

# CITY OF LONG BEACH

# R-20

LONG BEACH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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February 19, 2008

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Review and approve the 2007 Annual Open Space and Recreation Element Report.

## DISCUSSION

On October 15, 2002, the City Council adopted the new Open Space and Recreation Element (OSRE) of the City's General Plan. This plan stipulates that the Development Services Department, in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department, provide an annual report to the Planning Commission and City Council on each of the implementation programs contained in the OSRE. The Planning Commission heard and unanimously approved the attached report on January 17, 2008.

Highlights of this past year's accomplishments include: acquisition of 66 acres for Los Cerritos Wetlands restoration; adoption of the RiverLink greenway master plan for the Los Angeles River; creation of a greenway plan for the San Gabriel River; completion of a wetlands restoration study for Colorado Lagoon; completion of Jack Nichol Park; acquisition of 9.5 acres for new and expanded parks; and, revised Park Impact Fees indexing fees to rising construction costs for park development.

This report was reviewed by Assistant City Attorney Michael Mais on February 6, 2008, and by Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on February 4, 2008.

## TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

None.

## FISCAL IMPACT

None.

## SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



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CRAIG BECK  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



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PHIL HESTER  
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

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Attachment: 2007 Annual Open Space and Recreation Element Report

APPROVED:



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PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

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PLANNING BUREAU/COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING DIVISION

January 17, 2008

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS  
City of Long Beach  
California

SUBJECT: Annual Report on General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element

LOCATION: Citywide

SUBMITTED BY: Craig Beck, Director of Planning and Building

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Planning Commission approve the report and instruct staff to forward it to the City Council for their review.

## **BACKGROUND**

On October 15, 2002, the City Council adopted, by Resolution No. C-28096, the Open Space and Recreation Element of the City's General Plan. Program 4.14 of this Element stipulates that the Planning and Building Department, in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation & Marine (PR&M) Department and the City Attorney, are to provide an annual report to the Planning Commission and City Council on each of the implementation programs in the Element.

## **PROGRAMS AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

Listed in the report are each of the programs outlined in the Open Space and Recreation Element and the implementation measures taken this past year.

## **PUBLIC HEARING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**


Public hearings and environmental review are not needed for this report.

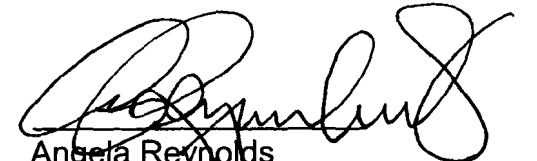
## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Planning Commission approve this report and instruct staff to forward it to the City Council for their review.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAIG BECK  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

BY:   
Patricia Garrow  
Planner

APPROVED:   
Angela Reynolds  
Comprehensive Planning Manager

ATTACHMENT

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LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA  
**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT**  
**2007 ANNUAL REPORT**



Prepared by:

Long Beach Planning and Building Department  
Comprehensive Planning Division  
333 East Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802

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## A. Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources

### 1.1 *Ensure compliance with all federal and State laws that protect rare, threatened and endangered species*

The City and Port environmental planning divisions continue to comply with all environmental laws and procedures under both federal and State regulations.

### 1.2 *Plan for and make improvements to the El Dorado Nature Center and the DeForest Park Nature Area including native plant community habitats*

During 2005, the PR&M Department completed the feasibility study of using dry season runoff in the San Gabriel River and/or Coyote Creek to connect the six lakes in El Dorado Regional Park and Nature Center as a naturally flowing stream. This was found to be impractical due to elevation differences and an alternate approach of using excess reclaimed water and improving the water quality through nano-filtration was developed. During the last two years the PR&M Department has sought funding to implement this alternative, but has not yet been successful.

Capture of storm and dry season run-off water from the commercial Town Center and the I-605 San Gabriel River Freeway (adjacent to El Dorado Park) were also included in the feasibility study, with a treatment wetland along the San Gabriel River's edge of the park to clean the water before the discharge, and to create additional wetlands. The existing overflow drainage between the lakes would also be restored as natural riparian habitat along a streambed. The wetland would also expand the Nature Center south of Willow Street. Funding for this study was received from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. However, funding was also sought to implement this portion of the plan, without success.

Implementation of the El Dorado Park Nature Center Master Plan (NCMP) is underway with the restoration of the stream between the two Nature Center lakes. Construction design for the stream restoration is complete, but regulatory permits were not issued in time for construction in the fall of 2007, requiring construction to be delayed until the fall of 2008.

Wetland restorations at DeForest Park Detention Basin and Dominguez Gap Retention Basin are progressing. The Environmental Impact Report for the joint projects has been certified and the construction of Dominguez Gap(except for the plantings) has been completed. Construction design funding has been obtained for DeForest and the design is approximately 30 percent complete. The project lead is being transferred from Los Angeles County Public Works Department to the City's Parks, Recreation and Marine Department. Funding has been approved from the Los Angeles County Parks and Open Space District for phase 1 of the construction.

### 1.3 *Work to acquire and restore the Los Cerritos Wetlands*

In 2006, the Los Angeles Wetlands Authority was formed with Los Angeles County, Seal Beach, the Rivers and Mountains Authority, and the City of Long Beach. This year, negotiations were successfully concluded and 66 acres have been purchased from the Bryant family for wetlands restoration. This year work began on a restoration plan and negotiations are nearly completed on the acquisition of the 100 acre Hellman Ranch Wetlands in Seal Beach.

*1.4 Work to acquire and restore lands along the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers for wetland habitats and greenways*

The PR&M Department completed a greenway master plan for the eastern bank of the Los Angeles River called RiverLink. The plan identifies open space opportunities along the river, proposes uses for those open spaces and develops linkages from the river to the neighborhoods in the western portion of the City. Four wetland opportunity areas are identified in RiverLink. The City Council received the plan in February 2007, and referred it to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the General Plan revision - Long Beach 2030.

The PR&M Department has acquired five sites of 19 acres that were identified in RiverLink. An additional 0.78 acre site is in the process of being acquired.

The response to program 1.2 (above) indicates activities along the San Gabriel River. One additional action along the San Gabriel River is the creation of a greenway along the west bank of the river, including a bicycle trail and habitat restoration in the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power easement. A Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant of \$626,000 was obtained in 2006 for trail and habitat restoration, and an Metro grant of \$850,000 was obtained in 2007 for a bicycle bridge over the San Gabriel River (budget for fiscal year 2009). A final conceptual design for the trail and habitat restoration was developed with community input, and construction design is underway for a phased implementation of the trail and planting.

*1.5 Continue to study, develop plans, and implement programs to protect and improve local beaches, waters, wetlands, and coastal bluffs and update the General Plan related to these issues.*

The PR&M Department has been working on bluff erosion issues cited in the Local Coastal Program since 1999. In 1999, staff began working with a consultant on a plan to reduce bluff erosion. A series of community meetings resulted in the Parks & Recreation and Marine Advisory Commissions approving a new "Design for Development Plan" in November of 2001. The plan identified a priority list of areas to address. Three top tier projects (located at 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Place), have received Building Permit and Local Coastal Development Permit (LCDP) approval. A fourth project, the re-contouring of the bluff below Bixby Park with an amphitheater and skate park has received California Coastal Commission approval, and is completing the construction design phase. The 12<sup>th</sup> Place project began construction in the fall of 2007 and the Bixby Park project will begin construction in the spring of 2008.

A committee of the Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) developed a beach master plan in the late 1990 to attract more users to the City's beaches. A consultant is being hired to develop a comprehensive plan of all capital improvement projects suggested for the beaches.

Other activities regarding wetlands and the rivers are discussed above.

1.6 *Restore Colorado Lagoon to serve as both a productive wetland habitat and recreational resource by reducing pollutant discharges into the water, increasing water circulation with Alamitos Bay and/or restocking or planting appropriate biological species.*

A wetland restoration feasibility study for Colorado Lagoon was completed under a grant from the Coastal Conservancy. The Department of Public Works, acting as lead, completed the Feasibility Study last year. The PR&M Department assumed leadership of the project in May of 2007, and contracted with the Community Development Department for day-to-day project management. Working with the community organization, the Friends of Colorado Lagoon, the City has commenced California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review on the recommended improvements. To date, the City has successfully acquired \$5.8 million in funds for the CEQA compliance, water quality monitoring and pre-design work. Funds were received from the State Water Resources Board, Rivers & Mountains Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy and the Port of Long Beach. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has committed \$900,000 in funds for dredging a portion of the Lagoon and recontouring the side slopes to enhance native habitat planting zones. In another partnership with the Friends Colorado Lagoon and the LB Aquarium of the Pacific, in the spring of 2006, a former snack bar building was converted into a Marine Science Learning Center and continues to operate successfully.

1.7 *Clean up contaminated sites and brownfields*

The Community Development (CD) Department is involved in a number of clean up efforts; each is outlined in the paragraphs that follow.

The CD Department is participating in re-use efforts to convert a former oil field south of Spring Street between Orange and California Avenues to a 56 acre sports park complex designed to include: 6 softball fields, 3 soccer fields, a skateboard park, volleyball courts and an 11-acre open space area that will include native habitat and a reconstructed wetland. The Sports Park Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been certified and construction design documents are now 35 percent complete. Agreements are now in place for an operator of the sports park once the construction is complete.

The Community Development and Parks, Recreation and Marine Departments have been working for a number of years to convert a former municipal landfill at 2910 55<sup>th</sup> Way into a new community asset. Improvements have been completed and Davenport Park is now open to the public. In addition, the Community Development



Department has recently acquired five acres along the frontage along Davenport Park for additional public improvements. This site is also a former landfill. The Post-Closure Land Use Plan for this acreage is now in the planning stage.

In the Wrigley Heights area, CD Department staff have acquired two sites and are in active discussions to acquire a third site for a total of 23 acres slated for conversion from oil operations to open space. However, due to environmental issues and the dynamics of the current real estate market, the parties have been unable to reach an agreement as of yet on the acquisition of the third, 20-acre, site.

The CD Department has foreclosed on a site at 1152 Hill Street with a history of automotive-related uses and will seek Brownfields funding to conduct an environmental assessment leading to conversion of the site to open space. This site is now cleared of improvements and has been fenced and secured. Funding sources for the environmental assessment are still being pursued.

The CD Department is has acquired a Brownfields site along Atlantic Avenue which was formerly used as a gas station. CD Department staff and consultants have conducted a number of assessments under purview of regulatory agencies, ultimately leading to an approved clean up plan and provision of environmental indemnity for future developers. Soils on the site have been remediated to the satisfaction of the Health and Human Services Department. The CD Department is now working with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to further characterize and monitor groundwater contamination beneath the site. It is anticipated that development of the site will continue while the characterization and monitoring of the groundwater continues. All adjoining properties have been acquired in support of the housing concept planned for this area.

The CD Department is working with an owner of another property containing environmentally sensitive uses. Under the Polanco Act CD staff have successfully accessed and characterized the property, resolving incorrect perceptions of environmental hazards on the site. The CD Department has now acquired the property and the environmental issues have been adequately characterized. An underground storage tank in the public right-of-way was removed and no further contamination was identified. The development of this property for residential uses is ongoing.

Finally, the CD Department is working with various regulatory agencies to adequately characterize and appropriately close a number of environmentally impacted Westside properties. These include 243 Chestnut Avenue (recently closed with a No Further Action Letter issued by the Regional Board) slated for housing infill; and, 1669 Anaheim (which being further characterized is likely to need quarterly monitoring), and a parcel at Anaheim and Hayes, both of which are planned for redevelopment with industrial uses.

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## **B. Open Space for the Managed Production of Resources**

### *2.1 Inventory and maintain the existing amount of public open space devoted to community gardens*

Six community gardens exist, the most recent completed in 2006 at Grace Park. Three are in dedicated parks at El Dorado and Hudson and Grace. Another is located on the Southern California Edison (SCE) Transmission Right-of-Way in north Long Beach (whereon the City is negotiating with SCE to make it a permanent feature of the site). Another garden is located on 6th Street and Pacific Avenue in the Downtown Redevelopment Project Area. This site is owned by the Redevelopment Agency and leased to Long Beach Organic to establish the garden, considered an interim use.

Finally, a sixth community garden is found on the former Pacific Electric Railroad Right-of-Way at Tenth Street and Loma Avenue. This garden is also considered an interim use, as it will eventually be removed for the future installation of improved storm drainage in east Long Beach to be constructed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. Storm drain construction is now scheduled for the spring of 2008. The site is City-owned and is administered by the PR&M Department, but has not been dedicated due to the pending storm drain construction.

### *2.2 Work with non-profit groups (such as Long Beach Organic) to examine the feasibility of expanding open space for community gardens*

Both the CD Department and the PR&M Department continue to work with Long Beach Organic as opportunities arise. The community garden at Tenth Street and Loma Avenue was completed as a cooperative program between the PR&M Department and Long Beach Organic, and, Long Beach Organic will manage the community garden at Grace Park.

### *2.3 Preserve and protect water resources available to the City of Long Beach; use porous surfaces and expand recharge capabilities where appropriate and feasible*

Several departments have made progress in implementing measures for program 2.3, they are listed below.

The Water Department continues to preserve and protect groundwater resources through its leadership in regional groundwater management venues, and through sustained preventive and predictive well maintenance programs. The Water Department has been a regional leader in creating conjunctive use opportunities: using water wells to inject extra wet year water into the groundwater basin for use in dry years. The Water Department continues to protect available drinking water supplies by minimizing the demand for those supplies as follows: providing highly reliable recycled water for large landscape irrigation and industrial use, and sustained promotion of water conservation centered on rebate and education programs. Long Beach now has one of the lowest per capita water uses in Southern California. With

an imminent water supply shortage looming over Southern California, including Long Beach, the Water Department took additional measures to encourage water conservation such as prohibiting certain uses of water such as hosing down sidewalks, and through an extraordinarily high level of communication with its customers. Finally, the Water Department is laying the groundwork to further preserve drinking water supplies through its research into cost-effective and environmentally responsible seawater desalination, creating the federal government's premier seawater desalination research project.

The PR&M Department worked with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Watershed Council on a study to monitor the percolation of urban runoff through a cistern and well now being drilled in Veterans Park. Water quality was monitored to determine if recharging the parking lot runoff poses a danger to polluting groundwater supplies. The results were that contaminants did not reach groundwater.

The PR&M Department is using more water conserving plants in new park development projects. The PR&M Department has not yet used porous concrete surfaces, but will seek to utilize the technique in future park developments. Water conservation through expanded use of reclaimed water in parks and more efficient irrigation systems are a priority of the Department, however, constrained capital budgets for infrastructure improvements have limited the accomplishments in 2007 to converting Bluff Park and a portion of Bixby Park to reclaimed water.

*2.4 Manage oil and natural gas operations throughout the City to protect the environment, extend the life of the resources and benefit the public*

The Departments of Energy and Oil Operations report that they continue to operate with these missions in mind.

*2.5 Develop new and enhance existing marine life habitats in Long Beach*

See responses 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 above.

**C. Open Space for Public Health and Safety**

*3.1 Identify the need for and maintain open space buffers to protect lives and property from natural and man made disasters*

The PR&M Department is responsible for two potentially hazardous areas in the City, the coastal beaches and bluffs subject to erosion. The bluff erosion program is noted above in Program 1.5. Top priority projects, including bluff top street end improvements other than 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Places, and the slopes below Bixby Park have been designed and will be under construction in the first quarter of 2008.

With regard to beach erosion, the PR&M Department has been working with the Public Works Department in developing a successful beach nourishment program.

The PR&M Department is continually trying to improve that program and has engaged the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to do a major study of the feasibility of several approaches to reducing beach erosion. The Corps is about three-quarters of the way into a two-year study.

In another approach, a project to install sand bag groins to test if soft groins will be cost in reducing the rate of beach erosion was built in 2003 and has been evaluated as a success, despite a less than desirable life for the bags. A second phase is planned after the Corps feasibility study is concluded.

### 3.2 *Continually monitor areas that are physically hazardous*

The City's Fire, Health and Human Services, Airport, Harbor, Planning and Building and PR&M Department's continue to monitor hazardous conditions and maintain open space buffers to protect lives and property from natural and man made disasters

The PR&M Department is responsible for two areas that are potentially hazardous. These are the coastal areas subject to bluff and beach erosion. The bluff erosion program has already been mentioned. Top priority projects, including bluff top street ends other than 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Place, and the slopes below Bixby Park have been designed and will be under construction beginning in early 2008.

With regard to beach erosion, the PR&M Department, together with the Public Works Department, developed a highly successful beach nourishment program. The PR&M Department is continually trying to improve that program and has engaged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to do a major study of the feasibility of several approaches to reducing beach erosion. The Corps is about three-quarters of the way into a two-year study.

In another approach, a project to install sand bag groins to test if soft groins will be cost effective in reducing the rate of erosion was built in 2003 and was evaluated as a success despite a less than desired life for the bags. A second phase is planned after the Corps feasibility study is concluded. Finally, the PR&M Department measures beach width monthly in critical areas and reports that data to a community association every two months.

### 3.3 *Identify areas of flood, earthquake fault, noise and other hazards for purposes of open space acquisition*

All of the above areas have been identified and mapped.

## **D. Open Space for Outdoor Recreation and Recreation Facilities**

### 4.1 *Inventory and analyze City-owned lands, blighted properties, and former oil drilling sites to identify parcels that can be converted to open space or parks and recreation uses.*

The Community Development Department is in active negotiation with a number of landowners of underutilized and vacant properties for acquisition of open space. A majority of these properties are along the Los Angeles River and provide opportunities for both passive and active parks and for wetlands restoration. Three sites have been acquired in the past two years, totaling over 15 acres. One site acquired from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority has identified environmental concerns which are being addressed through the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Another site acquired from the Union Pacific Railroad is undergoing active soils remediation to render the site unrestricted for development purposes. All three sites, and another site which is anticipated to be acquired in the next six months, will be assembled into a large open space parcel to provide passive open space and recreated wetlands.

See also 1.7 above.

4.2 *Adopt a citywide ratio of eight acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents*

This policy was adopted with the Open Space and Recreation Element in October 2002. Implementation has been vigorously pursued since then with the acquisition of 38 acres of additional park space.

As a reminder, during FY 2006, two new mini-parks and one community park were completed adding 7.85 acres to the park inventory. These parks will be dedicated in 2008:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Council District</u>
L.A. River Greenway (21 <sup>st</sup> to Hill)	0.89 acres	District 7
Grace Park	1.12 acres	District 8
Davenport Park	5.84 acres	District 9

During FY 2007 one new neighborhood park was completed, this park has already been dedicated.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Council District</u>
Jack Nichol Park	3.48 acres	District 3

Additional park space added to the existing park inventory brings the completed parks and recreational open space inventory to 2,651.01 acres.

The population estimate for the City provided by the California Department of Finance for January 2007 showed an increase of over 2,000 persons from the 2006 figure, raising the population from 490,789 to 492,912. This is growth of over 31,000 residents since the 2000 Census, or a 6.8 percent increase. Hence, despite the addition of open space the resultant population to open space ratio is reduced to 5.38 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. This compares to 5.6 acres per 1,000 residents in 2002, despite the addition of 38.02 of park space over the last five years.

This indicates that continuing population growth has exceeded our rate of growth in finished park space and that our ratio of population to recreational open space is falling further behind the goal of providing eight acres per 1,000 residents.

However, on the positive side, there are three additional sites that are nearly under construction. These parks may be completed in 2008, creating an additional 4.83 park acres.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Council District</u>
Seaside Park	2.02 acres	District 1
15 <sup>th</sup> and Alamos	0.25 acres	District 6
Admiral Kidd Park addition	2.56 acres	District 7

During 2007, the Redevelopment Agency acquired two additional sites, one for a mini park and the other for the expansion of a neighborhood park; and, the City acquired one parcel as a part of a community park. Total acquisitions in FY 2007 were 9.48 acres.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Council District</u>
851 Orange Avenue	0.34 acres	District 1
1413-1431 Chestnut Avenue	0.24 acres	District 1
960 Deforest Avenue (UPRR)	8.90 acres	District 1

Two other acquisitions are nearing completion of negotiations with the property owners. Together these sites will add another 4.5 acres.

The inventory of undeveloped park sites contains 15 sites and 180.77 acres. The following includes all undeveloped park sites, including those listed above:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Council District</u>
851 Orange Avenue	0.34 acres	District 1
903 Fairbanks	1.23 acres	District 1
970 W. Chester Place (MTA)	5.05 acres	District 1
960 Deforest Avenue (UPRR)	8.90 acres	District 1
1413-1431 Chestnut Avenue	0.24 acres	District 1
Pacific Electric Railway ROW	7.43 acres	District 3
Los Cerritos Wetlands	66.00 acres	District 3
Orizaba Park expansion	0.44 acres	District 4
West San Gabriel River Greenway	27.46 acres	District 4
Pacific Electric Railway ROW	3.50 acres	District 6
Sports Park	50.00 acres	District 7
Los Angeles River Greenway	1.04 acres	District 7
Wrigley Heights	3.07 acres	District 7
51 <sup>st</sup> and DeForest	1.03 acres	District 8
Davenport Park expansion	5.67 acres	District 9

4.3 *Review and revise as necessary the Park Impact Fee Ordinance in order to achieve the community's open space and recreation goals*

City Council approved a revised Park Impact Fee ordinance on July 17, 2007 that indexes fees to the Construction Cost Index and raises the fees accordingly from the 1989 original fee to January of 2006. The applicable fee per unit applied to projects filed after the effective date of the ordinance on September 16, 2007, will be approximately 54 percent higher. However, the change also made the fee applicable to the net increase in the units being built, instead of the total units being constructed, which will reduce the fee for many projects. Affordable lower-income units remain exempt from the park impact fee.

4.4 *Formally dedicate all City-owned parks and designate them to be preserved in perpetuity*

All existing developed City-owned parklands were dedicated on June 23, 2003. New parks were dedicated in 2005. Parks created since that time, meeting the criteria for dedication in perpetuity, will be dedicated in 2008. Park name changes of Douglas Park to Rosie the Riveter, and California Recreation Center to Ernest S. McBride, Sr. Park, will be made along with the new dedications.

4.5 *Require that any conversion of parkland be replaced amenity-for-amenity and acre-for-acre at a 2:1 ratio. One acre of replacement land shall be located in the park service area where the land was converted and an additional acre of replacement land shall be located in a park service area needing parkland – as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission.*

This policy is being adhered to.

4.6 *Integrate the provisions of the Department's Strategic Plan for the socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development of the City's park and recreation system with short and long-term Capital Improvement Plans*

The PR&M Department's Strategic Plan has been integrated into all of the Department's budgetary decisions, both operating (short-term) and capital (long-term) budgets. As illustrated by the list of land acquisitions for new park development, adherence to the policy of giving priority to creating new parks in the underserved western half of the City is being demonstrated.

4.7 *Develop a long-term funding mechanism for park and open space acquisition and development*

This issue has been studied with no viable new alternative discovered. Additional funding for park acquisition and development was provided by the Long Beach Open Space Bond, supported by Community Development Block Grant funds, Redevelopment Agency debt to the City, and other sources. Meanwhile, the PR&M Department has aggressively pursued one-time grants, mainly available through

California bond acts approved in 2000 and 2002. Additional statewide bond acts were approved in 2006 which contain some highly competitive park and open space funding.

The blighted areas of the City generally coincide with the areas that are park deficient. As a result, the citizens' Project Area Committees and the Redevelopment Agency Board have developed strategies that include increasing park space and access to adequate park facilities as a key component to overcoming the blight in the Central and North Redevelopment Project Areas. This has become, and is likely to continue to be, a significant funding mechanism for parkland acquisition and park capital facilities improvements.

- 4.8 *Analyze opportunities for open space linkages that include bicycle trails, drainage channels, rights-of-way, parks, rivers and beaches; and develop an integrated open space recreation trails plan.*

The RiverLink Plan, mentioned in program 1.4, is a plan intended to accomplish this for the western section of the City. It includes improvement to the Los Angeles River Trail on the levee of the Los Angeles River and connecting routes to that trail.

Additionally, the PR&M Department is acquiring and developing portions of the former Pacific Electric Railroad right-of-way which diagonally crosses the southern portion of Long Beach as a bicycle and walking trail. Finally plans are being developed to add bicycle and walking trails to the west bank of the San Gabriel River along with wildlife habitat restoration. Eventual linkage to the trails along the west bank in Lakewood and further north will be sought.

- 4.9 *Hold community meetings to devise and establish solutions to park safety, maintenance and development issues for each park. Foster park stewardship through building inclusive relationships with the community.*

The PR&M Department conducted monthly meetings with 37 community organizations in 2007, gathering input on park operations, community service needs and park facility design. Approximately 200 special meetings were held on specific topics related to parks, open space and recreational programs. This totals over 600 community meetings for the year.

- 4.10 *Develop a special use park oriented to the viewing and playing of adult active recreational sports*

The PR&M Department is actively pursuing the development of a sports park south of Spring Street between Orange and California Avenues. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposed development was certified in 2006 and construction design will be about 30 percent complete by the end of FY 2007.

See also Program 1.7.



- 4.11 *Create a top level committee composed of City Council members, City administrators and key Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) officials to address enhanced utilization of school sites for public recreation*

No top level City/School District committee has been created. However, the PR&M Department continues to work with the LBUSD to enhance the utilization of school sites for public recreation. Notably, Cesar Chavez Elementary School has a joint use agreement with the City for shared use of park space and the school's multi-purpose recreation center. Further, the pool at Jordan High School is slated to be opened to the community and managed by the PRM Department in the summer of 2008.

- 4.12 *Modify provisions of the General Plan and zoning for complete consistency of recreation open space locations, uses and building coverage*

This program was completely implemented with the adoption of the new Open Space and Recreation Element.

- 4.13 *Place before the voters a City Charter Amendment to update and clarify the (Parks and) Recreation Commission's role relative to non-recreation uses and development in City parks*

On November 5, 2002, the citizens of Long Beach voted in favor of Measure T, which amended the City Charter by changing the name of the Recreation Commission to the Parks and Recreation Commission, and modifying the Commission's jurisdiction to include all activities on and the use of park lands in the City.

- 4.14 *Provide an annual report to the Planning Commission and City Council documenting progress in each of the implementation programs of this Element*

This is that report.