

City of Madera Planning Department

To: General Plan Update Steering Committee

From: General Plan Update and Parks and Recreation Master Plan Project Teams

Re: January 28, 2008 Steering Committee Meeting

Date: January 22, 2008

The January 28 meeting of the Steering Committee will focus on two related documents: the General Plan's "Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element" and the Park and Recreation Master Plan. The objectives of the meeting will be to:

- Provide an overview the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan
- Review the preliminary needs and recommendations of the existing parks system
- Discuss the opportunities and implications of implementing Vision 2025's park and recreation strategies
- Receive comments on priorities for the future park and recreation system

Vision 2025 and Parks Planning in Madera

Implementing Vision 2025 will be a multi-phased process relying on a "toolbox" of plans, policies, and programs in addition to citizen and government action. Two tools that will assist in the development of the City's future park and recreation system will be the updated General Plan and the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of the General Plan** will include policies and programs to guide the sustainable expansion of Madera's popular park, recreation and open space system to meet the needs of residents and to ensure a desirable quality of life. The element will be a re-organization and update of the existing Resource Management Element. The existing element addresses open space in five sections: Managed Resource Production, Preservation of Natural and Human Resources, Health Welfare and Well-Being, Shaping Urban Growth, Outdoor Recreation.¹ The update to the Element will be based on data and analysis from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Existing policies be evaluated for their ability to meet the desired outcomes of Vision 2025. If policies and programs in the current General Plan are not adequate to achieve the desired park, recreation and open space system, then new policies and programs will be recommended.

The purpose of a **Park and Recreation Master Plan** (Master Plan) will be a framework for the development and operation of the City's over a 10 to 20 year period. This framework will allow the City to provide a variety of park and recreational opportunities in an

¹ The January 28 meeting will focus on the "Open Space for Outdoor Recreation" topic. Future steering committee meetings will include presentations on the topics of open space for conservation of natural resources (Conservation Element), open space for shaping urban growth (Land Use Element), and open space for agricultural conservation (Conservation & Land Use Elements).

equitable, fiscally-sound and environmentally-responsible manner. Key steps of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) process are to:

- Analyze existing park classifications, parks and recreation facilities, programs, and policies
- Assess existing and future needs of community
- Evaluate costs and identify funding needs and opportunities
- Recommend changes to classifications, standards and policies to achieve desired outcomes
- Prepare an implementation plan to guide future development and capital improvements

Madera's Existing Parks and Recreation System

Madera has a mix of neighborhood and mini-parks, a sports complex, municipal golf course, linear parks/small landscaped "buffers," one major multi-use trail, and community centers. The existing facilities are well-maintained and well-used by the community, especially after-school and on the weekends.

Attachment 1 is a Draft Map of the Existing Parks and Facilities in Madera. The circles on the map indicate service areas for neighborhood parks, community parks and sports complexes based on current City standards. Per the existing General Plan, mini-parks are located and sized to serve residents within a ¼-mile radius, neighborhood parks serve residents within a ¼ - ½ mile radius and community parks serve residents within 3 miles or greater. Service areas for Lions Town & Country Park and Madera-Sunrise Sports Complex are shown at the neighborhood and community level due to their amenities and programming. The map highlights the fact that existing parks are concentrated on the east side of the City. Some areas of Madera, such as the West Cleveland, north Madera, and southwest Madera neighborhoods are currently underserved or not served at all.

Meeting the park and recreation needs of existing and future residents

The existing General Plan calls for 3 acres to be provided for every 1,000 residents. Based on an estimated existing population of 53,000 residents, this would require 159 acres. However, the existing parks system contains approximately 128 acres, a *deficiency of approximately 30 acres to meet existing parkland needs*. In addition to a deficiency in the total parkland acreage, the City faces the challenge of operating and maintaining aging parks and facilities while balancing the development of new facilities, programs, and parks to meet existing needs. The 2007-2012 Parks and Community Services Capital Improvement Program includes 39 capital projects totaling nearly \$20 million dollars. The projects include systemwide projects as well as renovation or construction of new facilities at a number of existing parks.

Future development in Madera will result in the need for parkland in addition to the "unmet need" which currently exists. The City collects a Park Impact Fee from all new residential development. The goal of the impact fee program is to use those monies to provide park and recreation facilities to meet the demand of new development. One shortcoming of the impact fee system, however, is that new parks and facilities will generate new programming, operations, and maintenance costs that the City must fund through other mechanisms.

Park Classifications

A Park Classification System provides guidance for the development and operation of various types of parks. Park classifications define park types and their characteristics, such as location, size, and amenities. The existing General Plan includes park classifications for the following park types: playlots, mini/pocket, neighborhood, community, regional, parkways and specialized facilities (playfield, swimming pool and golf course). Attachment 2 is a table of the Existing and Proposed Park Classifications for the City. The table highlights proposed revisions to the City's existing park classifications based on initial site assessments of the parks, their existing size and amenities, location and use. The changes are recommended to provide guidance when developing each park type and in conformance with Action 414.2 of Vision 2025 which directs the City to establish parks standards utilizing national standards through the Master Plan process.

Based on the park classifications, the existing 30-acre deficiency could be met through a variety of options: 7 neighborhood parks (5-20 acres each), 11 mini-parks (1-3 acres each), a mix of neighborhood parks and mini-parks, a community park (20-30 acres), or a mix of mini-parks, neighborhood parks, linear parks, and trails. The exact type of parks and location will be determined through the Master Plan Needs Assessment process. Attachments 3 and 4 illustrate the options for buildout of the park system. Attachment 3 provides a conceptual buildout of neighborhood parks to meet the City's parkland deficiency, and Attachment 4 provides a conceptual buildout of mini-parks to meet the City's acreage needs. Both maps are for illustrative and discussion purposes. Exact locations of future parks will be evaluated later in the Master Plan process.

Opportunities and Implications of Vision 2025

The General Plan Update and the Master Plan process will rely on the Vision and strategies of Vision 2025 to set goals and priorities. Attachment 5 details the strategies from Vision 2025 that will shape Madera's future park and recreation system. Based on the Vision 2025 Plan, Madera's residents want more and better parks, trails, and open space. Vision 2025 prioritizes "recreational availability by providing a park in close proximity to every neighborhood" (Strategy 414).

Vision 2025 identifies the following actions:

- Park Classifications and Guidelines tailored to the community
- New parks to meet existing and future needs
- New trails and other open space
- Parks and trails in new subdivisions and planned development
- Rehabilitation of existing parks
- Expansion of parks and trails to underserved areas
- Expanded recreation programs and services with special attention to youth and senior needs

Vision 2025 provides a comprehensive vision for the parks and recreation system with one major exception – a funding and financing plan for all of the new parks, programs, and recreation amenities. The average price for an acre of developed parkland in 2003 in Madera was \$184,000. Given the cost of developing parkland (with inflation) and the list of

projects and programs in Vision 2025, the City could be facing a substantial cost. The master plan process will include an implementation plan based on the City's resources available to achieve the project and program list identified through the Vision 2025 and Park and Recreation Needs Assessment processes. The implementation plan will prioritize projects and identify existing and potential funding sources. Potential funding sources could include revenue from updated park and program fees, impact fees, joint-use agreements, non-profit and private sources, etc. A variety of options will be evaluated and refined through the Master Plan process.

Steering Committee Action

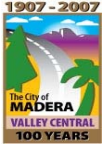
To assist with process of identifying goals and setting priorities, the project teams seek confirmation of Vision 2025 actions and strategies through review of the following questions during the meeting.

- When you visualize the parks system in Madera 2025, which of the following do you want to see? Which are most important? Least important?
 - More Mini-Parks/Pocket Parks?
 - More Neighborhood parks?
 - New community park(s)?
 - A regional park?
 - A trail system that connects parks, neighborhoods, and schools?
 - More soccer fields, swimming pools, playgrounds, or other new facilities?

- Determining park types will be driven by community goals, desired recreation facilities, land availability, and available funding. If the City could only afford limited expansions to the existing park and recreation system, what is your top choice? Top 2 choices? Top 3 choices?
 1. New or upgraded recreation facilities in existing parks
 2. Development of new mini-parks and neighborhood parks
 3. New recreation programming for all users
 4. New recreation programming for youth
 5. New recreation programming for seniors
 6. Expansions to the Fresno River Trail
 7. Expansions to the Fresno River Trail that connect parks, neighborhoods and schools

- How should the City address providing parks in underserved areas? Attachments 3 and 4 highlight alternative approaches to providing parks within walking distance of every neighborhood. What should be the priority?
 - Joint-Use Agreement with Schools?
 - Joint-Use Agreements with other public or private providers?
 - Acquisition of parcels in the urban area for new parks?

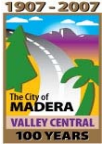
- How do trails and linear parks fit into the parks system? Are they as important as parks to meet the City's needs for park and open space? Less important?



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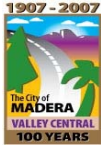
Attachment 1

Map of Existing Parks and Facilities with Service Areas



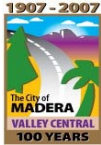
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Attachment 2 Park Classifications Table



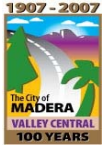
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Type of Park	Park Size	Park Characteristics	Service Radius	Park & Facility Level of Service	Facilities/Amenities
Tot Lot	2,500 sf – ½ acre	The Tot lot is a small playground area intended for children up to 5 years of age. Tot lots should be located within a block, or near the center of, a housing development, or in existing parks near or next to older children's playground areas. Children should not be required to cross a major arterial street to reach the tot lot.			<p>Active uses: Playing at play structures, sand areas</p> <p>Passive uses: relaxing, reading, sitting, gathering at benches, landscaped areas.</p> <p>Support facilities: Tot lots should be clearly identified with signage regarding age appropriateness, safety tips and rules.</p>
Mini-Park or Pocket Park	2,500 square feet 1-3 acres	<u>Mini-Parks, Pocket Parks and Tot Lots are intimate small-scale parks or plazas designed primarily for small children (under age 8). Pocket parks address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. Examples include small landscaped public use areas or buffers, scenic overlooks, and small picnic areas. Not generally used for programmed activities.</u>	<u>Less than ¼ mile</u>		<p><u>Active uses: Playing at play structures, court games, open turf areas, tennis court volleyball court, and basketball court.</u></p> <p><u>Passive uses: relaxing, reading, sitting, gathering at picnic tables, benches, landscaped areas, quiet game areas, community gardens or paved/unpaved paths.</u></p> <p><u>Support facilities: Waste receptacles, Site lighting, shade, signage, planting & irrigation, barbecues, public art, bicycle racks</u></p>
Neighborhood Park	5-20 acres <u>(7-10 acres is optimal)</u>	<u>Neighborhood Parks serve as the recreational and social focus of needs of a certain neighborhood. Limited organized/league use. Monitored for use, noise and traffic impacts. Active and passive recreational facilities should be equally provided.</u>	<u>¼ - ½ mile radius</u>	At least 1,000 people in service area or <u>2.0 acres per 1,000 people</u>	<p><u>Active uses: Playing at play structures, court games, open turf areas, tennis court volleyball court, shuffleboard, horseshoe area, and basketball court.</u></p> <p><u>Passive uses: relaxing, reading, sitting, gathering at trails, picnic tables, benches, landscaped areas, community buildings, community garden, and similar facilities.</u></p>



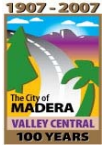
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Type of Park	Park Size	Park Characteristics	Service Radius	Park & Facility Level of Service	Facilities/Amenities
					Support facilities: Waste receptacles, Site lighting, shade, signage, planting & irrigation, barbecues, public art, fencing, bicycle racks, limited parking, restrooms
Community Parks	20-50 acres (20-30 acres)	Community parks are planned primarily to serve active and programmed recreation opportunities and generally serve two or more neighborhoods. Focus is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Within $\frac{1}{2}$ 1-3 miles of every residence (average 1.5 miles)	2.5 acres per 1,000 people	Active uses: Playing at play structures, court games, open turf areas, tennis courts, volleyball courts, shuffleboard, horseshoe area, basketball courts, informal sports fields. Passive uses: relaxing, reading, sitting, gathering at trails, picnic tables, benches, landscaped areas, community buildings, community garden, areas for community events (plays, etc) and similar facilities. Support facilities: Waste receptacles, Site lighting, shade, signage, planting & irrigation, barbecues, public art, bicycle racks, limited parking, restrooms.
Regional Park	Min 50 acres and optimally 250-500 acres	Regional parks serve the City and beyond and generally include one specific use or feature. They have unique features and attractions that draw visitors from through out the City and the region and contribute to community economic development. Regional parks are large enough to support significant open space.		5 acres for 1,000 people	Active uses: Playing at play structures, court games, open turf areas, tennis courts, volleyball court, shuffleboard, horseshoe area, basketball courts, water sports (boating and swimming), day camps, etc. Passive uses: relaxing, reading, sitting, gathering at trails, picnic tables, benches, landscaped areas, a nature center, hiking and riding trails, and similar facilities.



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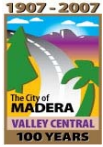
Type of Park	Park Size	Park Characteristics	Service Radius	Park & Facility Level of Service	Facilities/Amenities
					<u>Support facilities: Restrooms, waste receptacles, Site lighting, shade, signage, planting & irrigation, barbecues, public art, bicycle racks.</u>
<u>Special Use Facility: Swimming pool</u>			<u>15-30 minute travel time</u>	15 ft of water surface for each 3% of the population (450ft for 1,000 people)	<u>Active uses: Swimming facilities for adults and children, separated children's water play area.</u> <u>Passive uses: Picnic facilities, benches</u> <u>Support facilities: Waste receptacles, Site lighting, shade, signage, planting & irrigation, barbecues, public art, bicycle racks, restrooms, and showers.</u>
<u>Special Use Facility: Golf course</u>	120-150 acres for 18 holes.		<u>25 miles + 30 minutes travel time</u>	Daily capacity is 350-400 golfers	
<u>Sports complex</u>	<u>Minimum of 25 acres, with 40-80 acres optimal size</u>	<u>Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community. Accommodates specific needs of user groups and athletic associations.</u>	<u>Strategically located community wide facilities.</u>		<u>Active uses: Ballfields, soccer fields, football fields, outdoor and indoor skating rinks, tennis courts, play structures, hardcourts, and volleyball courts.</u> <u>Passive uses as accessory uses: trails, BBQ's and group/family picnic areas (including shelters); play equipment</u> <u>Support facilities: Multipurpose buildings, Waste receptacles, Site lighting, shade, signage, planting & irrigation, barbecues, public art, bicycle racks, , parking, fencing,</u>



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Type of Park	Park Size	Park Characteristics	Service Radius	Park & Facility Level of Service	Facilities/Amenities
					<u>site and facility lighting, common space.</u>
<u>Trails</u>		<u>Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational and/or transportation value and harmony with natural environment. May be stand alone parks or designated facilities of another park type.</u>			<p>Uses: <u>Walking, Hiking, Jogging, Bicycling, in-line/roller skating, skateboarding, horseback riding</u></p> <p>Support facilities: <u>Waste receptacles, lighting, water fountains at access points, shade, signage, planting & irrigation, public art, bicycle racks.</u></p>
<u>Linear Parks or Greenways</u>	<u>50 – 200 feet (Minimum 12' pathways)</u>	<u>Linear parks are developed landscaped areas and other lands that follow linear corridors such as railroad rights-of-way, canals, powerlines and other elongated features. They usually contain trails, landscaped areas and minimal facilities. They are often to conserve natural and/or cultural resources and to provide recreational opportunities, aesthetic and design benefits, and linkages between open and recreational facilities. May be stand alone parks or designated facilities of another park type.</u>			<p>Uses: <u>Walking, Hiking, Jogging, Bicycling, in-line/roller skating, skateboarding, horseback riding</u></p> <p>Support facilities: <u>Waste receptacles, lighting, water fountains at access points, shade, signage, planting & irrigation, public art, bicycle racks</u></p>

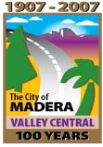
Underlined text = proposed change



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Parks Managed by Parks and Community Services with Existing and Proposed Park Classification

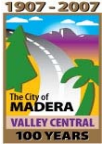
Park Name	Acreege	Existing Classification	Proposed Classification	Reason for Proposed Change
Centennial Park	3.53	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood	N/A
Cleveland – Granada Linear Park	TBD	Linear Park	Linear Park	N/A
Clinton Park	2.07	Neighborhood Park	Linear Park	Function, size, amenities
Community Garden	TBD	Not classified	Mini/Pocket Park	New facility
Knox Park	2.09	Neighborhood Park	TBD	Function, drainage issues,
Lions Town & Country Park	50.36	--	Community Park	Size, amenities, location
Madera Municipal Golf Course	179.95	Golf Course	Golf Course	N/A
Madera-Sunrise Rotary Sports Complex	48.94	Sports Complex	Sports Complex	N/A
Maple Court	.41	Neighborhood Park	Mini/Pocket Park	Size, amenities
McCullough - Fresno River Trail	TBD	Trail	Trail	N/A
McNally Park	1.93	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood	N/A
Pan-Am Park	4.66	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood	N/A
Riverside Park	3.31	Neighborhood Park	Linear Park	Size, form/function, location, amenities
Riverview Park	.65	Neighborhood Park	Mini/Pocket Park	Size, amenities
Rotary Park	9.67	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood	N/A
Sharon Avenue Trail	TBD	Trail	Trail	New facility
Total Acres	305.48			
Total Acres Without Golf Course	125.53			



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Attachment 3

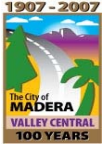
Map of Potential Neighborhood Park Service Areas



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Attachment 4

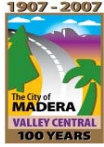
Map of Potential Pocket or Mini-Park Service Areas



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Attachment 5

Vision 2025 Park and Recreation Strategies and Actions



City of Madera General Plan Update Vision 2025 Park and Recreation Strategies

In the summer of 2005, the city embarked on a community-wide visioning project. Vision Madera 2025 is the result of hundreds of community-volunteer hours. It is the roadmap to the city's future, developed through a series of on-going community discussions, workshops and large public events. The community identified four Vision Statements and associated strategies and actions.

The community envisions

- ***A Well-Planned City***
- ***Good Jobs and Economic Opportunities***
- ***A Strong Community and Great Schools***
- ***A Safe, Healthy Environment***

Achieving the vision requires continued action by City agencies and citizens. Key components of the action plan are the update of the City's General Plan and development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. **The following Vision 2025 strategies will guide the update of the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.**

Community Gathering Places: Develop/expand and promote community gathering places that reflect the multicultural community in Madera. (Strategy 202)

Neighborhood Elementary Schools: Establish neighborhood elementary schools.

Establish with MUSD and City of Madera joint facility agreement that includes opportunities to build park location adjacent or near school sites which includes: athletic fields, multipurpose rooms and parking. (Strategy 324)

Youth Services: Expand comprehensive services for Madera's youth, including employment opportunities, community activities, sports programs, performing arts and after-school programs. (Strategy 332)

Sports Programs: Ensure affordable, high-quality sports programs for participants of all ages. (Strategy 333)

Youth Center: Expand youth center facilities throughout the City. Facilitate cooperation between City and school district, churches and service organizations. (Strategy 336)

Youth-Senior Citizen Activities: Develop programs for Maderans of all ages with emphasis on youth-senior activities. (Strategy 337)

Neighborhood Parks: Ensure recreational availability by providing a park in close proximity to every neighborhood (Strategy 414)

Recreational Opportunities: Enhance and expand recreational activities available to Maderans. (Strategy 411)

Fresno River Recreation: Develop the Fresno River into a major water feature and lake, providing seasonal recreation, entertainment opportunities and water storage. (Strategy 412)

Volunteer Opportunities for Community Service: Develop volunteer opportunities to help maintain and enhance community spaces. (Strategy 413)

Multiple Use Recreation Centers: Provide a recreational center(s) for Madera's youth as either stand-alone facilities or "joint-use" facilities with schools. (Strategy 415)