



**Planning and
Environmental
Resources**

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**Parks, Trails and
Open Space Element**

Note: This document represents one of several elements which constitute the City of Mesquite Master Plan.
August 2008

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT



RESOLUTION NUMBER 581

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
AS A PART OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, Section 278.170, Nevada Revised Statutes, provides that the City of Mesquite may prepare and adopt a PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT, to be included in the existing master plan for all or any part of the City;

WHEREAS, Section 278.160, Nevada Revised Statutes, specifies that the master plan shall include the following subject matter: community design, conservation plan, economic plan, historic properties preservation plan, housing, land use plan, population plan, public plan, recreation plan, solid waste disposal plan, streets and highways plan, transit plan, and transportation plan, and such other plans as judged necessary; and

WHEREAS, the master plan for the City of Mesquite was adopted in 1994 and significant changes have occurred in the City since that time.

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the adoption of the City of Mesquite master plan, including the PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT, was held August 26, 2008, by the City Council of Mesquite, Nevada; and

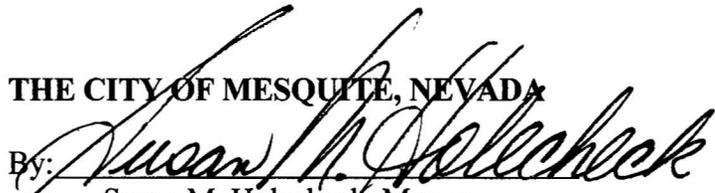
WHEREAS, the proposed amendment is the first amendment to the Plans in 2008, and therefore does not exceed the four permitted amendments in a calendar year, as specified in Section 278.210 (4), Nevada Revised Statutes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of Mesquite, Nevada, does hereby adopt and endorse the PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT into the existing master plan for the City of Mesquite.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Mesquite City Council hereby adopts Resolution No. 581 for the reasons and purposes set forth herein on this 26th day of August 2008.

THE CITY OF MESQUITE, NEVADA

By:


Susan M. Holecheck, Mayor

ATTEST:

By:


Sheree Goessman, Acting City Clerk

Acknowledgements

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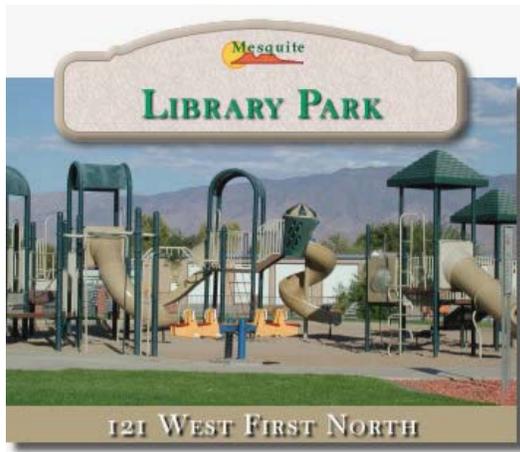
Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Parks.....	2
Regional Park.....	2
Community, Neighborhood and Pocket or Mini Parks.....	3
Future Parks	6
Trails	8
Existing Trails and Trailheads	8
Future Trails.....	9
Historic Trails	9
Open Space	11
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	11
Virgin River Habitat Conservation and Recovery Program	11
Future Open Space.....	12
Parks, Trails and Open Space Goals, Policies and Actions	13
Parks.....	13
Trails and Trailheads.....	15
Open Space	16
Table 1-1 Park Standards	2
Table 1-2 Community Park Prototype	3
Table 1-3 Neighborhood Park Prototype	4
Table 1-4 Pocket or Mini Park Prototype	4
Table 1-5 Existing and Under Construction Parks	5
Table 1-6 Proposed Parks	7
Table 1-7 Existing and Future Regional Trails	8
Figure 1-1 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan Map.....	17
Figure 1-2 Community Park Prototype.....	18
Figure 1-3 Neighborhood Park Prototype.....	19
Figure 1-4 Pocket or Mini Park Prototype	20

Introduction

The citizens of Mesquite have expressed a strong value for the outdoor environment, in both natural and recreational settings. The Parks, Trails and Open Space Element of the Master Plan translates these community values into realistic policies and action programs that will guide decisions about park development, habitat conservation plans, land acquisition and the open spaces that surround us.

In addition to quality, local resources, Mesquite is ideally located to accomplish day trips to several renowned parks and recreation areas, including Zion, Bryce Canyon, and the Grand Canyon National Parks, and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.



Recent discussions about new development have stimulated community interest in maintaining significant landforms, integrating open areas into the development pattern, recovering endangered species, and expanding the trail network to connect with the Southern Nevada region.

In 2006, the Trust for Public Land published *The Health Benefits of Parks*, which stressed the importance of parks and other recreational open spaces to health and well-being. The report highlighted development patterns that support walking and cycling, exposure to nature, and opportunities for children to play and physically develop. Parks were linked with the creation of

stable neighborhoods and stronger social ties.

Economic benefits are associated with parks, trails and open space, especially as they relate to tourism, enhancement of real estate values, and attracting business relocation or expansion. In their October 2007 newsletter, the Outside Las Vegas Foundation notes that hiking and biking facilities are major attractions for visitors. The newsletter also described national surveys which identify natural open space and trails as prime attractors for potential home buyers. Lastly, the newsletter highlights that businesses prefer to locate in places that offer a high quality of life, nearby recreation and access to open space.

Parks, trails and open spaces, are not only desired, but essential to improving and maintaining a higher quality of life. Effective policies will ensure that we continue to value the benefits which are associated with open spaces. These values include a healthier community, open space access to all citizens, trail connections, economical benefits, and recreation. The Parks, Trails and Open Space Element will be the guide to help in the viability of our open spaces for future and current citizens.

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Parks

The community takes pride in the size and quality of its park resources, as compared to larger communities. In order to understand the role of park systems, a hierarchy of services has been crafted by adapting national guidelines to our local needs. These park standards and classifications will also help guide decisions about future capital investments in park facilities.

The Table 1-1 below describes the size, service area and basic amenities associated with each park classification. The park standards represent the minimum required when developing park resources in the community.

Table 1-1

City of Mesquite Park Standards				
Type	General Description	Service Area	Desirable Size	Basic Amenities
Pocket or Mini Park	Small areas of rest and respite.	Less than ¼ mile radius	4 acres or less	Grass/Turf Benches Shade
Neighborhood Park	Basic unit of park system. Focus on informal recreation.	¼ to ½ mile radius	5+ acres	Grass/Turf Shade Benches Path/Connect to Trail Barbeque Grills
Community Park	Focus on community-based recreational needs as well as preserving unique or valued landforms and open spaces.	1 to 2 mile radius (several neighborhoods)	20+ acres	Grass/Turf Shade Path/Connect to Trail Restrooms/Drinking Fountain Tables Barbeque Grills Active Play Area Power/Lights Parking Natural Preservation Areas
Regional Park	Larger scale, regionally based parks and open spaces that focus on natural resource preservation and stewardship.	25+ mile radius	500+ acres	Grass/Turf Shade Path/Connect to Trail Restrooms/Drinking Fountain Barbeque Grills Active Play Area Power/Lights Parking Natural Preservation Areas
Source: Adapted from National Recreation and Parks Association guidelines				

Regional Park

The Regional Park is an extensive recreational and open space system planned within Mesquite city limits. The proposed park master plan consists of 670 acres of public open space with 135 acres of the park being developed. The remaining 535 acres will be preserved in its natural state of hilly landforms, steep mesa sides and desert washes. The Regional Park will serve as the recreational and open space focus of the City of Mesquite. It

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

will be interconnected to adjacent open space, residential communities and commercial areas within the city through pedestrian trails and vehicular circulation.

The developed areas will include a shared soccer and field sports complex, amphitheater, four (4) field baseball complex, five (5) field softball complex, tennis facilities, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, turf open space, picnic facilities and other passive and active recreation opportunities. Future expansion of recreation facilities may be needed as the community grows. Natural areas will have trails, trailheads and interpretive opportunities for hikers and bikers allowing users to enjoy a unique and scenic natural landscape.

Community, Neighborhood and Pocket or Mini Parks

Community, neighborhood and pocket or mini parks serve the needs of area residents in different ways. For example, ball fields are a popular amenity at some of the City’s parks and attract users beyond those living within walking distance.

Community parks are the primary providers of active recreational uses. They serve a number of neighborhoods and have easy access from the community trail system and main roadways. A prototype is illustrated in Figure 1-2. Although this prototype is not site specific, it illustrates relationships between differing activities and graphically describes how facilities could be effectively laid out. The following Table 1-2, lists facility types for the illustrated community park prototype.

Table 1-2

City of Mesquite Community Park Prototype		
Type of Facility	Quantity	Land Requirement (acres)
Lighted Little League baseball/softball fields (with concession and restroom)	4	14
Baseball stadium	1	4 (shared)
Walking trails	1 mile	Acreage included in other activities
Soccer fields	2	5 (2 shared)
Tennis courts	2	1
Basketball courts	2	1
Sand Volleyball courts	2	0.50
Picnic tables	10	0.50
Group shelter	2	
Tot lots	3	0.50
Horseshoe pits	2	0.25
Exercise course	1	0.50
Maintenance facility	1	0.25

Neighborhood parks differ from community parks in that facility requirements are much more reliant on the needs and interest of surrounding residents. A prototype is shown and illustrated in Figure 1-3, which is not site specific. The following Table 1-3 lists the facility types in the illustrated prototype neighborhood park.

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Table 1-3

City of Mesquite Neighborhood Park Prototype		
Type of Facility	Quantity	Land Requirement (acres)
Walking trail	¼ mile	(acreage included in other activities)
Horseshoe pits	2	0.25
Shuffleboard courts	2	0.25
Picnic tables	9	n/a
Seating area	6	n/a
Groups shelter	1	n/a
Tot lots	1	n/a
Playground (6+ age group)	1	n/a
Water play area	1	n/a
Maintenance facility	1	0.25

Pocket or mini parks are the smallest parks within the system. They are located within highly developed areas, easily accessible by sidewalks and roadways, providing sitting and meeting areas for the general public. An illustrated prototype (Figure 1-4) shows how facilities could be effectively laid out. The following Table 1-4 list the facility types provided in the illustrated prototype mini park.

Table 1-4

City of Mesquite Pocket or Mini Park Prototype		
Type of Facility	Quantity	Land Requirement (acres)
Walking way	500 feet	(acreage included in other activities)
Sitting and buffer walls	2	n/a
Picnic tables	2	n/a
Seating areas	1	n/a
Group shelter	1	n/a
Tot lots	1	n/a

Table 1-5 lists existing parks and their location, acreage, main amenities and park classification.

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Table 1-5

City of Mesquite Existing and Under Construction Parks				
Map # and Name	Location	Acres	Main Amenities	Type
#1 Marilyn Redd Park	251 Marilyn Parkway	8.5	Covered Pavilion BBQs/4 Tables Restrooms Shaded Playground Basketball & Volleyball Area Path System/Grass/Sand No Power/ No Night Lights Doggie Containers with Plastic Bags	Community
#2 Veteran's Memorial Park	301 Hillside Drive	1.5	Covered Lighted Pavilion BBQs/6 Tables Restrooms Shaded Playground Lights (night time use)/Power Grass/Sand Doggie Containers with Plastic Bags	Community
#3 Jensen Trailside Park	770 Second South	4.0	Covered Lighted Pavilion BBQs/8 Tables Restrooms/Drinking Fountain Playground/Basketball & Volleyball Area Grass No Power Doggie Containers with Plastic Bags	Community
#4 Hafen Trailhead Park	450 Hafen Lane	9.0	Covered Lighted Pavilion BBQs/8 Tables Restrooms/Drinking Fountain Fishing Pond Playground/Basketball & Volleyball Area Lights (night time use)/Power Grass/Doggie Park/Connects to Trails Doggie Containers with Plastic Bags Uncovered Tables & Sidewalks throughout Park	Community
#5 Pioneer Complex Park	501 Hillside Drive	8.0	2 standard Softball Fields 1 standard Baseball Field Bleachers/Dugouts with Misters Restrooms/Drinking Fountain Concession Stand Power/Field Lights	Regional
#6 Old Mill Park	50 West Old Mill Road	4.5	2 Ball Fields Bleachers Restrooms/Drinking Fountain Concession Stand Lights/Shaded Playground Doggie Containers with Plastic Bags Uncovered Tables/Grass Connects to Trails	Community

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

City of Mesquite Existing and Under Construction Parks				
Map # and Name	Location	Acres	Main Amenities	Type
#7 Recreation Center Park	100 West Old Mill Road	3.7	2 Ball Fields Bleachers Restrooms/Drinking Fountain Concession Stand Lights/Shaded Playground Doggie Containers with Plastic Bags Covered & Uncovered Tables/Grass Field Lights/Walking Path	Community
#8 Library Park	121 West First North	2.4	Playground Covered & Uncovered Tables Grass/Connects to Trails Doggie Containers with Plastic Bags	Neighborhood
#9 James Pulsipher Park	303 Hafen Lane	2.0	2 Tables (north/south sides) Drinking Fountain Walking Path/Grass Connects to Trails Doggie Containers with Plastic Bags	Neighborhood
#10 Woodbury Park	100 Woodbury Lane	3.0	Restrooms Grass	Neighborhood
#11 Redd Hills Park	665 Fountain View Lane	3.0	Restrooms Grass	Neighborhood
#12 – Hillside Arboretum Park	Hillside Drive		Arboretum	Community
#13 – Under Construction Long Drive/Soccer Park	Hardy Way	37 of 670 acre overall	6 Soccer Fields Long Drive Range and Tee Boxes Tot lot Temporary Events Area	Regional
#14 – Under Construction East Mesquite Boulevard	500 East Mesquite Boulevard	10.0	3 Ball Fields Playground Restroom Pavilion	Community
#15 – Under Construction Desert Rose Park	West Old Mill Road	3.0	Playground Restroom Pavilion	Neighborhood
Source: City of Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department				

Future Parks

Several public and private park resources are identified within approved Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) to serve the growing population. At a minimum, the PUD district must provide five (5) acres of park per one thousand (1,000) persons. At least 12 percent (12%) of the gross land area must be preserved as common or public open space for the PUD.

For example, the Canyon Crest PUD includes a twelve (12) acre park with the Town Wash drainage facility. In addition to the planned golf course and open spaces, the Anthem at Mesquite PUD proposes a thirty (30) acre community park along Horizon Boulevard. Pocket parks are incorporated within the Mesquite Estates PUD and a five (5) acre park is required with the Highland Vistas PUD. Table 1-6 lists proposed park locations, sizes and types.

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Table 1-6

City of Mesquite Proposed Parks			
Development Name	Location	Acres	Type
Anthem at Mesquite PUD	Along Horizon between the Overton Power Easement and Falcon Ridge Parkway.	33.0	Community
Canyon Crest PUD	South West Corner of Canyon Crest and Oasis Boulevard.	13.0	Neighborhood
Mesquite Estates PUD Park #1	North West Corner of Canyon Crest and Oasis Boulevard.	8.0	Neighborhood
Mesquite Estates PUD Park #2	South West Corner of Oasis Boulevard and Wingate Drive.	5.0	Neighborhood
Mesquite Estates PUD Park #3	North West Corner of Oasis Boulevard and Wingate Drive.	5.0	Neighborhood
Mesquite Estates PUD Park #4	North East Corner of Kingsbury Drive and Calbretta Drive.	5.0	Neighborhood
Highland Vistas PUD #1	Along Overton Power Easement between Horizon Boulevard and Falcon Ridge Parkway, north of Hardy Way	10.6	Neighborhood
Highland Vistas PUD #2	Site to be determined in proximity to development.	5.0	Neighborhood

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Trails

The City of Mesquite has existing and proposed trails that will establish a network to connect neighborhoods, parks and open spaces. The trail network shall accommodate several uses, in order to provide recreation needs for citizens.

Trails consist of improved and unimproved surface types, which can accommodate equestrian, walking, hiking, bicycling and off highway vehicles (OHV) uses. The City recognizes some conflicts may occur between competing uses such as biking, cars, equestrian, hiking and OHV. Regulations concerning OHV use, routes, and staging areas will receive further review and implementation through the City Attorney's office and the Police Department. It will be an important challenge to accommodate multiple interests with the understanding that each has the right to enjoy the recreation opportunities. In some situations, the separate trails may be needed and in other instances, shared use may be served.

In contrast to sidewalks which are designed for pedestrian safety, trails refer to routes that provide a pleasant, walking environment and outdoor experience. Trails may, however, include the developed sidewalk routes. For example, a sidewalk may be considered a trail when it connects two park locations or offers amenities like wide surfaces or landscape buffers.

The trail system for Mesquite is classified by the purpose the trail serves to residents. **Regional trails** describe routes which oftentimes connect to significant locations or natural features such as the Virgin River, or connect to a broader trail network or to adjacent communities. **Community trails** link important land uses and areas of interest, like a public park, and are typically located along street rights-of-way. **Neighborhood trails** connect local features such as parks, open space and other neighborhood amenities. These are often located within a neighborhood and connect to a community or regional trail. Trail classifications and trailheads will help in determining the trails use, surface material, and standards for each. This information will help guide for future trails and trailhead needs for the community.

Existing Trails and Trailheads

Please refer to Figure 1-1 for the location of existing and proposed trail networks within the City of Mesquite. Currently, there is approximate 53.4 miles of trails built. The following Table 1-7 lists major trails and their location, length, surface material and classification.

Table 1-7

City of Mesquite Existing and Future Regional Trails			
Trail Name	General Location	Length (Mi)	Width and Surface Material
Jackrabbit Trail	North side of Hillside Drive	0.91	10 and 5 foot – Paved
Joshua Tree Trail	Regional Park extending to Flat Top Mesa	14.5	Natural
Rattlesnake Trail	Grayce Drive and Virgin River	4.0	Natural

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

City of Mesquite Existing and Future Regional Trails			
Trail Name	General Location	Length (Mi)	Width and Surface Material
Roadrunner Trail	Abbot Wash, Town Wash, Virgin River and West Old Mill Road	9.8	10 and 12 foot – Paved
Sage Brush Trail	In Riverside PUD on Riverside Road	2.4	10 foot – Paved
Scorpion Trail	West Pioneer Boulevard and Ben Franklin Way	3.7	10 foot –Paved & Natural
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Trail	North side of Mesquite Boulevard.	2.1	5 and 10 foot - Paved
Virgin River Chub Trail	Oasis Boulevard	4.2	5 and 10 foot – Paved
Willow Trail	West Old Mill Road and Riverside Road	6.8	5 and 10 foot – Paved
Woundfin Trail	South side of Hafen, East side of Sandhill Boulevard North side of Pioneer Boulevard, extending down to Riverside.	17.9	8 and 10 foot – Paved & Natural
Yuma Clapper Rail Trail	Falcon Ridge Parkway	8.5	5 and 10 foot – Paved

Future Trails

Eighty-seven (87) miles of future paved and natural trails are proposed throughout the community in all classifications. These will fill current gaps and add additional trails, which will expand the current network. The Master Plan recognizes the importance of off-street trails by incorporated them into the plan by identifying potential corridors to extend the network. These corridors include the Virgin River, washes and the power easement, which are future and existing locations for trails. In addition to provided recreation activities, trails along these corridors provide emergency and maintenance access. The continuation of trails will help provide accessibility to citizens, while improving open space connectivity. Opportunities to expand trails in areas of significances should be capitalized. These areas include the Virgin River, Flat Top Mesa and washes. Additionally, they will accommodate off street trails, a variety of trail types and a unique experience of nature.

Historic Trails

Along with several miles of developed trails, there is an historic trail that passes through the City. The historic Old Spanish Trail is roughly located along the southern border of the city,

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

along the Virgin River. According to the Old Spanish Trail Association, the trail was used from 1829 to the mid 1850's. The Old Spanish Trail became the fifteenth national historic trail when it was adopted by Congress in 1946. It comprises of approximate 1200 miles, extending from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Los Angeles, California. The trail was initially established to enable trading between California and Santa Fe, NM. For further information, please visit the following websites:

National Parks Service - <http://www.nps.gov/olsp/>

Old Spanish Trail Association - <http://www.oldspanishtrail.org/index.php>

Open Space

Open space is the conservation of natural lands in their natural state. Open space areas provide resource conservation, visual, wildlife and recreational benefits. Allowed uses vary depending upon resource sensitivity and management objectives, but some areas can accommodate passive recreational uses and facilities such as trails, trailheads, overlooks, rest areas and interpretive signage. Mesquite's unique desert character has provided many opportunities to preserve and maintain the community's pristine natural backdrops. Policies will guide in identifying areas of significant open space value, and provide care in addressing development in those areas.

Mesquite is surrounded by accessible natural open space areas that have opportunities for recreation activities. These include Flat Top Mesa that is located in the western portion of the City, which has natural trails, scenic views and is a protected view shed. The City also enjoys the benefits associated with the Virgin River and the riparian areas. Benefits along the river include areas for trails and wildlife observation.

Being surrounded by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land has allowed for recreation uses in close proximity. Gold Butte and Whitney's Pockets are located south of Mesquite on federal land. These are beautiful desert landscaped destinations that allow opportunities for camping, hiking and exploring unpopulated open spaces. With proper education and respect for these unique resources, these sites can bring recreation and beauty within reach of City residents.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

As part of the Resource Management Plans developed by the BLM, areas are identified on federal lands that have potential resource concerns, such as wildlife habitat or historic value. Much of the BLM lands surrounding the City are designated as ACEC. To the west of Flat Top Mesa and north of Interstate 15, over 150,000 acres of federal lands are recognized as critical tortoise habitat, along with a substantial amount of federal land in the Gold Butte area. The desert tortoise is notably an endangered species within Southern Nevada.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) uses are limited to designated roads and trails with the ACEC. Efforts to educate the public about designated routes will help reduce the fragmentation of the tortoise habitat.

The Gold Butte ACEC also contains historic mining, prehistoric camps and rock art, and other scenic resources of significance.

Virgin River Habitat Conservation and Recovery Program

The Virgin River provides riparian habitat, flood plain management, and significant open space to the Virgin Valley communities. The river begins in Utah, crosses the Arizona Strip, and passes through Nevada into Lake Mead. The river acts as a natural division between the Town of Bunkerville and the City of Mesquite. Four endangered species have been identified along the Virgin River, which include the Virgin River Chub, Woundfin, Yuma Clapper Rail and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

The Virgin River Habitat Conservation and Recovery Program (VRHCRP) will address any activities that could potentially affect endangered species and will conform to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Mesquite is currently working with a consultant to establish

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

the VRHCRP and to obtain the necessary federal permits. It is anticipated that the VRHCRP will be completed in 2008.

The majority of the land being developed and acquired is on the north side of the Virgin River. Ephemeral washes carry water run off from these developments to the River. Because of this, further development could potentially, indirectly affect the endangered species. Components of the plan include conservation of floodplains and washes, in addition to other measures. By conserving these areas, it will reduce the impact that development would have on the species.

Future Open Space

Many opportunities to preserve the desert character may be provided. As the City continues to grow and develop, it is essential that we continue to identify areas of significant natural value. Opportunities may be recognized as the City annexes and develops in new areas. Future open space will allow for the conservation of recreation areas, sensitive lands, natural resources, and endangered species.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Goals, Policies and Actions

The following goals emphasize what the community wants to achieve over the long term. The policy and action statements identify specific activities and standards to achieve the parks, trails and open space goals.

Parks

Goal: Provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities to promote a healthy and active lifestyle and to enhance the natural environment.

Goal: Create comprehensive and integrated parks and a recreation system to meet community needs and to contribute to the overall quality of life.

Policy/Actions:

PK.1.1 Create a park classification system that provides a hierarchy of services responsive to the needs of various age groups and interests.

A. The development of park resources shall be based on a minimum of 5 acres per 1,000 population.

PK.1.1.1 Create park standards for each park category that describe the basic amenities and identify who the park serves. The standards may be upgraded and customized to meet the age and lifestyle characteristics of intended users. See Table 1-1.

PK.1.1.2 Establish a variety of park sizes, park services and facilities including gateways and locations for public art and monuments to pioneers and citizens with outstanding service to the City.

PK.1.1.3 Ensure that new development is consistent with adopted park, trails and open space standards.

PK.1.2 Plan and develop park resources where they are most accessible to residents with consideration of topography, drainage and adjacent land uses.

PK.1.2.1 Utilize park resources to define communities by separating neighborhoods and uses, providing visual and physical transitions between neighborhoods, and linking neighborhoods with open spaces and trails.

PK.1.2.2 Develop playgrounds and neighborhood parks within one-quarter (1/4) mile distance from the residential areas to be served.

PK.1.2.3 Create a distinctive public amphitheater or other such public use for arts and entertainment in the slope of distinctive landforms (such as an amphitheater on the slope of Flat Top Mesa).

PK.1.2.4 Locate parks and recreational facilities strategically throughout the City to benefit targeted population groups, including teens, seniors and the physically challenged.

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

PK.1.2.5 Focus recreational services on year round activities to meet a broad range of community programs.

PK.1.2.6 Charge fees for services or access to recreation areas, programs or facilities that are commensurate with associated costs and benefits. Criteria for cost recovery and fee waivers shall be established.

PK.1.3 Connect neighborhoods and sub-districts with bikeways and trails that are separated from vehicular movement and/or streets.

PK.1.4 Create recreational attractions that distinguish Mesquite as a center for sports competition and events.

PK.1.4.1 Support the cost-effective expansion of sports tournaments and other events that enhance resident recreational opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

PK.1.4.2 Create regional recreational facilities and complexes, such as softball, baseball, soccer and golf.

PK.1.4.3 Seek opportunities for joint use facilities that serve arts and cultural events, as well as, recreational uses.

PK.1.5 Evaluate the location of new pocket or neighborhood parks in order to improve safety and to prevent roadway conflicts with walking routes.

PK.1.5.1 Design small, park areas in a manner that create safe routes to school and buffers between walking routes and roadway traffic.

PK.1.6 Work with other public and private agencies to help jointly develop recreational areas and activities.

PK.1.6.1 Seek opportunities for partnerships with other organizations to share facilities or to offer recreation programs. Parks may also accommodate other City facilities or services.

PK.1.7 Develop a program for land acquisition for park resources.

PK.1.7.1 Identify prospects for land acquisition in areas where park resources are deficient.

PK.1.7.2 Evaluate whether community support exists for increasing revenue sources to fund acquisition, maintenance and operation of parks and trail systems.

PK.1.8 Prepare park maintenance, operations and security programs.

PK.1.8.1 Develop park sites using drought resistant native landscaping materials where appropriate, to reduce on-going maintenance costs.

PK.1.8.2 Prioritize the planning, design and construction of park sites by considering the City's financial ability to support maintenance and operation over the long term.

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

PK.1.9 Solicit meaningful public involvement into the parks and recreation planning process.

PK.1.9.1 Conduct periodic surveys of residents and visitors to measure interests and recreation needs of the community.

PK.1.10 Evaluate existing parks to determine deficiencies in recreation opportunities.

PK.1.10.1 Identify existing parks that are deficient in playground equipment and provide equipment in those parks, such as Redd Hills Park and Pulsipher Park.

PK.1.10.2 Provide a concrete skate park in an existing or proposed park to increase additional recreation opportunities within the City.

Trails and Trailheads

Goal: Build a wide-ranging and high quality trail network to enhance and support community access to nature and recreational opportunity.

Policy/Actions:

TL.1.1 Develop a comprehensive trail system connecting individual parks to neighborhoods and to the entire community.

TL.1.1.1 Direct trail development along the washes, flood channels, open spaces, river corridors and public/private rights-of-way.

TL.1.1.2 Locate regional trails primarily in natural settings away from conflicting automotive traffic.

TL.1.1.3 Take advantage of the existing washes to provide additional open space, park activities, and trails.

TL.1.1.4 Identify historic routes such as the Spanish Trail and the Arrowhead Trail Highway for incorporation into regional trail network.

TL.1.1.5 Seek trail connections with regional neighbors in Bunkerville, NV, Lincoln County, NV and Mohave County, AZ.

TL.1.1.6 Use sustainable design methods and techniques when constructing new trails or repairing existing trails.

TL.1.2 Create a trail classification systems that provides distinctive trail routes responsive to various users and modes of travel.

TL.1.2.1 Develop trails for bicycle, equestrian, pedestrian and the shared use of the network.

TL.1.2.2 Provide staging areas and designated routes for off-road vehicles such as dirt bikes and ATVs to avoid conflicts with non-motorized trail users.

TL.1.2.3 Coordinate trail needs and access with stakeholders.

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

- TL.1.3** **Ensure that park facilities are linked to neighborhoods, activity centers, the river and the mountains through a system of trails, bikeways and open space corridors.**
- TL.1.4** **Cultivate a safe trail network for residents, especially children, to safely walk and bike to school and parks.**
- TL.1.5** **Identify and plan for access points and acquire easements for trails with new development.**
 - TL.1.5.1 Ensure the access to public lands is secured and maintained as development occurs.

Open Space

Goal: Incorporate open space and natural areas into the City's land development pattern to ensure long term access to natural settings, to uphold pride in the community's high quality of life, and to balance the pressures of growth with conservation of the natural environment.

Policy/Actions:

- OS.1.1** **Protect environmentally sensitive or scenic, undeveloped lands as open space, including bluffs, riparian, wetland and unique topographic features.**
 - OS.1.1.1 Incorporate natural areas, bluffs and open spaces into new development.
 - OS.1.1.2 Regulate development on significant and/or unique topographic features.
 - OS.1.1.3 Maintain ephemeral washes in their natural state or explore treatments other than cement channels.
- OS.1.2** **Integrate open space areas at the desert edges, where existing and planned developments meet public lands, to foster appropriate transitions, compatible uses, public access and natural buffers.**
- OS.1.3** **The City will develop a Habitat Conservation Plan to protect and restore Virgin River species that may be threatened or endangered.**
 - OS.1.1.2 Implement recovery actions for sensitive, threatened and endangered species and habitat in the Lower Virgin River system.

Figure 1-2
Community Park Prototype

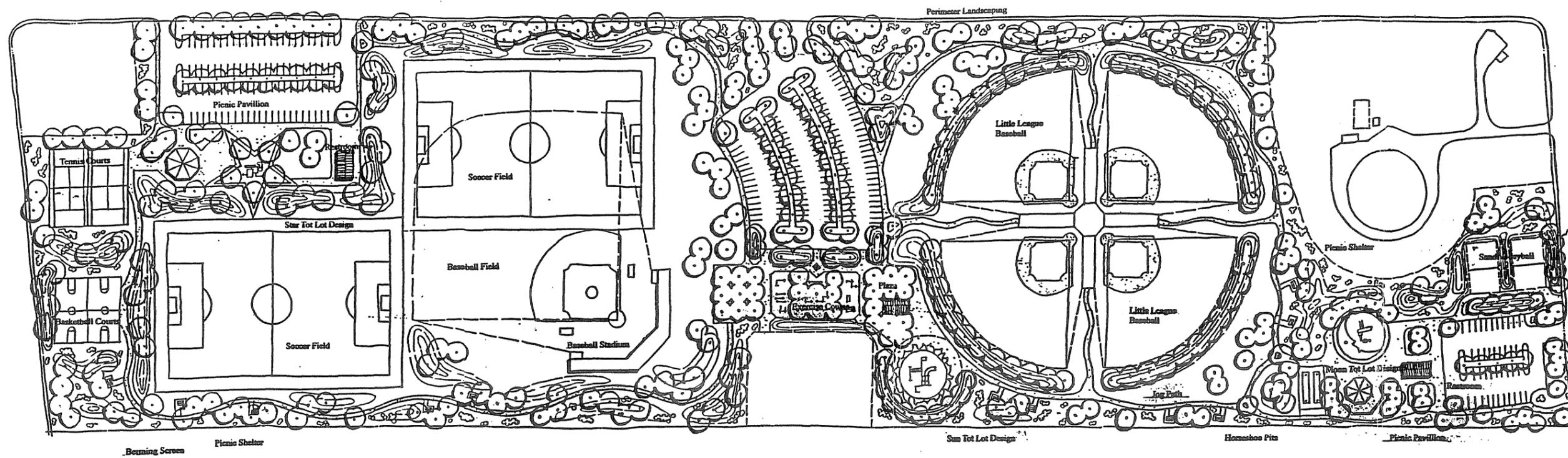


Figure 1-3
Neighborhood Park Prototype

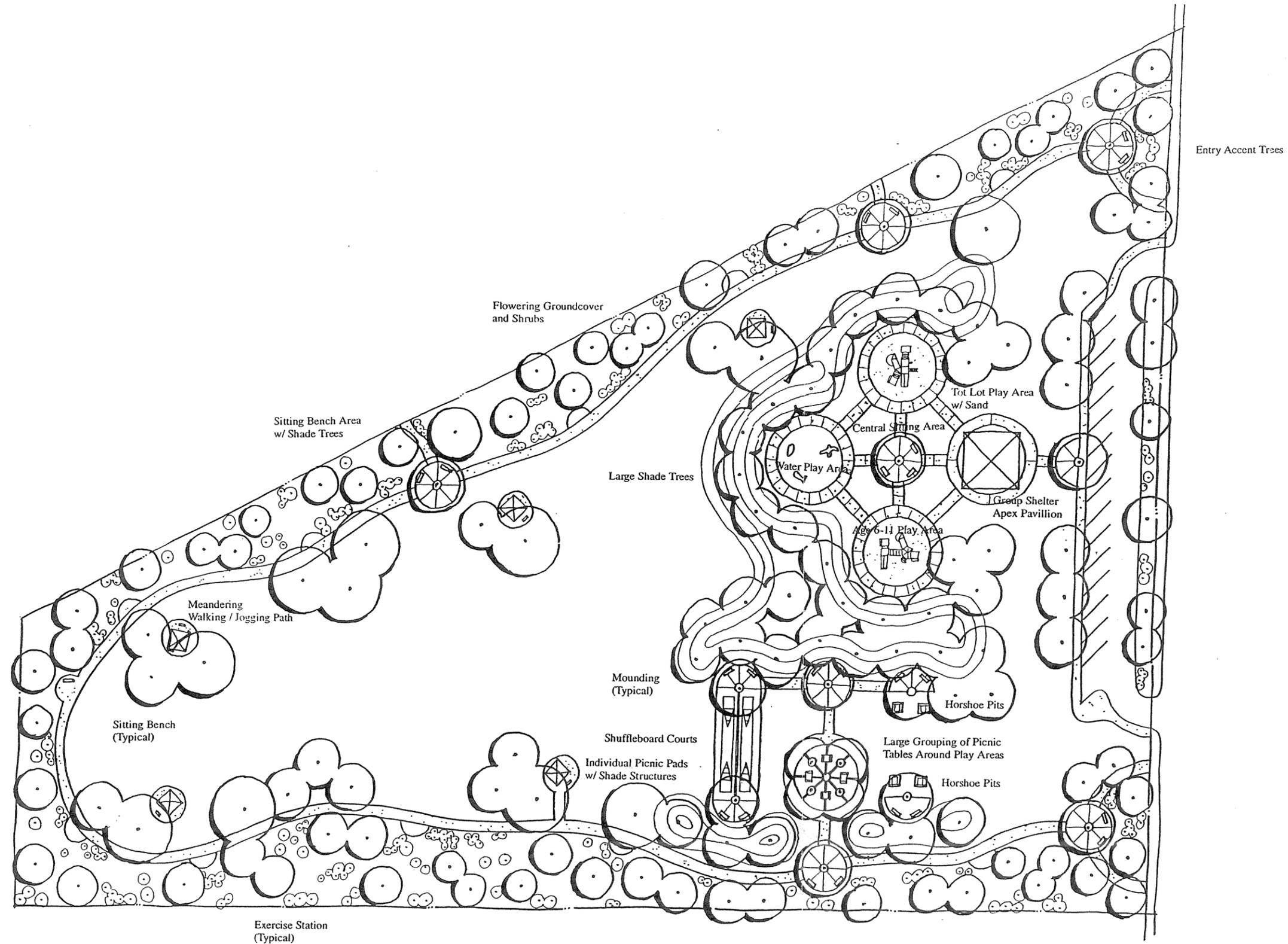


Figure 1-4
Pocket or Mini Park Prototype

