



LIVINGSTON

PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



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Chapter 1
Introduction

MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

This master plan discusses the findings and recommendations for meeting existing and future park and recreation service needs in the City of Livingston. The plan identifies and evaluates existing park and recreation areas; assesses the need for additional park land, open space and recreation facilities; establishes criteria and standards for site selection, design and management; and recommends an approach to financing and implementation. The intent of the master plan is to provide an overall approach to the park system. Site specific solutions proposed in future years will be evaluated and implemented by the City in order to ensure the best possible solution for Livingston residents.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

During the course of the master plan study, a series of discussion papers was prepared to document and review critical components of the decision-making process. These discussion papers included:

- Discussion Paper #1: Planning Context
- Discussion Paper #2: Existing Park and Recreation Resources
- Discussion Paper #3: Needs Assessment

Due to the large amount of technical information in the Plan, much of the background information is presented in the appendices of this report. The main body of this report is organized as follows:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**
Chapter 1 provides an overview of the document organization and the planning process.
- **Chapter 2: Planning Context**
Chapter 2 describes the physical and political characteristics that form the framework for recommendations made in this Plan. These characteristics include Livingston's regional context, climate, natural resources, demographics and planning issues.
- **Chapter 3: Existing Park and Recreation Resources**
Chapter 3 includes an inventory of existing park, open space and recreational areas in the Livingston area, as well as an analysis of

recreation programs offered by the City and the costs of its park and recreation services.

- **Chapter 4: Analysis of Park and Facility Needs**

Chapter 4 provides an overview of the methodology used to assess and quantify park and facility needs in Livingston, along with a summary of the City's future park and facility needs.

- **Chapter 5: Park Design and Development Guidelines**

Chapter 5 provides design and development guidelines for each type of park and trail.

- **Chapter 6: Recommendations and Policies**

Chapter 6 provides recommendations and policies for the development or redevelopment of parks, open space, trails and other recreation facilities. This chapter also includes recommendations on managing park and recreation services, recreation programs, and park and facility maintenance.

- **Chapter 7: Plan Implementation**

Chapter 7 provides a list of potential funding sources, identifies project priorities, suggests a financing strategy, and recommends a six-year capital improvement plan.

PLANNING PROCESS

Livingston's planning process was unique in that the City coordinated master plan updates for all of the City's key infrastructure elements. Concurrent with the park and recreation master plan update, the City also conducted water, wastewater, storm drainage, and transportation master plan updates. Four different consultants worked on the five master plan updates and met throughout the master planning effort. Livingston also began a General Plan update with the infrastructure master plan updates.

City planning staff coordinated land use and population projections so that the same assumptions were used for all the master plans and for the General Plan update effort. In addition, specific coordination efforts were undertaken between the parks and storm drainage master plan teams to identify the potential for jointly locating parks and detention basins and to develop specific recommendations.

The park and recreation master planning process was divided into four general phases. These phases are outlined in Figure 1.

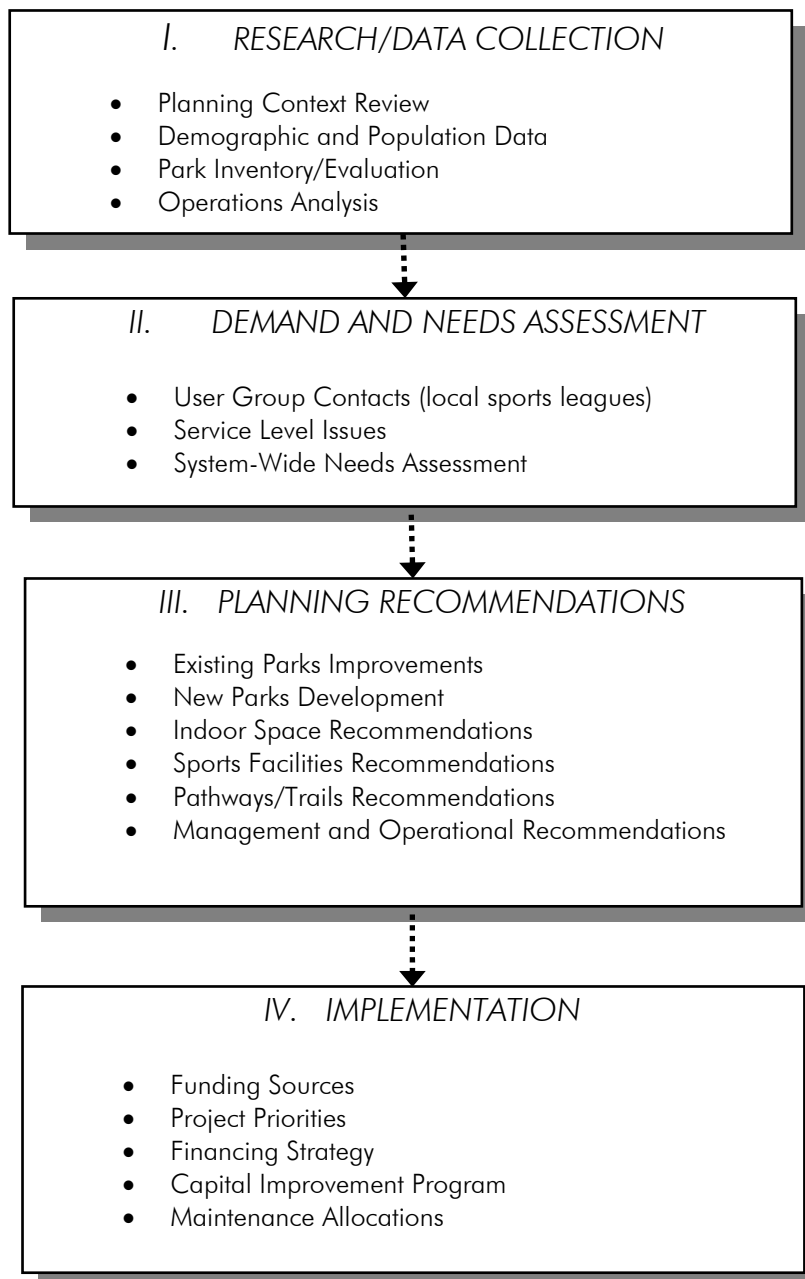


Figure 1
Planning Process

Chapter 2

Planning Context

KEY FINDINGS

- The City of Livingston is located in the San Joaquin Valley in Merced County, one of the most significant agricultural counties in California.
- Livingston has a temperate climate, averaging 12 inches of precipitation per year, with the majority occurring in winter months. The topography of the valley contributes to heavy fogs in the winter, which can make outdoor recreation unpleasant. Summers tend to be hot and dry. In order to provide year-round recreational opportunities, a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities is needed.
- The Merced River is the most significant natural resource in the Livingston vicinity and may offer opportunities for recreation.
- About one-third of Livingston's population is age 14 or younger, and there is a higher than typical percentage of adults between the ages of 18 and 34. The average household size is 4.37, which is larger than usual in both California and Merced County.
- Livingston has a very diverse population, including a large number of Hispanic/Latino residents and a significant population of Punjabi residents. Many residents speak a language other than English at home.
- The educational attainment of Livingston's population is lower than typical. Per capita income is lower than other cities in the state, and employment in agriculture and manufacturing is high.
- Livingston has experienced rapid population growth, with a population increase of 43% between 1990 and 2000. Rapid growth is expected to continue. As of December 2005, a total of 1,500 additional residential lots were either approved or in the approval process.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area for the Park and Recreation Master Plan is depicted in Figure 2. The planning area includes the 2004 Livingston city limits, Sphere of Influence and phased expansion areas, which were identified by the Livingston Planning Department. A more detailed discussion of the assumptions used by the Planning Department in establishing the planning area boundaries and phases is included in Appendix A.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Livingston is located in the Central San Joaquin Valley of California. Livingston is one of six incorporated cities in Merced County, which is one of the most significant agricultural areas in the state. Nearly 80% of the land in Merced County is designated for agricultural use.

Livingston is bisected by State Highway 99, a major transportation route, and by the Southern Pacific railroad. The Merced River lies about 2 miles north of the City. Atwater, about 6 miles distant, is the nearest city to the south. Merced, the county seat, is located about 15 miles south and is home to a new University of California campus. The campus construction and its anticipated impact on the community are driving some of the recent development in Merced County.

Yosemite National Park is located about 2 hours east of Livingston on Highway 140, which becomes Yosemite Parkway after passing through Merced.

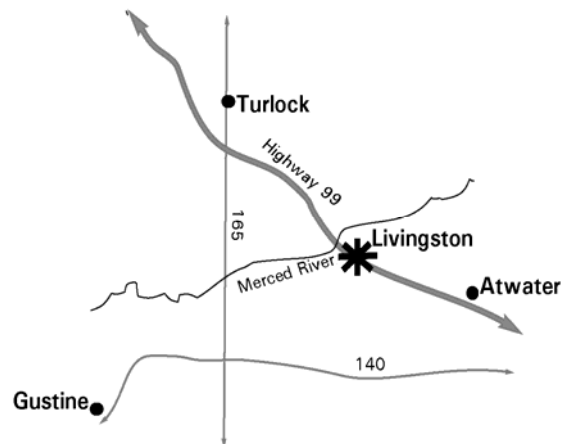





Figure 3
Regional Location

Planning Area

LEGEND

 City Limits	 Neighborhood Parks
 Master Plan Study Area Boundary	 Community Parks
 Future Development Area	 Special Use Areas
 Phase II Development Area	 Other Public Open Space
 Elementary Schools	 Undeveloped Land
 Middle Schools	
 High Schools	
 Private Schools	

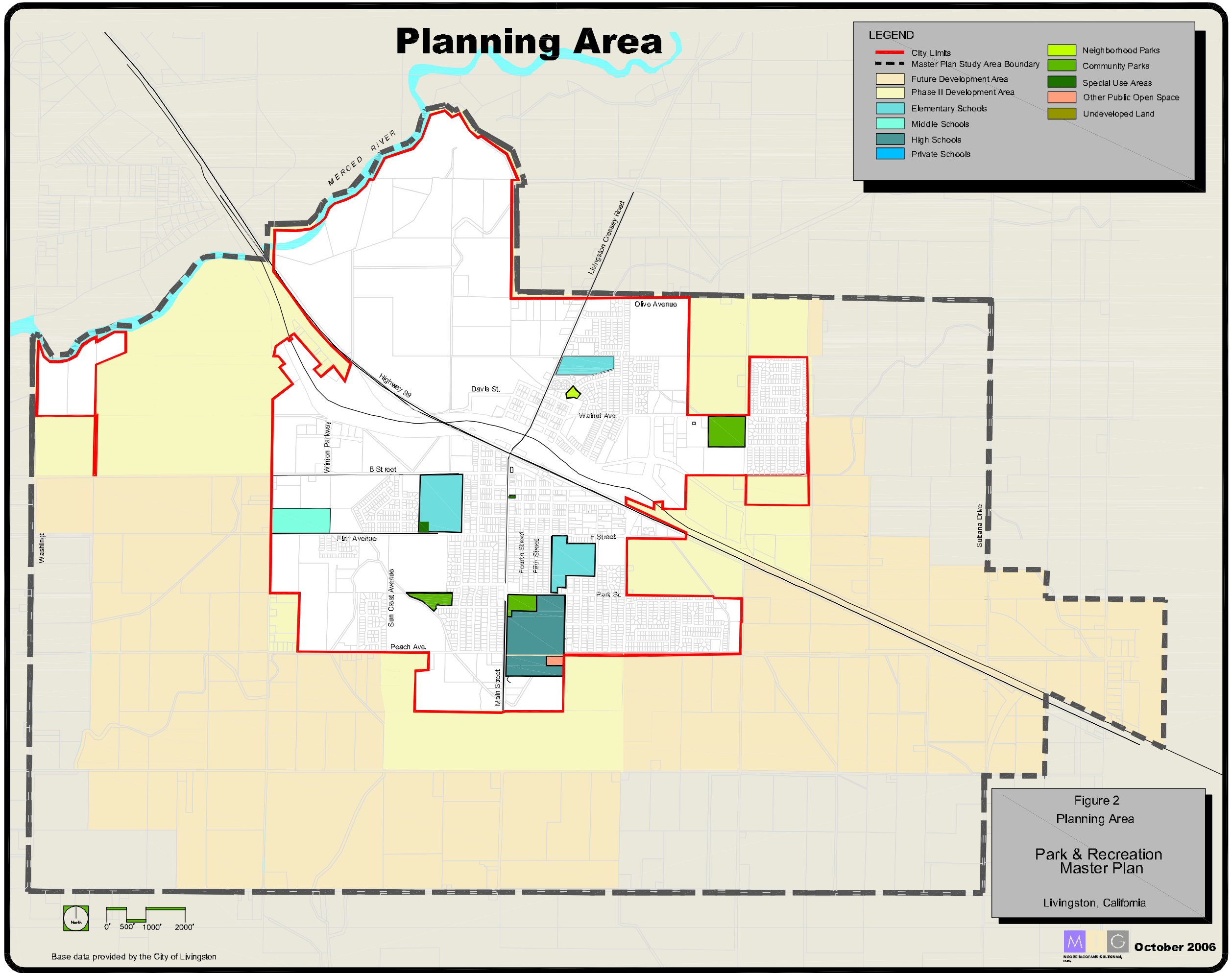


Figure 2
 Planning Area
 Park & Recreation
 Master Plan
 Livingston, California

Base data provided by the City of Livingston

CLIMATE

Livingston averages about 12 inches of precipitation per year, with the majority occurring in the winter months. Winters in the Livingston area are cool and moist, and summers are hot and dry with very little precipitation. Average winter temperatures are in the 50's, but temperatures can drop into the 30's and 40's especially on foggy days. Average summer temperatures are in the 90's.

Weather in the San Joaquin Valley is strongly influenced by the surrounding mountain ranges. The Coast Range to the west prevents air circulation and traps air in the valley during the winter. The Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east prevent cold air from circulating into the valley, protecting it from cold winters. The presence of the mountains contributes to the tule fogs which can blanket the valley in the winter months.

From the perspective of providing park and recreation services, the fog and precipitation in the winter months make outdoor recreation in Livingston unpleasant, even though winters are relatively mild. Especially during the winter, indoor facilities with gymnasiums, meeting rooms, or classrooms are desirable places for recreation activities, programs, and instructional classes. During the warm and dry summer months, outdoor facilities may be more desirable for organized sports, swimming, playground activities, and picnicking. However, because of the hot summer weather, shade is an important consideration in Livingston's parks.

NATURAL RESOURCES

An area's topography/terrain, water features (river and canals), and open space or native vegetation all affect the potential for development and may have impacts on the provision of parks or recreation facilities. While lands containing natural resources may be considered environmentally sensitive and have limited development potential, they are often conducive to park, open space, and recreation uses. In addition, the protection of natural resource areas can have a number of other benefits, such as protecting unique landforms, maintaining habitat, and preserving riparian and vegetative cover. The natural features that influence the provision of park, recreation and open space areas are described below:

Topography/Terrain

The terrain throughout the Central Valley is predominantly flat. For the most part, the terrain in Livingston is also relatively level and reflects the typical Central Valley landscape. As a result, recreational facilities are easily adapted to the existing topography and terrain and provide easy accessibility for both active and passive recreational activities.

Rivers and Canals

The City of Livingston is located within the San Joaquin/Merced River drainage basin. The only natural waterway within Livingston city limits is the Merced River, which is located about 2 miles north of the urban area and is the northern boundary of the planning area. The 100-year floodplain follows the Merced River corridor but does not impact development in the planning area, except for a few areas adjacent to the river. The headwaters of the Merced River are in Yosemite National Park, and the confluence of the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers is located about 15 miles west of Livingston.

In addition to the Merced River, three major Merced Irrigation District (MID) canals surround Livingston: the Arena Canal, the Hammett Lateral, and the Livingston Canal. While obviously different from natural waterways, these canals may attract birds and other wildlife and have the potential to mimic some of the opportunities offered by a riparian environment. Canals also may provide opportunities for recreation, such as providing potential conduits for trails if the canals are ever placed underground.

Open Space, Wildlife Habitat and Vegetation

Livingston is surrounded by agricultural land, planted predominantly with orchards or row crops. As a result of the nearby agriculture and the City's small size, Livingston retains an open character. There is no formal open space within the City itself.

There are no documented areas of wildlife habitat within Livingston; however, the nearby riparian area along the Merced River is home to a variety of species. The surrounding agricultural lands are an additional source of food, water, and shelter for various creatures, even though most of the native vegetation was disturbed years ago by agricultural operations in the area. No significant stands of native vegetation are known to exist in Livingston.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Demographic characteristics can influence recreational interests and level of participation. Factors such as age and income significantly affect an individual's ability to pursue and participate in recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment, education and ethnicity also play a role. The demographic information for the City of Livingston has been derived from the 2000 U.S. Census and from Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) projections.

The following demographic analysis relies on U.S. Census data, except where otherwise noted.

Population

One of six incorporated cities in Merced County, Livingston ranks fourth in population. The 2000 Census placed Livingston's population at 10,473, and the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) estimated Livingston's 2003 population to be 11,050. The City of Livingston estimated its 2004 population to be 13,000.

Age

Livingston's age distribution shows a high percentage of young children and youth and a relatively low percentage of senior citizens. Livingston has a higher percentage of youth age 17 and under than other nearby cities.

In general, youth tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group. Youth generally favor more active and competitive activities, such as basketball, baseball, soccer, swimming, and bicycling. Typically, as people age, their participation in active or competitive recreation decreases.

Younger adults (ages 18-35) also participate in active recreation and typically form the core of adult competitive sports. Older adults (ages 35-65) typically have less time to devote to recreational activities and tend to have a more passive interest in recreation programs. For them, recreational time is scarce and is often limited to weekends and occasional evenings.

Table 1 shows detailed age categories for the City of Livingston. As this table shows, a very high percentage (almost a third) of Livingston's population is age 14 or younger. More than 27% of the

population is between the ages of 18 and 34. Also, Livingston has an average household size of 4.37 people, compared to 3.25 countywide and 2.59 nationally. These data support the generalization that Livingston has a high population of young families with children.

Table 1
Age Categories

Age Category	Population	Percentage
0-9	2,152	20.5%
10-14	1,139	10.9%
15-17	656	6.3%
18-24	1,307	12.5%
25-34	1,561	14.9%
35-44	1,398	13.3%
45-54	945	9.0%
55-64	646	6.2%
65-74	405	3.9%
75 +	264	2.6%
TOTAL	10,473	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census

Income

Income levels also provide important information for recreation planning. In general, people with higher incomes tend to be more active and participate in more expensive types of activities. Lower-income residents may face limitations in recreation planning and programming due to less discretionary income or time. Communities with a significant number of lower-income residents may need to evaluate whether their pricing policies and scholarship programs make recreation activities accessible to enough people.

Table 2 compares the median household income and per capita income levels for selected jurisdictions in the Central Valley. As Table 2 shows, income levels within Livingston are slightly lower than within Merced County as a whole. In addition, while the median household income is higher in Livingston than in some neighboring communities such as Merced, the per capita income level is much lower in Livingston than in any of the comparable cities. This discrepancy is due to the higher than typical household size.

Table 2
Income Levels

Jurisdiction	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
State of California	\$47,493	\$22,711
Merced County	\$35,532	\$14,257
City of Livingston	\$32,500	\$9,231
City of Merced	\$30,429	\$13,115
City of Lodi	\$39,570	\$18,719
City of Madera	\$31,033	\$11,674
City of Manteca	\$46,677	\$18,241
City of Turlock	\$39,050	\$16,844

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census

Employment

In Livingston, there are 4,217 people in the labor force over the age of 16. Of that number, a total of 3,617 were employed. A review of the labor force data for Livingston revealed that the most prevalent occupations were in production, transportation, and material moving, in which 30.2% of residents were employed. This percentage is more than double the percentage in the State of California. The percentage of Livingston’s population employed in management and professional occupations was less than one-third the percentage in the State of California. The percentage of Livingston’s population employed in farming, fishing, and forestry is quite high (more than 17%), which is significantly higher than statewide.

Census data for employment by industry indicates that 24.1% of the Livingston work force is employed in the manufacturing industry, and another 20.7% is employed in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining industries. These percentages are very high compared with statewide employment industry data.

Race and Ethnicity

An analysis of race and ethnic background revealed that the population in Livingston has a different profile from the State of California, with greater cultural diversity. Ethnicity can be important from a recreation participation standpoint, because higher participation levels in some types of recreational activities are

associated with some ethnic groups. This could increase the demand for certain types of facilities.

Table 3 lists race and ethnicity data from the U.S. census, using census categories. As the data indicates, Livingston has lower percentages of White and Black residents than the State of California. In addition, compared to California overall, Livingston maintains a higher proportion of residents in the “Other” category of ethnic groups, and a slightly higher percentage of residents who described themselves as “two or more races.” As Table 3 shows, the highest percentage of Livingston residents identified themselves as “other.”

Table 3
Ethnicity

Type	City of Livingston Percentage	State of California Percentage
Other	41.5%	16.8%
White	36.5%	59.5%
Asian	14.4%	10.9%
Two or more races	5.8%	4.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.9%	1.0%
Black	0.7%	6.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.3%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census

Additional census data not included in the table indicates that 71.8% of Livingston’s population characterized themselves as Hispanic or Latino, with 65.4% of the population indicating Mexican ancestry.

In addition, census data shows that almost half of Livingston’s residents were born in a foreign country. Also, 81.5% of Livingston’s population speaks a language other than English at home, with 62.3% speaking Spanish. Livingston also has a significant population of Punjabi immigrants. The City is home to two Sikh temples and is a center for Sikh and Indian cultural activities in the Valley.

This data indicates that there may be a need for increased outreach to culturally diverse residents, and also that additional program types may be needed to address the needs of Livingston’s residents.

Education

An individual's level of education can affect his or her recreation participation for a variety of reasons. For example, lower education levels are generally associated with lower levels of income, which may mean people have less income available to spend on non-essentials such as high cost recreation activities (e.g., golf or skiing).

In Livingston, only 37% of residents age 25 and older are high school graduates. Nearly 47% have less than a 9th grade level of education. Another 16.1% attended high school but did not graduate.

Accordingly, the percentage of Livingston's residents with Bachelor's degrees and graduate or professional degrees is much lower than the rest of California. These data indicate that Livingston needs to keep the education level of its citizens in mind when preparing marketing and outreach materials. Marketing materials will need to be geared toward the audience to ensure that they are understandable by everyone in the community.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Land Use

Land use plays an important role in the location, distribution, and availability of park and recreational facilities. Livingston contains a mix of land uses typical for a city of its size, with residential uses predominating and industrial and commercial land uses interspersed. The future growth phasing follows a similar pattern.

In terms of recreation planning, residential areas need parks to fulfill the day-to-day recreation needs of community residents. Higher density residential areas may have different recreation needs from lower density areas. Commercial and industrial areas typically do not generate as much need for parks and recreation facilities. However, there may be specific park needs for commercial and industrial areas, depending on the types of development and the City's goals for these areas.

Housing

Based on the 2000 U.S. Census, there were approximately 2,449 housing units in the City of Livingston. Of this supply, 97.6% were considered occupied. Of the 2,390 occupied units, 61.8% were owner occupied and 38.2% were renter occupied. In the *Regional Housing*

Needs Plan, Merced County Association of Governments projected a need of 510 additional units in Livingston by the year 2008. However, Livingston planning staff reported in late 2005 that 1,500 total lots were either approved or in the approval process.

Population

Population growth in a community typically occurs through two means: 1) annexation and 2) in-migration and infill. Livingston has opportunities for in-migration and infill within its existing city limits. However, there have been approximately 150 residential building permits issued each year for the past two years. Additional residential developments were approved in 2004 and 2005, with other proposals under review. Based on this level of demand, planning staff anticipates buildout of the existing city limits in five years if the housing market remains strong.

However, the City also anticipates annexation of the current Sphere of Influence, along with future expansion and eventual annexation of the Sphere. Given the significant boundary expansion anticipated, annexation will provide the bulk of the projected population growth in Livingston.

The Livingston Planning Department prepared a growth and development scenario, as described in greater detail in Appendix A. This analysis was provided to consultants for the City's infrastructure master plans to use in the planning process. The main element of this scenario that informed the Park and Recreation Master Plan is the projected residential population increase, including single family, multi-family, and higher density residential development. In addition, the Livingston Planning Department is anticipating more significant housing growth than MCAG. Over the next 5 years, about 200 residential construction permits per year are expected to be issued, providing approximately 1,000 additional units by 2009.

Chapter 3
Existing
Park and Recreation
Resources

KEY FINDINGS

- The City of Livingston is the primary provider of parks and facilities for City residents and nearby neighbors.
- Livingston currently provides 3.4 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, including developed and undeveloped park land.
- In its recreation facility inventory, the City includes one small Recreation Center, one lighted soccer field, two ball fields, and two very poor quality tennis courts that are planned for removal. The Child Development Center at Livingston Sports Complex could provide quality indoor recreation space, but it currently allows only limited public use, even after Center hours.
- The City has a strong history of collaboration with the local school districts. It relies on schools to provide gymnasiums and some sports fields, and it uses the Livingston High School pool for aquatics programming.
- Livingston offers a broad range of recreation programming for a city of its size, and its programming is more extensive than some larger cities.
- Livingston's Recreation Department is staffed by one full-time Recreation Superintendent and one part-time Recreation Specialist. Contract and seasonal staff and volunteers supplement the permanent staff.
- Livingston's recreation programs, while affordable, generate enough revenue to have an extremely impressive cost recovery rate. Livingston's cost recovery rate is especially unusual for a small city with a small recreation staff.
- Park maintenance is paid for through a Citywide Landscaping and Lighting District that assesses fees based on 17 different benefit zones.
- For 2004/05, the total cost of park maintenance is projected to be \$173,585.



PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM CONTEXT

Currently, the City of Livingston is the primary provider of parks and recreational facilities for Livingston residents and nearby neighbors. Livingston is isolated from other communities because it is surrounded by agricultural land. This means that Livingston residents rely on the City to provide park and recreation facilities and are less likely to use facilities in other communities. In addition to providing parks and facilities, Livingston is also the primary recreation program provider in the City. Nearby neighbors also rely on the City's services, because the next closest city is 12 miles away.

Livingston is expected to remain the primary provider of parks, facilities, and programs in the vicinity throughout planning horizon for the Park and Recreation Master Plan. Although growth is anticipated in Livingston, the surrounding area will likely remain dominated by agricultural uses, leaving the City still somewhat isolated from other communities.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Livingston's 1994 Parks and Recreation Master Plan included three park classifications: Playlot, Vest Pocket Park, Mini-Park; Neighborhood Park; and Community Park. As part of the 2004 park and recreation master planning effort, it was found that these standard park definitions do not fully address Livingston's existing park system or the breadth of the potential future park system. Therefore, the 2004 master plan provides updated classifications that are more customized to Livingston's park system, as well as new classifications for special use areas, linear parks, and natural open space areas to provide for Livingston's park system of the future.

The recommended park classifications and descriptions are identified below:

- **Mini-Parks:** Mini-parks, sometimes known as tot lots, play lots, or pocket parks, are small, limited use sites typically designed primarily for use by small children. Due to its size, the facilities of a mini-park are usually limited to a small open grass area, a children's playground, and a small picnic area. Size is typically less than one acre.

- **Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks are a combination playground and park, designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size and intended to serve nearby residents, with a service area of approximately one-half mile radius. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include children's playground equipment, picnic areas, pathways, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use sport fields for soccer, softball, or baseball if space permits. Size generally ranges between one and five acres.
- **Community Parks:** Community parks are intended to provide active and structured recreation opportunities, as well as passive and non-organized opportunities for individual and family activities. Community parks generally include facilities that attract people from a larger geographic area and require more support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. Community parks often have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Their service area is roughly a one to two mile radius. Size ranges from five acres to 20+ acres, with an optimal size of at least 10 to 15 acres.
- **Special Use Areas:** Special use areas are miscellaneous park lands or recreation sites generally designed for specialized use. Some of the facilities in this classification are sports field complexes, community centers, community gardens, aquatic centers, or sites occupied by buildings.
- **Linear Parks:** Linear parks are open spaces or developed landscaped areas that follow linear corridors such as creek corridors, canals, trail corridors, abandoned railroad right-of-ways, and other elongated features. This type of park usually contains trails, landscaped areas, viewpoints, and seating areas. Neighborhood park facilities may be incorporated when space is available.
- **Natural Open Space:** Natural open space is undeveloped land primarily left in its natural state with recreation use as a secondary objective. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as

open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.

- **Undeveloped Park Land:** This is undeveloped park land owned by the City or planned for park use in the future.

LIVINGSTON'S PARK INVENTORY

As of 2004, the City of Livingston's park system consists of four parks, a recreation center, and a stand-alone sports field located on Livingston Union School District (LUSD) property. The City also uses facilities at school sites around Livingston, including sports fields and gymnasiums, which will be detailed later in this chapter. Table 4 summarizes the current park land inventory, and Livingston's Existing Park and Recreation Resources are shown on the map on the next page.

Table 4
Summary of Park Land Inventory

Park Land	Total Acres	No. of Sites
Neighborhood Parks	1.2	1
▪ Lucero Park (1.2 acres)		
Community Parks	25.7	3
▪ Arakelian Park (6.5 acres)		
▪ Livingston Sports Complex (13.6 acres)		
▪ Memorial Park (includes Alvernaz Field) (5.6 acres)		
Special Use Areas	2.0 ¹	2
▪ Recreation Center (0.25 acres)		
▪ Little Guys and Gals Field (1.75 acres)		
Undeveloped Park Land	8.9	5
Total	37.8	

¹ Estimated acreage based on 1.75 acres for Little Guys and Gals Field and .25 acres for the Recreation Center.

EXISTING PARK & RECREATION RESOURCES

LEGEND

- City Limits
- Master Plan Study Area Boundary
- Future Development Area
- Phase II Development Area
- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Private Schools
- Indoor Areas of Interest
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Areas
- Other Public Open Space
- Undeveloped Land

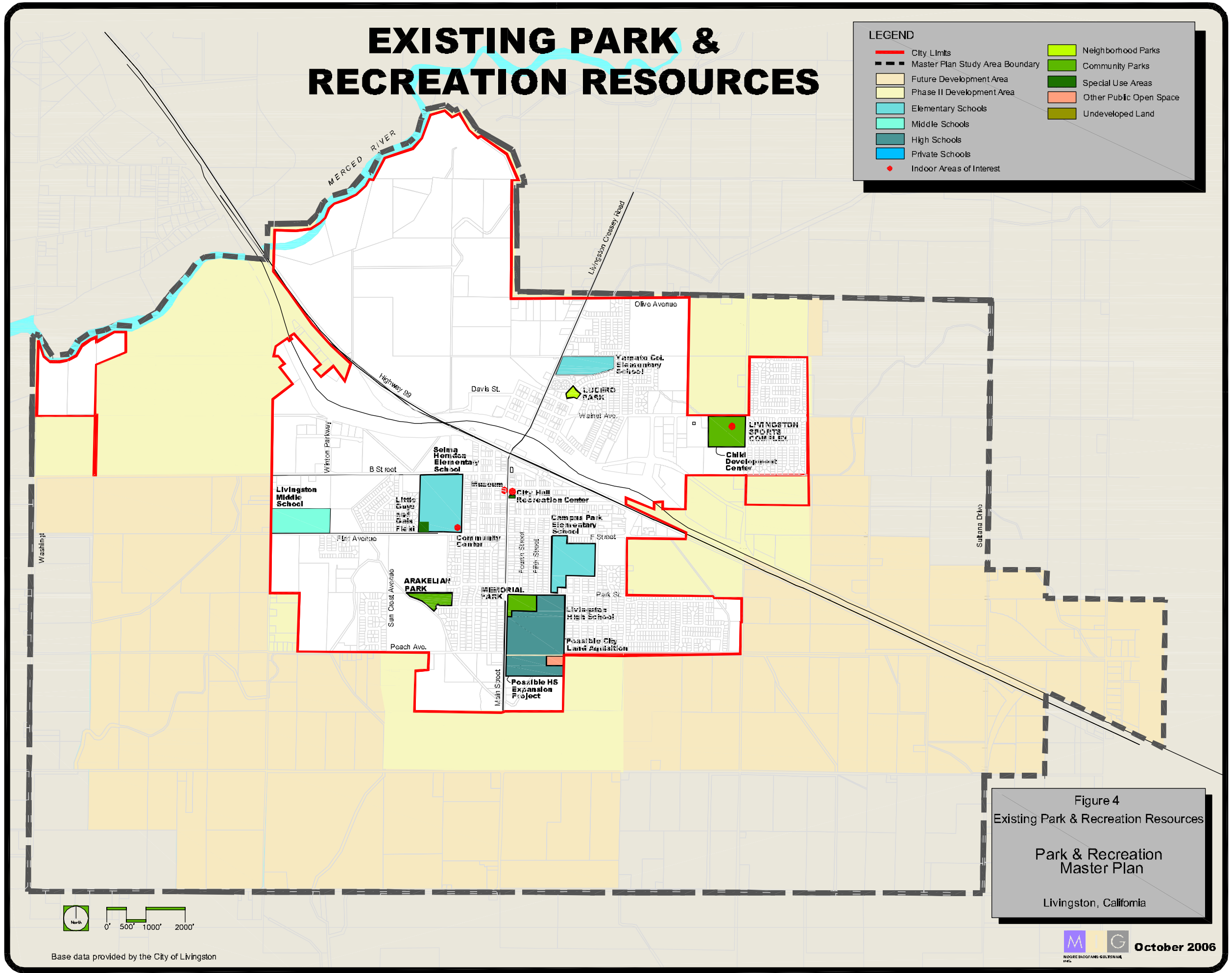
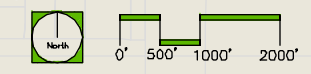


Figure 4
Existing Park & Recreation Resources
Park & Recreation
Master Plan
Livingston, California



Base data provided by the City of Livingston

In total, the City has 28.9 acres of developed park lands, including Little Guys and Gals Field (owned by LUSD) and the Recreation Center (part of the City Hall site), and 8.9 acres of undeveloped park land. More detailed inventory data on the condition and types of amenities in each of the parks is included in Appendix C.

Note: The 1994 Park and Recreation Master Plan referred to a 5.0 acre undeveloped parcel located off Winton Parkway as a future park site. This parcel is now planned to be part of a greenbelt storm drainage basin and as such is not included as part of the park land inventory in this plan.

Planned Developments

At the time the master plan was being prepared in 2004, Livingston was undergoing substantial growth, and had several subdivisions or developments midway through the planning approval process. Future park sites were identified during the planning review processes for these projects, with some of the sites intended to be interim storm detention basins or joint parks/basins. The future park potential of these sites varies. These planned sites are listed in Table 5, including a brief description for each.

Table 5
Park Acreage in Planned Developments

Planned Developments	Total Acres	Comments
Bridgeport Village Subdivision	2.67	Adjacent to planned 1.89 acre storm basin. Site is currently a deep basin.
Davante Villas Subdivision	1.0 ¹	Adjacent to Arakelian Park
Kishi Subdivision	2.00	Adjacent to storm basin
Sunvalley Estates Subdivision	2.10	Planned joint park/storm basin
Winton/B Street Shopping Center	1.18	Temporary storm basin; planned for future conversion to open space
Total	8.95	

¹ Estimated acreage

Some of these sites are more suitable than others for park use, and recommendations for each site will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 6.

Current Service Levels

The current service levels in Table 6 are expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 residents. The existing amount of park land of each classification is divided by the existing population divided by 1,000. These ratios are useful because they are a means for comparison with other communities. In addition, they allow for projection of future park land needs based on population growth.

As Table 6 shows, Livingston's service level is currently 3.4 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

Table 6
Current Park Land Service Levels

Park Land Type	Current Ratio (Acres per 1,000 Residents) ¹
Neighborhood Parks	0.1 Acres/1,000
Community Parks	2.3 Acres/1,000
Special Use Areas	0.2 Acres/1,000
Undeveloped Park Land	0.8 Acres/1,000
Total	3.4 Acres/1,000

¹ Based on the 2003 certified MCAG population estimate of 11,050 provided by Livingston Planning Department

RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

Inventory Criteria

The most functional types of facilities are adequately developed and specifically designed to serve particular functions. However, for various reasons (e.g., facility shortages or poor condition), sport facilities are often used for other activities for which they were not designed. The following facilities were inventoried in Livingston for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

- Ball fields (youth and adult)
- Soccer fields (youth and adult)
- Tennis courts
- Gymnasiums
- Swimming pools

A description of the criteria used in the inventory for each of the facilities is provided below.

▪ **Ball Fields**

Livingston's ball fields either are multi-use backstops or have skinned infields, with the exception of Alvernaz Field. Skinned fields are used for youth baseball, as well as youth softball. Due to the limited facilities, most multi-use backstops are used for practice or play. Because there is a range of field sizes and an acceptance of skinned infields, ball fields have been grouped together into one generic facility type that incorporates youth baseball and softball fields of all sizes. Full-size (adult) fields for softball and baseball were inventoried separately. Multi-use backstops, small backstops located in open fields, are also inventoried. Although inadequate, many of these are used for scheduled practice or play.

▪ **Soccer Fields**

Most of the soccer fields in Livingston are unofficial open turf areas or are overlaid on ballfields. Inventory numbers were determined in consultation with City Recreation staff and local leagues based on the current use. Youth fields and adult fields were inventoried separately.

▪ **Other Facilities**

- *Tennis courts:* Tennis courts were inventoried if they were the appropriate dimensions and were fenced and surfaced with a color coat.
- *Gymnasiums:* Gymnasiums were inventoried based on use. Notes are provided on the adequacy of each facility in terms of appropriate dimensions for safe play and playing surface.
- *Swimming pools:* Pools were inventoried based on whether they have appropriate dimension for intended use (recreation or competitive). Typical configurations include 42 x 75 feet (6 lane, 25 yard) or 25 yd x 25 meter for competitive use.



Facility Inventory

The City of Livingston has limited recreation facilities, but residents use facilities at several school sites, which effectively expands the City’s inventory. Table 7 summarizes sports facilities at publicly owned sites in Livingston, including both City and school sites. Although the facilities included in the table may or may not be currently used by City residents for recreation purposes, they offer the potential for use if agreements can be developed.

Table 7
Existing Recreation Facilities

Area	Total Number of Facilities
City of Livingston	
Adult Ball Fields	1, lighted
Youth Ball Fields	1
Multi-Use Backstops	1
Adult Soccer Fields	1, lighted
Tennis Courts	2 ¹
Livingston Union School District	
Youth Ball Fields	2
Multi-Use Backstops	7
Youth Soccer Fields	6 ²
Gymnasiums	2
Merced Union High School District	
Adult Ball Fields	2 ³
Youth Ball Fields	1
Adult Soccer Fields	2, overlays
Tennis Courts	6
Gymnasiums	1
Pool Space	4,830 s.f.

¹ These are currently unusable due to poor condition and planned for elimination.

² Four fields can be used for U-10 and U-8 soccer only. One field is an open turf area near a multi-use backstop and is used for practice only.

³ Although there are 2 large fields, they have overlapping outfields and can't be used simultaneously for games.

Note: The City’s Little Guys and Gals Field is part of the Selma Herndon Elementary School site. The City provided the field improvements and maintains the site.

Indoor Facilities

Indoor recreation facilities expand recreation opportunities by allowing recreation activities during inclement weather or after dark. In addition, some activities, such as classes, are more suited to indoor facilities. Livingston has limited indoor recreation facilities. These are described below.



- **Livingston Recreation Center:** The Livingston Recreation Center, adjacent to City Hall, is heavily used for recreation activities and programs. A Merced County lunch program for senior citizens operates there on weekdays. The facility is small, containing a multi-purpose room, a kitchen, and restrooms.
- **Hammett Hall:** Hammett Hall at Memorial Park offers another small indoor space. In the past, it was used for a local boxing program. It is currently used for equipment storage.
- **Child Development Center:** Livingston built a Child Development Center on the site of the Livingston Sports Complex. The Center is a large, attractive building that has excellent recreation potential. However, the site has been turned over to Livingston Union School District (LUSD) to operate child development programming. LUSD pays utility costs, but no rental fees. Due to the programming at the site, public access is not permitted during center hours, which run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Availability for recreation use has been very limited, even after childcare hours.
- **Former Community Center:** The former Livingston Middle School site includes a small gymnasium and three meeting rooms that served as a Community Center in the past. This building was sold for \$1 by the City and School District many years ago, and it is not likely to be available for public use again in the future, despite its convenient location near downtown and Little Guys and Gals Field. It is currently used by a childcare program that allows the City use of the small gymnasium, which is the mainstay of Livingston's youth basketball program.
- **Livingston Museum:** The Livingston Museum, a small local history museum, is owned by the City, but it is not currently used for recreation. The City Council chambers are contained in a small addition at the rear of the Livingston Museum.

School Facilities

Schools are an important resource for recreation facilities such as sports fields, playgrounds, and gymnasiums. As identified previously, Livingston relies on school facilities for a number of its recreation facilities. There are varying degrees of formality in the arrangements for use of school facilities, ranging from informal to more formal use agreements.

The Livingston Union School District (LUSD) provides elementary and middle schools in Livingston. The Merced Union High School District (MUHSD) provides high schools in Merced County, including Livingston High School in Livingston. Table 8 provides a summary of all recreation facilities and amenities available at schools in Livingston. Some of the facilities in Table 8 are also included in Table 7.

The City of Livingston and the local school districts have a history of cooperation and joint use. While issues do arise, the relationship between the City and the school districts seems to function fairly well. It is fairly common for city park agencies to use elementary and middle school sites for programming. However, Livingston also uses high school facilities more than is typical for most communities. Most high schools tend not to share facilities with city recreation programs, since high school athletics programs demand most of the field time.

While the City benefits from using school facilities for its programs, the drawback of school use is that there is always some risk that the City will be bumped from a previously scheduled time for a school function, particularly for gymnasium use. In addition, the City cannot use indoor school facilities past 8:00 p.m., when the custodial staff goes off-duty. These issues create some difficulties in programming, particularly when cancellations occur suddenly.

Table 8
Summary of School Recreation Amenities and Facilities

School Facility	Recreation Amenities/Facilities
Elementary Schools	
Campus Park Elementary (6 acres)	2 ball fields (multi-use backstops), 1 soccer field, multi-purpose room, playground
Selma Herndon Elementary / School Administration complex (18.1 acres)	4 ball fields (3 multiuse backstops and Little Guys and Gals field), 2 soccer fields, 1/8 mile track, 4 outdoor basketball courts, par course, multi-purpose room, playground, restrooms
Yamato Colony Elementary (5 acres)	2 ball fields (multi-use backstops), 1 multi-purpose room with stage, playground
Middle Schools	
Livingston Middle School (9.1 acres)	2 ball fields, 1 soccer field, 1 track, 1 gym
High Schools	
Livingston High School (31.1 acres)	3 ball fields (1 softball, 2 baseball), 2 soccer fields, 1 football field, 1 track, 6 tennis courts, 1 6-lane, 25 yd pool, 1 gym (8,206 s.f.), 5.5 acre field and parking expansion site across Peach St.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Overview

Livingston offers a broad range of programming for a city of its size, and its programming is more extensive than some larger cities. The Recreation Department offers several special events, including an Easter Egg Hunt, a Citywide Fourth of July celebration, and parades for Veterans Day and Christmas. Special interest classes, including karate, cheerleading, and dance (hip hop, folkloric, jazz) are available. The Department also offers aquatics (both lessons and open swimming) during the summer, using the Livingston High School pool. Options for organized sports include youth and men's basketball leagues, basketball open gym, youth and adult baseball, and girls' softball.

Youth football is offered by an independent league, as well as through scholastic programs. Independent leagues also provide youth and adult soccer opportunities, in addition to the interscholastic youth athletic programs. These independent leagues use some of the field inventory described in this chapter.

Staffing

Livingston's Recreation Department is staffed by:

- one Recreation Superintendent (full-time)
- one Recreation Specialist (part-time)

Seasonal and contract staff and volunteers supplement the minimal permanent staff, serving as lifeguards at the pool, coaches for youth sports, and teachers for some recreation programs.

Program Revenue

The City has directed the Recreation Department to recover costs of programming and to continue to be self-sustaining. In fiscal year 2002/03, Livingston's Recreation Programs generated \$127,224 in revenue. In the same year, total expenditures were \$88,095, including \$3,219 in capital outlay.

It should be noted that Livingston's recreation staff is generating an impressive amount of revenue, particularly for a city of its size. The level of revenue generation is a testament to the creativity and commitment of the Recreation Superintendent and the recreation staff.

PARK OPERATIONS

Staffing

The Parks Division is responsible for all maintenance associated with the grounds at Livingston's parks. At times, the Parks Division also maintains the restrooms, concession stands, and other buildings within Livingston's parks. When school is not in session, Parks staff maintain school fields (mowing and dragging) used by the City. The Parks Division is also responsible for landscape maintenance of specific subdivisions within the City. These subdivisions have maintenance districts in place which pay for the cost of maintenance.

Parks is a division of the Public Works Department. The Division is staffed by:

- 1 Parks Maintenance Worker I;
- 2 Parks Maintenance Worker II;
- 1 Part-time Laborer; and
- 0.33 Public Works Supervisor.

The Government Buildings Division is responsible for the maintenance and custodial care of Livingston's buildings. This includes City Hall, the Police Station, and other City-owned facilities, as well as the Recreation Center and the Child Care Center. The Division is staffed by:

- 1 Building Maintenance Worker and
- 0.5 Maintenance Worker II.

Park Maintenance Budget

In 1994/95, the Livingston City Council approved a Citywide Landscaping and Lighting (L&L) District to provide for parks maintenance, street lighting, and graffiti removal. The Citywide L&L District is a consolidation of a number of different landscape districts or zones, and each of the original districts was established as a separate benefit zone as part of the consolidation. As a result of Proposition 218, the L&L District appeared on the ballot during fiscal year 1997/98, when it was voted to be retained by 57% of voters. A rate increase appeared on the ballot several years later, but was not successful.

There are 17 different benefit zones within the Citywide L&L District. All of the zones pay for park maintenance and graffiti removal. Most of the zones pay for landscape maintenance, and three of the zones pay for streetlight maintenance.

The 2004/5 Engineer's Report for the L&L breaks down costs for each of the 17 benefit zones, including specific park maintenance costs.

The Engineer's Report describes how the total figure for park maintenance is determined each year. According to the Report, the budget for park maintenance:

Includes all costs for materials and labor required to properly maintain the parks throughout the City. This

includes the landscaping, irrigation systems, and all appurtenant facilities related to the parks. Includes the costs for materials and labor to maintain the turf and irrigation systems associated with the soccer field. The isolated nature of Livingston makes the continued maintenance of this facility of special benefit to all residential, commercial, and industrial properties in the District. All parcels are assessed for this service. Includes the costs required for the purchase of necessary equipment to be used in the maintenance of District improvements.

For 2004/05, the total cost of park maintenance is projected to be \$173,585.27. Parks maintenance accounts for 74% of the total L&L direct maintenance costs. The administration costs associated with the L&L total \$6,795.93. The total share of administration costs for parks maintenance is \$5,016.17.

Maintenance Cost per Acre

Reviewing the cost per acre for maintenance provides a means of comparing Livingston's maintenance costs to other cities. This calculation is detailed in Table 9

Table 9
Maintenance Cost Per Acre

Cost of Park Maintenance	\$173,585.27
Park Maint. Share of L&L Administration Costs	\$5,016.17
Total Park Maintenance Cost	\$178,641.44
Total Acres Maintained	28.9
Maintenance Cost Per Acre	\$6,181.36

As the calculation in Table 9 indicates, the cost per acre to maintain Livingston's parks is \$6,181.36. This amount is slightly lower than typical when compared to other cities in California. However, Livingston's parks appear to be adequately maintained, even though many of the park facilities are aging. If the City upgrades its parks in the future, it should be prepared to increase its maintenance allocation slightly to ensure an appropriate level of maintenance.

Chapter 4
Recreation
Needs Assessment
Summary

KEY FINDINGS

Park Land

- Livingston's existing park system provides neighborhood park services within convenient walking distance of most residents and community park facilities geographically dispersed and accessible within a mile of most residents. This provides the backbone for the future park system.
- In the future, at least nine additional neighborhood parks and three additional community parks will be needed to serve Livingston residents.
- To supplement the core neighborhood and community parks and provide additional recreation opportunities, it is recommended that Livingston establish a system of off-street bikeways and trails linking parks. Approximately 10 miles of trail will be needed to create a paved trail linking the City's park system.
- To maintain views and provide visual access to the river, an open space area is recommended adjacent to the Merced River, located in conjunction with planned stormwater detention facilities. The trail system should connect through the river corridor.
- One additional special use area is recommended to provide a sports complex. If other special facilities are desired or needed, it is recommended that they be incorporated into community parks wherever possible. However, this recommendation is not intended to preclude capitalizing on unique opportunities that may arise in the future.
- Livingston's existing parks are smaller than recommended and sometimes lack the full range of facilities and amenities recommended. Most evident is the shortage of sports fields. As such, additional acreage is recommended to address 2004 needs for parkland. The currently needed additional neighborhood and community park acreage can provide a location for some of the needed sports fields, as well as for other park amenities currently lacking in Livingston's system.

Recreation Facilities and Programs

- Many of the fields and athletic facilities currently used in Livingston were not designed for the play they are receiving. Some substandard fields and facilities may be upgraded, but most should be phased out of use as more fields and facilities are provided.
- Dedicated adult softball fields should be constructed. At least 1 should be provided in the short term.
- Four additional youth baseball/softball fields are currently needed. As part of addressing this need, the City should build a T-ball field adjacent to the Little Guys and Gals Field site if the School District is willing.
- Currently, one additional adult soccer field and one additional youth soccer field are needed. This is in addition to the two small youth fields planned for Livingston Sports Complex.
- Lighting opportunities at additional fields should be evaluated in an effort to extend playing time.
- Three indoor basketball courts are currently needed. The facilities the City currently uses provide the equivalent of one court that is entirely under City control.
- Other recreation facilities, such as water play areas (also known as spraygrounds), group picnic areas, a skate park, and frisbee golf are needed.
- Lack of field, gym, and classroom space limits the ability of the Recreation Department to expand its programming, although there is a market.
- The areas of greatest programming need are programs and activities for younger youth, a significant demographic in Livingston; high school age youth, for whom no programming is currently offered; and adults, generally a revenue-generating program area.

RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Quantifying park and recreation facility needs is difficult because many different variables influence recreation needs. Community values, participation patterns, and willingness to pay for services vary widely from one community to another. Consequently, what seems appropriate for one community may not be suitable for another. One of the problems associated with determining needs is that overstating the demand can result in the development of underutilized facilities. Conversely, under-estimating the needs can result in overused facilities and a lack of usable park land and open space.

This report discusses the park and facility needs for the City of Livingston. The process for identifying needs was:

- Inventorying and analyzing the existing supply of park and recreation facilities;
- Contacting user groups; and
- Forecasting park and facility needs using a variety of methods, with specific methods described within this chapter and in Appendix E.

This chapter includes a summary of the results of the recreation needs assessment. A more detailed needs assessment analysis is included in Appendix E.

SUMMARY OF PARK LAND NEEDS

A combination of methods was used to develop a statement of land needs for parks and open space in Livingston. Livingston's needs assessment takes into account localized values, availability of land, financial resources and desired service levels. The needs assessment for park land is based on a geographic service area that also considers comparisons to other communities, regional and national trends, and geographical deficiencies. It should be noted that even with all the data available, a certain amount of subjective analysis and professional experience must be used to quantify the standards.

Needs Assessment Summary

In the following discussion, recommended standards for specific types of park areas are given. This is the desired or recommended level of service, and is expressed as a ratio of land to population in terms of acres per 1,000 residents. The existing ratio is the existing amount of park land divided by the existing population. By applying this ratio to a future population forecast, one can project future park needs.

To determine the existing ratio, the 2003 certified population of 11,050 was used. This population figure was provided by the Livingston Planning Department and is the estimated population within Livingston city limits. The 2016 population of 35,004 was used for future projections. This population projection was based on a growth scenario prepared by the City of Livingston Planning Department, contained in Appendix A. Tables 10 through 12 summarize the recommended standards and park land needs, both currently and in the future.

Table 10
Park Lands: Current Ratios and Recommended Standards

Park Type	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Neighborhood Parks	0.1 Acres/1,000	1.1 Acres/1,000
Community Parks	2.3 Acres/1,000	2.9 Acres/1,000
Special Use Areas	0.2 Acres/1,000	0.5 Acres/1,000
Natural Open Space Areas	0.0 Acres/1,000	0.8 Acres/1,000
Undeveloped Park Land	0.8 Acres/1,000	None
Total	3.4 Acres/1,000	5.3 Acres/1,000

Table 10 shows that the recommended service levels are somewhat of an increase over the current levels. Even though the existing parks geographically serve most residential neighborhoods, they are generally undersized for their classifications. This is the reason the recommended standards are somewhat higher than the existing ratios. Table 11 shows the current park land needs, given the recommended standards. Table 12 shows the future park land needs, given the recommended standards, the projected future population, and city limits.

Table 11
Summary of Year 2004 Park Land Needs

Park Type	Existing Inventory	Year 2004 Demand	Additional Need Or (Excess Capacity)
Neighborhood Parks	1.2 acres	12.1 acres	10.9 acres
Community Parks	25.7 acres	31.9 acres	6.2 acres
Special Use Areas	2.0 acres	5.5 acres	3.5 acres
Natural Open Space Areas	0.0 acres	8.8 acres	8.8 acres
Undeveloped Park Land	8.95 acres	0.0 acres	(8.95 acres)

Table 12
Summary of Future Park Land Needs

Park Type	Existing Inventory	Future Demand	Additional Need Or (Excess Capacity)
Neighborhood Parks	1.2 acres	38.5 acres	37.3 acres
Community Parks	25.7 acres	101.5 acres	75.8 acres
Special Use Areas	2.0 acres	17.5 acres	15.5 acres
Natural Open Space Areas	0.0 acres	28.0 acres	28.0 acres
Undeveloped Park Land	8.95 acres	0.0 acres	(8.95 acres)

Findings related to park land needs are highlighted below. Additional detail is available in Appendix E.

- *Build a system based on neighborhood and community parks.* It is recommended that the City build on its current system of neighborhood and community parks.
 - Neighborhood parks should be provided within ½ mile of most residents. This will provide basic recreation facilities within convenient walking or bicycling distance of most residents. Community parks will function as neighborhood parks for those residing within ½ mile, and should be designed accordingly.
 - Community parks are intended to serve the broader community, but they should be reasonably accessible to most residents. Community parks should be provided

Needs Assessment Summary

within one mile of most residents. This will provide a wide variety of facilities and activities throughout the City and accessible to residents.

- *Supplement the core neighborhood and community parks with other types of parks.* An additional special use area would accommodate some of the City's organized sports needs. Open space areas will provide a different type of park experience and provide visual access to the river.
- *Avoid acquiring tot lots and mini-parks.* The City currently does not have any tot lots or mini-parks in its inventory. These are small parks with very limited facilities typically focused on play equipment for small children. Neighborhood parks provide convenient access to parks and play equipment, and are much more efficient to operate. Therefore, it is recommended that Livingston adopt a policy of not acquiring, constructing, or accepting any tot lots or mini-parks due to the high maintenance cost, small size, and limited recreation value of this type of park.
- *Expand existing community parks where possible.* All three existing community parks are smaller than recommended. Memorial Park is constrained and can't be expanded. A small expansion is planned for Arakelian. If additional opportunities to expand Arakelian arise, they should be pursued. Opportunities to expand Livingston Sports Complex should also be explored.
- *Don't use Arakelian and Memorial Parks as models for future community parks.* Arakelian and Memorial Parks are both smaller than ideal for a community park. They are also closer together than would be recommended, so they have some duplication in service areas. However, the duplications help make up for the fact that the parks are undersized. Although these parks are both very popular and well-used by the community, they should not be the model for future community parks. Future community parks should have the broader range of facilities outlined in the development standards contained within this plan.
- *Focus facility development in planned community parks.* One additional special use facility is recommended. Otherwise, it is recommended that the City seek to locate specialized facilities, such as a skate park, in the planned community parks and avoid acquiring additional special use sites. However, this should not

preclude the City from evaluating and taking advantage of any unforeseen unique opportunities that may arise in the future.

- *Develop a bikeway and trail system to link the park system.* It is recommended the City develop a bikeway and trail to provide recreational opportunities and alternative transportation between parks. This is based on the following factors:
 - High level of interest, nationwide and regionally, in trail-related activities.
 - Current lack of pedestrian and bike connections between parks.
 - Opportunities to provide trails within storm drainage infrastructure facilities.
 - Opportunities to provide green space nearby more residents.
- *Take advantage of riverfront open space.* It is recommended the City preserve open space if it becomes available, particularly along the Merced River. It is important to note that outside the Merced River corridor, opportunities for open space acquisition are limited. The recommended standard for natural open space is based on the following factors:
 - Current trend of increased interest in open space preservation.
 - Potential for public access to planned riverfront storm detention basin.
- *Address planned or undeveloped park land.* Specific recommendations about how to address these proposed and undeveloped park lands are included in Chapter 5.

SUMMARY OF FACILITY NEEDS

In this section, the need for the following recreation facilities is discussed:

- Adult baseball/softball fields
- Youth baseball/softball fields
- Adult soccer fields
- Youth soccer fields

Needs Assessment Summary

- Gymnasiums
- Trails

For each facility, the following is described when appropriate:

- Existing conditions, such as current supply and current standards;
- Analysis, such as trends and input from sponsoring agencies; and
- Items for consideration, such as service level considerations, suggested guideline, design standards, comments, and alternatives.

The following terms are used in the discussion:

- *Current supply* is a ratio of the number of facilities per unit population, calculated by dividing the number of residents (the City's 2003 population of 11,050) by the number of current facilities (e.g., fields, square feet, and miles).
- The *recommended guideline* is the recommended level of service (ratio of facilities to population) that has been derived from the analysis of each facility. By applying the guideline to the existing and future population forecast, one can determine the number of facilities currently needed, and ultimately, the future needs of the City of Livingston.
- The *future demand* is the number of facilities needed at 2016, when the City reaches an estimated population of 35,004.

Tables 13 through 15 summarize the recommended standards and facility needs, both currently and in the future. When reviewing future needs, it is important to note that Livingston the future demand scenario is almost a tripling of population.

Table 13
Facilities: Current Ratios and Recommended Standards

Recreation Facility ¹	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Adult Baseball/ Softball Fields	1 Field/5,525 Residents (combined)	Baseball: 1 Field/12,000 Softball: 1 Field/12,000
Youth Baseball/ Softball Fields	1 Field/2,762 Residents	1 Field/1,400 Residents
Adult Soccer Fields	1 Field/5,525 Residents	1 Field/3,700 Residents
Youth Soccer Fields	1 Field/1,578 Residents	1 Field/1,400 Residents
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	1 Court/11,000 Residents	1 Court/4,000 Residents
Pathways and Trails	0.0 mi/1,000 Residents	0.28 mi/1,000 Residents

¹ Includes school facilities as well as City of Livingston facilities, even if no use agreement exists.

Table 14
Summary of Year 2004 Recreation Facility Needs

Recreation Facility ¹	Existing Inventory	Year 2004 Demand	Additional Need
Adult Baseball/ Softball Fields	2 Fields	1 Field (baseball) 1 Field (softball)	0 Fields
Youth Baseball/ Softball Fields	4 Fields	8 Fields	4 Fields
Adult Soccer Fields	2 Fields ²	3 Fields	1 Field
Youth Soccer Fields	7 Fields	8 Fields	1 Field
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	1 Court ³	3 Courts	2 Courts
Pathways and Trails	0.0 miles	3.08 miles	3.08 miles

¹ Includes school facilities as well as City of Livingston facilities, even if no use agreement exists.

² The 3 full-size fields provide field time equivalent to 2 fields controlled by the City.

³ The 4 gyms in the City provide court time equivalent to 1 gym controlled by the City.

Table 15
Summary of Future Recreation Facility Needs

Recreation Facility ¹	Existing Inventory	Future Demand	Additional Need
Adult Baseball/ Softball Fields	2 Fields	3 Fields, baseball 3 Fields, softball	1 Field, baseball 2 Fields, softball
Youth Baseball/ Softball Fields	4 Fields	25 Fields	21 Fields
Adult Soccer Fields	2 Fields ²	9 Fields	7 Fields
Youth Soccer Fields	7 Fields	25 Fields	18 Fields
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	1 Court ³	9 Courts	8 Courts
Pathways and Trails	0.0 miles	9.8 miles	9.8 miles

¹ Includes school facilities as well as City of Livingston facilities, even if no use agreement exists.

² The 3 full-size fields provide field time equivalent to 2 fields controlled by the City.

³ The 4 gyms in the City provide court time equivalent to 1 gym controlled by the City.

Findings related to facility needs are highlighted below. Additional detail is available in Appendix E.

- *Adult baseball and softball fields:* A comparison of supply and demand indicates that there is a surplus of game and practice time each week, although available fields are needed to accommodate other types of play. However, adult teams are currently playing scheduled games on fields not designed for their sport, which increases field damage and risk to participants. Therefore, separate standards for adult baseball and adult softball are identified.
- *Adult baseball demand:* Due to Livingston’s limited recreation staffing and the challenges associated with use of the high school field, the men’s league has been limited to four teams. Also, both games take place on Friday night, which can be difficult given the potential game length. The City should consider expanding the program to allow additional men’s baseball teams if staffing issues can be resolved (to support additional games) and field use conflicts can be addressed.

- *Youth baseball and softball fields:* A comparison of supply and demand indicates that demand significantly exceeds the supply of fields designed for youth baseball/softball use. When a cancellation factor of 10% is considered to account for rainouts, etc., the deficit of youth fields is even more significant.
- *Peak field demand:* The overlapping City and County youth league seasons create a high peak demand in May. If possible, this overlap should be eliminated. However, it is important to note that this may not be possible if rules regarding season length and timing are governing either league.
- *Service levels and field needs:* Assuming that the overlap between the City and County youth ball leagues can be eliminated, there would be a total demand of 88.5 games/practices if teams were held to a maximum service level of two practices and two games per week. This is equivalent to about four more fields, if Little Guys and Gals Field is lighted to provide some additional capacity at that site.
- *Adult soccer fields:* A comparison of supply and demand indicates that there is a shortage of about 4 games per week for adult soccer fields. This shortage is increased significantly if the high school fields are unavailable.
- *Field configuration and demand:* Although the peak season for soccer is fall, the adult soccer teams are part of a league that plays year round. Since 2 of the adult-sized fields are overlaid with softball/baseball fields, their use is limited during the spring season.
- *Youth soccer fields:* A comparison of supply and demand indicates that the youth fields are at capacity, and there is no additional capacity to accommodate game cancellations. Typically, a factor of about 10% should be included to account for game cancellations due to weather, scheduling conflicts, and other issues.
- *Inclusion of open turf areas in the youth soccer field inventory:* The open turf areas currently being used for youth soccer at the elementary school sites should be phased out if possible in the future, particularly for games. These sites should be replaced with fields or turf areas designed for soccer use. According to the

Needs Assessment Summary

Premiership league, Livingston Union School District intends to add two youth soccer fields in the coming years. This will help alleviate some of the need, and potentially allow discontinuation of use of some of the substandard open turf sites.

- *Gymnasium needs:* Based on the supply and demand analysis, there is a shortage of 54 games/practices per week. This is equivalent to 2 more courts owned or controlled by the City. Current gym time available to the City is equivalent to about one full-time City-owned court.
- *Open gym:* Currently, only one open gym session is scheduled per week due to lack of gym space. There may be a demand for additional open gym sessions, since the current session is quite popular. A number of communities offer special open gym sessions on weekend evenings for teens, for example. Obtaining additional gym time or court space would allow the Recreation Department to offer more open gym options.
- *Paved trail needs:* Since no trails exist in Livingston and no data on participation in the community in trail-related activities is available, the trail standard was based on providing approximately 10 miles of paved trail to create the proposed loop system linking planned future community parks. Regional and national trends show a need for trail facilities in most communities.

OTHER PARK AND RECREATION NEEDS

Other Recreation Facilities

During the planning process, other recreation facilities were suggested for Livingston besides the types of park land and recreation facilities discussed earlier in this chapter.

These facilities include:

- Indoor recreation/community center
- Swimming pool
- Water playgrounds
- Skate park
- Group picnic facilities

- *Recreation Center:* In Livingston, an indoor recreation center would considerably expand the number of recreation activities and community events that could be offered as well as meet gymnasium space needs for basketball and volleyball.

Whether an indoor facility is pursued in the short term or as a longer term priority, space should be reserved at one of the proposed community parks or in conjunction with a school site to accommodate a potential future community center. Approximately five acres would be needed for such a facility.

- *Swimming Pool:* In most communities, the question is not whether a swimming pool is needed, but whether it can be afforded. The City's current arrangement for use of the high school pool is very cost-effective, requiring only about a \$10,000 subsidy for the 2004 season. For the summer 2004 season, a local business provided a donation to the City to offset the pool operation subsidy, allowing the City to maintain its aquatics program.

While the high school pool is neither optimally located or the ideal configuration, it does provide aquatic opportunities at a fairly low cost to taxpayers. For this reason, the City should continue the arrangement with the high school and should not consider building its own pool in the near future. If the City continues to develop and experience population growth, the feasibility of an indoor or outdoor pool can be evaluated in the future.

- *Water playgrounds:* Water playgrounds, also known as spraygrounds, include features that spray water. Water playgrounds generally have no standing water and don't require supervision. They can range from small in size to very elaborate and large, and they can be interactive. There are no facilities of this type within the City or nearby. These facilities can provide aquatics opportunities for residents at a much lower cost than swimming pools. Therefore, it is recommended that, as a minimum, the City provide these facilities at three community parks geographically spaced so that the water playgrounds are reasonably accessible to everyone in the community.
- *Skate parks:* To meet youth recreation needs, the City should provide at least one high quality skate park offering a variety of elements and designed to be appropriate for a variety of skill levels. Skate parks should be considered as a potential park

element in future community parks. Decisions about which sites are most appropriate should occur during the community input phase of future park design efforts.

- *Group picnic areas:* Picnic areas that can be reserved for large groups are available at Memorial and Arakelian Parks. Both facilities receive very heavy use. In addition to meeting a community need, this type of recreation area can generate revenue from reservations. For these reasons, the design guidelines for community parks recommend at least one picnic shelter/group picnic area for every community park.

Recreation Programming

The recreation superintendent and staff have proven themselves to be creative and innovative in developing programming; the excellent participation and cost recovery data reviewed in Chapter 3 are evidence of their success. According to staff, the areas of greatest program need are:

- *Younger youth programming:* Although some younger youth programming is offered, more is needed. With the high percentage of young children in Livingston, there is a need for services for these age groups.
- *High school age programming:* The City currently does not offer programming for high school age groups, a group that most communities identifying as having a high level of recreation needs.
- *More adult programming:* The City offers some adult programming, particularly organized sports. There is a need for more adult programming, because there are no other providers in Livingston. In addition, adult programs typically generate revenue, which can offset the cost of providing additional youth and high school age programming.

Based on input received during the planning process, other programming needs are:

- *Culturally diverse programming:* With Livingston's very diverse population, more programming options should be provided that meet the needs of Livingston's varied cultural groups. This should include outreach to residents to determine specific program needs and interests.

- *Program affordability:* While Livingston's programs are generally low cost, fees are charged. The City has a per capita income level that is lower than typical, and a larger household size. Some households do not have much disposable income, and as a result, may be facing barriers to participation. An income-based scholarship program or other methods are needed to ensure that Livingston's residents all have access to programs, regardless of income.

The major limiting factor in the City's ability to provide additional programming is a lack of facilities. Participation is currently high enough that space in many of the existing programs is limited due to a lack of facilities, such as gym space.

With the performance of the Recreation Department in recent years, it is clear that the Superintendent is knowledgeable about community needs and priorities for recreation programming and special events. The highest priority facility needs identified by the Recreation Department to facilitate recreation programming are:

- Additional fields;
- A multiple use indoor space; and
- Classroom space.

Arts facilities were also identified as a need, but one with a lower priority than those already listed.

Needs Assessment Summary

Chapter 5

Park Design and Development Guidelines

OVERVIEW

In this chapter, design and development guidelines are provided for:

- Neighborhood parks;
- Community parks;
- Linear parks;
- Special use areas;
- Natural open space; and
- Recreational trails and pathways.

These guidelines provide information about size, layout, recommended amenities, and other park planning and development issues.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

General Land Use Guidelines:

- The acquisition of neighborhood park land should occur far in advance of its need.
- The construction of a neighborhood park should occur by the time the area it will serve reaches about 75% developed (measured by either acreage developed or population accommodated).

Site Selection Criteria:

- Under most conditions, neighborhood parks should be no smaller than about two acres in size, with the optimum size being five acres. If flood control basin facilities are included in a neighborhood park site, at least one contiguous usable acre should be provided in addition to the acreage contained in the basin.
- At least 50% of the site should be flat and usable, providing space for both active and passive uses.
- The site should be reasonably central to the neighborhood it is intended to serve.
- Walking or bicycling distance should not exceed one-half mile for the area the park is intended to serve. Access routes should minimize physical barriers, such as irrigation canals, and the crossing of major arterials.

Design and Development Guidelines

- The site should be visible from adjoining streets to promote safety and encourage use.
- The site should be accessed by a local residential street. The park should front a public street on at least three sides and have at least 200 feet of frontage along each street. If located on a busy street, the site design may need to include buffers or barriers to reduce vehicular hazards.
- If residential uses abut the park site, additional access points from the adjoining neighborhood should be provided. These should be at least 25 feet wide.

Design and Development Standards:

- Neighborhood parks should include:
 - Unstructured open turf areas and practice sports fields. Fields should not be scheduled for league play.
 - Playground equipment (tot and youth)
 - Basketball court (full or ½ court)
 - Picnic areas
 - Small picnic shelter
 - Looped pathway throughout site
 - Site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
- Other potential amenities include tennis courts, volleyball courts, and natural features or natural open space (if present on the site).
- Active, noise-producing facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts, should be located away from adjoining homes.
- Portable restrooms are appropriate for neighborhood parks, if needed. Permanent restrooms should not be provided.
- The site design should encourage access by foot or bicycle.
- On-street parking should be encouraged for neighborhood parks. The parking guidelines are three spaces per acre of usable active park area. If on-street parking is not available, off-street parking should be provided.
- Figure 5 shows a schematic diagram for a typical neighborhood park.

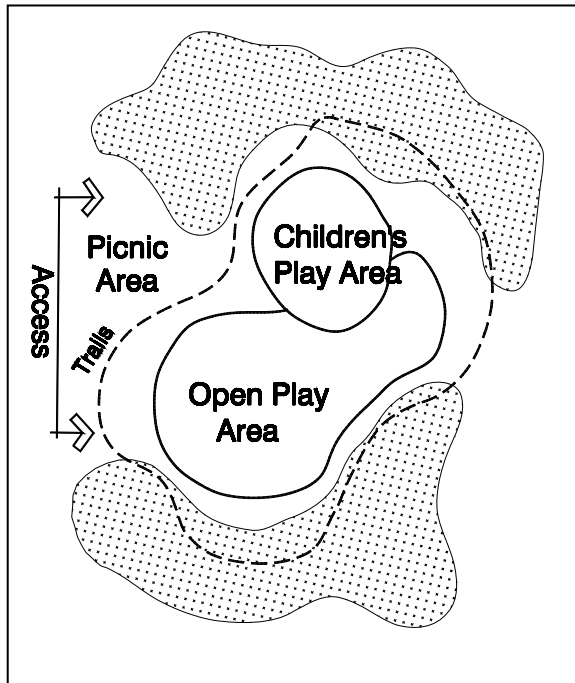


Figure 5
Neighborhood Park Schematic Diagram

COMMUNITY PARKS

General Land Use Guidelines:

- The acquisition of community parkland should occur far in advance of its need because of the size of these parks.
- Construction of a community park should occur when the area it will serve reaches about 50% developed (measured by either acreage developed or population accommodated). Construction can be phased to spread out development costs.

Site Selection Criteria:

- Community parks should average about 25 acres in size, with 30-40 acres preferred. If limited sites are available, the minimum size for a community park should be 20 acres, not including acreage contained within detention basins.
- At least two-thirds of the site should be available for active recreation use. Adequate buffers should separate active use

areas from nearby homes.

- Walking or bicycling distance should not exceed one to one and a half miles for the area the park is intended to serve.
- The site should be highly visible from adjoining streets and have street frontage.
- The site should be accessed by a collector or arterial street.

Design and Development Standards:

- Community parks should include:
 - Designated sports fields - softball, baseball, soccer, etc. These may be located in complexes serving a single sport.
 - Outdoor basketball courts
 - Horseshoe pits
 - Unstructured open turf areas
 - Playground equipment (tot and youth)
 - Picnic areas
 - Picnic shelters (various sizes)
 - Group picnic facilities (available for rental) – accommodating groups of 50+
 - Looped pathways/trail system
 - Site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
 - Permanent restrooms
 - Off-street parking
- Other appropriate amenities include tennis courts, volleyball courts, and specialized facilities such as skate parks, recreation centers, and water playgrounds/spraygrounds.
- Parking should be provided off-street, adequate to serve the facilities provided. On-street parking, if available, can supplement the off-street parking. As a guideline, 50 parking spaces should be provided per sports field and 5 spaces should be provided for each acre of active use area.
- For security reasons, permanent restrooms should be located in highly visible areas that receive the most visitation and near public

streets, if possible.

- At community parks where special events may occur, accommodations for a portable concession stand/snack bar should be made, if permanent facilities are not incorporated.
- Figure 6 shows a typical community park layout.

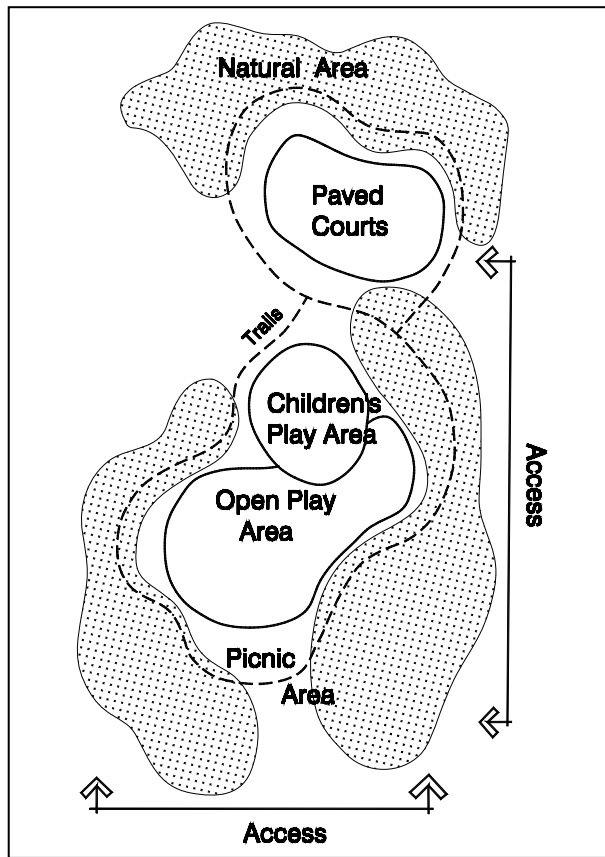


Figure 6
Community Park Schematic Diagram

LINEAR PARKS

General Land Use Guidelines:

- Because of the narrow shape, configuration, and potential for high use, noise and use impacts on adjacent property must be taken into consideration when siting linear parks. While evidence has shown that trails generally do not provide negative impacts on surrounding properties, careful consideration should be given to the location of trailheads, lighting, and any neighborhood park facilities within linear parks to ensure that conflicts are minimized.

Site Selection Criteria:

- Linear parks should be a minimum of 50' in width.
- While trails may be developed outside of linear parks, all linear parks should include paved trails.
- Trailhead areas along linear parks should be adequately sized to accommodate the desired number of parking spaces and located near major streets.
- Neighborhood park facilities such as playground equipment, open turf areas, and picnic tables can be incorporated as waysides into linear parks. A minimum of ½ acre with street frontage should be provided for these waysides, and they should be located in areas not served by community or neighborhood parks.

Design and Development Standards:

- Activities in linear parks should be trail-related and generally passive in nature, except where neighborhood park facilities are provided.
- Paved pathways in linear parks should be designed to accommodate maintenance and patrol vehicles. See the Pathways and Trails guidelines for additional guidelines.
- Adjoining residential uses should be protected by fences, landscaping, or other features to control access.
- Natural areas in linear parks should be maintained for fire and weed abatement, and potentially for habitat. Developed areas of linear parks should be landscaped and maintained.
- The schematic diagram in Figure 7 illustrates the

relationship of linear park elements.

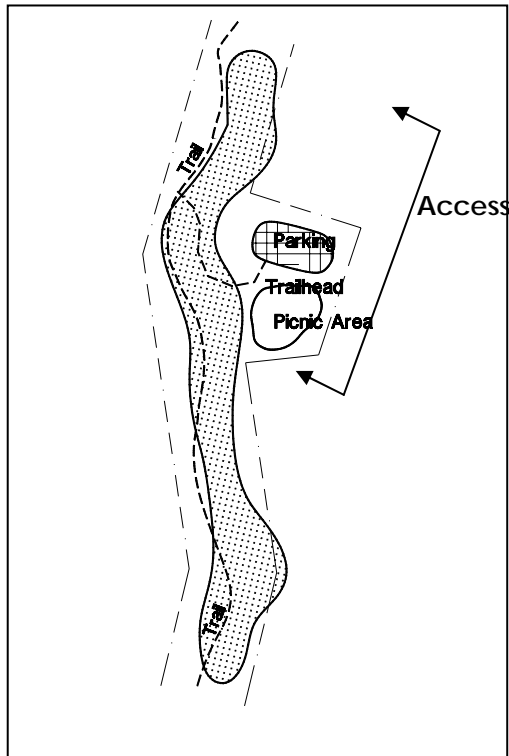


Figure 7
Linear Park Schematic Diagram

SPECIAL USE AREAS

- It is recommended that the City generally seek to locate any specialized facilities in the planned community parks. This recommendation should not preclude the City from evaluating and taking advantage of any unforeseen unique opportunities that may arise in the future.
- If special use areas are added to house specialized facilities, the guidelines, criteria, and standards below should be followed.

General Land Use Guidelines:

- Siting criteria depend on the types of facilities proposed.
- Prior to the addition of any special use area, the City should prepare a cost/benefit analysis or detailed feasibility study for each proposed site. This is particularly important for major

facilities, such as a community center, so that the full cost implications are understood prior to committing to the project.

Site Selection Criteria:

- Size and location of facility will depend on the facility's function that is being considered.

Design and Development Standards:

- Design criteria will depend on the facilities and activities proposed.

NATURAL OPEN SPACE AREAS

General Land Use Guidelines:

- If natural open space acquisition is proposed, emphasis should be on those areas offering unique features or habitat corridors.
- When open space is acquired, a determination should be made about the level of recreation use that should be permitted. In some cases, limited public access may be desired due to environmental sensitivity or other concerns. Other open space areas may be appropriate for trails, viewpoints, or interpretive activities.

Site Selection Criteria:

- Site size should be determined based on natural open space needs, with adequate protection provided for the resource.
- Where feasible, public access and use of natural open space areas should be encouraged through trails and other features, but environmentally sensitive areas should be protected from overuse.
- Within open space areas with public access, improvements should be kept to a minimum, with the natural environment, interpretive and educational features emphasized.
- Natural open space areas with public access should be designed and managed for a sense of solitude, separation, or environmental protection.
- If public access is to be allowed, parking and overall use should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its resource value, natural character, and the intended level of solitude.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND PATHWAYS

- The main purpose of recreation trails is to provide off-street bicycle and pedestrian links to the community's parks, with recreation emphasized. On-street bikeways intended mainly for transportation are not addressed in this plan.
- The guidelines, criteria, and standards listed below apply to trails and pathways that are recreational in nature.

General Land Use Guidelines:

- Trails should be developed to provide linkages to schools, parks, and other destination points.
- When planning occurs, dedication of right-of-way for recreational trails shown on the City's Park Master Plan map should be required.
- A minimum 25' wide right-of-way should be secured for trails, with 44' to 50' optimum.
- Additional trail easements or dedications should be sought to complete missing trail segments, link linear parks, and expand the overall trail network into areas that are already developed. If no other means can be found to provide missing links, on-street trail links should be considered.
- Developers should be encouraged to provide pathways within their proposed developments to link with the citywide trail system.

Site Selection Criteria:

- Whenever possible, recreation pathways and trails should be separated from the roadway.
- Recreation trails should be interesting to the user and maximize the number and diversity of enjoyable viewing opportunities.
- Trails should be located and designed to provide a diversity of challenges. Enhance accessibility wherever possible, with high priority being loop or destination opportunities on portions of trails near staging areas.
- Where routes use existing streets, the pathway should be designed to minimize potential conflicts between motorists and trail users.



*Trailhead kiosk and
information sign*

Design and Development Standards:

- Trail alignments should take into account soil conditions, surface drainage and other physical limitations that could increase construction and/or maintenance costs.
- Trails should be planned, sized, and designed for multiple uses, except for dedicated natural area trails and/or areas that cannot be developed to the standard necessary to minimize potential user conflicts.
- Centralized and effective staging areas should be provided for trail access. These sites should include parking, orientation and information signs, and any necessary specialized unloading features. Primary trailheads should have restrooms and trash receptacles, while secondary trailheads might only have some parking and signage. Trailheads can be incorporated into community parks in some cases.
- Linkages and trail location and orientation should encourage users to walk or bicycle to the trail, depending upon the expected and desired level of use. Secondary trailheads may have 3-8 parking spaces, whereas primary trailheads may have 20 or more parking spaces.
- Whenever possible, recreation pathways and trails should be separated from the roadway. Where routes use existing streets, the pathway should be designed to minimize potential conflicts between motorists and trail users. If possible, trail crossings should occur at signalized intersections.
- Multi-use trails are the preferred trail type, because they have the potential to serve the broadest spectrum of the public, including walkers, hikers, runners, equestrian users and bikers. Trails should be multi-use except where environmental or other constraints preclude this goal.
- An 8-12' paved width should be developed, with 2' wide unpaved shoulders on each side. Approximately 16' should be provided from the shoulder to each neighboring property line, if the trail runs adjacent to a private property. If the trail runs adjacent to the Merced River or another sensitive area, it should be located at least 20' away unless a larger buffer is recommended by an environmental scientist.

- Figure 8 illustrates a typical trail cross-section.

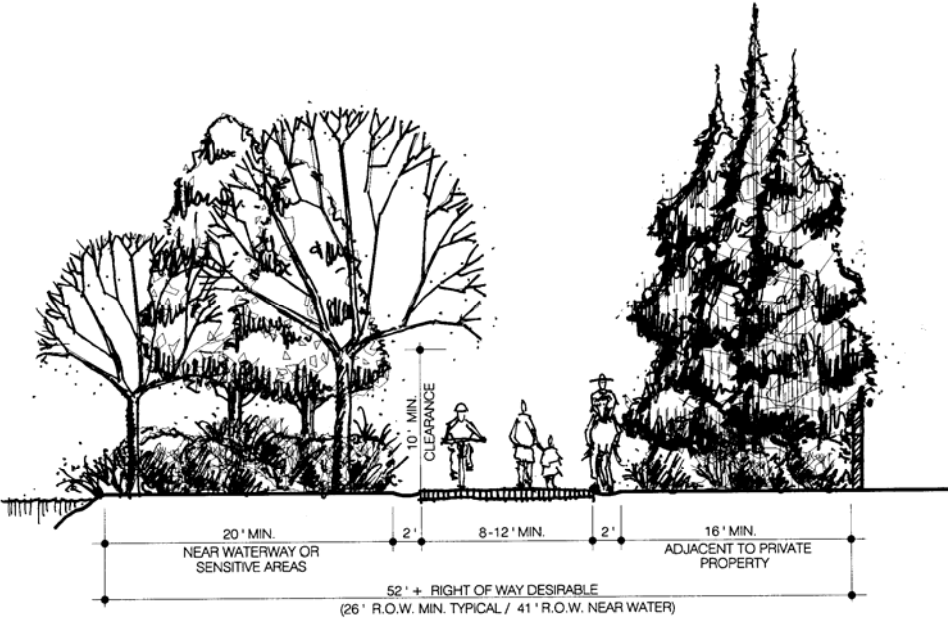


Figure 8
Multi-Use Trail Schematic Cross-Section

GUIDELINES FOR DUAL USE SITES

Livingston is expected to undergo extensive growth. In addition to developing parks to meet the new growth, the City will also develop storm drainage facilities. The Storm Drainage Master Plan was developed concurrently with the Park and Recreation Plan, and the two consulting teams coordinated during the planning process.

Dual use sites are sites where storm drainage facilities are developed adjacent to park facilities, or where storm drainage facilities are contained within parks. Livingston has two cases (Arakelian Park and Livingston Sports Complex) where basins were developed within parks. In addition, several opportunities for dual use sites, where a park would be located next to a storm drainage facility, were identified during the planning process.

The following policies guide dual use sites, from a park and recreation perspective.

1. The *objective* of providing dual use sites, where parks and stormwater detention basins are designed in a single site concept, is to provide community benefit, reducing the amount of land required for exclusive stormwater detention use and increasing recreation opportunities in the City.
2. Where dual use is desired, enough acreage should be provided to accommodate stand-alone storm detention and a stand-alone park that meets the minimum size guideline for its classification. For community parks, at least 20 acres are required. For neighborhood parks, at least 1 acre is required. Storm detention basin sizes are specified in the Storm Drainage Master Plan.
3. The dual use site should be designed as if it were a single site. This will allow shallower basins with more gradual slopes and tiering, providing a more natural appearance and maximizing public use potential.
4. Passive recreation elements such as trails and viewpoints should be incorporated into areas of the detention facilities in areas with greater flood risk potential. Active recreation elements should be located in areas with lower flood risk.
5. The following grading guidelines should be followed:

- Deep areas should be designed so that fencing is not required. These areas should also be designed with curvilinear contouring, to provide a more natural appearance. These areas may not have public access, but should be visually attractive and appear to be part of the park.
 - The site should be graded into tiers, stepping up in elevation from the deep area. Each tier should have a level area adequate to accommodate planned recreation uses. The recreation amenities incorporated into each tier will be determined based on suitability given the flood risk, frequency of inundation, and planned depth of flooding,
 - Each tier should be graded to drain toward the low point of the facility to minimize standing water in the recreation areas.
 - All areas containing turf should be designed with grades that can be easily mowed with standard equipment. Grades should also accommodate routine maintenance.
 - Tiers within the site should be contoured with gradual and variable grades, using curvilinear forms rather than rectilinear forms. Appearance should be naturalistic, rather than rectilinear.
6. The list below provides guidelines for locating recreation elements on the tiers.
- Lowest elevations: Naturalistic appearance riparian zones, vegetation, wetlands, habitat areas.
 - Lower elevation tiers (more frequent inundation): Walking paths, picnic areas, open grass areas, other passive recreation features not requiring permanent structures.
 - Moderate elevation tiers (occasional inundation): Ball fields, soccer fields, as well as lower tier elements
 - Upper elevation tiers (infrequent inundation): Paved courts, playground equipment, horseshoe pits, volleyball,

Design and Development Guidelines

parking areas, as well as lower and moderate elevation tier elements.

- Areas outside the 100-year floodplain: Restrooms, enclosed structures, swimming pools. Lower, moderate, and upper elevation tier elements may be located here as well.
7. Outfalls should be designed to fit with surrounding grades. Outfalls should not provide obstructions or hazards in recreation use areas.

Chapter 6
Recommendations
& Policies

OVERVIEW

This chapter contains recommendations and policies for establishing a park system and managing recreation services to meet future needs in Livingston.

PARK SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning Concept

The “ideal park system” for the City of Livingston as presented in this plan is based on a network of neighborhood and community parks linked by a trail system. Neighborhood parks are intended to provide more passive recreation opportunities accessible within convenient walking or biking distance of most residential areas. Community parks are intended to provide a mix of passive and active recreation opportunities, including larger scale gathering places and sports facilities. Community parks are intended to serve the broader community, but to be geographically accessible throughout the City. The trail system will provide an important recreation element, as well as linkages to the new parks that are easily accessible by bicycle or foot traffic. Supplementing the neighborhood and community parks are special use sites to meet specific recreation needs and natural open space along the Merced River. The proposed hierarchy of parks will serve the full range of community needs, and provide Livingston with a more efficient, cost effective, and usable park system.

The recommended park system for Livingston builds on the current system, by providing neighborhood parks within ½ mile of most residents and community parks within 1 mile of most residents. The goal of this concept is to provide park facilities that are convenient to most residents and that can support a broad range of recreation opportunities efficiently and cost effectively.

Because of the planned growth of the City, a strong emphasis should be placed on acquiring or securing adequately sized future park sites in advance of development, before acquisition becomes difficult. As development proposals are made, land dedications or easements should be secured for trails to provide a network of bicycle and pedestrian trails to link parks, schools, neighborhood, and other destination points.

Park and Facility Plan

The park sites listed below are referenced to the Park and Facility Plan map, shown in Figure 9. The Park and Facility Plan is a graphic representation illustrating the overall concept for where future parks should be located in Livingston. Some important notes about the Park and Facility Plan map are:

- *Park Identification System:* Each existing and proposed park site is identified with a reference number on the Facility Plan, such as N-1. These identifying numbers are incorporated into the recommendations discussed on the following pages for easy reference. The letter at the beginning denotes the park type, and the numbers are sequential. The letter abbreviations are:

NP	Neighborhood Park
CP	Community Park
T	Trail Route
OS	Natural Open Space Areas
OPP	Opportunity Site

- *Proposed Park Locations:* On the Park and Facility Plan, asterisks identify proposed park sites. The asterisk indicates the general vicinity for a particular park. The actual location will be determined based on land availability, acquisition cost, park development standards, and the property owner's willingness to sell.
- *Proposed Trail Routes:* On the Park and Facility Plan, proposed trail routes are identified. Each segment is numbered and identified with an asterisk. The general route alignment is shown on the plan, but the actual alignment or right-of-way will be determined based on land availability and subdivision and development patterns.
- *Park Names:* Where names are used to reference proposed park sites, names are for **reference purposes only** and are not yet approved by City staff or the City Council.
- *Summary of Minimum Recommended Park Amenities:* Table 16 depicts the minimum recommended amenities for each park site depicted in Figure 9.

PARK AND FACILITY PLAN

LEGEND

- Master Plan Study Area Boundary
- City Limits (Phase 1 Development)
- Phase II Development Area
- Future Development Area
- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Private Schools
- Indoor Areas of Interest
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Areas
- Other Public Open Space
- Undeveloped Land

KEY

- Proposed Neighborhood Park
- Proposed Community Park
- Proposed Special Use Area
- Proposed Trail Segment
- Proposed Open Space
- Potential Opportunity Area
- Proposed Trail Route
- # Site Reference Number

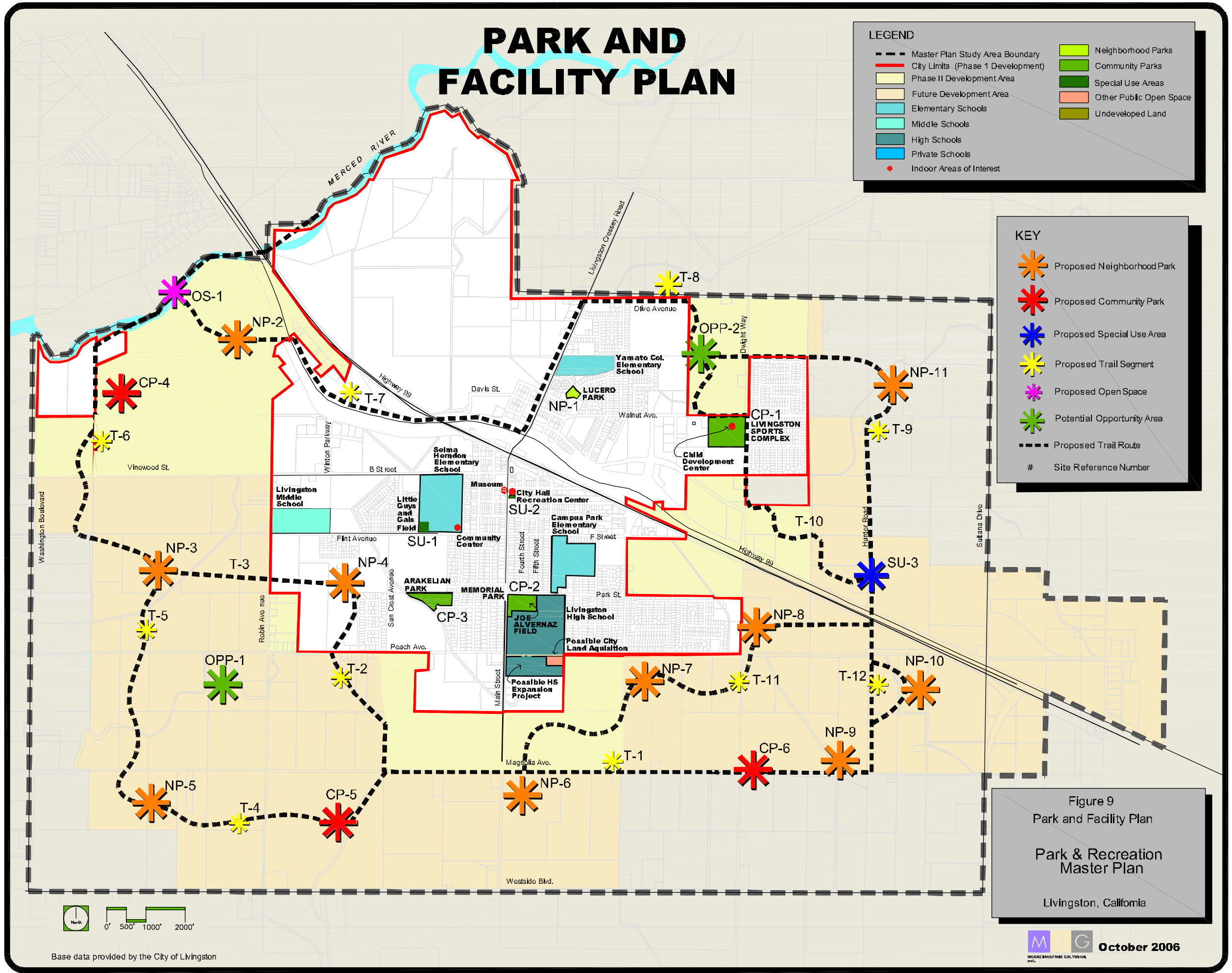


Figure 9
Park and Facility Plan
Park & Recreation
Master Plan
Livingston, California



Base data provided by the City of Livingston

Table 16
Summary of Minimum Recommended Park Amenities

Park	Playground	Equipment	Open Turf	Area	Basketball	Court	Sports Fields - Practice	Sports Fields - Game	Horseshoe	Pits	Volleyball	Courts	Tennis	Courts	Picnic Tables	Shelter	Structure	Group Picnic	Facilities	Off-Street	Parking	Restrooms	Pathway/	Trails	Site	Furnishings	Other
Neighborhood Parks																											
NP-1 Lucero Park	✓		✓	✓	✓										✓	✓							✓	✓	✓		
NP-2 Gallo Dev. Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓		
NP-3 Future Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓		
NP-4 Future Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	Connection to City trail system	
NP-5 Drainage Zone "B" Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	Connection to City trail system	
NP-6 Future Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	Connection to City trail system	
NP-7 Yagi Dev. Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	Connection to City trail system	
NP-8 Detention Basin "1" Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	Connection to City trail system	
NP-9 Future Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	Connection to City trail system	
NP-10 Future Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	Connection to City trail system	
NP-11 Future Neighborhood Park	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	Connection to City trail system	

Park Site Recommendations: Neighborhood Parks

NP-1 Lucero Park

Lucero Park is a small neighborhood park serving an existing developed area. This park is older and has limited amenities.

- Minor upgrades are recommended. Additional benches and picnic tables should be provided, and more trees should be planted. A paved pathway that loops through the park and connects major elements and access points should also be incorporated.
- When improvements are made to the park, neighbors should be consulted about preferences. Additional recreation facilities that should be considered for the park are a picnic shelter, basketball court or half-court, or horseshoe pits. If neighbors do not want the volleyball court renovated, the volleyball posts should be removed



NP-2 Gallo Development Neighborhood Park Site

The Gallo development is a 360-acre development containing a mix of land uses, including low, medium, and high density residential development. A neighborhood park is needed to serve this new development.

- A neighborhood park is recommended in the residential area planned for the Gallo property, as shown on the Park and Facility Plan map. The highway, the river, and the Winton Parkway commercial development isolate this area from the rest of town, and existing parks do not serve the neighborhood. For this reason, a neighborhood park providing basic park amenities for the residential areas of the development is recommended.
- A site approximately 5 acres in size should be acquired for park use. Once a site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

NP-3 Future Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended to serve the future development area roughly between Vinewood Street and Peach Avenue, and Robin Avenue and Washington Boulevard.

- A site approximately 5 acres in size should be acquired. Once a site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site.
- The City should link the proposed bikeway/off-street trail through this site as shown on the Park and Facility map, connecting to sites CP-4 and NP-5.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

NP-4 Future Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended in the vicinity of the Forecast Homes and Lafferty Homes development sites, as shown on the Park and Facility Plan map.

- This neighborhood park will be located on an existing storm drainage basin (approximately 3 acres). Additional acreage should be provided to bring the park size up to 5 acres. A neighborhood park is needed in this vicinity because the MID irrigation canals create barriers between the proposed new development in this area and Arakelian Park.
- Once the full park site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site.
- If trail segment T-9 is constructed, it should pass through or connect to this neighborhood park.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

NP-5 Drainage Zone "B" Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended to serve the area between Peach Avenue and Westside Boulevard, and Washington Boulevard and Robin Avenue. If possible, this park should be located adjacent to the detention basin for stormwater drainage zone "B", as shown in the Stormwater Drainage Master Plan.

- For site NP-5, approximately 5 acres should be acquired. Once a site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site. If adjacent to the stormwater detention basin, the master plan should consider the potential for dual use of the basin.

- The City should link the proposed bikeway/off-street trail through this site as shown on the Park and Facility map, connecting to sites NP-3 and CP-5.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development. In addition, the dual use recommendations in Chapter 5 should also be considered in the design and development of this park site.

NP-6 Future Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended to serve the future development area roughly between the high school and Westside Boulevard, centered on Lincoln Boulevard and Magnolia Avenue.

- A site of approximately 5 acres should be acquired. Once a site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site.
- The City should link the proposed bikeway/off-street trail to this park site as shown on the Park and Facility Plan map, connecting to the bikeway/trail system that passes through the nearby linear parkway for stormwater conveyance.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

NP-7 Yagi Development Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended in the residential area planned for the Yagi development, as shown on the Park and Facility Plan map. This area is not served by existing neighborhood parks. The planned residential development in the vicinity of this park creates a need for a neighborhood park to provide basic park amenities easily accessible from surrounding residential areas.

- A site approximately 5 acres in size should be acquired for park use. Once a site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

NP-8 Detention Basin “I” Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended for development adjacent to the storm detention basin proposed for drainage area “I” in the Storm Drainage Master Plan. This site is adjacent to Dwight Way, and the surrounding area is not served by existing neighborhood parks, nor is it within the service area of proposed neighborhood parks. To serve this area, a small neighborhood park located next to the drainage basin is recommended.

- A site of 1 to 3 acres adjacent to the drainage basin should be acquired for the neighborhood park. Playground equipment, a basketball court or half court, and picnic facilities including a small shelter should be located on the park site. Trees should be incorporated. The park land should have street frontage and be visible and accessible from the street.
- To complement the equipment and amenities on the park site, an unstructured open turf area suitable for a broad range of uses should be developed within the detention basin.
- A master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site and should take into account the storm detention basin.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development. In addition, the dual use recommendations in Chapter 5 should also be considered in the design and development of this park site.

NP-9 Future Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended to serve the future development area roughly between Peach Avenue and Westside Boulevard, and Hunter Road and Sultana Drive.

- Approximately 5 acres should be acquired.
- The City should link the proposed bikeway/off-street trail to this park site as shown on the Park and Facility Plan map, connecting to CP-6 and the bikeway/trail system.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

NP-10 Future Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended to serve the future development area east of Hunter Road and south of Highway 99.

- Approximately 5 acres should be acquired.
- The City should develop a link from the proposed bikeway/off-street trail to this park site as shown on the Park and Facility Plan map.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

NP-11 Future Neighborhood Park Site

A new neighborhood park is recommended to serve the future development area in the northeast corner of the planning area, roughly in the vicinity of Hunter Road between Walnut and Olive Avenues.

- Approximately 5 acres should be acquired.
- Paved trail connections should be sought, linking this neighborhood park into the looped trail system. Potential trail route options are shown on the Park and Facility Plan map. At minimum, a bikeway on Hunter Road should be provided.
- The City should follow the neighborhood park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

Park Site Recommendations: Community Parks

CP-1 Livingston Sports Complex

Livingston Sports Complex is a community park located north of Highway 99. This park contains Livingston's very heavily used regulation soccer field. A portion of the park is contained within a detention basin, which has configuration that limits usability of a large portion of the site.

- Address the detention basin and drainage issue because the drainage basin is currently inhibiting the park's ability to function as a community park. The most preferable solution is acquiring additional land to accommodate drainage and park uses, moving drainage impacts out of the core park area. If the basin remains in



the same location, the outfall should be moved to increase the function of the basin area. A “nuisance event” channel should be considered to reduce impacts from inundation.

- Provide additional amenities at the park. At minimum, consider playground equipment, a picnic shelter, benches, paved pathways, and basketball courts.
- Provide a bikeway/trail connection through the site or around its perimeter, as shown on the Park and Facility Plan map.
- Seek additional use of the Child Development Center for City recreation programming.
- Revise the master plan for the site to reflect the existing development, incorporate any additional land that may be acquired, and provide locations for additional amenities. The master plan should take the Park and Recreation Master Plan recommendations for this site and community parks in general into consideration.
- Additional recommendations will be refined by City staff through currently ongoing discussions with Dunmore Homes, the developer of the neighboring subdivision.



CP-2 Memorial Park

Memorial Park is Livingston’s most popular park. Centrally located, Memorial Park contains a variety of amenities, including Alvernaz Field.

- Build a shelter and a kitchen as shown on the Memorial Park Improvements Plan.
- Consider architectural unity when structures are added or rehabilitated in the park. There is currently an assortment of materials used in the structures on the site, as well as varied rooflines and building massing. In the relatively small space at Memorial Park, more unity of materials and forms will create a better design and more restful park environment.
- Maintain the open character of the lawn in front of the stage, a main element of the pleasant atmosphere at the park. To maintain the open character, additional development should be concentrated to the east and south, towards Alvernaz Field and between the restrooms and Hammett Hall.

- Seek paved parking near Alvernaz Field to accommodate the heavy use this site receives. It may be possible to fit a single row of parking off Park Street, adjacent to the field.
- The Alvernaz Field dugouts should be paved to reduce maintenance issues, and pathways should be provided connecting the dugouts to other field elements and to Memorial Park. Expansion of the dugouts should be considered before paving occurs.
- Add pathways connecting Alvernaz Field (the spectator seating and dugouts) with the restrooms.
- Add pathways to connect the elements in the main portion of the park, such as the play area, the restrooms, the picnic shelter, and the stage. Pathways should be directed away from the lawn areas. The current lack of pathways creates a number of maintenance problems, most noticeably degraded or missing turf.
- Consider adding accommodations for a portable snack bar near the restrooms to provide service during special events. The location of the snack bar at Alvernaz Field does not serve Memorial Park events well. Since Livingston seems to do a fairly good business in concessions, portable snack bar accommodations should be planned in all community parks intended to support special events if permanent facilities are not conveniently provided. If the City acquires portable snack bar equipment, portable snack bar accommodations should definitely be pursued at Memorial Park.
- Plan for tree replacement. The mature trees at Memorial Park are arranged in a formal grid and provide a pleasant canopy. To minimize the impacts of tree loss, a tree replacement strategy should be developed to address how replacement will occur as the existing trees die off.
- Consider working with Livingston High School to reconfigure the existing high school fields to create a field complex with Alvernaz Field. The three existing high school fields could be reconfigured into two high quality fields similar to Alvernaz Field, one for regulation baseball and one for regulation softball. A redesign of this type would also accommodate a soccer field--possibly stand-alone rather than an overlay as currently exists. As part of a configuration effort, tree-lined walkways could be developed that link Park Street, Alvernaz Fields, and the high school fields. The

benefit of reconfiguration is that the fields would be better linked and potentially more usable for City events, and the block containing the High School and Memorial Park/Alvernaz Field would be more visually unified than currently. If the City pursues this as a joint project with the high school, a formal agreement should be developed before any financial commitments are made.



CP-3 Arakelian Park

Arakelian Park is a small community park located within walking distance of Memorial Park. The park is located within a detention basin.

- Develop a master plan for the site now that the land dedication from the Davante Villas subdivision is completed. The master plan should incorporate the additional recommendations contained below.
- Address the “nuisance flood event” to reduce inundation impacts on the site and increase its usability for the community.
- Evaluate the parking lot use and parking needs of proposed new facilities, since the number of spaces is relatively high for a park of this size and level of amenities. Due to the softball use, the lot likely currently fills to capacity on game days, even though the other amenities at the site are limited. However, scheduled league use is recommended to be phased out, which may reduce the parking demand at the site.
- If possible, add a basketball court or half court to the site.
- Upgrade the playground equipment and provide additional equipment suitable for differing age groups.
- Add a looped pathway that connects the elements in the park.
- Upgrade the turf. Since there are no paved paths in the park, there are a number of areas where the turf is very worn due to the heavy foot traffic. Once pathways are in place, the turf upgrade or rehabilitation should occur.
- Upgrade or replace the shelter, including replacing and upgrading the sink and water fountain.
- Phase out the use of the backstop at Arakelian Park for girls softball once additional fields are developed. The backstop could remain in the park for casual, unscheduled use and to complement the group picnic area. However, due to its small size,

inadequate amenities, and frequent inundation, the backstop should be phased out of scheduled use once additional facilities are constructed. Even if the nuisance flood can be abated to reduce inundation, the backstop should not be replaced or upgraded, and scheduled use of the park for softball should be phased out.

CP-4 Gallo Development Community Park Site

A community park is recommended at the west side of the planned Gallo development. If properly sited, this park could also provide a buffer between the sewer treatment plant and the proposed new development.

- For site CP-4, a minimum of 25 acres should be acquired. If more land could be acquired, this site could be much larger, and serve as a major park and recreation site that potentially even connects to the Merced River.
- The City should consider development of lighted athletic field complex at this site. To accommodate an athletic field complex, the park size should be increased to at least 40 acres.
- Once a site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site.
- The City should follow the community park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.
- In addition to providing typical community park features, the City should link the proposed bikeway/off-street trail through this site as shown on the Park and Facility map, linking to natural open space site OS-1 and the Merced River.

CP-5 Ranchwood Development Community Park Site

A community park is recommended to serve planned new development in southwest Livingston. This park should be located adjacent to the detention basin for stormwater drainage area “A”, as shown in the Stormwater Drainage Master Plan.

- For site CP-5, at least 25 acres should be acquired, and a larger site (40+ acres) would be preferable. This site is envisioned to become the most significant community park in Livingston. The large detention basin offers an opportunity to create an attractive feature adjacent to the park, possibly even a permanent water feature. Once a site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide future development of the site. If the park site is adjacent to the stormwater detention basin, the master plan should consider the potential for dual use of the basin.
- The City should link the proposed bikeway/off-street trail through this site as shown on the Park and Facility map, connecting to site NP-5 and the bikeway/trail contained in the linear parkway for stormwater conveyance.
- The City should follow the community park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development. In addition, the dual use recommendations in Chapter 5 should also be considered in the design and development of this park site.

CP-6 Future Community Park Site

A community park is recommended to serve future development in the southeast area of Livingston.

- A site of approximately 25 acres should be acquired. Once a site is acquired, a master plan should be prepared to guide the future development of the site.
- The City should link the proposed bikeway/off-street trail to this park site as shown on the Park and Facility Plan map, connecting to the bikeway/trail system that passes through the nearby linear parkway for stormwater conveyance.
- The City should follow the community park recommendations in Chapter 5 for site selection and design program, as well as timing of park development.

Park Site Recommendations: Natural Open Space

OS-1 Merced River

A new open space park is recommended along the Merced River, southwest of Highway 99. The purpose of this open space is to provide views, access to the river, and passive recreation opportunities.

- It is recommended that the detention basin proposed for this area be designed to facilitate public access to the river, so that the site serves as an open space park. This site should, at minimum, provide the community visual access to the river through the use of viewpoints. If feasible, physical access via a trail system should be provided.
- The proposed bikeway/trail system should pass through the site, linking from site CP-4 to the river, then through the site, connecting back across Highway 99 to create a loop.
- Passive uses and looping trails that tie into the main bikeway/trail system are the main amenities recommended for the site. Potential linkages to regional recreation facilities should be explored, including the McConnell State Recreation Area located northeast of Livingston.

Park Site Recommendations: Special Use Areas

SU-1 Little Guys and Gals Field

Little Guys and Gals Field is located on Livingston Union School District property. It is the main site for Livingston's youth baseball and softball programs, and is very heavily used.

- Rehabilitate the existing restrooms or provide new ones. Before making a final decision, consider the long-term cost implications of using portable facilities versus construction of a permanent facility.
- Seek a formal agreement with the Livingston Union School District (LUSD) that would allow the City to build a youth T-ball/coach pitch field adjacent to Little Guys and Gals Field. This should be a high priority, because it will alleviate the City's current field needs.
- LUSD has plans to place a bus access drive through their site, passing to the east of Little Guys and Gals Field. If developed, this drive could provide additional off-street parking (parallel or angle, depending on the drive width). Based on the potential



alignment, it appears that adequate space for a T-ball/coach pitch field would remain to the east of the drive.

- Consider providing play equipment and other amenities near the field to improve the location for spectators and families.
- Identify to whom ownership will fall when the fenced detention basin to the west of the field is eliminated, as planned in the Storm Drainage Master Plan. If ownership does revert to the City, the site should be considered for parking or other amenities such as play equipment or a picnic shelter to complement the field use. If ownership does not revert to the City, Livingston should consider seeking acquisition if the site would accommodate parking and additional amenities.



SU-2 Livingston Recreation Center

Livingston Recreation Center is part of City Hall. It is a multipurpose room with restrooms and a kitchen, and is used for a senior citizens lunch program and other recreation programs. It will be replaced with a new facility at a different location. The City should identify options and work with the lunch program on how to accommodate their needs, including determining financial responsibilities.

SU-3 Drainage Basins “G” and “H” Sports Complex Site

A new sports complex is recommended, to be located within planned storm detention basins.

- Due to Livingston’s shortage of sports fields, a sports complex should be considered adjacent to the detention basin for stormwater drainage areas “G” and “H”, as shown in the Stormwater Drainage Master Plan. The basin is planned directly to the north of Highway 99. A sports complex in this area would have convenient access from Highway 99, and be accessible both for the community and for the broader region.
- A sports complex at this location should have access from and frontage on Hunter Road. Lighting would likely be appropriate, due to the proximity of the highway and associated commercial development.
- An adult softball complex would require approximately 15 to 20 acres, including parking and associated amenities. A soccer complex would require a large turf area that could accommodate a variety of field configurations. A full-sized regulation field is about

2 acres in size. About 50 parking spaces should be provided for each sports field at the site.

- If a sports complex is pursued at this location, a feasibility study and master plan should be developed. The possibility of including space for a concessionaire should be evaluated, as further discussed under the Recreation Facilities section later in this chapter. If the site is adjacent to the stormwater detention basin, the master plan should consider the potential for dual use of the basin.
- The City should link the proposed bikeway/off-street trail through this site as shown on the Park and Facility map, connecting to sites NP-9 and Livingston Sports Complex (CP-1).

Bikeway/Trail Segment Recommendations

The recommendations provided in this section establish a looped trail system for Livingston that links most parks. Wherever possible, linkages between individual developments and the looped system should be encouraged. In addition, the City should explore opportunities to connect the City's system into a regional network. For example, the City could seek connections to the McConnell State Recreation Area. In addition, the City should coordinate with Merced County to make sure local trail planning is reflected in the Merced County Bicycle Plan.

In some cases, the trails can follow the routes of irrigation canals, especially if the canals are undergrounded.

T-1 Magnolia Linear Parkway

- A linear parkway will be located adjacent to Magnolia Avenue. A separated trail will be integrated into this linear parkway as part of the City's planned bikeway/trail system.
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-2 Arena Canal Trail Segment

- If Arena Canal is placed underground, trail segment T-2 should be developed on the canal right-of-way. This segment would connect from the proposed Bridgeport Village subdivision to site NP-4, and continue on to segment T-1. This linkage is important, because it would provide a bike and pedestrian connection from older areas

of development to the new development areas and looped trail system.

- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-3 NP-4 to NP-3 Trail Segment

- Provide an off-street trail linkage between parks sites NP-4 and NP-3. A general route is shown on the Park and Facility Plan map. This route will be refined through the development review process, as subdivision proposals for this area are submitted.
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-4 CP-5 to NP-5 Trail Segment

- Provide an off-street trail linkage between parks sites CP-5 and NP-5. A general route is shown on the Park and Facility Plan map. This route will be refined through the development review process, as subdivision proposals for this area are submitted.
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-5 NP-5 to NP-3 Trail Segment

- Provide a trail linkage between parks sites NP-5 and NP-3. A general route is shown on the Park and Facility Plan map. This route will be refined through the development review process, as subdivision proposals for this area are submitted.
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-6 NP-3 to Merced River Segment

- Provide a trail linkage between parks site NP-3 and Highway 99. A general route is shown on the Park and Facility Plan map. The route between park site NP-3 and CP-4 will be refined through the development review process, as subdivision proposals for this area are submitted. The trail from site CP-4 to the river will parallel the wastewater treatment plant. The trail along the river should follow the simplest route, and pass through site OS-1, passing under Highway 99 to provide a connection to site OS-2.

- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-7 Merced River to Livingston Cressey Road Trail Segment

- Provide a trail linkage from site OS-1 through site NP-2, continuing paralleling Gallo Drive to Main Street, then across Highway 99 to Livingston Cressey Road. This trail segment should parallel Livingston Cressey Road to Olive Avenue.
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail. However, modifications to the recommended trail guidelines may be needed in order to meet the challenges this segment poses.

T-8 Livingston Cressey Road to Hunter Road Trail Segment

- The first part of trail segment T-8 will parallel Olive Avenue, and may even be contained within the Olive Avenue right-of-way. However, the trail should be off-street and separated by landscaping or a median. Segment T-8 then connects to NP-11, a little to the east of Hunter Road.
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-9 Hunter Road to NP-9 Trail Segment

- Trail segment T-9 will generally parallel Hunter Road and may even be contained within the Hunter Road right-of-way. However, the trail should be off-street and separated by landscaping or a median. Segment T-9 will connect from site NP-11, continuing to site SU-3 and connecting under or over Highway 99 to connect with trail segment T-12.
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-10 OPP-2 to SU-3 Trail Segment

- Trail segment T-10 will connect from trail segment T-8 in the area of Opportunity Site 2 through the Livingston Sports Complex, connecting to Site SU-3 and trail segment T-9. A linkage through the Livingston Sports Complex is recommended as part of the site's new master plan.

T-11 NP-7 and NP-8 Connector Trail Segment

- Trail segment T-10 is intended to provide a linkage from site NP-6 to sites NP-7 and NP-8, then either to trail segment T-7 or north across Highway 99 to create a loop. The Park and Facility Plan map depicts a potential route for segment T-10 that connects to segment T-7. Another alternative is to connect from site NP-8 across Highway 99 and north to Livingston Sports Complex (site CP-1)
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

T-12 NP-10 Connector Trail Segment

- Trail segment T-10 is intended to provide a linkage to site NP-10. The Park and Facility Plan map depicts a potential route for segment T-10 that provides a second loop generally paralleling Hunter Road, then connecting west to the detention basin for drainage area F. Although a looped segment is preferable, another alternative would be a non-looped connection from trail segment T-6 to NP-10, passing from the detention basin for drainage area F to site NP-10.
- The guidelines for recreation trails and pathways contained in Chapter 5 should be followed for development of the bikeway/trail.

Recommendations for Planned Park Land

Davante Villas Park Land (CP-3)

- Arakelian Park has been expanded by a land dedication resulting from the Davante Villas subdivision. Recommendations for Arakelian Park were discussed earlier in this chapter, including incorporation of this additional land into a new master plan for the site for walkways and other improvements.

Kishi Subdivision Park Land (near Opportunity Site 2)

- The Kishi Subdivision is planned near Olive Avenue and will contain 159 homes. Two acres of park land that were identified in early planning as part of this subdivision are under construction.

Sunvalley Estates Park Land

- Through the subdivision approval process, 2.1 acres in the Sunvalley Estates subdivision has been identified for joint park and storm detention basin use, and is under construction.

Winton/B Street Shopping Center

- A 1.18 acre temporary storm basin is proposed as part of the Winton/B Street shopping center development, with a planned future use as open space. If the City eventually becomes the owner of this property, its use for park and recreation purposes is limited. This is a commercial area and additional neighborhood park service is not needed to serve it. Also, Winton Parkway is planned for extension in the vicinity of the park land/storm basin.
- If the City owns the property and the Winton Parkway extension requires all or a portion of the park land, transportation improvement funds should be used to purchase the land, or a land swap should be undertaken that provides park land in a location identified in this Master Plan.
- If the Winton Parkway extension does not require the park land, the City should consider selling the land or trading it, using the proceeds towards park improvements or land acquisition identified in the Master Plan. If a sale or trade is not possible, the City should consider leaving the site as a beautification area (landscaping only). This is a difficult site due to the heavy traffic on Winton Parkway, and the truck traffic. Other special recreation uses that are complementary to a shopping center, such as an urban plaza, may be difficult at this site due to the auto-oriented nature and heavy traffic of the surroundings.

Opportunity Site 1 (OPP-1)

- The Livingston Union School District has plans to construct an elementary school in the vicinity of Opportunity Site 1. At minimum the City should seek to provide a connection from the trail system to the school site. In addition, the City should explore opportunities for partnerships with the School District on this site.

Opportunity Site 2 (OPP-2)

- Opportunity Site #2 is a storm basin identified in the Storm Drainage Master Plan. While a neighborhood park is not needed in this area if Livingston Sports Complex is improved, the site does offer opportunities for recreation. Trail segment T-8 will pass

through the site, and segment T-10 will connect from the site to the Sports Complex. Opportunity Site 2 may offer a suitable location for open turf that can be used for soccer play, provided parking needs can be addressed. Although there may be issues with standing water at certain times during the year with these sites, for much of the year they could offer adequate accommodations particularly for youth soccer practices and games.

RECREATION FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Indoor Recreation Facilities

- *Build a multi-purpose indoor space.* A multi-purpose recreation building that could accommodate multiple uses would greatly expand recreation opportunities in Livingston. Either a full-service recreation center or a smaller “fieldhouse.” While it may be difficult for Livingston to fund a full-service recreation center (40,000 to 60,000 s.f.) given the current population, a facility could be built in phases, or a smaller indoor structure with utilitarian finishes could be constructed in a single phase. The following facilities should be included in an indoor facility:
 - Multipurpose room approximately 100' x 200' with flooring suitable for basketball games;
 - Full-service kitchen with concession window;
 - Restrooms;
 - Small recreation staff office space; and
 - Storage (large enough to accommodate bleachers and other equipment.)
 - Optional elements include room dividers in the multipurpose room and a classroom space for general purpose recreation classes.

A “fieldhouse” of this nature could accommodate Livingston’s current court demand at a lower cost than building gymnasiums, and it would also provide the City with indoor space that could be used for other activities and events, including roller hockey or indoor soccer. This type of facility may also offer rental opportunities, as there are very limited large scale indoor facilities in Livingston.

In addition, the “fieldhouse” location should:

- Be located central to the community, preferably south of Highway 99;
- Be accessible from a major street; and
- Include space for approximately 75 to 100 parking spaces, at minimum.

The “fieldhouse” structure should:

- Include windows or other lighting and be attractive enough and acoustically suitable for a variety of events;
- Be efficient to heat and cool for year round, comfortable use; and
- Be suitable for upgrades, such as the addition of wood floors, if desired in the future.

The Livingston Union School District (LUSD) land to the west of Campus Park Elementary School could be an excellent site for the fieldhouse, if an agreement could be reached with the School District. This site is convenient to downtown, almost adjacent to the high school, and relatively accessible from the middle school.

Energy costs for operating the building should be considered, because a building material that is slightly more costly may offer significantly lower operating costs over the lifecycle of the building. The most cost effective type of building for the fieldhouse will depend on required occupancy ratings, projected heating and cooling costs, and other issues. An architect can help the City make the decision about the best options.

- *Consider partnering with Livingston Union School District to expand gymnasium options.* When new schools are planned and designed, the City should consider working cooperatively with the school district to ensure that school facilities are adaptable for other community recreation needs. Two options are:
 - Coordinating with the school district to ensure planned gymnasiums are designed for community use; or
 - Joint venturing with the school district to provide gymnasiums at elementary schools.

The City could coordinate with the School District when new schools are constructed to request that any gymnasiums include restrooms and an entrance that opens directly to the outside. This would facilitate community use of the gyms.

As another option, the City could joint venture with LUSD to build gymnasiums at any proposed new elementary schools, which typically have multi-purpose rooms rather than full-size gymnasiums. In addition, facility availability after school hours is generally good at elementary schools. Under a joint venture of this type, the City would contribute financially to the added cost of providing a gymnasium, rather than the multi-purpose room typical for local elementary schools. In exchange for paying for an upgraded facility, the City would have exclusive use of the gymnasium after school and on weekends. The School District would benefit by having better facilities available for its students, and the City would benefit by gaining additional gymnasiums at a lower cost than building its own stand-alone facilities. This type of arrangement should only be considered if a specific use agreement is drafted that documents the financial responsibilities of each party and establishes time allocations.

While the Merced Union High School District also serves Livingston, high schools generally heavily program their gymnasiums, limiting opportunities for shared use of facilities.

- *If the downtown theater (across from City Hall) is renovated, seek ways to use the facility to expand recreation options.* If the theater renovation is pursued and City funds are used, the City should explore ways that the facility can be used for community recreation purposes, if that fits within the business plan for the theater. The theater could offer opportunities for special events, youth talent shows, special concerts, community performances, and other recreation events that are currently not available in Livingston.
- *Long term, evaluate the feasibility of building a full-service recreation center.* While Livingston is currently too small to support a full-service recreation center (40,000 to 60,000 square feet), future park and recreation master plan updates should evaluate the need and feasibility for such a center. A full-service recreation center would typically include a gymnasium, fitness equipment, a multi-purpose room, classrooms of different sizes

and configurations, and a lounge area. If Livingston considers such a facility in the future, the possibility of incorporating a senior citizen lounge or program area should also be explored. A detailed operation study and feasibility analysis is recommended if the City considers providing a full-service recreation center of this type.

Athletic Facilities and Organized Sports

Organized sports are an important recreation activity in Livingston. At the current time there is a need for additional youth and adult soccer fields and youth baseball/softball fields. In addition, some improvements are warranted to the current adult baseball and softball field situation. At build-out, there will be a considerable need for all types of fields (adult and youth soccer, youth baseball/softball, and adult softball and baseball). Gymnasiums are currently needed, and more will be needed in the future. Currently, most fields and all gymnasiums in Livingston are located at school sites.

Table 17 contains recommended guidelines for level of service for sports fields and gyms. These guidelines should be used in the planning and development of additional fields and gyms.

Table 17
Athletic Facility Guidelines

Recreation Facility ¹	Recommended Guideline
Adult Baseball Fields	1 Field/12,000 Residents
Adult Softball Fields	1 Field/12,000 Residents
Youth Baseball/ Softball Fields	1 Field/1,700 Residents
Adult Soccer Fields	1 Field/4,400 Residents
Youth Soccer Fields	1 Field/1,600 Residents
Indoor Gym Space (Courts)	1 Court/4,300 Residents

¹ Includes school facilities as well as City of Livingston facilities, even if no use agreement exists.

Adult Baseball and Softball

- *Continue to operate adult baseball and softball leagues.* The City's current adult leagues are successful, and the Recreation Department has indicated there appears to be demand for additional teams. If staffing permits, the City should consider

expanding the leagues to accommodate the additional demand. Saturday night or weeknight games would be one way of accommodating expansion without additional facilities.

- *Seek at least one dedicated adult softball field as soon as possible.* The City currently schedules adult softball games on Alvernaz Field (which is not designed for softball) due to the constraints of the high school softball fields. As soon as possible, the City should seek to provide at least one dedicated adult softball field. If enough space is available, the redesign of the Livingston Sports Complex should include an adult softball field to complement the existing full-sized soccer field.
- *Provide lighting at all new adult baseball and softball fields.* Lighting extends the playing time on fields, and therefore increases capacity. Because adult games can run later into the evening than youth games, all new adult baseball and softball fields should include lighting.
- *Explore the feasibility of an adult softball complex.* In the future, the City should explore the feasibility of a field complex for adult softball. A detailed feasibility and cost/revenue analysis should be completed. Sites CP-4 and SU-3 have been identified as potential sites for a sports complex, and could accommodate an adult complex. Based on projected sports field demands, an adult complex for Livingston should include at least three adult softball fields. Four fields are better for attracting tournaments. If feasible, it should incorporate a concession (such as beer, pizza, or a sports bar) run by an outside contractor. Approximately 15 to 20 acres would be needed to accommodate the fields, parking, and associated amenities for an adult complex as described here. If other types of fields were included, more acreage would be required. There are a variety of operational models that could be explored for such a complex. The City should only pursue a complex if the feasibility analysis is favorable, and supports City goals, financial and other.

Youth Baseball and Softball

- *Continue to operate youth baseball and softball leagues.* The City should continue to provide youth baseball and softball leagues, and should coordinate its leagues with the County's higher level competitive leagues.

- *Where feasible, locate youth fields at least in pairs.* Operationally, grouped fields are more efficient. Where feasible, new fields should be located at least in pairs. Accommodations for at least a portable concession stand should be provided where two fields or more are located together.
- *Construct a youth T-ball/coach pitch field on LUSD grounds, adjacent to Little Guys and Gals Field.* This will decrease the staff workload for games, and increase the available field space. This was previously discussed with the recommendations for Little Guys and Gals Field.
- *Use the multi-use fields at Yamato Colony Elementary School for practices only.* This site is in poor condition, and is not conducive to upgrades.
- *Phase out scheduled youth softball play at Arakelian Park.* When more fields are available for play, scheduled play should be phased out of Arakelian Park.
- *Upgrade or replace the multi-use fields at Campus Park Elementary School.* The fields at Campus Park Elementary school should be considered for upgrade, if the City can secure adequate use through a formal agreement with the school district.
- *Provide youth fields in new community parks.* As new community parks are added, the City should evaluate how well the recommended youth baseball/softball field guidelines are being met. If the guideline indicates more fields are needed, they should be included in the master plans for the new parks. Generally, most community parks are anticipated to contain youth ball fields, unless a complex with multiple fields is constructed in the City.

Adult and Youth Soccer

- *Continue to rely on independent leagues for adult and youth soccer.* Independent leagues should continue to be the primary providers of adult and youth soccer in Livingston. The two existing leagues are very well-established, and provide varying levels of competitiveness. The City should continue to coordinate with the independent leagues to ensure that opportunities for soccer remain available to the community and that the leagues have field space available for local players.
- *Provide additional fields that can accommodate a range of field sizes.* In terms of facilities, soccer is currently poorly served in

Livingston. According to the needs assessment conducted as part of the Master Plan project, both full-sized (adult) fields and youth fields are needed to meet existing need. Many of the areas currently used for play are inadequate, and simply turf available at school sites and elsewhere. Soccer fields are very flexible in that adequately sized, level turf areas can accommodate a range of field configurations. For the long term, the City should include soccer fields in each new community park. In the shorter term, Opportunity Site #2 (a storm basin identified in the Storm Drainage Master Plan) may offer a suitable location for open turf that can be used for soccer play, provided parking needs can be addressed. Although there may be issues with standing water at certain times during the year with these sites, for much of the year they could offer adequate accommodations particularly for youth soccer practices and games.

- *Consider a youth soccer complex at site CP-4.* If enough park land can be acquired, the City should consider locating a youth sports complex at community park site CP-4.

Indoor Basketball

- *Continue operating the youth basketball league.* The City should continue operating the youth basketball league, seeking to expand it once additional court time is available.
- *Provide more open gym times.* Once additional court time can be secured, the City should provide more open gym times and consider establishing open gym times for youth on weekend evenings.
- *Continue operating the adult basketball league.* If additional court time can be secured, expand the league and evaluate whether there is demand for a women's league.
- *Address the significant need for indoor courts as soon as possible.* Livingston currently relies exclusively on indoor courts owned by others. Court times are limited and subject to sudden changes due to school scheduling conflicts. The indoor court need should be addressed as soon as possible. Several options for meeting indoor court needs were described earlier in this chapter, ranging from expanding partnerships with the school districts to constructing a field house that accommodates at least 3 courts.

Other Organized Sports Recommendations

- *Consider providing youth flag football on a trial basis.* Other communities in the Central Valley offer youth flag football. The City should consider providing youth flag football on a trial basis to determine if there is interest in the community in this activity.
- *Maintain awareness of upcoming trends.* Lacrosse is an example of a field sport that is increasing in popularity in many communities. In other communities, rugby and Ultimate Frisbee (played similar to soccer, using a Frisbee instead of a ball) have become quite popular in recent years. These “non-traditional” field sports impact field needs, particularly for soccer fields. While Livingston residents won’t necessarily follow every trend in organized sports, the City should maintain an awareness of regional and statewide trends to keep current with preferences and be aware of any potential impacts on recreation facilities.

Other Recreation Facilities

- *Provide a tournament-scale horseshoe pit complex in one community park.* Due to the popularity of horseshoes in Livingston, a horseshoe pit complex consisting of 5 or 6 pits should be developed in one of the community parks. This could be lighted or unlighted, and should be located near a group picnic shelter. The horseshoe pit complex should be available for rental by the public.
- *Provide spraygrounds in at least three parks.* Spraygrounds or water playgrounds should be provided in at least three parks, geographically dispersed for convenient access. These facilities should be located at community parks when feasible. In some cases, a location in a neighborhood may be preferable if the neighborhood park is in a higher density area with more children. One sprayground should be located north of Highway 99, and the other two should be located south of Highway 99. In terms of timing, one should be provided in the short term (one to five years), and the others should be provided as development occurs and new parks are constructed.
- *Provide outdoor basketball courts or half courts at new community parks and neighborhood parks.* Outdoor basketball courts are proposed for inclusion in most neighborhood and community parks to provide convenient courts within walking distance of most residents. In most communities, outdoor basketball courts are well-used, particularly by youth. In addition, the recommendations

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earlier in this chapter proposed incorporating outdoor basketball courts or half courts at Lucero, Memorial, and Arakelian Parks and at Livingston Sports Complex if workable within the new master plans for those sites.

- *Provide outdoor tennis courts in at least two new community parks.* The court complex at Livingston High School is currently the main tennis facility in Livingston. Although tennis courts are a typical community park element in most communities, little is known about tennis participation in Livingston due to the limited facilities available and lack of data on recreation patterns of residents. To provide reasonably convenient tennis facilities in Livingston, it is recommended that tennis courts be provided in at least two new community parks, one on the east side of the city and one on the west side. If citizens involved in the master plans for individual parks request tennis courts at additional parks, including neighborhood parks, these requests should be considered and met if workable within the site master plans.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

City-wide Administration

- *Establish a Park and Recreation Commission.* A Park and Recreation Commission can provide City staff and Council with community input and guidance regarding park and recreation issues, ranging from programming questions to advising on proposed park plans or land dedications. The Park and Recreation Commission will be charged with representing the community's interests in park and recreation issues. With the anticipated growth in Livingston, the Park and Recreation Commission will have a key role in implementing the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, shaping the City's future park system, and guiding programming decisions. A five-member Park and Recreation Commission appointed by the City Council is recommended.
- *Allow the Recreation Department to bring on more staff, keeping the cost recovery mandate in mind.* It is recommended that the Department be authorized to expand its staff on a two year trial basis, on the condition that the Department continue to meet its financial goals. This means that the costs of the additional staff will be fully recovered through program fees by the end of that trial period. Recreation programs provide the most revenue of any leisure services provided by the City. Successful recreation programs can reduce the net cost per capita of providing park and recreation services, whereas parks generally have more limited revenue generation potential. Livingston's Recreation Department is very skilled at recovering costs through recreation programs. As previously noted in this plan, the Department's cost recovery level is outstanding, especially so given the range of program options and the Department's commitment to providing affordable recreation opportunities to youth.

However, most of Livingston's recreation programs are maximized given current staffing. There appears to be additional community demand for programming, but the current staffing situation does not allow program expansion. The Recreation Department believes additional staffing can be supported through revenue the Department can generate from expanded programming, thus causing no impact to the City's budget. This is a reasonable assumption, given the Department's track record.

It is recommended that the next City budget allow for staff expansion in the Recreation Department, with the condition that there will be no impact to the City's budget by the end of the trial period. Recreation staffing can be increased by hiring additional personnel or expanding part-time positions, adding temporary or seasonal recreation leader positions, or contracting the services. It is recommended that Council expand recreation staffing through one of the listed methods on a two year trial basis. If the additional staffing does not allow the Department to generate enough revenue through recreation programs to cover the full costs of the expanded staffing (contract cost or salary, fringe benefits, etc.), the Department can be cut back to current levels.

- *Update impact fees.* It is recommended that the City review its park impact fees to ensure that the fees reflect the cost of developing new park and recreation facilities needed to accommodate new development.
- *Conduct a compensation study for the Recreation Department.* By all measures, Livingston's Recreation Department is very successful. In terms of programming offered, cost recovery, and program participation, the City of Livingston's recreation program has impressive statistics for a city of its size. This is a testament to the high quality of the City's staff. Highly successful recreation staff are a very valuable resource, and the City should make every effort to retain seasoned staff to maintain the vitality of its Recreation Department. Therefore, the City should conduct a compensation study to determine whether current compensation levels are adequate in the regional market. If not, compensation levels should be adjusted to reflect the market.
- *Update the Park and Recreation Master Plan regularly.* The Park and Recreation Master Plan should be updated regularly to ensure that the plan is adapting to meet community needs as the City grows and changes. Plan updates should be undertaken approximately every five years. However, since Livingston is growing rapidly, the City should consider updating the Park and Recreation Master Plan any time the City's projected growth pattern significantly changes, especially for scenarios not addressed in the plan. For example, if Livingston were ever to expand its boundaries north of the Merced River, a plan update should be considered to address the park and recreation needs of this area.

Recreation Department Organization

The Recreation Department has met the Council's cost recovery directive, and could provide more services and programs if additional staff and resources were provided, while maintaining its financial goals. Recommendations for the Recreation Department are highlighted below:

- *Provide additional office space.* Even without additional staffing, the Recreation Department is based in one small office. Sharing space is reasonable. However, there should be enough space for each staff person to have a desk and maintain the files needed to accomplish their jobs. In the future, Recreation Department offices could be included as part of a community recreation facility, such as the proposed multi-purpose building, if office space at City Hall is limited.
- *Consider providing a recreation counter to increase customer service.* When additional office space is provided, a recreation counter for the public should be considered. This would provide a place for registration and park/picnic shelter reservations; for public information about parks, programs, and special events; and for general public questions. A counter of this nature should open on to the Recreation Department office space, so that recreation staff can proceed with other duties when customers are not at the counter.
- *Make the Recreation Specialist a salaried position.* There are many seasonal demands in recreation, with significant upswings in staff time demands during registration periods. If the Recreation Specialist position were salaried, it would allow the Department more flexibility in staffing through the use of compensatory time.
- *Transition the current Recreation Specialist position to new duties.* As additional staffing is brought on, the duties of the recreation specialist should transition to include customer service, registration, volunteer management, and departmental administrative/secretarial tasks. This position can remain part-time.
- *Create a Sports and Athletics Coordinator.* The first staff expansion should be a Sports and Athletics Coordinator. The role of this position should include day to day operations and management of the sports and athletics programs, expanding

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programming and leagues, and training the volunteer coaches. These duties would free the Superintendent to spend more time on grant and financing seeking, volunteer recruitment, youth program and volunteer management, overall program direction, and other administrative tasks.

- *If the Sports and Athletics Coordinator is successful, a Programs and Special Events Coordinator position should be created.* If the Department continues to meet its financial goals with the addition of a Sports and Athletics Coordinator, a second Recreation Coordinator position should be created. The duties of this position should include day-to-day operations and management of special events, youth programs, youth camps, and general recreation classes for all ages. This position would be responsible for day to day management of contracted class teachers and youth camp employees.
- *Expand youth employment opportunities.* In many communities, recreation departments are one of the most significant providers of youth employment opportunities. Recreation Departments frequently provide youth with their first employment opportunities, as lifeguards, camp counselors, recreation leaders, and even seasonal park maintenance workers. In addition to providing cost effective service to the public, these recreation jobs help youth develop life skills, gain job experience, earn money, and participate in healthy activities. The City should seek to expand its youth employment opportunities. If recreation staffing and programming is expanded, more youth employment opportunities could be made available to staff additional youth after school programs, new day camps, and other recreation programs.

Management

- *Establish annual goals and a work program.* Each year, the Recreation Department and the parks maintenance staff should meet as a group to set goals and specific work tasks for the coming year. At the end of the year, an evaluation should be made to measure how well the goals were met.
- *Prepare a department policy manual.* As the department grows, a policy manual should be prepared that defines how the Department will react to given issues. This will help maintain a level of consistency and help staff render consistent decisions.
- *Expand volunteer opportunities.* Volunteer opportunities should be expanded and formalized, because volunteers can help the City provide more service on a limited budget. In addition to expanding staff capabilities, the use of volunteers promotes good public relations and increases individual support for City services. The City currently relies on volunteers for operation of its leagues. As part of this effort, specific youth volunteer opportunities should be developed to help youth meet school community service requirements. Although volunteers offer many benefits, they do require some management. The Recreation Department has not been able to take advantage of offers from community members to volunteer, beyond the existing volunteer coaching program, due to a lack of time to manage more volunteers. The City should designate a volunteer coordinator to make volunteer outreach and recruitment more effective, and to help youth find ways of meeting community service requirements. Volunteers can be used in a variety of ways such as assistance with special events, conducting minor maintenance duties, and assistance with administrative tasks. This task could become part of the duties of the current Recreation Specialist, once additional staffing alleviates the current workload.
- *Develop a parks and recreation website.* More and more people, and youth in particular, rely on electronic communication. A Recreation Department website will respond to this trend. The department website should provide information about programs, City parks and facilities, registration for leagues and classes, and links to other recreation providers such as the independent sports leagues. While on-line registration may not be feasible at this time, the website would also allow residents to download and

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complete registration forms on their own time, expanding customer service. Website updates and possibly even initial website design may be able to be accomplished by youth volunteers.

Sports league management could also be streamlined through a department website. Sports manuals and other materials that are now printed for distribution can be made available electronically, which may cut down on duplication costs and associated staff time. Some communities also use websites to post league statistics and conduct other league management activities.

- *Purchase computerized registration software.* Computerized registration software will provide accurate financial information, which is critical for the Recreation Department in tracking its financial performance and meeting its cost recovery goals. Participation data and a customer database that computerized registration will help the Department with marketing efforts, scheduling, and programming decisions. In addition, computerized registration can reduce staff time and cost for registration, scheduling, etc. However, this software can be expensive. Livingston should look for a program that meets its basic needs, but that is reasonably priced. If not cost-prohibitive, the ability to upgrade or add more modules or features would allow for greater flexibility as the City grows.
- *Accept credit card/ATM for recreation program registration.* The City currently only accepts cash or checks. To provide good customer service and meet current trends, the City should expand its payment options to include credit and debit card payments.
- *Provide a budget for professional memberships, education, and training.* Professional development is important so that staff remain current in their fields, and keep abreast of developments in recreation, financing, parks maintenance, programming, and other leisure services-related issues. The City should provide a budget for professional memberships, education, and training for its recreation staff.
- *Move revenue from park, facility, and sports field rental fees to the Recreation Department's budget.* The Recreation Department handles the scheduling and public contact for these rentals, and the revenue should be credited to the Department, as is the case with other recreation fees.

Recreation Programs

- *Continue to track cost recovery percentages for recreation programs.* The Recreation Department currently recovers a very high percentage of the cost of providing park and recreation services through user fees for its services. The Department should continue to carefully track cost recovery and meet its financial goals.
- *Provide additional program space to support expanded programming.* Although the Recreation Department has been very creative about using available space for programming, the lack of space is a significant limiting factor in expanding current recreation programming. This plan provides recommendations on additional parks and facilities, which should be implemented to support additional programming.
- *Provide more programming for younger youth, high school age youth, and adults.* Although some younger youth programming is offered, more capacity is needed due to the high percentage of young children in Livingston. The City currently does not offer programming for high school age groups, a group that most communities identify as having a high level of recreation and youth development needs. The City offers some adult programming, mainly organized sports, but there is a need for more because there are no other providers in Livingston. In addition, adult programs typically generate revenue, which can offset the cost of providing additional youth and high school age programming.
- *Provide programming and use outreach methods that respond to Livingston's cultural diversity.* Livingston is a very diverse community. The City currently offers some programming that responds to cultural interests, such as folkloric dance. However, the Recreation Department should increase its offerings, and work with local groups to develop programming that responds to the cultural diversity in the community. In addition, the Department should work with local groups to broaden its outreach about recreation opportunities to all cultural groups in Livingston.

- *Ensure that programs remain affordable.* Livingston has a lower per capita income than some other nearby communities. The Recreation Department has been very sensitive to ensuring that the programs it offers are affordable to community members. These efforts should continue. If possible, the City could expand its efforts in this area to include a scholarship program.

Park Maintenance

- *Conduct a maintenance operations analysis.* A detailed maintenance operations analysis should be completed for Livingston's parks maintenance staff. The system is currently small, so that collection of data will be relatively easy. To accomplish this, maintenance personnel will need to track the amount of time spent on various tasks, such as mowing or field preparation. Maintenance operations data will assist in planning for the future growth of the park system. The data collected and the recommendations in the analysis will also assist in the development of a park maintenance management plan.
- *Establish performance standards.* Performance standards should be established for every basic park maintenance task. This will clarify what tasks are expected and the general amount of time required. This will be an effective tool for updating the City's Lighting and Landscape District parks maintenance budget. It is also an effective tool if budget cuts occur so that everyone knows what level of maintenance will occur in the future.
- *Prepare a park maintenance management plan.* A park maintenance management plan is a management approach where maintenance and time standards are established, priorities are identified, and yearly work schedules prepared. By approaching park and facility maintenance on a systematic basis, crisis maintenance can be reduced, the quality of maintenance improved, and work tasks spread out more evenly over the year.

This type of plan can also help the Parks Maintenance division track maintenance costs so that the costs of different parks or different maintenance tasks can be compared. If maintenance levels and costs are evaluated, informed judgments can be made regarding where to cut or where capital improvements may be warranted. Many agencies that use this approach establish different levels of maintenance for different types of parks. In Livingston's case, there could be two levels of maintenance: one

for community parks and other highly used parks such as Memorial Park and one for linear and neighborhood parks such as Lucero Park. Natural areas have their own special needs and should be managed accordingly.

- *Provide a budget for staff training.* A budget should be established for training of maintenance staff, such as sending the crew superintendent to Maintenance Management School. As the City's park system grows, maintenance needs will become more diverse and staff will need more training. Professionally trained staff will be better prepared for protecting and preserving the community's park resources,
- *Consider expanded use of seasonal employees to meet peak park maintenance needs.* Seasonal employees cost less than half as much as a permanent employees, and park maintenance is an activity with increased seasonal demands. A larger ratio of seasonal employees can help meet the increased maintenance demands in a more cost efficient manner. This will become more of an issue as the park system grows.
- *Use consistent design and materials in parks for ease of maintenance.* For some items such as restrooms, irrigation systems, and playground equipment, the use of standard equipment is highly recommended. The consistent use of similar materials and products will reduce the amount of inventory for replacement parts.
- *Use labor-saving opportunities where possible to reduce overall maintenance costs.* Proper design standards and use of correct equipment can substantially reduce the amount of time and labor needed to maintain a park system. As new parks are developed, considerations for maintenance should have a high priority.

Some examples of labor saving devices are:

- Use of curbs and mowing strips to reduce hand mowing and trimming;
- Reduction of high-maintenance plant materials; and
- Design of mowing areas that permit the use of larger mowers.

Other design factors such as adequate spacing between trees, correct selection of plant materials and paving all contribute to easier maintenance.

Additional Planning and Design Recommendations

Chapter 5 included Design and Development Guidelines for parks of different classifications. This section includes additional system-wide planning and design recommendations.

Planning

- *Acquire and maintain only land that is consistent with the policies and recommendations in this plan.* Livingston should not accept land that is not consistent with the recommendations in this plan. For example, the City should not accept park sites that are smaller than recommended or in locations other than what is recommended. This will avoid service duplications and system inefficiencies.
- *Adopt a park and facility naming policy.* The City should adopt guidelines for naming parks and facilities. Since the park system is expected to more than double in size in the coming years, there will be a number of new parks to name. This can be a contentious issue in some communities, and staff should adopt formal policies on naming that address Livingston's key issues. For example, a policy might only allow parks to be named for historical residents or local plants; or might set out criteria for when a park can be named after a living resident.
- *Avoid acquiring tot lots and mini-parks.* The City currently does not have any tot lots or mini-parks in its inventory. These are small parks typically focused on play equipment for small children with very limited facilities. Livingston should adopt a policy of not acquiring, constructing, or accepting any tot lots or mini-parks due to the high maintenance cost, small size, and limited recreation value of this type of park.

If the City is requested to take ownership or responsibility for a tot lot or mini-park, the following policy is recommended:

Due to the limited value of these parks to those outside their immediate surroundings and the high cost of maintaining them, the City will maintain or hold ownership of tot lots or mini-parks only if acquisition, park development, and ongoing maintenance are funded by another party through a dedicated, long-term funding source. No park fee credits will be issued if the developer chooses to build such parks. This policy applies

to both undeveloped park sites and developed park sites that developers or other groups wish to turn over to the City.

- *Establish policies to address private parks.* Livingston is anticipating a significant amount of residential development activity over the coming years. The prospect of this activity raises issues with regard to private parks. Sometimes individual subdivisions provide private facilities for residents, such as playgrounds or even recreation buildings and sports fields. Typically, these private parks are either neighborhood parks or mini-parks, generally small in size and serving only nearby neighbors. When these are provided as a subdivision amenity, the Homeowners Associations (HOAs) are required to pay for their maintenance through fees. The issue with private parks is that HOAs occasionally request that the City take over their ownership and maintenance responsibility. These private parks are frequently not up to City standards, have limited service areas, and are typically costly to maintain on a per acre basis due to their small size. While private parks are currently not anticipated in developments, it is recommended that the City take a proactive stance on these and adopt a policy to address the private park issue before it arises.

Design

- *Contract with a landscape architect for park design review.* Developers in Livingston have provided designs for some park improvements in the City. This is likely to be increased in the future, with the planned increase in development. There needs to be oversight of these designs by outside landscape architects to ensure that Livingston is getting parks that are adequate to meet community needs. The City should establish an on-call contract with a landscape architect to review park designs proposed by outside developers. Impact fees could be used to pay for these services.
- *Establish consistent design features and materials.* The consistent use of materials and products reduces the amount of inventory needed for replacement parts. Also, products with a known track record reduce the potential for poor service. It is recommended that standard benches, water fountains, picnic tables, playgrounds, and other typical park amenities be used throughout the park system. Exceptions may be made for special features that serve the broad community, such as a major group picnic area or a special custom-designed play area for children.

Recommendations & Policies

- *Adopt a signage standard.* The City should select a standard park sign and use it in all its parks and facilities. The selected sign should be attractive, easy to maintain, and available for the foreseeable future. At minimum, the sign should identify the name of the park and indicate that it is a City of Livingston facility. Park signage should be a high priority.
- *Use curbing and mow bands in park designs to reduce maintenance needs.* The use of curbing should be encouraged to separate grass from other use areas. This will reduce maintenance demands. In addition, the use of curbing or mow bands under fences will eliminate the problem of keeping grass under control.
- *Provide pathways in all parks.* If properly designed and laid out, pathways improve the recreation value of parks as well as reduce maintenance demands from worn turf. All of Livingston's parks need pathways. These should be looped and at minimum provide linkages between all elements within a park for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- *Provide lighting where appropriate.* Lighting should be integrated into park design and into the trail system to improve security and the user comfort.
- *Coordinate park designs with maintenance and programming staff.* Park design should be coordinated with Parks Maintenance and Recreation staff to ensure that maintenance needs and programming requirements are being addressed.
- *Establish policies on public restrooms.* Public restrooms in parks are expensive to construct and maintain, yet they provide a convenience to the park user. In many communities, restrooms are a major source of contention, because residents either feel there aren't enough or they aren't clean enough. Livingston should adopt the following policies on restroom development:
 - Permanent restrooms should not be provided at neighborhood parks, unless a trailhead is incorporated in the neighborhood park.
 - Permanent restrooms should be provided at community parks, any stand-alone sports complexes, and any trailhead facilities.
 - Special use areas should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether restrooms are warranted.

- Open space areas containing trails should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether restrooms are warranted.
- Trails should periodically provide access to restrooms, either when trails pass through parks or at trailheads. Portable restrooms may be used.
- Single occupancy restrooms are the recommended restroom type in parks where permanent restrooms are provided. These are small independent units located within a building, and the number of units can vary depending on the anticipated demand. These units may be designed for each gender or available to all. This type attracts less vandalism than the traditional restroom.
- Portable restroom units can be used to provide restrooms seasonally in special cases.

Chapter 7

Plan Implementation

OVERVIEW OF PARK AND RECREATION FINANCING SOURCES

There are a variety of financing sources that Livingston could consider for financing park improvements. Significant financing sources are reviewed below.

- **General Fund:** This is the City's primary source for operating revenue and comes primarily from taxes. Since the Recreation Department must compete with other City operations, such as Police, for these funds, this can be an unstable source. However, the Recreation Department has been charged with recovering the costs of providing services and has been budget-neutral because of its revenue-generating capabilities. Park maintenance is funded through a separate, dedicated assessment and does not impact the General Fund, which is unusual for most cities.
- **Park and Recreation In Lieu Fees:** This fund is for impact fees, the fees paid by developers for acquisition and development of parks. All fees paid in lieu of land dedications are paid into this fund. The 2003-04 city budget projected a balance of \$200,270 as of June 30, 2004.
- **Landscaping and Lighting Act:** This funding mechanism permits a public agency to assess housing units or land parcels. The assessment revenues can be used for park land acquisition, development and/or maintenance. The agency can choose to use the revenue generated on a pay as you go basis or can sell bonds in order to receive a lump sum amount. The bonds are then paid back from the annual revenue generated from the assessment. Establishment of a district or revision to an assessment district requires a vote of property owners. The majority of returned votes must be in favor of establishment of the district. In 1994/95, the Livingston City Council approved a Citywide Landscaping and Lighting (L&L) District to provide for parks maintenance, street lighting, and graffiti removal. This L&L pays the full cost of parks maintenance, and is expected to do so as more housing units are developed in the community. A dedicated source of park maintenance funding is a valuable tool, because it means the City has the resources it needs to maintain the community's park assets at a reasonable level.

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds:** Grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are available for a wide variety of projects. These funds are mainly used for projects and programs in the lower income areas of the community. Livingston has successfully applied for CDBG funds for projects in the past, including the Child Development Center. This could offer a source of funds for park projects or recreation programs meeting the program criteria.
- **General Obligation Bond:** These are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The money can only be used for capital improvements but not maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Passage requires a two-thirds majority approval by the voters. Major disadvantages of this funding option are the high approval requirement and the high interest costs.
- **Revenue Bonds:** These bonds are sold and paid from the revenue produced from the operation of a facility. Livingston does not have any recreational facilities that are funded in this manner.
- **Donations:** The donations of labor, land, or cash by service agencies, private groups or individuals are a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. Such service agencies as Lions and Rotary often fund small projects such as playground improvements. In 2004, Livingston was working with the local Rotary group and local employer Foster Farms on a picnic shelter and meeting room project at Memorial Park.
- **Exchange of Property:** If the City has an excess piece of property with some development value it could be traded for a private piece of property more suitable for park use. Some of the small, undeveloped park sites in Livingston may be appropriate for an exchange of property.
- **Joint Public/Private Partnership:** This concept has become increasingly popular for park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is for a public agency to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives that a public agency can offer is free land to place a facility (usually a park or other piece of public land), certain tax advantages and access to the facility. While the public agency may have to give up certain

responsibilities or control, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost.

- **City Redevelopment Funds:** Livingston has a redevelopment agency. Some park improvements may qualify for redevelopment funds if they are located within a redevelopment area.
- **Exactions:** The city may pass on the costs of necessary public improvements to the adjacent landowners in the form of exactions.
- **Public Land Trusts:** Private land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy will acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a public agency.
- **Government Grant Programs:** There are a number of government grant programs for park and recreation projects. Key programs are:
 - **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act — a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU):** Originally called The *Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act* (ISTEA), this federal program has funded a wide variety of transportation-related projects. Funding is passed through the states. In 1998, it was reauthorized for another 6 years under the name Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The act was reauthorized in 2005 under the name SAFETEA-LU, with similar provisions to ISTEA and TEA-21. Over the years, California has received considerable revenue for trail-related projects from TEA funds. In terms of recreation, the program primarily funds landscape and amenity improvements related to trail and transportation projects. The money can be used for both maintenance and capital construction, but is primarily focused on regional systems and not local neighborhood trails.
 - **Land and Water Conservation Funds:** This grant program is funded by the National Park Service and administered by California State Parks. In the past this was one of the major sources of grant money for local agencies. In the 1990s, funding at the federal level was severely cut, but in recent times more money has become available. The funds can be used for acquisition and

development of outdoor facilities and requires a 50% match.

- **Urban Forestry Grants:** There are several grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. One is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. This program sometimes funds urban street tree planting programs.
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW):** USFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation, and enhancements to water crossings.
- **California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):** CDFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation, and enhancements to water crossings.
- **State Bicycle Funds:** This is revenue from state gas taxes that is distributed to California cities for the development of bicycle lanes. This can be a good funding source for developing bicycle lanes and off street bicycle trails.
- **Recreation Trails Program:** This is a grant program funded through the California Parks and Recreation Department. Projects eligible under this program include 1) maintenance and restoration of existing trails, 2) development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities, 3) construction of new recreation trails, and 4) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property. Grants are distributed on an annual basis and require a 20% match.
- **Statewide Park Bond (Proposition 40):** In recent years, California has passed two state-wide bond measures for funding parks and open space projects. The most recent one, Proposition 40, has allocated \$220,000 to the City. The funding program has several elements including a

grant based on a per capita allocation, a matching grant and several competitive grant programs.

- **Other State Funds:** Other grant sources from the State of California include: Youth Soccer Recreation Program Grant. Project grants range from \$75,000-\$1,000,000.

- **Private Grants and Foundations:** Grants and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects. They are sometimes difficult to find and equally difficult to secure because of the open competition. They usually fund unique projects or ones of extreme need. Livingston could be a good candidate for some private grants because of its cultural diversity, the needs of its youth, and the high percentage of people with low incomes.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The capital project costs in Tables 18 through 21 are parameter costs, intended to provide the City with a financial order of magnitude for implementation of the park and recreation master plan. Since the bulk of the park improvements are future parks, costs for new parks are based on a “typical park” model, and includes master planning of the site. However, unique site conditions or community desire to include additional facilities could impact the actual construction costs. Where land acquisition is proposed, costs are included, using a cost of \$100,000 per acre.

Two phases of capital development are shown. Phase I includes capital projects within development phases 1, 2, and 3, as shown in the City’s growth scenario depicted in Appendix A. Phase II includes capital projects within the future development area, where longer term development is anticipated.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood park capital projects are depicted in two tables, showing the two phases of capital development.

Table 18
Proposed Capital Projects: Phase I Neighborhood Parks

Project	Phase	Acres	Implementation Cost	Comments
NP-1 Lucero Park	I	1.2	\$275,000	Upgrade
NP-2 Gallo Development Neighborhood Park Site	I	5.0	\$1,750,000	Acquisition and development
NP-4 Forecast Homes Neighborhood Park Site	I	5.0	\$1,750,000	Acquisition and development
NP-6 Future Neighborhood Park Site	I	5.0	\$1,750,000	Acquisition and development
NP-7 Yagi Development Neighborhood Park Site	I	5.0	\$1,750,000	Acquisition and development
NP-8 Detention Basin “I” Neighborhood Park Site	I	2.0	\$1,400,000	Acquisition and development
Neighborhood Parks Total, Phase I			\$8,675,000	

Table 19
Proposed Capital Projects: Phase II Neighborhood Parks

Project	Phase	Acres		Implementation Cost	Comments
NP-3	Future Neighborhood Park Site	II	5.0	\$1,750,000	Acquisition and development
NP-5	Drainage Zone "B" Neighborhood Park Site	II	2.0	\$1,400,000	Acquisition and development
NP-9	Future Neighborhood Park Site	II	5.0	\$1,750,000	Acquisition and development
NP-10	Future Neighborhood Park Site	II	5.0	\$1,750,000	Acquisition and development
NP-11	Future Neighborhood Park Site	II	5.0	\$1,750,000	Acquisition and development
Neighborhood Parks Total, Phase II				\$8,400,000	

The total cost of the neighborhood park recommendations in this plan is projected to be about \$17,075,000. Of that total, \$8,675,000 is for parks associated with Phase I development and \$8,400,000 is for parks associated with Phase II development.

The majority of the neighborhood park projects are to serve new development. However, about \$1,070,000 of the cost of Phase I neighborhood park improvements will serve existing areas. Neighborhood park site NP-8 will serve some existing development, but also new development. Based on the service area for this park, about 75% of the cost is attributable to service for new development, because about 25% of the service area is already developed. About \$1,050,000 of the cost of this park is attributable to new development. Neighborhood park site NP-4 will also serve some existing development, with about 25% of the service area already developed. About \$1,312,500 is attributable to new development. The upgrades to Lucero Park generally are an upgrade of service to existing residents.

Community Parks

Both phases of community park capital development are shown in Table 20.

Table 20
Proposed Capital Projects: Phase I and II Community Parks

Project	Phase	Implementation Cost	Comments
CP-1 Livingston Sports Complex	I	\$2,200,000	Expand, upgrade, increase capacity
CP-2 Memorial Park	I	\$1,100,000	Upgrade
CP-3 Arakelian Park	I	\$1,200,000	Expand, upgrade, increase capacity
CP-4 Gallo Development Community Park Site	I	\$7,100,000	Acquisition and development
CP-5 Ranchwood Development Community Park Site	I	\$7,100,000	Acquisition and development
Community Parks Total, Phase I		\$18,700,000	
CP-6 Future Community Park Site	II	\$7,100,000	Acquisition and development
Community Parks Total, Phase II		\$7,100,000	

The total cost of the community park recommendations in this plan is projected to be about \$25,800,000. Of that total, \$18,700,000 is for Phase I community parks and \$7,100,000 is associated with Phase II community parks.

Other Parks and Facilities

Other projects recommended in the plan include open space improvements, improvements to existing special use areas, a new sports complex, and a new 25,000 s.f. recreation building. The cost of the recreation building is based on a combination of 5,000 s.f. of finished, commercial grade interior containing restrooms, a kitchen, a classroom, and office space; and 20,000 s.f. of multipurpose space with a concrete floor and limited finishes.

Table 21
Proposed Capital Projects: Other Parks and Facilities

	Project	Phase	Implementation Cost	Comments
OS-1	Merced River, Southwest of Highway 99	I	\$750,000	Trail and viewpoint development
SU-1	Little Guys and Gals Field	I	\$1,000,000	Upgrade, new T-ball field
SU-2	Livingston Recreation Center	I	Not included ¹	Senior lunch program storage – program to provide
SU-3	Sports complex	I	\$6,500,000	Acquisition and development
	Recreation building	I	\$3,400,000	Development
	Total		\$11,650,000	

¹ Lunch program to fundraise for its storage improvement.

The total cost of the recommendations for other parks and facilities in this plan is projected to be about \$11,650,000, all in Phase I. The recommended impact fee study can review which of these projects may be eligible for funding through park impact fees.

Trails

The plan recommends approximately 10 miles of off-street paved pathways for primarily recreation purposes. For planning purposes, the City should plan on \$200,000 a mile for trail/bikeway construction. This cost is based on a 10' wide trail with 2' shoulders, with a concrete surface strong enough to support maintenance vehicles. This planning cost is based on normal conditions, and does not include building in wetlands or other difficult construction conditions.

As depicted on the Park and Facility Plan map, trail segments T-1 through T-12 are approximately 14 miles in length, with a 10 mile inner loop. Based on the per mile planning cost of \$250,000, this would be a cost of approximately \$3,500,000. However, it is important to remember that the length of the trail system could vary significantly depending upon the specific alignment, which will be determined through the development review process. In addition, the cost of construction could also vary depending upon the specific trail alignment conditions.

There are some grant sources that specifically target trail improvements. Grants were a major source of funding for the City of Merced’s bicycle trail system. In addition, there may be opportunity to partner with others to seek trail funding.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FINANCING

The cost for all of the capital projects listed above is approximately \$58 million, based on 2006 dollars. This includes 14 miles of trail.

Table 22
Proposed Capital Projects Summary

Project Type	Implementation Cost
Phase I	
Neighborhood Parks	\$8,675,000
Community Parks	\$18,700,000
Other Parks and Facilities	\$11,650,000
Total, Phase I	\$39,025,000
Phase II	
Neighborhood Parks	\$8,675,000
Community Parks	\$7,100,000
Total, Phase II	\$15,775,000
Trails	
Total, Trails	\$3,500,000

Many of these projects are to serve planned future growth. Potential revenue sources to pay for these projects are reviewed below.

- *General Fund.* The City could allocate small amounts of General Fund revenues to pay for capital improvements in existing parks. However, this is not expected to be a significant source of capital project financing.
- *Impact Fees.* Neighborhood and community parks planned to serve new development can be paid for through impact fees, provided the City updates its fees. These should be updated as soon as possible to ensure that the City is collecting fees that will cover the cost of providing that new service. The cost of neighborhood parks to serve new development is about \$14,705,000; and the cost of community parks to serve new development is about \$23,500,000. This is a total of about

\$38,205,000 of park capital costs associated with new development.

The City is anticipating about 18,137 additional units in growth (See City projection, areas 1-8, Appendix A) in the areas that will be served by new parks parks. By dividing the cost of new neighborhood and community parks (\$38.2 million) by 18,137 households, a rough approximation of potential impact fees (\$2,106 per household) can be derived. This is a very crude analysis, and should only be considered in terms of order of magnitude. An impact fee study will provide more detailed review of cost allocations, and identify whether other capital projects qualify for impact fee funding.

- *Grants.* The City has \$220,000 in grant funding for park capital projects from state Proposition 40. In addition, the City is seeking \$480,000 in grant funding for Memorial Park improvements. The Recreation Department has also been successful at attracting grant funding for programs in addition to capital projects funding. The City should seek to maximize its revenue from grants. Although there are costs associated with seeking and managing grants, Livingston seems to be successful in leveraging its funds through the use of grants. If additional staffing is added to the Recreation Department, the Recreation Superintendent can spend more time seeking and tracking grants. Private foundation grants should be considered, as well as publicly funded grants such as Proposition 40.
- *Donations and Sponsorships.* The City has been successful at attracting donations from local businesses and groups. The \$480,000 grant request noted above includes matching funds of \$20,000 each from Foster Farms and the local Rotary club. Also, a private businessman sponsored the City's aquatics program in summer 2004 by donating \$10,000 to fund the program. Capital projects have appeal for donors, because the result of their generosity is very tangible. The City should seek to attract an average of \$10,000 per year in donations to fund capital projects. This seems like a reasonable goal, given the City's past success.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- *Update the impact fees to reflect the cost of providing service to new development.* The bulk of the park improvements identified in this plan are to serve planned development areas. Impact fees should be updated as soon as possible to ensure that the City is collecting fees that will cover the cost of providing that new service.
- *Allow land dedications in lieu of paying fees only when consistent with the Park and Recreation Master Plan.* In the past, the City has accepted dedications of land that are smaller than this plan recommends, or in locations that duplicate service. Land dedications in lieu of fees should only be permitted when adequately sized parcels consistent with locations identified in this plan are provided.
- *Encourage developers to design and build parks, especially neighborhood parks, in lieu of paying fees.* This is often advantageous to both the City and to the developer. However, the City should develop minimum design standards and should contract with a landscape architect to review developer park plans to ensure they are consistent with the Park and Recreation Master Plan and meet the City's objectives.
- *Acquire land while it is still available, particularly for community parks.* Community parks require larger sites. It is important for the City to acquire suitable sites soon, before development pressures increase costs and reduce availability.
- *Implement program and management recommendations.* There is a short term cost involved with expanding recreation staff on a trial basis. The Recreation Department has indicated they intend to continue meeting the Council's cost recovery mandate even with expanded staffing. This Master Plan calls for expanding staffing on a trial two year basis. This means that there would be a short-term cost while recreation programs are being expanded and new fees are generated. This cost is small compared to the capital costs to serve new development, and could be funded out of the General Fund.
- *Evaluate whether the maintenance district fees are adequate to fund park maintenance.* The City should evaluate whether the maintenance district fees are adequate to cover the cost of maintaining the existing parks, as well as the new parks as they

are constructed. If not, the City should attempt to update the rate. This may be challenging given Proposition 218 requirements.

- *Build new parks as development dictates.* Phasing of new park construction should be determined based on development patterns.
- *Continue to maximize outside revenue.* The City should continue to maximize outside revenue for capital projects and recreation programs. Livingston has been successful in this regard, especially for a small city. Maximizing outside revenue should continue to be a focus of City efforts.
- *In the long term, evaluate whether tax-supported financing is desirable.* A general obligation bond or a new L&L district for capital project financing would provide additional revenue to fund parks capital projects. If citizens desire major improvements, the City could evaluate different bond and L&L scenarios in the future.

Appendix A
Planning Assumptions

PLANNING AREA ASSUMPTIONS

The planning area for this study consists of the current Livingston city limits, the current sphere of influence, and several specific potential expansion areas. As part of coordinated master plan and General Plan efforts, the City's Planning Department developed a series of assumptions about future growth. Included on the following pages is a memo documenting land use assumptions and a map depicting the planning areas. These materials were provided by the City of Livingston.

**Updated Land Use Area Calculations
General Plan Land Use Alternative No. 3
April 2006**

Summary of Changes

Area 6: Overall acreage remained the same at 782.9 acres. However, 37.7 acres was converted from Limited Industrial to Service Commercial land uses.

Area 8: Overall acreage has increased by 338.2 acres. All additional acres added under the Low-Density Residential category.

Population Buildout for Master Plan Study Area: The following table has updated the overall populations in Phases 3 and 4 to reflect the increase of Area 8 and changes to Area 6. Phase 3 has increased by 6,581 persons and Phase 4 has increased by 802 persons.

Phase	Area of Development	Year Completed	Population*
-	Existing City (2004)	Current	13,000
1	Buildout of Existing City Limits	2009	19,756
2	Buildout of Existing Sphere of Influence	2012	39,659
3	Buildout of Areas 1-8	2024	78,717
4	Buildout of Master Plan Study Area	2044	95,711

* Assumes 4.34 persons per household per the City's Housing Element

Land Use Summary Tables

The following tables incorporate the above changes. An updated Land Use Areas map has been attached.

Area 1

Land Use	Acreage	Percent of Total	Density	Units	Population
Low-Density Residential	76.2	17.2%	4.5 dwelling units/acre	342	1,484
Medium-Density Residential	239.8	54.0%	9 dwelling units/acre	2,158	9,365
High-Density Residential	52.6	11.8%	20 dwelling units/acre	1,052	4,565
Neighborhood Commercial	28	6.3%			
Office	2.2	0.5%			
Parks and Open Space	45.1	10.2%			
TOTAL	443.9	100%		3,552	15,414

Area 2

Land Use	Acreeage	Percent of Total	Density	Units	Population
Low-Density Residential	303.3	53.2%	4.5 dwelling units/acre	1,364	5,919
Medium-Density Residential	114.3	20.0%	9 dwelling units/acre	1,028	4,461
High-Density Residential	22.7	4.0%	20 dwelling units/acre	454	1,970
Neighborhood Commercial	41	7.2%			
Parks and Open Space	64.3	11.3%			
Public Facilities (school site)	24.4	4.3%			
TOTAL	570	100%		2,846	12,350

Area 3

Land Use	Acreeage	Percent of Total	Density	Units	Population
Low-Density Residential	228	85.1%	4.5 dwelling units/acre	1,026	4,452
Medium-Density Residential	8	3.0%	9 dwelling units/acre	72	312
Neighborhood Commercial	12	4.5%			
Parks and Open Space	20	7.4%			
TOTAL	268	100%		1,098	4,764

Area 4

Land Use	Acreeage	Percent of Total	Density	Units	Population
Low-Density Residential	130	39.4%	4.5 dwelling units/acre	585	2,539
Medium-Density Residential	10	3.0%	9 dwelling units/acre	90	391
Service Commercial	100	30.3%			
Light Industrial	30	9.1%			
Parks and Open Space	10	3.0%			
Public Facilities (High School)	50	15.2%			
TOTAL	330	100%		675	2,930

Area 5

Land Use	Acreeage	Percent of Total	Density	Units	Population
Low-Density Residential	107	85.6%	4.5 dwelling units/acre	481	2,087
Medium-Density Residential	10	8.0%	9 dwelling units/acre	90	390
Parks and Open Space	8	6.4%			
TOTAL	125	100%		571	2,477

Area 6

Land Use	Acreeage	Percent of Total	Density	Units	Population
Low-Density Residential	142.8	18.2%	4.5 dwelling units/acre	642	2,786
Medium-Density Residential	56.6	7.2%	9 dwelling units/acre	509	2,209
Service Commercial	189.0	24.2%			
Parks and Open Space	8	1.0%			
Neighborhood Commercial	10	1.3%			
Light Industrial	115.3	14.7%			
Highway Commercial	261.2	33.4%			
TOTAL	782.9	100%		1,151	4,995

Area 7

Land Use	Acreeage	Percent of Total	Density	Units	Population
Low-Density Residential	110	70.5%	4.5 dwelling units/acre	495	2,148
Medium-Density Residential	24	15.4%	9 dwelling units/acre	216	937
Neighborhood Commercial	12	7.7%			
Parks and Open Space	10	6.4%			
TOTAL	156	100%		711	3,086

Area 8

Land Use	Acreeage	Percent of Total	Density	Units	Population
Low-Density Residential	572.3	88.5%	4.5 dwelling units/acre	2,575	11,175
Medium-Density Residential	45.4	7.0%	9 dwelling units/acre	408	1,770
Neighborhood Commercial	9.2	1.4%			
Public Facilities (Elementary School)	19.7	3.1%			
TOTAL	646.6	100%		2,983	12,945

Appendix B

Demographic Characteristics

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Demographic characteristics can influence recreational interests and level of participation. Factors such as age and income significantly affect an individual's ability to pursue and participate in recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment, education and ethnicity also play a role. The demographic information for the City of Livingston has been derived from the 2000 U.S. Census and from Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) projections.

The following description relies on U.S. Census data, except where otherwise noted.

Population Trends

One of six incorporated cities in Merced County, Livingston ranks fourth in population. MCAG estimated Livingston's 2003 population to be 11,050. The City Planning Department estimated the 2004 population to be 13,000.

Table B.1 illustrates population growth for the City of Livingston since 1990, as well as for Merced County and the State of California. According to the U.S. Census, the City's 2000 population was 10,473 persons. This is a 43.1% increase from the 1990 population of 7,317. During the same time period, Merced County grew 18.0%, and the State of California grew 25.0%. Between 2000 and 2003, Livingston's growth was somewhat slower than Merced County's.

Table B.1
Population Growth 1990-2003
City of Livingston, Merced County and California

Year	Livingston	% Increase	Merced County	% Increase	State of California	% Increase
1990	7,317	--	178,403	--	23,792,000	--
2000	10,473	43.1%	210,554	18.0%	29,760,021	25.0%
2003	11,050	5.5%	225,100	6.9%	35,591,000	19.6%

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Merced County Association of Governments, and California Department of Finance

Age

Livingston’s age distribution shows a high percentage of young children and youth and a relatively low percentage of senior citizens. As illustrated in Table B.2, Livingston has a higher percentage of youth age 17 and under than other nearby cities.

In general, youth tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group. Youth generally favor more active and competitive activities, such as basketball, baseball, soccer, swimming, and bicycling. Typically, as people age, their participation in active or competitive recreation decreases.

Younger adults (ages 18-35) also participate in active recreation and typically form the core of adult competitive sports. Older adults (ages 35-65) typically have less time to devote to recreational activities and tend to have a more passive interest in recreation programs. For them, recreational time is scarce and is often limited to weekends and occasional evenings.

Table B.2
Age Distributions, 2000
Selected Cities

	Age 17 and Under	Ages 18 to 64	Age 65 and Over	Median Age
State of California	27.3%	62.1%	10.6%	33.3
Merced County	34.5%	56.0%	9.5%	29.0
City of Livingston	37.7%	55.9%	6.4%	24.9
City of Merced	34.8%	55.9%	9.4%	27.8
City of Lodi	28.2%	57.5%	14.3%	34.1
City of Madera	35.4%	55.8%	8.8%	26.2
City of Manteca	31.6%	59.1%	9.3%	32.5
City of Turlock	29.8%	58.4%	11.8%	30.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

As Table B.2 shows, the City of Livingston has a **higher percentage of residents under the age of 18** than countywide or statewide. In addition, the median age is substantially lower. Livingston also has a lower percentage of residents age 65 and over.

Table B.3 shows the age breakdowns for Livingston in more detailed age categories. As this table shows, a very high percentage (almost a third) of Livingston's population is age 14 or younger. More than 27% of the population is between the ages of 18 and 34. Also, Livingston has an average household size of 4.37 people, compared to 3.25 countywide and 2.59 nationally. These data support the generalization that Livingston has a high population of young families with children.

Table B.3
Age Breakdowns, 2000
City of Livingston

Age Category	Population	Percentage
0-9	2,152	20.5%
10-14	1,139	10.9%
15-17	656	6.3%
18-24	1,307	12.5%
25-34	1,561	14.9%
35-44	1,398	13.3%
45-54	945	9.0%
55-64	646	6.2%
65-74	405	3.9%
75 +	264	2.6%
TOTAL	10,473	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Income

Income levels also provide important information for recreation planning. In general, people with higher incomes tend to be more active and participate in more expensive types of activities. Lower-income communities may face limitations in participating in recreation programming due to limited discretionary budget. Such communities may need to evaluate whether their pricing policies and scholarship programs make recreation activities accessible to enough people.

A comparison of the 2000 household incomes and per capita income are shown in Table B.4.

Table B.4
Household Income Levels, 2000
Selected Cities

Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
State of California	\$47,493	\$22,711
Merced County	\$35,532	\$14,257
City of Livingston	\$32,500	\$9,231
City of Merced	\$30,429	\$13,115
City of Lodi	\$39,570	\$18,719
City of Madera	\$31,033	\$11,674
City of Manteca	\$46,677	\$18,241
City of Turlock	\$39,050	\$16,844

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Income levels within the Livingston are slightly lower than for Merced County as a whole. While the median household income is higher in Livingston than in some neighboring communities such as Merced, the per capita income level is much lower in Livingston than in any of the comparable cities. This is due to the higher than typical household size.

Income

In Livingston, there were 4,217 people in the labor force over the age of 16 as reported by the 2000 census. Of that number, a total of 3,617 were employed. An analysis of the labor force in Livingston revealed that **the most prevalent occupations were in production, transportation, and material moving**, in which employed 30.2% of residents were employed. This percentage is more than double the percentage in the State of California. The percentage of Livingston’s population employed in management and professional occupations was less than one-third the percentage in the State of California. The percentage of Livingston’s population employed in farming, fishing, and forestry is quite high (more than 17%), and significantly higher than statewide.

Table B.5 presents more detail on employment classifications.

Table B.5
Employment Classification, 2000
City of Livingston

Occupation Type	City of Livingston Percentage	State of California Percentage
Production, Transportation and Material Moving	30.2%	12.7%
Sales and Office	18.1%	26.8%
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	17.8%	1.3%
Service	14.8%	14.8%
Management and Professional	11.5%	36.0%
Construction, Extraction and Maintenance	7.5%	8.4%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Census data for employment by industry indicates that 24.1% of the Livingston work force is employed in the manufacturing industry, and another 20.7% is employed in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining industry. These percentages are very high compared with statewide employment industry data.

Ethnicity

An analysis of race and ethnic background revealed that the population in Livingston has a different profile from the State of California. Livingston has lower percentages of White and Black residents than the State of California. In addition, compared to California overall, Livingston maintains a higher proportion of residents in the "Other" category of ethnic groups, and a slightly higher percentage of residents who described themselves as "two or more races."

Ethnicity can be important from a recreation participation standpoint, because higher participation levels in some types of recreational activities are associated with some ethnic groups. This could increase the demand for certain types of facilities.

A breakdown of ethnicity demographics is listed in Table B.6.

Table B.6
Ethnicity, 2000
City of Livingston

Type	City of Livingston Percentage	State of California Percentage
Other	41.5%	16.8%
White	36.5%	59.5%
Asian	14.4%	10.9%
Two or more races	5.8%	4.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.9%	1.0%
Black	0.7%	6.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.3%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

As Table B.6 shows, the highest percentage of Livingston residents identified themselves as “other.” Additional census data not included in the table indicates that 71.8% of Livingston’s population characterized themselves as Hispanic or Latino, with 65.4% of the population indicating Mexican ancestry.

In addition, census data shows that almost half of Livingston’s residents were born in a foreign country. Also, 81.5% of Livingston’s population speaks a language other than English at home, with 62.3% speaking Spanish. Livingston also has a significant population of Punjabi immigrants. The City is home to two Sikh temples and is a center for Sikh and Indian cultural activities in the Valley.

Educational Attainment

An individual’s level of education can affect his recreation participation for several reasons. Lower education levels are generally associated with lower levels of income, which may mean people have less income available to spend on non-essentials such as high cost recreation activities (e.g., golf or skiing). In addition, to maximize awareness of programs among residents, marketing and outreach materials will need to be geared toward the audience to ensure that they are understandable to everyone in the community.

In Livingston, only 37% of residents age 25 and older are high school graduates. Nearly 47% has less than a 9th grade level of education. Another 16.1% attended high school, but did not graduate. Accordingly, the percentage of Livingston's residents with Bachelor's degrees and graduate or professional degrees is much lower than the rest of California.

Table B.7
Educational Attainment, 2000
City of Livingston

Education Level, Population Age 25 and Older	City of Livingston Percentage	State of California Percentage
Less than 9 th grade	46.9%	11.5%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	16.1%	11.7%
High school graduate, includes equivalency	16.6%	20.1%
Some college, no degree	10.0%	22.9%
Associate degree	4.2%	7.1%
Bachelor's degree	5.1%	17.1%
Graduate or professional degree	1.2%	9.6%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Appendix C
Park Inventory

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the City of Livingston is the primary provider of parks and recreational facilities for Livingston residents and nearby neighbors. Livingston is isolated from other communities because it is surrounded by agricultural land. This means that Livingston residents rely on the City to provide park and recreation facilities and are less likely to use facilities in other communities. For the same reasons, Livingston is also the primary recreation program provider in the area.

LIVINGSTON'S PARK INVENTORY

As of 2004, the Livingston park system consists of 4 parks, a recreation center, and a stand-alone sports field located on Livingston Union School District (LUSD) property. The City also uses facilities at school sites around the City, including sports fields and gymnasiums, which will be detailed later in this chapter. Table C-1 summarizes the current park land inventory, and more detailed inventories of each park site are provided at the end of this Appendix.

Table C-1
Summary of Park Land Inventory

Park Land	Total Acres	No. of Sites
Neighborhood Parks	1.2	1
▪ Lucero Park (1.2 acres)		
Community Parks	26.0	3
▪ Arakelian Park (6.5 acres)		
▪ Livingston Sports Complex (13.6 acres)		
▪ Memorial Park (includes Alvernaz Field) (5.6 acres)		
Special Use Areas	2.0 ¹	2
▪ Recreation Center (0.25 acres)		
▪ Little Guys and Gals Field (1.75 acres)		
Undeveloped Park Land	8.9	
Total	38.1	

¹ Estimated acreage based on 1.75 acres for Little Guys and Gals Field and .25 acres for the Recreation Center.

Note: The 1994 Park and Recreation Master Plan referred to a 5.0 acre undeveloped parcel located off Winton Parkway as a future park site. This parcel is now planned to be part of a greenbelt storm drainage basin and as such is not included as part of the park land inventory in this plan.

Planned Developments

At the time the master plan was being prepared in 2004, Livingston was been undergoing substantial growth, and had several subdivisions or developments midway through the planning approval process. Some potential future park sites have been identified during the planning review processes for these projects, and they are included in the inventory. These planned sites are listed in Table C-2, which contains a brief description of each site.

Table C-2
Park Acreage in Planned Developments

Planned Developments	Total Acres	Comments
Bridgeport Village Subdivision	2.67	Adjacent to planned 1.89 acre storm basin. Site is currently a deep basin.
Davante Villas Subdivision	1.0 ¹	Adjacent to Arakelian Park
Kishi Subdivision	2.00	Adjacent to storm basin
Sun Valley Estates Subdivision	2.10	Planned joint park/storm basin
Winton Shopping Center	1.18	Temporary storm basin; planned for future conversion to open space
Total	8.95	

¹ Estimated acreage


Inventory of Developed Park Sites

Detailed descriptions of each developed park site are provided on the pages that follow.


ARAKELIAN PARK

Location:	Between I and J Streets, west of Prusso Street
Size:	6.5 Acres
Ownership:	City of Livingston
Existing Facilities:	Backstop used for young girls' softball, rentable picnic shelter, rest rooms, play areas, swings, off-street parking (app. 35 spaces). Park contains a drainage basin.
Deficiencies/Problems:	None noted
Planned Improvements:	None
Comments:	<p>Arakelian Park has a pleasant character and contains mature trees and a popular picnic shelter. Its location seems a bit out of the way, cut off from the residential neighborhood to the west by an irrigation canal. Its parking lot may be too large for the facilities at the park. Most of this park also serves as a drainage basin. Although the basin is better integrated into the park design than the one at Livingston Sports Complex, most of the park is too wet to use during the rainy season. Arakelian Park is located only a few blocks from Memorial Park.</p> <p>Arakelian Park will be expanded when the Davante Villas subdivision (now in the design stages) is platted. This expansion offers an opportunity to remove some of the nuisance storm flows from the park and make the park more usable.</p>


LITTLE GUYS AND GALS FIELD

Location:	On F Street, adjacent to the Middle School and Community Center. Part of the Herndon/School Administration site.
Size:	1.75 Acres (approximately)
Ownership:	Livingston Union School District
Existing Facilities:	Baseball field for youth baseball. Concession stand with inoperable restroom. Rolled curb with parking on grass. A deep fenced retention basin is located adjacent to the field, and is very unsightly. Field is used by the Middle School for its sports programs.
Deficiencies/Problems:	Lights have not worked for many years. Restrooms aren't operable and would require major upgrades to bring back on-line.
Planned Improvements:	None
Comments:	<p>The turf at Little Guys Field is in good condition, but the support facilities are in very poor condition. The limited parking is an operational issue, and causes problems during games and especially when one game is ending and the next game is beginning.</p> <p>Lighting the facility, upgrading the restrooms, and providing paved, marked parking would make this a better site. If the adjacent storm basin was eliminated, the basin site would provide a location for parking or potentially other amenities to complement the field use.</p>
Site Photo:	


LIVINGSTON RECREATION CENTER

Location:	Adjacent to City Hall, at Main and C Streets
Size:	.25 Acres (approximately)
Ownership:	City of Livingston
Existing Facilities:	Multi-purpose room, kitchen, restrooms
Deficiencies/Problems:	None noted
Planned Improvements:	None
Comments:	The Recreation Center is the City's main indoor recreation space. It is used daily for a senior citizen lunch program, and is one of the only large gathering spaces in Livingston.
Site Photo:	


LIVINGSTON SPORTS COMPLEX

Location:	At the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Dwight Street
Size:	13.6 Acres
Ownership:	City of Livingston
Existing Facilities:	Lighted soccer field, new concession and restroom building, 120' x 300' open turf area, maintenance building, off-street parking. Childcare center was built by City and is operated by LUSD, which pays utilities but not rent.
Deficiencies/Problems:	A storm drainage basin for an adjacent residential development was located in the park and has an 18" high outfall in the center of it. The basin seriously impacts use of the park and has limited development of additional facilities.
Planned Improvements:	2 youth soccer fields (small fields) are planned to be developed in the storm drainage basin.
Comments:	The Livingston Sports Complex is a new park, and it has significant potential. The quality of amenities within the park is high, including the attractive concessions/restroom building located at the center of the site. However, the layout of the park limits its current usefulness. The existing soccer field was not designed to have adequate perimeter space. The storm drainage basin built on the site limits the potential to provide additional fields, and the open turf area behind the concessions building is not large enough to support a field. Because there is only one field, the concession and restroom building is infrequently open. There are no play areas or picnic facilities, so there is little for spectators or families to do during games. The City-built daycare building is an attractive structure, but it is off-limits to the public during most hours. Its prominent location near the street means that the remainder of the park is more hidden from the public eye.
Site Photo:	

LUCERO PARK

Location:	South of Willow Drive, near the intersection with Hickory Avenue
Size:	1.2 Acres
Ownership:	City of Livingston
Existing Facilities:	Play area, open lawn, poles set up for volleyball, small off-street parking area
Deficiencies/Problems:	No net for the volleyball court
Planned Improvements:	None
Comments:	Lucero Park is a small park located north of Highway 99, in the midst of a residential neighborhood. The park is located adjacent to an apartment complex and appears to attract use despite its small size and limited facilities. The parking lot and carports for the neighboring apartments are visible from the park. The park's layout seems to work well, but the park's amenities are limited.
Site Photo:	

MEMORIAL PARK

Location:	At the intersection of Park and Main Streets
Size:	5.6 Acres
Ownership:	City of Livingston
Existing Facilities:	Bandstand, new restroom, play area, rentable picnic shelter, tennis court, Joe Alvernaz Field, Hammatt Hall
Deficiencies/Problems:	Tennis court is in poor condition and planned for removal.
Planned Improvements:	A potential improvement planned for this park is the construction of a 30x40' classroom space with kitchen facilities as an addition to Hammatt Hall. This project is also proposed to include a picnic shelter, an outdoor basketball court, and a sand volleyball court, as well as parking on the site of the tennis court. The City has applied for grant funds for this project.
Comments:	<p>Memorial Park has mature trees that provide the park with a pleasant character. The picnic shelter and bandstand make the park a popular site for family and community events. It is located adjacent to Livingston High School, but the school's service areas look out onto the park. The tennis court is in extremely poor condition, creating a strong barrier between the school and the park.</p> <p>Part of Memorial Park, Alvernaz Field is a lighted, full-size baseball field with support facilities such as bleachers and scoreboard. The field is in good condition, and has a grass infield. It is adjacent to the Livingston High School track and appears to be part of the campus, even though it is owned and maintained by the City. The high school does use the field for its baseball games through an arrangement with the City. The location of the field adjacent to Memorial Park makes the amenities of Memorial Park convenient for the families of players.</p>
Site Photo:	

Appendix D
Facility Inventory

FACILITY INVENTORY

The City of Livingston has limited recreation facilities, but uses facilities at most school sites to help meet its indoor space, aquatic, and sports field needs. This chapter includes a review of available indoor facilities, school facilities, and sports facilities.

Indoor Facilities

Indoor recreation facilities expand recreation opportunities by allowing recreation activities during inclement weather or after dark. In addition, some activities are more suited to indoor facilities, such as classes. Livingston has limited indoor recreation facilities. These are described below.

- **Livingston Recreation Center:** The Livingston Recreation Center, adjacent to City Hall, is heavily used for recreation activities and programs. A Merced County lunch program for senior citizens operates there on weekdays. The facility is small, containing a multi-purpose room, a kitchen, and restrooms.
- **Hammatt Hall:** Hammatt Hall at Memorial Park offers another small indoor space. In the past, it was used for a local boxing program. It is currently used for equipment storage.
- **Child Development Center:** Livingston built a Child Development Center on the site of the Livingston Sports Complex. The Center is a large, attractive building that has excellent recreation potential. However, the site has been turned over to Livingston Union School District (LUSD) to operate child development programming. LUSD pays utility costs, but no rental fees. Due to the programming at the site, public access is not permitted during center hours, which run from 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Availability for recreation use has been very limited, even after childcare hours.
- **Former Community Center:** The former Livingston Middle School site includes a small gymnasium and three meeting rooms that served as a Community Center in the past. This building was sold for \$1 by the City and School District many years ago, and it is not likely to be available for public use again in the future, despite its convenient location near downtown and Little Guys and

Gals Field. It is currently used by a childcare program, which allows the City use of the small gymnasium, which is the mainstay of Livingston's youth basketball program.

- **Livingston Museum:** The Livingston Museum, a small local history museum, is owned by the City but not currently used for recreation. The City Council chambers are contained in a small addition at the rear of the Livingston Museum.

School Facilities

Schools are an important resource for recreation facilities such as sports fields, playgrounds, and gymnasiums. As identified previously, Livingston relies on school facilities for a number of its recreation facilities. There are varying degrees of formality in the arrangements for use of school facilities, ranging from informal to more formal use agreements.

The Livingston Union School District (LUSD) provides elementary and middle schools in Livingston. The Merced Union High School District (MUHSD) provides high schools in Merced County, including Livingston High School in Livingston. The City of Livingston and the local school districts have a history of cooperation and joint use. While issues do arise, the relationship between the City and the school districts seems to function fairly well. It is fairly common for city park agencies to use elementary and middle school sites for programming. However, Livingston also uses high school facilities more than is typical for most communities. Most high schools tend not to share facilities with city recreation programs since high school athletics programs demand most of the field time.

Table D-1 provides a summary of all recreation facilities and amenities available at school facilities in Livingston. Some of the amenities in Table D-1 will be highlighted in the sports field inventory as well.

Table D-1
Summary of School Recreation Amenities

School Facility	Recreation Amenities
Elementary Schools	
Campus Park Elementary (6 acres)	2 ball fields (multi-use backstops), 1 soccer field, multi-purpose room, playground
Selma Herndon Elementary / School Administration complex (18.1 acres)	4 ball fields (3 multiuse backstops and Little Guys and Gals field), 2 soccer fields, 1/8 mile track, 4 outdoor basketball courts, par course, multi-purpose room, playground, restrooms
Yamato Colony Elementary (5 acres)	2 ball fields (multi-use backstops), 1 multi-purpose room with stage, playground
Middle Schools	
Livingston Middle School (9.1 acres)	2 ball fields, 1 soccer field, 1 track, 1 gym
High Schools	
Livingston High School (31.1 acres)	3 ball fields (1 softball, 2 baseball), 2 soccer fields, 1 football field, 1 track, 6 tennis courts, 1 6 lane 25 yd pool, 1 gym (8,206 s.f.), 5.5 acre field and parking expansion site across Peach St.

While the City benefits from using school facilities for its programs, the drawback of school use is that there is always some risk that the City will be bumped from a previously scheduled time for a school function, particularly for gymnasium use. In addition, the City cannot use indoor school facilities past 8:00 p.m., when the custodial staff goes off-duty. These issues create some difficulties in programming, particularly when cancellations occur suddenly.

SPORTS FACILITIES

Inventory Criteria

The most functional types of facilities are adequately developed and specifically designed to serve particular functions. However, for various reasons (e.g., facility shortages or poor condition), sport

facilities are often used for other activities for which they were not designed. The following facilities were inventoried in Livingston for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

- Ball fields (youth and adult)
- Soccer fields (youth and adult)
- Tennis courts
- Gymnasiums
- Swimming pools

A description of the criteria used in the inventory for each of the facilities is provided below.

- **Ball Fields**

Livingston's ball fields either are multi-use backstops or have skinned infields, with the exception of Alvernaz Field. Skinned fields are used for youth baseball, as well as youth softball. Due to the limited facilities, most multi-use backstops are used for practice or play. Because there is a range of field sizes and an acceptance of skinned infields, ball fields have been grouped together into one generic facility type that incorporates youth baseball and softball fields of all sizes. Full-size (adult) fields for softball and baseball were inventoried separately. Multi-use backstops, small backstops located in open fields, are also inventoried. Although inadequate, many of these are used for scheduled practice or play.

- **Soccer Fields**

Most of the soccer fields in Livingston are unofficial open turf areas or are overlaid on ballfields. Inventory numbers were determined in consultation with City Recreation staff and local leagues based on the current use. Youth fields and adult fields were inventoried separately.

- **Other Facilities**

- *Tennis courts:* Tennis courts were inventoried if they were the appropriate dimensions and were fenced and surfaced with a color coat.
- *Gymnasiums:* Gymnasiums were inventoried based on use. Notes are provided on the adequacy of each facility

in terms of appropriate dimensions for safe play and playing surface.

- *Swimming pools:* Pools were inventoried based on whether they have appropriate dimension for intended use (recreation or competitive). Typical configurations include 42 x 75 feet (6 lane 25 yard) or 25 yd x 25 meter (L-shaped) for competitive use.

Sports Facilities Inventory

Table D-2 contains an inventory of sports facilities categorized by type, including school sites. As previously noted, facilities have been inventoried based on current use. It should be noted that the condition of the facilities can vary significantly, which would affect usage. An indication of quality or adequacy of the field surface is provided in the table. Livingston's facilities are very basic and limited in nature, and many of the fields would be considered too substandard for play in other communities. The condition rating takes this fact into account. Some fields rated fair in Livingston would be rated poor in other communities.

In Table D-2, "good" indicates overall good to excellent condition turf; "fair" indicates generally level playing surface with medium quality turf and does not address quality of support equipment/facilities such as foul line fencing; and "poor" indicates poor quality turf and lacking support equipment or facilities.

Table D-2
Summary of Sports Facilities

#	Location	Comments	Condition
Ball Fields			
1	Joe Alvernaz Field, Memorial Park	Lighted field. Grass infield. Adult size.	Good
1	Arakelian Park	Multiuse backstop used for girls softball. Subject to flooding in spring. Youth size.	Fair
1	Little Guys and Gals Field	Broken lights. Support facilities in poor condition. Youth size.	Good
3	Livingston High School	1 softball, 2 baseball. 2 fields are adult size but outfields overlap, limiting use. 1 field is youth size.	Good
2	Livingston Middle School	2 youth size baseball fields. Orientation poor, drainage issues.	Good
2	Campus Park Elementary School	Multi-use backstops.	Poor
3	Selma Herndon Elementary/LUSD Administration	Multi-use backstops.	Fair
2	Yamato Colony Elementary School	Multi-use backstops.	Poor
3	TOTAL (Adult Ball Fields)		
4	TOTAL (Youth Ball Fields)		
8	TOTAL (Multi-use Backstops)		
Soccer Fields			
1	Livingston Sports Complex	Lighted field. Inadequate perimeter space. Adult size. Used for older youth.	Good
2	Livingston High School	Overlays on ball fields. Adult size, but limited use. Used for older youth.	Good
1	Livingston Middle School	Overlay on ball fields. Youth size.	Good
2	Campus Park Elementary School	Open turf area. Unofficial field used for youth play, U-8 and U-10 only.	Poor
2	Selma Herndon Elementary/LUSD Administration	Open turf area. Unofficial fields used for youth play, U-8 and U-10 only.	Fair

Table D-2 (cont.)

1	Yamato Colony Elementary School	Open turf area. Unofficial field used for youth practice only.	Poor
3	TOTAL (Adult Soccer Fields)		
6	TOTAL (Youth Fields – 4 U-8 and U-10 only, 1 practice only)		
Football Fields			
1	Livingston High School	Lighted. Includes track and bleachers.	Good
1	TOTAL (Football Fields)		
Tennis Courts			
2	Memorial Park	Unplayable due to condition. Planned for removal in '05.	Poor
6	Livingston High School	Lighted (City contributed funds).	Good
8	TOTAL (Tennis Courts)		
Gymnasiums			
1	Community Center	Undersized.	Good
1	Livingston High School	8,206 s.f. Limited availability.	Good
1	Livingston Middle School	New building.	Good
1	Yamato Elementary School	Multi-purpose room with stage.	Fair
2	TOTAL (Full Gymnasiums)		
2	TOTAL (Other Gymnasiums)		
Swimming Pools			
1	Livingston High School	42' x 75' (6 lane 25 yd) outdoor pool.	Good
1	TOTAL (Swimming Pools)		
Outdoor Volleyball Courts			
1	Lucero Park	Grass, not sand. Poles in place, no net	Poor
1	TOTAL (Outdoor Volleyball Courts)		

Appendix E

Recreation Needs Assessment

APPROACHES TO ASSESSING NEED

There are a variety of approaches to assessing recreation needs. A brief review of typical methods is included in this section.

National Standards

Standards were first created by a group of professionals who established an easily understood format of what "seemed to be right" based on their practical experience in the field. These standards were felt to be most useful if stated in quantifiable terms of acres or facilities per given population level, e.g., 10 acres of park land per 1,000 population.

The most recognized standards were those published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). In 1983, they published the first edition titled "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards". The problem with this approach was that communities were adopting the national standards without taking into account local conditions. The result was often standards the agency could not possibly achieve.

In 1996, NRPA developed a new approach to assessing need based on a desired level of service or "LOS". This LOS is a way of accurately calculating the minimum amount of land to provide all of the recreation activities and facilities desired in the communities. LOS is still expressed in terms of acres per population, but is driven by facility-based needs and land measured formulas.

Trend Analysis

With this approach, extrapolating historical use statistics for each type of facility is used to develop facility demand estimates. If local statistical information is used, the results can be reasonably accurate because they reflect use in the specific community. However, local conditions or current trends in recreation interests can influence the trend analysis approach. As an example, if one charts tennis playing over the last 20 years, a cycle of interest and level of play emerges. Also, operating conditions such as quality of the facility, its location, user fees and hours of operation can all play an important role in the level of use. This method is sometimes used to forecast team registration if the number of facilities remains constant.

Recreation Surveys

Recreation surveys can be conducted utilizing several different methods and approaches. These include mail-in, telephone and door-to-door surveys. Each type of survey process has both positive and negative attributes that include cost efficiency, return ratio, desired information and time frame. Using the survey approach, future facility needs are sometimes identified from survey information on user characteristics, participation patterns, opinions and perceived needs. If the questionnaires are drawn from a statistically valid sample, a good reliable sampling of information can be derived.

The difficulty with surveys is converting the information to quantifiable terms. As an example, if 1,000 people expressed an interest in playing tennis, how many tennis courts will it take to satisfy that expressed need. It is also difficult, in the survey approach, to measure future recreation participation because it is impossible to accurately forecast how much use an individual would make of a facility if it were available.

Community Meetings and Public Involvement

Some communities rely quite heavily on input from the general public to assess the needs. However, this approach by itself may not reflect the true community need because special interest groups often do not necessarily represent the true community's interest.

Goals

In some instances, community goals are expressed as the need without quantifiable or statistical analysis to support the goal. An example might be, "It is our goal to acquire as much natural open space as possible". Goals reflect a community's desire. While this approach is not the most ideal, in some instances it is the only option possible. In the above example, it would be very difficult to come up with a numerical standard such as "xx" acres per 1,000 residents. It is a valid approach if the goal can be supported by a true evaluation of community values and desires.

Participation Models

Participation models are refined statistical formulas for establishing a quantifiable standard. They are based on actual participation characteristics taken from individual uses. When a large sample is taken, a fairly accurate statistical profile can be made.

The most accurate participation models are developed for a specific type of area or facility. Unfortunately, these models are very costly to develop because of the data needed and they usually only deal with one type of facility. However, based on studies of specific types of facilities over the years, MIG has developed participation models for many special-use facilities such as trails and swimming pools.

PARK LAND NEEDS IN LIVINGSTON

A combination of methods was used to develop a statement of land needs for parks and open space in Livingston. Livingston's needs assessment takes into account localized values, availability of land, financial resources and desired service levels. The needs assessment for park land is based on a geographic service area that also considers comparisons to other communities, national trends, land availability and geographical deficiencies. It should be noted that even with all the data available, a certain amount of subjective analysis and professional experience must be used to quantify the standards.

In the following discussion, recommended standards for specific types of park areas are given. This is the desired or recommended level of service, and is expressed as a ratio of land to population in terms of acres per 1,000 residents. The existing ratio is the existing amount of park land divided by the existing population. By applying this ratio to a future population forecast, one can project future park needs.

To determine the existing ratio, the 2003 population of 11,050 was used. This is the certified population estimate developed by MCAG. The Livingston Planning Department developed projections for growth (included in Appendix A). Based on the Planning Department's work, MIG used an estimated population of 35,004 in the year 2016 for the needs assessment.

On the following pages, specific needs for the following types of park land are discussed:

- Neighborhood Parks;
- Community Parks;
- Special Use Areas; and
- Natural Open Space Areas.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are a combination playground and park, designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized, recreation activities. They are generally small in size and intended to serve nearby residents, with a service area of approximately one-half mile radius. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, pathways, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use sport fields for soccer, softball, and baseball. Size generally ranges between 1 and 5 acres.

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

Currently, there is one neighborhood park in Livingston.

- * Lucero Park – 1.2 Acres

Current Service Levels:

- Service Area: The service area for a neighborhood park is considered to be a ½-mile radius. Community parks are considered to provide neighborhood park service to those areas within ½ mile. Please refer to the *Neighborhood Park Service Area Map* in the Appendix to see the underserved areas.
- Size: 1 to 5 acres

Analysis

Comparison to Other Communities:

- The *average ratio* for neighborhood parks in 18 California communities MIG has studied is *0.62 acres / 1,000 residents*. The *average recommended demand standard* for California communities studied by MIG is *0.99 acres / 1,000 residents*.
- The city's current ratio of 0.1 acres/1,000 residents is lower than average. As the Neighborhood Park Service Area map indicates, most areas are currently served by the existing neighborhood park, or by community parks that provide neighborhood park service. The service level is lower than average because none of the community parks are included in the neighborhood park ratio.

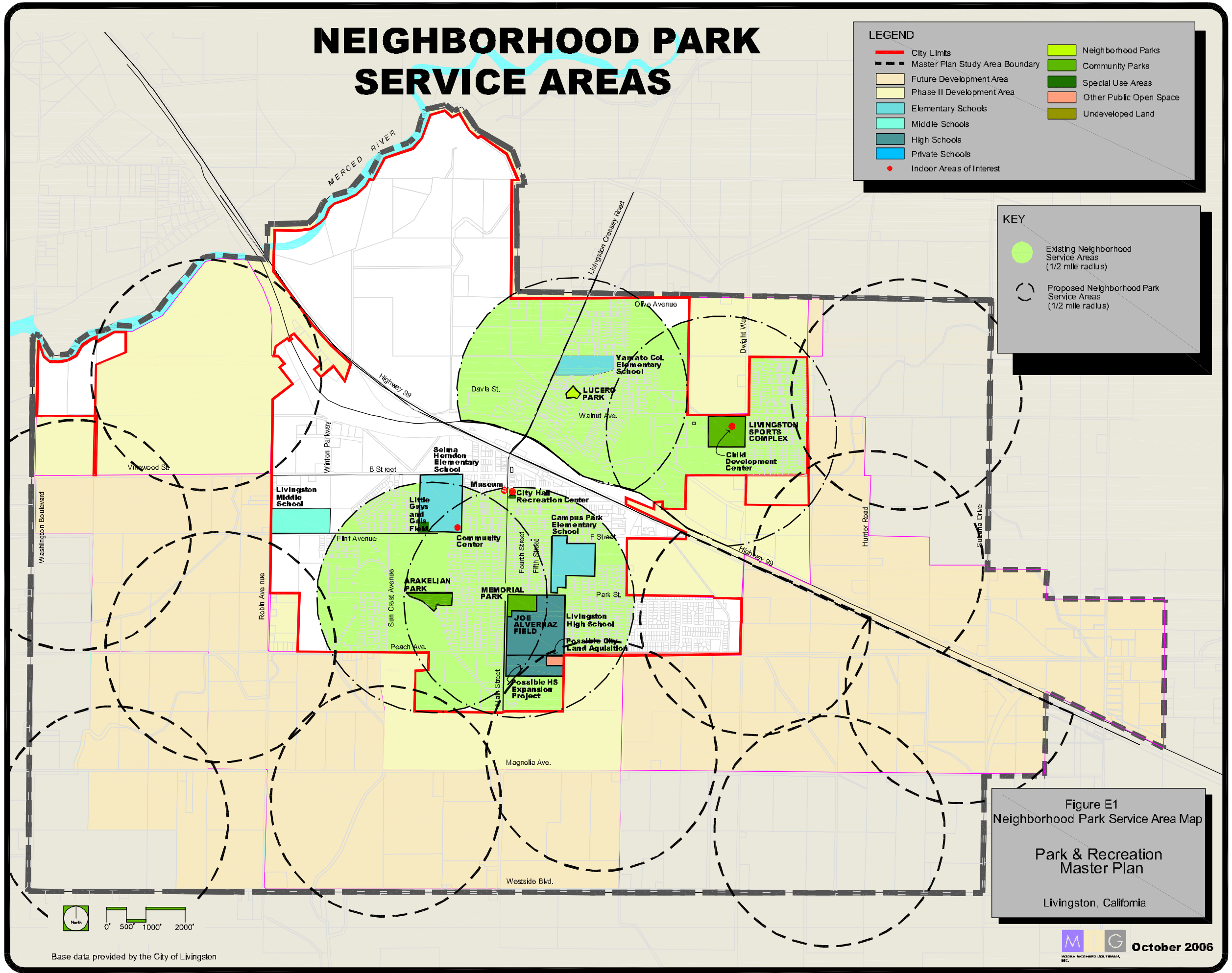
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREAS

LEGEND

- City Limits
- Master Plan Study Area Boundary
- Future Development Area
- Phase II Development Area
- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Private Schools
- Indoor Areas of Interest
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Areas
- Other Public Open Space
- Undeveloped Land

KEY

- Existing Neighborhood Service Areas (1/2 mile radius)
- Proposed Neighborhood Park Service Areas (1/2 mile radius)



Base data provided by the City of Livingston

Figure E1
Neighborhood Park Service Area Map
Park & Recreation
Master Plan
Livingston, California

Trends:

- A newer trend in park and recreation is that some communities are basing their park systems on community parks, not on neighborhood parks.

Recommendations*Level of Service*

- Additional Neighborhood Parks: It is recommended that Livingston seek to provide neighborhood parks within ½ mile of most residents. This will provide convenient access to basis recreation opportunities for most residents.
- Service Area: Generally a ½-mile radius, excluding barriers such as major arterials.
- Size: 1 - 5 acres. If flood control basin facilities are included in a neighborhood park site, at least 1 contiguous useable acre should be provided in addition to the acreage contained in the basin.

Determination of Recommended Standard

- It is recommended that the City acquire additional neighborhood parks to serve future development areas. This is based on the following factors:
 - * Building on the current system, and
 - * Balancing convenience for residents with cost.
- It is recommended that the City acquire 8 additional neighborhood parks to serve future development areas. Assuming an average of 5 acres for 7 of the sites, and 2 acres for 1 site that can be co-located with a storm detention basin, an additional 37 acres of neighborhood parks will be required.
- The proposed 37 acres added to the existing inventory of 1.2 acres would provide 38.2 acres of neighborhood parks to serve the planning area. By dividing the recommended future acreage (38.2) by the projected population of 35,004/1,000, we derive a recommended standard of 1.1 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents. This is somewhat higher than currently, because community parks are providing most of the neighborhood park service in Livingston as of 2004. The recommended future

system will rely on greater balance between the two types of park, providing equitable service with less acreage.

Table E.1
Recommended Standard for Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks	
Current Inventory	1.2 Acres
Number of Existing Sites	1 Site
Current Ratio	0.1 Acres /1,000 Residents
Recommended Standard	1.1 Acres /1,000 Residents

- If the recommended standard is applied to the current population of 11,050, a total of 12.1 acres of neighborhood park land would be needed currently. This is a net need of 10.9 acres, in addition to the 1.2 acres already provided. However, the service area analysis for neighborhood parks indicates that most areas of the City are served by existing parks. The only currently unserved residential area is east of Hammett Avenue, between Park Street and Peach Avenue.
- Livingston’s park system is dominated by community parks, which are fulfilling the function of neighborhood parks for most of the community. None of the community park land is reflected in the statement of net need. This is the reason that an acreage need is shown when the recommended standard is applied, even though the City is generally geographically served.

Development Standards

- Typical Elements: Passive recreation areas, pathway system, playground areas, picnic areas, picnic shelters, half-court or full-court basketball, drinking fountains, bicycle parking, pathway lighting, and trash receptacles.
- Optional Elements: Tennis courts, multi-purpose field or soccer field.
- Dual Use Parks: If storm drainage facilities are included in a neighborhood park site, at least 1 contiguous useable acre should

be provided in addition to the acreage contained in the storm detention basin. Specific guidelines for dual use parks will be provided as part of the Master Plan recommendations.

Additional Comments

- *Avoid acquiring tot lots and mini-parks:* The City currently does not have any tot lots or mini-parks in its inventory.

These are small parks typically focused on play equipment for small children with very limited facilities. It is recommended that Livingston adopt a policy of not acquiring, constructing, or accepting any tot lots or mini-parks due to the high maintenance cost, small size, and limited recreation value of this type of park.

If the City is requested to take ownership or responsibility for a tot lot or mini-park, the following policy is recommended:

Due to the limited value of these parks to those outside their immediate surroundings and the high cost of maintaining them, the City will maintain or hold ownership of tot lots or mini-parks only if acquisition, park development, and ongoing maintenance are funded by another party through a dedicated, long-term funding source. This policy applies to both undeveloped park sites and developed park sites that developers or other groups wish to turn over to the City.

- *Establish policies to address private neighborhood parks:* Livingston is anticipating a significant amount of residential development activity over the coming years. The prospect of this activity raises issues with regard to private parks. Sometimes, individual subdivisions provide private facilities for residents, such as playgrounds or even recreation buildings and sports fields. Typically, these private parks are either neighborhood parks or mini-parks.

In the event that private parks are developed in Livingston, the City should establish policies now to address the issue of subdivisions seeking to turn responsibility for their private parks over to the City. This situation seems to arise periodically in communities where private parks are developed. Private subdivision parks can be substandard, poorly located to serve the community, or expensive to maintain due to size or design. In most cases, it would not be

recommended for the City to take ownership of or maintenance responsibility for any private parks.

Required Actions

- Acquire 7 neighborhood parks in advance of development. Develop a neighborhood park adjacent to the detention basin in drainage zone “1”. This park will serve new development, and provide service to a currently unserved residential area.

Community Parks

Community parks are planned to provide active and structured recreation opportunities, as well as passive and non-organized opportunities for individual and family activities. Community parks generally include facilities that attract people from a larger geographic area than neighborhood parks and therefore require more support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. Community parks often have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Their service area is roughly a 1-2 mile radius. Size ranges from 5 acres to 20+ acres, with an optimal size of at least 10 to 15 acres.

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

Currently, there are three community parks in Livingston.

- * Arakelian Park – 6.5 Acres
- * Livingston Sports Complex – 13.6 Acres
- * Memorial Park -- 5.6 Acres

Current Service Levels:

- Service Area: The service area for a community park is a 1 mile radius. Please refer to the *Community Park Service Area Map* in the Appendix to see the underserved areas.
- Size: 1 to 5 acres

COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS

LEGEND

- City Limits
- Master Plan Study Area Boundary
- Future Development Area
- Phase II Development Area
- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Private Schools
- Indoor Areas of Interest
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Areas
- Other Public Open Space
- Undeveloped Land

KEY

- Existing Community Park Service Areas (1 mile radius)
- Proposed Community Park Service Areas (1 mile radius)

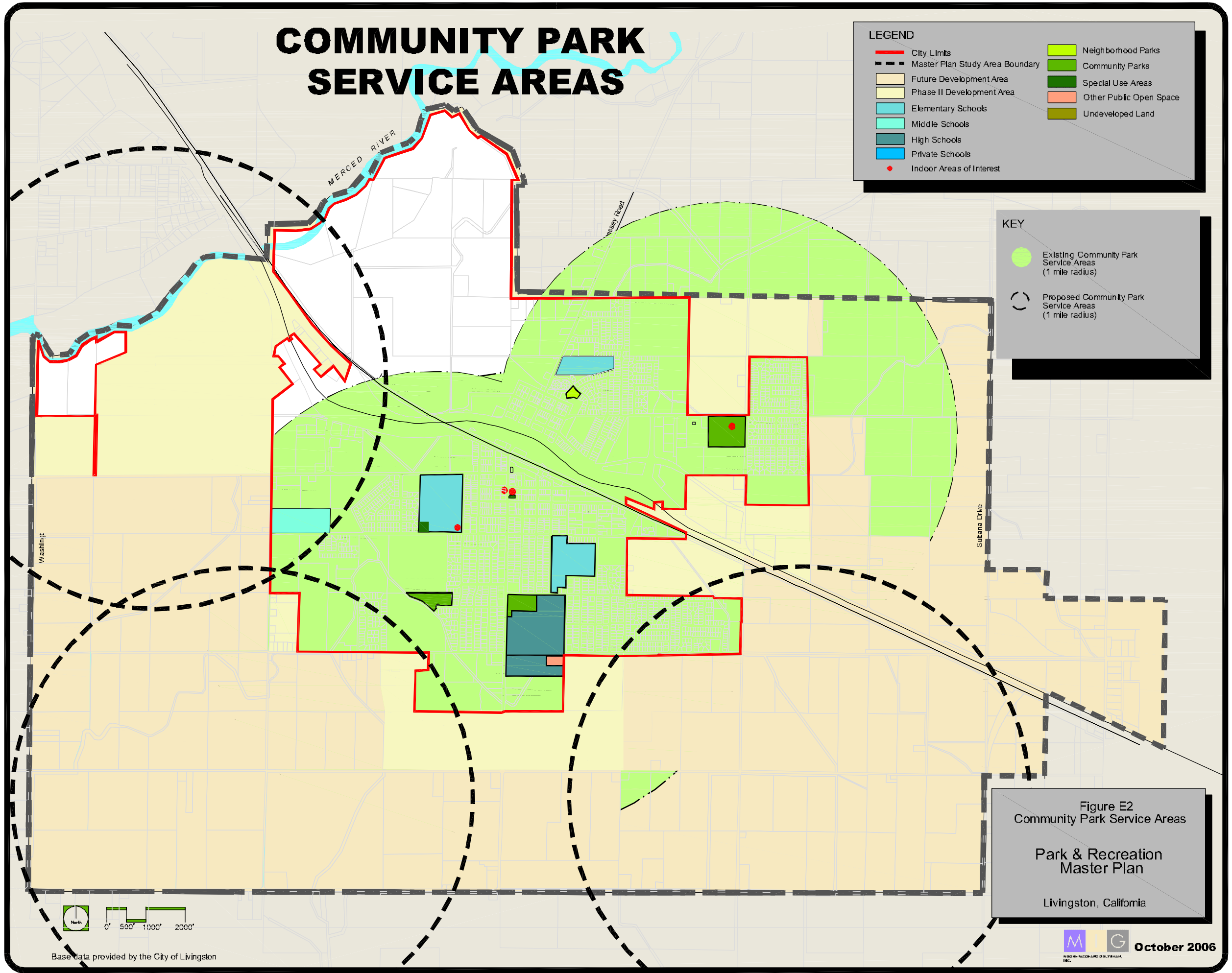


Figure E2
Community Park Service Areas
Park & Recreation
Master Plan
Livingston, California

Base data provided by the City of Livingston

Analysis

Comparison to Other Communities:

- The *average ratio* for community parks in 18 California communities MIG has studied is *1.52 acres / 1,000 residents*. The *average recommended demand standard* for California communities studied by MIG is *1.23 acres / 1,000 residents*.
- The city's current ratio of 2.3 acres/1,000 for community parks is higher than average. However, the total amount of park acreage per 1,000 (3.4 acres/1,000) in Livingston is lower than average, and the system is not balanced, nor is it diverse.

Trends:

- Many communities with limited operating budgets or a significant shortage of park land are gravitating toward park systems centered on the community park. This is because fewer park sites are needed, they offer a wide variety of activities and facilities, and are more efficient to develop and maintain.

Recommendations

- Service Area: 1 mile radius.
- Size: 5 – 25+ acres. 25 acres should be the average size for new community parks, not including acreage contained in storm drainage facilities. Smaller community parks should only be considered when the minimum size is not available and there is a community need for service.

Determination of Recommended Standard

- It is recommended that the city develop community parks geographically dispersed to provide convenient access for most residents. This is based on the following factors:
 - * Community parks offer the opportunity for a wide variety of facilities and activities.
 - * Community parks are efficient to operate and maintain on a per acre basis.
 - * Most residents are currently served by community parks.

Level of Service

- The residentially zoned areas within the current city limits are adequately served by existing community parks in terms of geographic service areas. To provide community park service to the entire planning area, 3 additional community parks will be needed to serve future development.
- Assuming an average of 25 acres per site, an additional 75 acres will be required to serve future development. Adding the existing acreage of 25.7 acres to the projected need of 75 acres provides a total need of 100.7 acres. By dividing the recommended future acreage (100.7) by the projected population of 35,004/1,000, we derive a recommended standard of 2.9 acres of community parks per 1,000 residents. This is slightly higher than currently, because the existing community parks are somewhat smaller than recommended, even though they are geographically serving the community.

Table E.2
Recommended Standard for Community Parks

Community Parks	
Current Inventory	25.7 Acres
Number of Existing Sites	3 Sites
Current Ratio	2.3 Acres /1,000 Residents
Recommended Standard	2.9 Acres /1,000 Residents

- If the recommended standard is applied to the current population of 11,050, a total of 31.9 acres of community park land would be needed currently. This is a net need of 6.2 acres, in addition to the 25.7 acres already provided. Although the geographic service areas of the 3 existing community parks provide service to most of the City, due to their small size they do not provide as broad a range of facilities as is typically found in community parks. The needed 6.2 acres could provide for some of the facility needs identified in the second portion of this document, including the 8 athletic fields. The Davante Villas land dedication will provide 1

acre of the 6.2 acre deficit. The City is exploring acquiring additional land for Livingston Sports Complex, which could provide the remaining 5.2 acre shortage.

Development Standards

- Typical Elements: Playground equipment, pathway system, picnic areas, group picnic areas; Active Recreation Facilities: basketball courts, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, tennis courts (optional), sports fields for league & tournament play; Support Facilities: parking, bicycle parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, pathway lighting, site furnishings (trash receptacles, benches, etc.).
- Optional Elements: Nature interpretive areas, food concessions, community gardens, off-leash dog areas, horticultural garden areas,
- Dual Use Parks: If storm drainage facilities are included in a community park site, at least 10 contiguous useable acres of parkland should be provided in addition to the acreage contained in the storm detention basin. Specific guidelines for dual use parks will be provided later in the Master Plan.

Additional Comments

- *Arakelian and Memorial Parks*: Arakelian and Memorial Parks are both smaller than ideal for a community park. They are also closer together than would be recommended, so have some duplication in service areas. However, the duplications help make up for the fact that the parks are undersized. Although these parks are both very popular and well-used by the community, they should not be the model for future community parks. Future community parks should have the broader range of facilities outlined in the development standards.

Required Actions

- Incorporate the Davante Villas land dedication into Arakelian Park. Seek approximately 5 additional acres of additional community park land to expand existing community parks.
- Acquire 3 community park sites averaging 25 acres in size each to accommodate future development. This can occur through park dedications resulting from development, or through land acquisition funded by fees in lieu of dedication or other sources.

Special Use Areas

Special use areas are park land or recreation sites designed for specialized uses. Some of the facilities in this classification are sports field complexes, community centers, community gardens, aquatic centers, or sites occupied by buildings.

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

Currently, there are two special use areas in Livingston.

- * Recreation Center – .25 Acres
- * Little Guys and Gals Field – 1.75 Acres

Current Service Levels:

- Service Area: Community-wide, unless otherwise specified.
- Size: Varies depending upon type of facility.

Analysis

Comparison to Other Communities:

- The *average ratio* for special use areas in 18 California communities studied by MIG is *1.44 acres / 1,000 residents*. The *average recommended demand standard* for these California communities is *2.34 acres / 1,000 residents*.
- The city's current ratio of 0.2 acres/1,000 is lower than average.

Trends:

- Many communities throughout the West have developed specialized facilities for field sports, indoor spaces for volleyball and basketball, skateboard parks, golf courses, botanical and formal gardens, and amphitheaters. While these can be integrated into other park land, special single-purpose facilities are located on stand-alone sites in many communities.

Recommendations

Level of Service

- Service Area: Citywide, unless otherwise specified.

- Size: Varies depending upon the facility.

Determination of Recommended Standard

- It is recommended that the City provide a sports complex for organized sports use. Other special use areas are not recommended at this time. Instead, the City should seek to locate other specialized facilities in the planned community parks. This recommendation should not preclude the City from evaluating and taking advantage of any unforeseen unique opportunities that may arise in the future.
- Assuming a 15 acre site, the future need for special use areas will be 17.0 acres. By dividing the recommended future acreage (17.0) by the projected population of 35,004/1,000, we derive a recommended standard of 0.5 acres of special use areas per 1,000 residents.

Table E.3
Recommended Standard for Special Use Areas

Special Use Areas	
Current Inventory	2.0 Acres
Number of Existing Sites	2 Sites
Current Ratio	0.2 Acres /1,000 Residents
Recommended Standard	0.5 Acres /1,000 Residents

Development Standards

- Development standards vary depending on the proposed special use.

Additional Comments

- None.

Required Actions

- Secure a site at least 15 acres in size to accommodate a softball/baseball complex.

Natural Open Space

Natural open space is undeveloped land primarily left in its natural state with recreation use as a secondary objective. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

- Currently, there is no publicly owned natural open space in Livingston.

Current Service Levels:

- There is no defined service area for open space. Service area is determined by the open space area's intended purpose such as separation of neighborhoods or preservation of environmentally sensitive areas.

Analysis

Comparison to Other Communities:

- The *average ratio* for open space in 18 California communities studied by MIG is *8.05 acres / 1,000 residents*. The *average recommended demand standard* for California communities studied by MIG is *6.81 acres / 1,000 residents*.
- Livingston's lack of natural open space park land is significantly lower than average. However, it is important to note that the current city limits do not contain creek corridors, wetlands, or steep hillsides, undevelopable lands, which typically make up the natural open space areas of most cities.

Trends:

- Preservation of open space has become a major priority in many communities in recent years. The results of recreation surveys completed by MIG have evidenced this trend.

Recommendations

Level of Service

- **Service Area:** The service area of open space should be determined by its intended purpose (e.g., such as separation of neighborhoods, preservation of environmentally sensitive areas, and steep hillsides).
- **Size:** Sufficient size to protect the resource and support any associated uses

Determination of Recommended Standard

- It is recommended the city preserve open space if it becomes available, particularly along the Merced River. It is important to note that outside the Merced River corridor, opportunities for open space acquisition are limited. The recommended standard is based on the following factors:
 - * Current trend of increased interest in open space preservation.
 - * Potential for preservation of riverfront land as open space where storm detention basins are provided.
- The City should develop the proposed detention basins adjacent to the Merced River as open space buffers that provide visual access to the river and a trail route along the river. Based on an assumption of 28 acres available for open space use, the service level is 0.80 acres.

Table E.4
Recommended Standard for Natural Open Space

Natural Open Space	
Current Inventory	0 Acres
Number of Existing Sites	0 Sites
Current Ratio	0.0 Acres / 1,000 Residents
Recommended Standard	0.8 Acres / 1,000 Residents

Undeveloped Park Land

There currently are several development projects in Livingston that include planned land dedications for park purposes. These include:

- Bridgeport Village Subdivision, 2.67 acres adjacent to a planned 1.89 acre storm basin.
- Davante Villas Subdivision, 1.0 acres adjacent to Arakelian Park.
- Kishi Subdivision, 2.00 acres adjacent to a storm basin.
- Sunvalley Estates Subdivision, 2.10 acres intended as a joint park/storm basin.
- Winton Shopping Center, a 1.18 acre temporary storm basin planned for future conversion to open space.

The City's has needs for both neighborhood and community parks. However, all of these sites are small, and are not necessarily located where additional parks are needed. In addition, the Storm Drainage Master Plan will recommend relocation of some of the smaller basins. Recommendations for each site will be explored later in the project.

RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

In this section, the need for the following recreation facilities is discussed:

- Adult baseball/softball fields
- Youth baseball/softball fields
- Adult soccer fields
- Youth soccer fields
- Gymnasiums
- Trails

For each facility, the following is described when appropriate:

- Existing conditions, such as current supply and current standards;
- Analysis, such as trends and input from sponsoring agencies; and

- Items for consideration, such as service level considerations, suggested guideline, design standards, comments, and alternatives.

The following terms are used in the discussion:

- *Current supply* is a ratio of the number of facilities per unit population, calculated by dividing the number of residents (the City's current population of 11,050) by the number of current facilities (e.g., fields, square feet, and miles).
- The *recommended guideline* is the recommended LOS (ratio of facilities to population) that has been derived from the analysis of each facility. By applying the guideline to the existing and future population forecast, one can determine the number of facilities currently needed, and ultimately, the future needs of the City of Livingston.
- The *future demand* is the number of facilities needed to serve the planning area, based on an estimated 2016 population of 35,004.

Sports Fields Needs

To determine the need for sports fields, a demand model compared the supply of fields against the demand created by the number of teams. Within this demand model there are many variables (or service levels) that will affect the eventual need statement. These variables include:

- **Demand Variables**
 - * Number of teams
 - * Number of games and practices permitted per team per week
- **Supply Variables**
 - * Number of fields
 - * Number of games/practices permitted per field per week
 - * Existence of lighted or unlighted fields

School facilities are included in the supply analysis even if no use policy currently exists, because these are publicly owned fields or

facilities that have the potential to meet demand. In addition, the City and local leagues already rely heavily on school facilities.

Adult Ball Fields

Regulation baseball: 90' bases, 310-325' foul line, 375-410' center; grass infield

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

- In the Livingston planning area, there are 2 fields that can support adult play:
 - * Alvernaz Field (City) – 1 field, lighted
 - * Livingston High School (MUHSD) – 1 field
- While there are 3 field sites at the high school, the two larger fields have overlapping outfields and regulation games can't be played concurrently. For this reason, these 2 fields effectively serve as only 1 field. The third field is very small and not suitable for adult play. It is included in the youth inventory.

Current Service Levels:

- The current team service levels for adult softball and baseball are:
 - * Men's baseball - 1 practice and 1 game per team per week (spring and fall seasons)
 - * Adult softball - 2 practices and 1 game per team per week (summer season)
- The current field service levels for adult softball and baseball are:
 - * Alvernaz Field - Currently used for 2 games per night Fridays, field rest Saturdays, and rental to an outside league on Sundays. Field could accommodate 1 baseball game per night, M-F.
 - * Livingston High School – Could accommodate 1 baseball game per night, M-F, 4 games per day weekends.

- Size: Regulation - three acres

Analysis

Trends:

- Nationwide, participation in baseball and softball is down over the past five years, according to the National Sporting Goods Association.
- However, the trends in Livingston appear to differ. Softball seems to have steady or increasing participation in communities in the Central Valley, based on league activity in Livingston and other communities. Adult baseball seems to be popular in Livingston, and recreation staff noted that there is demand for more teams but a lack of capacity to accommodate them. Comparisons on baseball participation are difficult, because most communities don't offer adult baseball.

Input from Sponsoring Agencies:

- The adult softball and men's baseball programs in Livingston are sponsored by the City. The City runs two men's baseball leagues each year: Spring League runs March to May, and Fall League runs August to November. The City runs one adult softball league each year, from June to August.
- Current participation is listed in Table E.5:

Table E.5
Adult Softball and Men's Baseball Participation

League	Total Teams
Men's Baseball (Spring)	4
Men's Baseball (Fall)	4
Adult Softball (Summer)	4
TOTAL	12

Analysis of Supply and Demand:

Supply

- The supply and demand analysis contained in this section will focus on the peak season for ball field use. In Livingston, peak demand for ball fields occurs in spring.
- Alvernaz Field, the only lighted full size field in Livingston, could accommodate 1 game each night, Monday through Thursday, and 2 games on Friday night, and up to 4 games on a weekend day, allowing 1 weekend day for rest. This is a total supply of 10 games/practices per week.
- The Livingston High School Field is not lighted, and cannot accommodate full-length adult baseball games due to darkness. This field could accommodate 3 adult games/practices on a weekend day, with 1 weekend day used for field rest. Although evening games cannot be accommodated at this field due to lack of light, unless short games are played, it could provide 1 practice time slot per night on weeknights since practices typically do not exceed 2 hours. This is a total of 5 practices per week and 3 games/practices per week.
- The 2 existing fields provide a total supply of **13 games/practices per week** and **5 additional practices times per week**.

Demand

- The 4 men's baseball teams playing during the spring season each have 1 practice and 1 game per week. This is a demand of 6.0 games/practices per week.
- The Livingston High School team uses Alvernaz Field weekday after school. The demand analysis reviews only demands on weekday evenings and weekends, and therefore does not consider high school use.
- The Mexican-American League rents Alvernaz Field all day on Sundays, spring through fall. This is assumed to be a demand of 4.0 games/practices per week.

- The total demand is **10.0 games/practices per week**.

Analysis

- A comparison of supply and demand indicates that there is a surplus of game and practice time each week, although both fields are needed to accommodate other types of play.
- Even without the inclusion of Livingston High School, Alvernaz Field would provide just enough capacity to accommodate current demand without considering a cancellation factor (typically 10% to account for rainouts, etc.).

Recommendations

Recommended Level of Service:

- The recommended service level for team play should remain at 1 game and 1 practice per week.
- The recommended service level for field use should be established at 1 game per night and 4 games per weekend day for lighted fields. No more than 13 games/practices a week should be permitted on the adult baseball fields to reduce wear and allow for field maintenance between games.
- For adult softball fields, the recommended service level should be established at 3 games per weeknight, with weekends reserved for tournaments. No more than 15 games/practices per week should be permitted on adult softball fields.

Determination of Demand Standard:

- The current ratio of fields to population in Livingston is 1 field per 5,525 people for adult ball fields.
- Since there is some additional capacity at the 2 existing fields, it is recommended the City establish its level of service for adult ball fields at 1 field per 12,000 people for each type of field. This is based on the following factors:
 - * While 1 field is not sufficient for the City's current population (to allow a reasonable cancellation factor), the 2 fields currently available have additional capacity at the current level of play.

- * The current ratio of fields to population is higher than typical when compared to other communities.

Table E.6
Recommended Demand Standard

Adult Baseball and Softball Fields	
Number of Existing Fields	2 Fields (1 lighted)
Current Ratio	1 Field/5,525 people
Recommended Demand Standard	
(adult baseball)	1 Field/12,000 people
(adult softball)	1 Field/12,000 people

Design Standards

Adult Baseball Fields

- 320'+ outfield, 90' baselines, grass infield; permanent backstop and dugouts.
- Optional Elements: Field lighting, covered dugouts, outfield fencing, scoreboards, scorers table, spectator seating, storage facilities, batting cages, concession facilities, picnic area and shelter, support facilities (drinking fountains, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc.).

Adult Softball Fields

- Slow pitch: 300'+ outfield, 65' baselines, skinned infield; permanent backstop and dugouts.
- Optional Elements: Field lighting, covered dugouts, outfield fencing, scoreboards, scorers table, spectator seating, storage facilities, batting cages, concession facilities, picnic area and shelter, support facilities (drinking fountains, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc.).

Comments

- Due to Livingston's limited recreation staffing and the challenges associated with use of the high school field, the men's league has been limited to the current 4 teams. Also, both games take place on Friday night, which can be difficult given the potential game length. The City should consider allowing additional men's baseball teams if staffing issues can be resolved (to support additional games) and coordination with the high school can resolve field use conflicts.
- The City should consider moving the field rest day from Saturday to Monday, if this would not unduly impose on the high school's needs. This would allow use of the field on Saturdays either for expansion of the City's leagues or additional rental of the field. The leagues and field rentals are a source of revenue for the City, whereas the high school use is not.
- The adult softball league currently plays on Alvernaz Field, which is not designed for softball. This is hard on the field, and could be hazardous to players. The City will be acquiring additional land for community parks in the coming years. As this occurs, it is recommended that at least two adult softball fields be provided at one of the community parks, and that the City adopt a service level of 1 adult softball field per 10,000 people.
- The existing fields at the high school could be redesigned for better functionality. The existing 3 fields with flaws (one is too small, and the other two can't be used simultaneously) could be reconfigured into two high quality fields, preferably lighted. Under this scenario, one field should be designed for regulation baseball and the other should be designed for regulation softball. A redesign of this type would also accommodate a soccer field; possibly stand alone rather than an overlay. The scenario described could also result in a more attractive campus, particularly if it included walkways linking Alvernaz Field with the school fields.

Youth Ball Fields

Regulation Baseball: 90' bases, 320+ foul line;

Youth Baseball: 60' bases, approximately 200' foul line with either skinned or grass infield

Youth Softball: 60' bases, 180' foul line

Unlike many other communities, most of the youth fields in Livingston have skinned infields, and could be used interchangeably for baseball or softball. For this reason, youth baseball and youth softball fields have been combined into the single category of “youth ball fields”. Also unlike many communities, Livingston schedules games on certain multi-purpose backstops due to a shortage of facilities. The multi-purpose fields are identified in the analysis below, and are accounted for separately because they are suitable for practice only.

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

- In Livingston, there are 4 fields designed for youth baseball or softball use:
 - * Little Guys and Gals Field (City/LUSD) – 1 field
 - * Livingston High School (MUHSD) – 1 field
 - * Livingston Middle School (LUSD) – 2 fields
- The youth size field at Livingston High School is adjacent to Alvernaz Field. See comments on the high school fields in the section on adult ball fields.
- In addition, there are 8 multi-use backstops in Livingston:
 - * Campus Park Elementary Schools (LUSD) – 2 backstops
 - * Arakelian Park (City) – 1 backstop
 - * Selma Herndon Elementary School (LUSD) – 3 backstops
 - * Yamato Colony Elementary School (LUSD) – 2 backstops
- The backstop at Arakelian Park is scheduled for girl’s softball. However, the backstop area and most of the park outside the picnic shelter is located in a detention basin. Softball season begins during the rainy season in Livingston, which means that

use of the Arakelian backstop creates operational problems due to field closures because of standing water or saturated ground.

Current Service Levels:

- The current team service levels for youth baseball and softball are:
 - * Youth baseball, ages 3 and 4 – 1 practice and 1 game per week
 - * Youth baseball, ages 5-8 – 2 practices and 2 games per week
 - * Youth baseball, ages 9 and up – 2-3 practices and 1-2 games per week
 - * Youth softball – 2-3 practices and 1-2 games per week
- The current field service levels for youth baseball and softball are:
 - * Little Guys and Gals Field - Currently used for 1 game per night M-F, 8 games per day on Saturdays, and field rest Sundays. The field is not lighted and is currently only used for games.
 - * Livingston High School – Could accommodate 1 game/practice per night M-F, 6 games/practices per day on Saturdays.
 - * Livingston Middle School – Each field could accommodate 1 game/practice per night M-F, 6 games/practices on Saturdays.
- Size: Youth – 1.5 acres

Analysis

Trends:

- On the national scale, youth baseball has increased by nearly 50% since 1984.
- Organized sports, including youth baseball and softball, seem to be very popular in Valley communities, more so than in other areas.

Input from Sponsoring Agencies:

- The City of Livingston sponsors the main youth baseball and softball programs in the community, with a spring season from March through May. Merced County offers higher level competitive play during a summer season from May through July.

Table E.7
Youth Baseball and Softball Participation

League	Total Teams
Livingston Youth Baseball - Ages 3-4	5
Livingston Youth Baseball - T-ball (Ages 5-6)	5
Livingston Youth Baseball – Peanuts (Ages 7-8)	4
Livingston Youth Baseball - Minors (Ages 9-10)	5
Livingston Youth Baseball - Majors (Ages 11-12)	3
County Youth Baseball – Minors	2
County Youth Baseball – Majors	2
County Youth Baseball – Pony (Ages 13-14)	1
Livingston Youth Softball - Minis (Ages 6-8)	3
Livingston Youth Softball – Minors (Ages 9-11)	4
Livingston Youth Softball - Majors (Ages 12-14)	3
County Youth Softball – Minors (Ages 9-10)	2
County Youth Softball – Majors (Ages 11-12)	2
County Youth Softball – Jr. Girls (ages 13-14)	1
TOTAL	42

Analysis of Supply and Demand:

Supply

- The supply and demand analysis contained in this section will focus on the peak season for ball field use. In Livingston, peak demand for ball fields occurs in spring. In May, the City youth leagues and County youth leagues overlap, creating a spike in peak demand.

- Little Guys and Gals Field accommodates 5 games Monday through Friday evenings and 8 games on Saturday, for a total of 13 games per week.
- The small Livingston High School field could accommodate 5 games/practices Monday through Friday evenings and 6 games/practices on Saturdays, for a total of 11 games/practices per week.
- The 2 fields at Livingston Middle School could accommodate 5 games/practices Monday through Friday evenings, and up to 6 games/practices on Saturdays, for a total of 22 games/practices per week.
- All totaled, the 4 youth fields provide a supply of **46 games/practices per week**.
- Practices are currently occurring on the multi-use backstops, and softball games are scheduled at Arakelian Park, despite the poor conditions at these sites.

Demand

- The 42 youth baseball and softball teams have different practice and game schedules, as outlined previously in this section. May is the month of peak overlap, and during that time, youth baseball teams create a **demand of 77.5 games/practices per week** and youth softball teams create a **demand of 50 games/practices per week**. Combined, this is a total of 127.5 games/practices per week.
- The total game requirement for youth baseball is 22 games per week, and the total game requirement for youth softball is 12.5 games per week.
- The Livingston Middle School baseball team uses Little Guys and Gals fields on weekdays until 4:30, and has games on Tuesdays and Thursdays that run later. The demand analysis reviews only demands on weekday evenings and weekends, and therefore does not consider middle school use. However, it is important to note that the middle school schedule limits the games the City can schedule on Tuesdays and Thursdays to

the very young age groups, which have games that last only 1 hour.

Analysis

- A comparison of supply and demand indicates that demand significantly exceeds the supply of fields designed for youth baseball/softball use. The analysis indicates that about 8 more unlighted fields are needed at peak demand. Only 5 more unlighted fields would be needed to accommodate demand from the City leagues.
- When a cancellation factor of 10% is considered to account for rainouts, etc., the deficit of youth fields is even more significant.
- The 8 games scheduled on Saturdays at Little Guys and Gals Field is a very heavy level of use for that facility.
- Due to scheduling difficulties with the school districts, the City does not use the high school and middle school sites very much, and relies heavily on Little Guys and Gals Field (and Arakelian) for its games.

Recommendations

Recommended Level of Service:

- The recommended service level for field use should be established at an average rate of 10 games/practices a week for unlighted fields and 15 games/practices a week for lighted fields.

Determination of Demand Standard:

- It is recommended the city increase its ratio of youth baseball and softball fields to address the current deficit. This is based on the following factors:
 - * The supply and demand analysis shows a serious deficit during the period of peak demand, and a deficit throughout the spring season.

- * There are very few fields designed for youth play, and play and practices are regularly occurring on unsuitable multi-use backstops, many of which are in very poor condition.
- * The current ratio of fields to population is much higher than typical.
- Assuming that the overlap between the City and County youth ball leagues can be eliminated, there would be a total demand of 88.5 games/practices if teams were held to a maximum service level of 2 practices and 2 games per week. This is equivalent to about 4 more fields, if Little Guys and Gals Field is lighted to provide some additional capacity at that site.
- If 4 fields are added to the current inventory of 4 fields, a total of 8 fields would be required to accommodate current demand. A recommended standard of 1 field per 1,400 people can be derived from these figures. This is a substantial increase in service over the current ratio of 1 field per 2,762 people.

Table E.8
Recommended Demand Standard

Youth Baseball and Softball Fields	
Number of Existing Fields	4 Fields
Current Ratio	1 Field/2,762 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	1 Field/1,400 Population

Design Standards

- Basic Elements: Little League-200' outfield fence length, Youth Softball-180 - 200' outfield fence length
- Optional Elements: Lighting, covered dugouts, scorers table, storage facilities, restrooms, drinking fountains

Comments

- The overlapping City and County youth league seasons create a high peak demand in May. If possible, this overlap should be eliminated. However, it is important to note that this may

not be possible if rules regarding season length and timing are governing either league.

- Little Guys and Gals Field is the City's main site for youth team play. Several actions should be considered for improving this site. Providing field lighting should be a high priority. This action would provide additional capacity at the field. The restrooms should be replaced with functional facilities. The current restrooms are so deteriorated that they cannot be used. Permanent marked parking should be considered. The current parking situation causes operational problems, and creates hazards. If the detention basin adjacent to the field can be eliminated through the Storm Drainage Master Plan effort, the basin site should be considered for additional parking.
- Selma Herndon Elementary School, where Little Guys and Gals Field is located, has 3 additional multi-use backstops. The City should consider replacing one of the multi-use backstops with a permanent unlighted T-ball field adjacent to Little Guys and Gals Field. This would provide at least 10 additional game/practice slots per week, and it would ease league operations.

Currently, City personnel have to change field configurations between games due to the shortage of fields. This action would provide 1 of the 4 needed fields. The City would need to enter into an agreement with the school district to permit development of another field.

- The City should consider upgrading the two multi-use backstops at Campus Park Elementary School, or building 2 youth fields on the currently vacant school district land to the west of the school. This action would provide 2 of the 4 needed fields.
- In the short term, the field at Arakelian Park could continue to be used for scheduled games. This would provide 1 of the 4 needed fields on an interim basis. However, in the longer term, the City should make building additional youth ball fields a priority at the next community park site that is acquired. When that occurs, use of the Arakelian field should be phased out.

Alternative Actions (Varying Service Levels)

- *Lighting fields:* In an attempt to gain additional playing time, additional lighting could be added to the fields. Lighting can add 5 games/practices per week per field. Lighting should be installed at Little Guys and Gals field, and should be considered for any youth fields built by the City in the future.
- *Team Service Levels:* As previously mentioned, a number of the youth teams in Livingston practice from 2 to 3 times per week. It is recommended that the City establish 2 practices per week as the maximum service level on City-scheduled fields. While this is currently not an issue because teams practice at school sites on an unofficial basis, it may become a problem in the future as additional fields are built.

Adult Soccer Fields

Field Dimensions: adult soccer 75 x 120 yards

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

- Currently, there are 3 soccer fields in Livingston that can accommodate adult soccer:
 - * Livingston Sports Complex (City) – 1 field. Also used for older youth age groups.
 - * Livingston High School (MUHSD) – 2 fields (overlays).

Current Service Levels:

- The current team service level for adult soccer in Livingston is 1 practice and 1 game per week
- The current field service level for adult soccer in Livingston is:
 - * Livingston Sports Complex can accommodate 2 adult games/practices (1 per night on Wed and Thursday) during the week and 5 adult games/practices on the weekends. For the purpose of the supply and demand analysis, a portion of time on the Sports Complex field is allocated to the adults, and the remaining time is allocated to youth teams. Both youth and adult teams use the field.
 - * The 2 Livingston High School fields could each accommodate 4 games per weekend day. However, these fields are overlaid on softball/baseball fields and are not available for use during the spring season.
- Size: regulation - 2.5 acres

Analysis

Trends:

- Nationwide, soccer play has increased significantly in the last 10 years.

- There tends to be a higher than average participation in soccer among Hispanic and Latino populations. Livingston has a higher percentage of Hispanic population than statewide in California (71.8% compared to 32%).
- Many communities are developing soccer fields in a large complex dedicated only to that activity. This approach is more efficient to maintain and permits field configurations to change, providing more fields and reducing field wear.

Input from Sponsoring Agencies:

- Adult soccer programs in the Central Valley are provided by Premiership Soccer League, which serves Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties. This league provides extensive opportunities for adult play on men’s teams (under age 23), co-ed teams, and men’s open teams (18 +).
- The league provided information on the teams in the league that originate in Livingston, which are listed in the table below.

Table E.9
Adult Soccer Participation

League	Total Teams	Livingston Teams
Men’s Soccer	16	2
Coed Soccer	20	5
Men’s Open	30	10
TOTAL	66	17

Analysis of Supply and Demand:

Supply

- The supply and demand analysis contained in this section will focus on the peak season for soccer field use, which is fall.
- Under the service levels described above, the 3 fields can accommodate **23 adult games/practices per week**. This is equivalent to the supply provided by about 2 fields, if used full time for adults.

Demand

- With a service level of 1 game and 1 practice per week, the adult teams **create a demand of 25.5 games/practices per week.**

Analysis

- A comparison of supply and demand indicates that there is a **shortage of about 4 games per week** for adult soccer fields. This shortage is increased significantly if the high school fields are unavailable.

Recommendations

Recommended Level of Service:

- The recommended service level for adult team play should remain at an average rate of 1 game and 1 practice per week.
- The recommended service level for field use should be established at an average rate of 10 games/practices a week for unlighted fields and 15 games/practices a week for lighted fields.
- If not already in place, a policy should be adopted that 2 soccer teams will share a field for practices.

Determination of Demand Standard:

- It is recommended the city increase its current level of service for adult soccer fields. This is based on the following factors:
 - * High ratio of fields to population (1 adult field per 5,525 people, based on the 3 available fields actually providing field time equivalent to 2 fields due to shared use with youth)
 - * Based on the current supply and demand calculations, there is currently a shortage of 1 adult soccer field.
- If the shortage of 1 field is added to current supply, which is equivalent to 2 fields, and then divided into the current

population, a recommended standard of one soccer field per 3,700 people can be derived.

Table E.10
Recommended Demand Standard

Adult Soccer Fields	
Number of Existing Fields	3 Fields, providing time equivalent to 2 fields
Current Ratio	1 Field/5,525 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	1 Field/3,700 Population

Design Standards

- Basic Elements: 220' x 330' turf area, moveable goals
- Optional Elements: Drinking fountains, storage facilities, rest rooms, bleachers

Comments

- Although the peak season for soccer is fall, the adult teams are part of a league that plays year round. Since 2 of the adult-sized fields are overlaid with softball/baseball fields, their use is limited during the spring season.
- There are some operational problems with the field at Livingston Sports Complex due to the inadequate perimeter space. The tight layout of this field increases field wear because the field configuration cannot be shifted. This is the reason the City has scheduled 3 field rest days (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday). Although the field receives very heavy use on the 4 days when practices and games are permitted, the field rest days seem to be providing sufficient recovery time so that the turf is not destroyed. Future fields should be designed with adequate perimeter space, and preferable should accommodate a variety of field configurations.
- When future community parks are designed, the City should consider providing a large turf area that can accommodate a

variety of configurations of soccer fields, including adult (or regulation) fields

Youth Soccer Fields

Field Dimensions: Varies depending on age group: 75 x 120 yards for older youth age groups, 100 x 50 yards for U-12, 80 x 40 yards for U-10, 50 x 25 yards for U-8, and 30 x 15 yards for U-6 soccer 65 x 110 yards; youth soccer 55 x 100 yards

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

- Currently, there are 7 fields in the Livingston planning area that are used for youth soccer:
 - * Campus Park Elementary School (LUSD) – 2 fields (U-8 and U-10, open turf area only)
 - * Livingston Middle School (LUSD) – 1 field
 - * Livingston Sports Complex (City) – 1 field, lighted. Also used for adult soccer.
 - * Selma Herndon Elementary School (LUSD) – 2 fields (U-8 and U-10 only)
 - * Yamato Colony Elementary School (LUSD) – 1 field (open turf area)
- The City has plans to build 2 more fields at Livingston Sports Complex. Due to the constraints of this site, these will be small fields for the younger age groups.

Current Service Levels:

- The current team service levels for youth soccer are:
 - * Recreation league (LYSL) – 2 practices and 1 game per week, fall season.
 - * Competitive league (Premiership Soccer League) – 2-3 practices and 2 games per week, year round.
- The current field service level for youth soccer in Livingston is:

- * Livingston Sports Complex accommodates - 2 games/practice per night on Wednesdays and Thursdays; 5 games on a weekend day. This site is shared with adults.
- * The other sites accommodate 1 game/practice per night Monday through Thursday; and 5 games on Saturdays.
- Size: regulation - 2.5 acres; youth – 1.5 acres

Analysis

Trends:

- Nationwide, soccer play has increased significantly in the last 10 years.
- There tends to be a higher than average participation in soccer among Hispanic and Latino populations. Livingston has a higher percentage of Hispanic population than statewide in California (71.8% compared to 32%).
- Many communities are developing soccer fields in a large complex dedicated only to that activity. This approach is more efficient to maintain and permits field configurations to change, providing more fields and reducing field wear.

Input from Sponsoring Agencies:

- Soccer programs in the Livingston area are sponsored by the Livingston Youth Soccer League (LYSL), an affiliate of the California Youth Soccer Association, and also by premiership a higher-level competitive league. Soccer participation is listed in the table below:

Table E.11
Soccer Participation

League	Total Teams
LYSL – Mixed U-8	2
LYSL – U-10 Girls	1
LYSL – U-10 Boys	2
LYSL – U-12 Girls	1
LYSL – U-12 Boys	1
LYSL – U-15 Girls	1
LYSL – U-14 Boys	1
Premiership - U-12 Boys	4
Premiership - U-14 Boys	5
Premiership - U-16 Boys	1
Premiership - U-18 Boys	1
TOTAL	20

Analysis of Supply and Demand:

Supply

- The supply and demand analysis contained in this section will focus on the peak season for soccer field use, which is fall.
- Under the service levels described above, the 7 fields used for youth soccer can accommodate **61 youth games/practices per week**.
- Two small fields are being established at Livingston Sports Complex for younger age groups. These will not affect the supply, because they will allow the leagues to eliminate use of some of the open turf areas that were not designed for play but are currently used due to lack of better facilities.

Demand

- With a service level of 1 game and 2 practices per team per week for the recreational league and 2 games and 2-3 practices per week for the competitive league, the youth teams **create a demand of 61.0 games/practices per week**.

Analysis

- A comparison of supply and demand indicates that the youth fields are at capacity, and there is no additional capacity to accommodate game cancellations. Typically, a factor of about 10% should be included to account for game cancellations due to weather, scheduling conflicts, and other issues.

Recommendations

Recommended Level of Service:

- The recommended service level for team play should be established at an average rate of one game and two practices per week.
- The recommended service level for field use should be established at an average rate of ten (10) games/practices a week for unlighted fields and fifteen (15) games/practices a week for lighted fields.

Determination of Demand Standard:

- It is recommended the City slightly increase its current level of service for youth soccer fields. This is based on the following factors:
 - * Based on the supply and demand calculations, fields are currently at capacity and there is no allowance for cancellations.
- If 1 additional field is added to the inventory of 7 fields and then divided into the current population, a recommended standard of 1 soccer field per 1,400 people can be derived.

Table E.12
Recommended Demand Standard

Youth Soccer Fields	
Number of Existing Fields	7 Fields
Current Ratio	1 Field/1,578 People
Recommended Demand Standard	1 Field/1,400 People

Design Standards

- Basic Elements: Appropriate sized turf area, moveable goals.
- Optional Elements: Drinking fountains, storage facilities

Comments

- The open turf areas currently being used for youth soccer at the elementary school sites should be phased out if possible in the future, particularly for games. These sites should be replaced with fields or turf areas designed for soccer use.
- According to the Premiership league, LUSD intends to add 2 youth soccer fields in the coming years. This will help alleviate some of the need, and potentially allow discontinuation of use of some of the substandard open turf sites.

Gymnasiums (Indoor Basketball & Volleyball Courts)

Court Dimensions: adult basketball 50 x 84 feet; youth basketball 42 x 50 feet; Volleyball 30 x 60 feet

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

- Currently, there are four (4) gymnasiums in the Livingston planning area. The gyms are listed below, with information about court size.
 - * Community Center (private) – 1 undersized gym (available for public use)
 - * Livingston Middle School (LUSD) – 1 gym (1 adult basketball court)
 - * Livingston High School (MUHSD) – 1 gym (1 adult basketball court)
 - * Yamato Colony Elementary School – 1 undersized multipurpose room
- The City does not own any gymnasiums, and schedules its youth and adult league games and open gym night at school gymnasiums. Gym time is limited.

Current Service Levels:

- No volleyball programs are offered due to a lack of gym time.
- The current service levels for basketball are:
 - * Available courts accommodate 40 games/practices per week.
 - * Team Participation:
 - * Youth Basketball –1-2 practices and 1-2 games per team per week.
 - * Men’s Basketball – 0 practices and 1 game per team per week
 - * Open Gym – 1 session per week
- Size: 50’ x 84’ basketball; 30’ x 60’ volleyball

Analysis

Trends:

- According to the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA), basketball participation has decreased 5.6% and volleyball participation has decreased 35.8% over the last five years nationally.
- However, NSGA data also shows an increase in participation for both volleyball and basketball between 2002 and 2003, the most recent year data were collected.
- MIG tracks participation in communities where it conducts surveys, and maintains a database on recreation participation. Basketball tends to be one of the most popular organized sports activities in communities MIG has surveyed.

Input from Sponsoring Agencies:

- Basketball programs in the Livingston area are sponsored by the City. These are:

Table E.13
Basketball Participation

League	Total Teams
Youth Basketball (K-8 th grade)	35
Men's Basketball (Ages 18 +)	4
Open Gym	1 night/week
TOTAL	39

Analysis of Supply and Demand:

Supply

- Available time slots provide a **supply of 40 games/practices per week**. This is equivalent to about 1gym, if the City controlled all the gym time. This is based on an assumption of 4-5 games/practices each weeknight and 8 games/practices each weekend day. This is a total of 36 to 41 game/practice time slots per week with unscheduled time available for open gym and other recreation activities.

Demand

- Based on the game and practice schedules for each league, there is a **demand for 81.75 games/practices per week**. The 35 youth teams create a demand of 78.75 games/practices per week for basketball. The 4 men's teams create a demand for 2.0 games/practices per week. The 1 open gym session creates demand for an additional 1.0 games/practices per week. **Assuming a 15% factor for cancellations** and being bumped from school facilities each week, there is a demand for **94 games/practices per week for basketball**.

Analysis

- Based on the supply and demand analysis, there is a shortage of **54 games/practices per week**. This is equivalent to 2 more courts owned or controlled by the City.

Recommendations

Recommended Level of Service:

- The recommended service level for adult team play should remain at an average rate of 1 game and 0 practices per week for basketball.
- The recommended service level for youth basketball team play should be established at an average rate of 2 games and 2 practices per week, once additional court space is available. The current service level is 1 to 2 games and 1 to 2 practices per week.
- The recommended service level for younger children's basketball should be established at an average rate of 1 game and 1 practice per week, similar to the current service level.
- If volleyball league play is provided in the future, the recommended service levels are 1 game and 0 practices for adult team play and 1 game and 2 practices for youth team play.
- The recommended service level for court use should be established at an average rate of 36 games/practices a week for basketball and volleyball for courts owned and controlled by the City of Livingston.

Determination of Demand Standard:

- It is recommended the city increase the service level by increasing the ratio of courts to population. This is based on the following factor:
 - * Based on the supply and demand calculations, there is a shortage of at least 2 courts.
- Because of the City's reliance on court time at gyms owned by others and the uncertainty of whether that court time will remain available in the future, the recommended standard was determined based on the existing demand of 94 games/practices per week divided by 36 games/practices per week (the number of scheduled games/practices possible on a City-owned facility). This results in an existing need of 3 full-

time gymnasium courts, or a recommended standard of one court per 4,000 people.

Table E.14
Recommended Demand Standard

Gymnasium Courts	
Number of Courts Currently Needed	Equivalent to 3 Courts
Current Ratio	1 Court/11,000 Population ¹
Recommended Demand Standard	1 Court/4,000 Population

¹ Current available gym time is equivalent to about 1 court owned or controlled by the City.

Design Standards

- Basic Elements: Gymnasium Basketball Court (50' x 84')

Comments:

- *Open Gym:* Currently, only one open gym session is scheduled per week due to lack of gym space. There may be a demand for additional open gym sessions. A number of communities offer special open gym sessions on weekend evenings for teens, for example. Obtaining additional gym time or court space would allow the Recreation Department to offer more open gym options.
- *Lack of Certainty:* In addition to the lack of facilities, the lack of certainty in gym availability is a major issue. School schedules are not always consistent, and the level of gym availability can change. The City will need to continue to rely heavily on school gymnasiums to meet the community's indoor court needs. If possible, the City should seek exclusive use agreements that would allow the City to schedule all non-school activity to increase certainty in scheduling.
- *Other Options:* Livingston Recreation personnel have suggested building a multi-purpose "barn" type building with concrete floors that could accommodate multiple indoor

basketball courts. Such a facility could accommodate Livingston's current court demand at a lower cost than building gymnasiums, and would also provide the City with indoor space that could be used for other activities and events. This option will be evaluated further during the planning process.

- *Use of School Sites:* When new schools are planned and designed, the City should consider working cooperatively with the school districts to ensure that school facilities are adaptable for other community recreation needs. One option to consider is joint venturing with LUSD to build gymnasiums at any proposed new elementary schools. Elementary schools typically have multi-purpose rooms rather than full-size gymnasiums, and usually do not use these facilities after school hours. In this situation, the City could assist with the construction costs of providing a gymnasium, rather than the multi-purpose room typical for local elementary schools. In exchange for paying for an upgraded facility, the City could have exclusive use of the gymnasium after school and on weekends. The School District would benefit by having better facilities available for its students, and the City would benefit by gaining additional gymnasiums at a lower cost than building its own stand-alone facilities. This type of arrangement should only be considered if a specific use agreement is drafted that documents the financial responsibilities of each party and establishes time allocations.

Another option is to coordinate with the School District so that any gymnasiums that are constructed include restrooms and an entrance that opens directly to the outside to facilitate community use.

Pathway and Trail Needs

Existing Conditions

Current Supply:

- There are currently no paved or unpaved off-street pathways or trails in Livingston.

Current Service Levels:

- Due to the lack of trails, there currently is no level of service for pathways or trails in Livingston.

Analysis

Trends:

- In communities in the West where MIG has conducted surveys, interest in trail-related activities (walking, hiking, bicycling, rollerblading, jogging, etc.), has shown a remarkable increase in the last five (5) years. Trail-related activities typically are very highly ranked in terms of participation.
- National trends also indicate a high level of interest in trail-related activities, such as walking. The National Study on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE), conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, found that more than 88% of the population ages 16 and older have participated in trail, street, and road activities. The most popular of these activities is walking, an activity pursued by more than 82% of the population based on NSRE estimates.

Recommendations

Recommended Level of Service:

- It is recommended that the City provide a network of paved off-street trails to meet the growing need for trail-related activity and increase accessibility to parks.
- The service area for a trail depends on its primary function. It may be regional in nature and connect to other communities or be local and designed to serve the community or even a specific neighborhood only. It is recommended that Livingston focus on developing a pathway system that serves residents community-wide. However, this does not preclude taking advantage of regional trail opportunities or neighborhood based opportunities should they arise.

Determination of Demand Standard:

- It is recommended that the City establish a demand standard based on a looped paved trail system connecting proposed community parks. The trail system should be located within linear park corridors.
- Livingston’s existing community parks are surrounded by development, and would be difficult to serve with off-street trails. Therefore, the proposed trail system can connect to existing community parks through on-street or other connections.
- Approximately 10 miles of paved trail will be needed to provide the proposed loop system linking planned future community parks. The Livingston Planning Department has developed growth scenarios for the City. Based on their work, a planning area population of 35,004 is estimated for the year 2016. The recommended standard is based on this future population because the trail loop will link parks planned for future development. Based on 10 miles of trail and the future population projection, a recommended standard of 0.28 miles per 1,000 residents is recommended for Livingston.

Table E.15
Recommended Demand Standard

Paved Pathways and Trails	
Current Inventory	0 miles
Current Ratio	0 miles / 1,000 Residents
Recommended Demand Standard	0.28 miles / 1,000 Residents

Other Recreation Facilities

During the planning process, other recreation facilities were suggested for Livingston besides the types of park land and recreation facilities discussed earlier in this report.

These facilities include:

- Indoor recreation/community center
- Swimming pool
- Water playgrounds
- Skate park
- Group picnic facilities

These facilities are briefly discussed here, and some of the suggested facilities will be carried forward for additional discussion in the next phase of the Master Plan project.

Indoor Recreation/Community Center

Many communities have built indoor recreation centers that contain a variety of indoor spaces, such as gymnasiums, racquetball courts, exercise/aerobics areas, weight training rooms, places for active recreation classes, dance studios and other specialized activity areas. These facilities are typically quite large, often from 40,000 to 60,000 square feet in size. Childcare facilities, spaces for large group gatherings, and general classroom space are often a part of a recreation center of this type. In some instances, even ice rinks, indoor tennis courts, and indoor pools are incorporated. This type of recreation center is becoming the typical model, and is often very popular. They are expensive to build, and can be expensive to operate. However, they can be designed to recover a percentage of or sometimes all operating costs, depending on the community.

In Livingston, an indoor recreation center would considerably expand the number of recreation activities and community events that could be offered as well as meet gymnasium space needs for basketball and volleyball. However, due to the high capital cost, the existing small recreation center, Livingston's small population, and the many other park and recreation priorities in the community, an indoor recreation center is not recommended at the current time.

In the future, as the population grows and the park system is further developed, the City should evaluate the feasibility of building a recreation center. If staff believes this is a direction that residents will want to pursue in the future, space can be reserved at one of the

proposed community parks to accommodate a potential future community center. Approximately 5 acres would be needed for such a facility.

Swimming Pool

Livingston does not have a public pool. The City relies on the high school pool to provide aquatics programming and open swim during the summer. There are no other public or private pools, indoor or outdoors.

In most communities, swimming both indoors and outdoors usually ranks high in participation. Livingston's warm summers also make swimming an attractive activity during the hot months. However, no data is available about the popularity of swimming in Livingston as compared to other communities.

Swimming pools are expensive to build and maintain. The deciding issue is usually not what is needed but what the community is willing or able to afford. A cost recovery rate of 60% to 75% for aquatics would be considered excellent. Some general guidelines for pools are listed below.

- A 50 meter indoor pool will cost approximately \$6-7 million and operate at a \$300,000 - \$500,000 deficit. It generally takes about 100,000 people in a community to support it.
- A standard 6 lane 25 yard outdoor pool will cost approximately \$2 million to build and will require subsidies for ongoing operations.
- Adding other recreation facilities such as slides, fountains, or other recreation space can generate higher revenue to help offset the operating cost. Of course, these features will increase initial construction costs.

The City's current arrangement for use of the high school pool is very cost-effective, requiring only about a \$10,000 subsidy for the 2004 season. For the summer 2004 season, a local business provided a donation to the City to offset the pool operation subsidy, allowing the City to maintain its aquatics program.

While the pool is neither optimally located or the ideal configuration, it does provide aquatic opportunities at a fairly low cost to taxpayers. For this reason, the City should continue the arrangement with the high school, and should not consider building its own pool in the near future. If the City continues to develop and experience population growth, the feasibility of an indoor or outdoor pool can be evaluated in the future.

Water Playgrounds

Water playgrounds, also known as spraygrounds, include features that spray water. Water playgrounds generally have no standing water and don't require supervision. They can range from small in size to very elaborate and large, and can be interactive. There are no facilities of this type within the City or nearby. These facilities can provide aquatics opportunities for residents at a much lower cost than swimming pools.

Livingston's hot summer climate would make water playgrounds very attractive, especially since Livingston has such a high percentage of children.

Some communities build elaborate water playgrounds and charge admission. However, this requires higher capital development costs for the more elaborate features and ongoing operations costs to provide staff to collect admissions. In Livingston's case, simpler water playgrounds with two or three spray features are more appropriate due to their moderate installation cost and low operating costs. The City should consider locating small water playgrounds within some of its community parks so that they are reasonably accessible to everyone in the community. Appropriate locations for water playgrounds will continue to be explored through the Master Plan process.

Skate Park

Many communities are building skate parks due to the continuing popularity of skateboarding among youth age groups. Some skate parks are built to also accommodate roller blade and bicycle use. In-ground concrete skate parks are generally the highest end facilities and are most favored by skaters. Other types of skate park equipment are available, and usually consist of ramps and structures installed above ground. Skate parks can be constructed as stand-alone facilities, or be incorporated into other park facilities. Potential for a

skate park will continue to be explored through the Master Plan process.

Group Picnic Areas

Picnic areas that can be reserved for large groups are available at Memorial and Arakelian Parks. Both facilities receive very heavy use. In addition to meeting a community need, this type of recreation area can generate revenue from reservations.

For these reasons, it is recommended that Livingston include at least one picnic shelter/group picnic area in each of its community parks. The design guidelines for community parks will address group picnic areas.

RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS

The City of Livingston offers a broad range of programming for a city of its size, and its recreation programming generates a significant amount of revenue. The City offers a range of organized sports options, a variety of general interest classes including offerings such as hip hop dance, a summer aquatics program, and a series of special events.

The recreation superintendent and staff have proven themselves to be creative and innovative in developing programming; the excellent participation and cost recovery data are evidence of their success.

The areas of greatest program need are:

- *Younger youth programming.* Although some younger youth programming is offered, more capacity is needed. With the high percentage of young children in Livingston, there is a need for services for these age groups.
- *High school age programming.* The City currently does not offer programming for high school age groups, a group that most communities identifying as having a high level of recreation needs.
- *More adult programming.* The City offers some adult programming, particularly organized sports. There is a need for more adult programming, because there are no other

providers in Livingston. In addition, adult programs typically generate revenue, which can offset the cost of providing additional youth and high school age programming.

The major limiting factor in the City's ability to provide additional programming is a lack of facilities. Participation is currently high enough that space in many of the existing programs is limited due to a lack of facilities, such as gym space.

With the performance of the Recreation Department in recent years, it is clear that the Superintendent is knowledgeable about community needs and priorities for recreation programming and special events. The highest priority facility needs identified by the Recreation Department to facilitate recreation programming are:

- Additional fields,
- A multiple use indoor space, and
- Classroom space.

Arts facilities were also identified as a need, but one with a lower priority.