

[http://ushandball.org/html/dev\\_grant.html](http://ushandball.org/html/dev_grant.html)

Funding for youth handball projects is available through the United States Handball Association. Any person or group interested in starting a handball program for youngsters may submit a proposal. Programs may be organized within school instruction, after-school programs, or community or club/Y programs. For more information, contact [handball@ushandball.org](mailto:handball@ushandball.org).

✓ **United States Soccer Federation Foundation**

<http://ussoccerfoundation.org>

The United States Soccer Federation Foundation, Inc., has established a new web site to distribute grant application information nationally and provide the latest foundation news, including grant recipient profiles, annual reports, and director and officer profiles. Grant applications, instructions and guidelines are available on the web site.

✓ **Women's Sports Foundation Funding Opportunities**

<http://womenssportsfoundation.org/cgi-bin/iowa/funding/index.html>

Grant programs provide girls and women with educational materials and scholarships, research on issues related to women in sports, leadership development and also opportunities to participate in sports and fitness.

➤ **Parks and Recreation Foundation**

- A Parks and Recreation Foundation provides a vehicle for receiving gifts and endowments from individuals and organizations, which are interested in assisting the parks and recreation agency. A foundation established with the interest of improving the overall community can attract donations from citizens, businesses, and other foundations.

➤ **Citizen and Neighborhood Funding Groups**

- Local neighborhoods in which a sensitive parks and recreation need exists can be organized and developed to help meet that need which might be financial in nature. Fund-raising events, as well as donations to be utilized to

meet the local neighborhood Parks and Recreation can be established. Neighborhood groups living adjacent to city parks have raised funds for the construction of desired equipment or services for that park, such as tennis courts or play apparatus that could not be funded otherwise.

➤ **New Membership Program**

- Individuals or organizations join the Parks and Recreation Department program through the purchase of a membership. The membership provides special benefits to the member, such as entry into facilities, free park reservations, invitations to special events, and calendar of upcoming events. A recent national survey indicates that approximately one-fourth of the cities in the U.S. have some sort of Parks and Recreation Membership Program, usually associated with the provision of recreation centers.

➤ **Gift Catalog**

- A gift catalog is an attractive brochure that lists a wide variety of needed equipment, facilities, and programs that might be sponsored by individuals and organizations in the community. For each item listed, a price tag is attached, so that a potential donor may choose from the extensive shopping list. In Arizona, an individual, family, service group, or business may select a tree, park bench, sport tournament, or equipment from a gift catalog and then purchase that item and donate it back to the government entity. For many companies, it has become a fun employee experience searching for just the right community gift.

➤ **General Obligation Bond**

- Bonding is the process of a government entity borrowing money to make major improvements and then paying back the borrowed money over a period of years. A tax is levied on all taxpayers, on their taxable property, using the taxable property of the governmental body as security for the repayment of the debt. The obligation is spread over all community residents through an increased tax for the period of time that the bond repayment is in effect.

General obligation bonds are voted for by registered voters at a special or general election and are a common method of funding major acquisition and development projects.

➤ **Revenue of Enterprise Bond**

- A revenue bond is an obligation of the borrowing agency to repay the principal and interest to the investor for the financing of a revenue-producing enterprise or facility. Revenues to repay the bond issue must come solely from the revenue of the enterprise. What factors make a specific project profitable and hence, eligible for non-voter-approved revenue bonds, is very specific to the dynamics of the community. Projects that are commonly successful are golf courses.

➤ **The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act**

- The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), passed in the fall of 1991, authorizes a broad spectrum of conservation, environment, planning, transportation, and energy investments, which could aid recreation. Section 133, the Surface Transportation Program, addresses these “enhancements”, which include: pedestrian and bicycle facilities; acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites; historic highway programs; landscaping and beautification; historic preservation; rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation structures or facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including their conversion and use for pedestrian or bicycle trails); control and removal of outdoor advertising; archaeological planning and research; and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff.

➤ **Park Dedication Ordinance**

- Some communities, such as City of College Station, Texas, have established city ordinances that create guidelines that allow the city to identify and acquire land for the health, safety and general welfare of the public. The land may be nuisance land that can at the same time eliminate a hazard and provide a reasonable recreation outlet.

➤ **Venue Taxes**

- This is a concept where, through state legislation, a city may build a sports, recreation and community venue, and levy certain taxes and issue bonds to finance the venue. Venues have traditionally been arenas, stadiums or coliseums that are used for larger scale events. Grand Prairie, Texas has used the “Brimer Bill” for such ventures.

➤ **Public Improvement Districts**

- A public improvement district is a mechanism for providing services above and beyond the normal services in locations where business or citizens are willing to pay additional property taxes for those services. The City of Amarillo, Texas is a good example of the use of multiple PID’s in various areas of the City in which greenways, boulevards, residential and commercial districts received special services.

➤ **Tax Increment Financing**

- This is a financing tool that allows local governments to use public finances to make improvements to structures and infrastructure within a defined geographic area. A tax increment financing district is created by the city and the cost of improvements is repaid by the contribution of future tax revenues levied against the property in the district. Chapter 311 of the Texas Tax Code provides an example of how to accomplish this method of funding.

➤ **American Hiking Society National Trails Fund**

- American Hiking is a recreation-based conservation organization that promotes and protects foot trails and the hiking experience. With thousands of individual members and over 150 member organizations, American Hiking represents more than half a million outdoors people and serves as the voice for America’s hikers. American Hiking Society, in partnership with Cascade Designs, supports the National Trails Fund, which provides financial support to hiking groups, land trusts and other non profits to establish, protect and maintain wilderness foot trails. For more information on the National Trails Fund, or

American Hiking Society's trail conservation programs, visit [www.AmericanHiking.org](http://www.AmericanHiking.org).

➤ **Tire-Derived Product (TDP) Grant Program**

- The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) is offering the Tire-Derived Product (TDP) Grant Program to promote markets for recycled-content products derived from waste tires generated in California. \$1,792,818 is available for fiscal year 2005-06, with up to \$100,000 per qualifying public entity. If more grant funds are requested than available, a random selection process will be conducted. Visit the following website for more information:
- <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Tires/Grants/Product/default.htm>

## ■ FUNDING SOURCES

The following table may prove helpful to determine which funding source seems most appropriate for each of the recommended implementation plans:

<b>Funding Sources</b>  ● = Primary Source ► = Secondary Source	Implementation Plan									
	High				Medium			Low		
	Parks	Aquatics Facility	Sports Field	Community Center	Tennis Courts	Spraygrounds	Trails	Open Space	Golf Course	Programs
Reverse Annuity	►		►	►	►		►	►		
Historic Preservation							►	►		
General Fund *	►	►	►	►	►	►	►	►		►
Special Tax Levy	►	►	►	►	►		►	►		
Special Assessment		►	►	►	►		►	►		
Zoning / Subdivision Fee	●			►	►	►				
Fees and Charges		●	●	►	●					●
Land and Water Fund	●	►	●		●	●	●	●		
Urban Recovery Program		►	●	►	►					
Community Development	►	►	►	►	►	●				►
Corporate Giving		●	●	►	►	►	►	►		●
Private Foundation	►	►	►	►	►	►				●
Parks&Rec Foundation	►	►	►	►	►	►	►	►		●
Citizen Funding Groups		●	►	►	●	●	►	►		●
New Membership		►		●	●					●
Gift Catalog	►	►		►	●	●				►
General Obligation Bond	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Revenue Bond		●	►	●	●					
Intermodal Act	●						●	●		
TDP Grant	►		●		●					

\* Currently, the Cathedral City General Fund is not available for funding

# Appendix A Land Improvement Costs

