

## Foreword



In the 13 years since Calabasas was incorporated, the City has developed a very high level of park and recreation services. Despite a constraint on land available for active use parks, the City has acquired or built an impressive array of facilities. The level of programming is extensive, and a high percentage of Calabasas citizens participate in the City's recreation activities. The City also has been an active steward of the natural environment, acquiring open space and partnering with other agencies to protect land. Overall, the City has established an extremely successful recreation program and park system.

*The Plan is intended to provide a framework for the future park and recreation system in Calabasas. It builds on existing success to create a more livable community for the residents of today and the future.*

The main challenge for Calabasas in the coming years will be expanding its physical facilities to meet currently unserved recreation needs. The community has expressed a need for additional facilities, such as a teen center and performing arts space. In addition, most of eastern Calabasas is underserved by parks; sports fields are needed, particularly for soccer and baseball; and Gates Canyon Park needs upgrades to fulfill its function as a community park.

Meeting these needs will be a challenge due to the lack of developable land suitable for active use parks. This plan recommends innovative strategies to provide for the recreation needs expressed by the community. Just as important, the plan recommends policies on natural open space, which is highly valued by Calabasas residents. It also provides an implementation strategy based on the City's past success and recommends project priorities.

Calabasas has developed a high quality park system that reflects the community's values and goals. This plan is intended to build upon that strong foundation.

# Planning Team

---

## City Council

Michael Harrison	Mayor
Barry Groveman	Mayor Pro Tem
James Bozajian	Council Member
Lesley Devine	Council Member
Dennis Washburn	Council Member

## Park and Recreation Commission

Mark Shear, Chair  
Myra Turek, Vice Chair  
Sheldon Lytton  
Laureen Morick  
Robert Sibilía  
Brittany Lin, Student Member

## Community Services Department Staff

Jeff Rubin, Director of Community Services

Dan Huncke	April Friedman
Shelley Stenshol	Terri Layne-Held
Aimee Eastman	Brittany Smith
Stefanie Qualls	Jeanne Cimarusti
Bryan Cowitz	Debbie Gonzalez
Linda Gonder-Perlstein	Lorraine Kishimoto
	Luis Cano

## Advisory Staff

Tony Coroalles, City Manager  
Steve Craig, Former Community Development Director  
Robert Yalda, Traffic and Transportation Director  
Bill Millar, Landscape Maintenance District Manager

## Consultant Team

MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN INC.

# Table of Contents

## **SECTION 1 – Introduction**

A.	Introductory Statement.....	1-1
B.	Report Organization.....	1-1
C.	Public Involvement.....	1-2
D.	Planning Process.....	1-3

## **SECTION 2 – Community Profile**

	Introduction.....	2-1
A.	Regional Context.....	2-1
B.	Planning Area.....	2-1
C.	Natural Resources.....	2-2
D.	Climate.....	2-2
E.	Demographic Characteristics.....	2-3
F.	Land Use.....	2-4

## **SECTION 3 – Inventory of Recreation Land and Facilities**

	Introduction.....	3-1
A.	Summary of Findings.....	3-1
B.	Park Definitions.....	3-2
C.	Summary of Recreation Facilities.....	3-3
D.	Other Recreation Areas.....	3-7
E.	Nearby Recreation Facilities.....	3-8
F.	Sport Facilities.....	3-8

## **SECTION 4 – Existing Operations**

	Introduction.....	4-1
A.	Organizational Structure.....	4-1
B.	Staffing Levels.....	4-2
C.	Finances.....	4-3
D.	Maintenance Costs.....	4-4
E.	Revenue.....	4-5
F.	Program Participation.....	4-6

## **SECTION 5 – Public Input Summary**

Introduction .....	5-1
A. Summary of Community Survey .....	5-1
B. Summary of Public Workshops.....	5-4
C. Summary of Youth Workshops.....	5-7
D. Summary of Recreation Needs of People with Disabilities .....	5-8

## **SECTION 6 – Needs Assessment**

Introduction .....	6-1
A. Alternative Approaches to Identifying Needs .....	6-1
B. Methodology of Assessing Parkland Needs .....	6-2
C. Park and Open Space Needs .....	6-3
D. Recreation Facility Needs.....	6-3

## **SECTION 7 – Recommendations and Policies**

Introduction .....	7-1
A. Park Facility Plan .....	7-1
B. Development Concept .....	7-1
C. Park Planning Concepts .....	7-2
D. Specific Park Recommendations .....	7-5
E. Recreation Facilities .....	7-20
F. Aquatic Facilities .....	7-28
G. Natural Open Space.....	7-30
H. Recreation Programs .....	7-35
I. Management and Operations.....	7-36
J. Maintenance.....	7-39
K. Park Planning and Development Guidelines .....	7-40

## **SECTION 8 – Implementation**

Introduction .....	8-1
A. Capital Facilities Plan.....	8-1
B. Potential Funding Sources .....	8-2
C. Implementation Strategy .....	8-5
D. Project Priorities.....	8-6

**APPENDIX A – Community Profile**

**APPENDIX B – Existing Resources**

**APPENDIX C – Existing Operations**

**APPENDIX D – Public Input Summary**

**APPENDIX E – Recreation Needs Assessment**

**LIST OF MAPS**

Existing Park and Recreation Resources  
Neighborhood Park Service Area Map  
Community Park Service Area Map  
Layout Plan



*Photo of Wild Walnut Park*



CITY of CALABASAS

# Section 1

## INTRODUCTION

---

- *Introductory Statement*
- *Report Organization*
- *Public Involvement*
- *Planning Process*

## A. Introductory Statement

This report discusses the findings and recommendations for meeting existing and future park and recreation service needs in the City of Calabasas. The Plan identifies and evaluates existing park and recreation areas; assesses the need for additional park land, open space and specialized facilities; establishes criteria and standards for site selection, design, and management; and recommends an approach to implementation.

## B. Report Organization

During the course of the study, a series of discussion papers were prepared to provide background information critical to the decision making process. These discussion papers included:

Discussion Paper #1	Community Profile
Discussion Paper #2	Existing Resources and Services
Discussion Paper #3	Existing Operations
Discussion Paper #4	Survey Analysis
Discussion Paper #5	Recreation Needs Assessment

Due to the large amount of technical information in the Plan, much of the background information is found in appendices at the end of the report. The main body of this report is organized into the following sections:

### **Section 1 - Introduction**

Provides an introductory statement, reviews the document organization, discusses the opportunities for public involvement and provides an overview of the planning process.

### **Section 2 – Community Profile**

Describes the physical and political characteristics that form the framework for the recommendations. This includes natural resources, political boundaries, and population characteristics.

### **Section 3 – Inventory of Recreation Land and Facilities**

Includes an inventory of existing park, open space and recreational areas in the Calabasas area.

### **Section 4 – Existing Operations**

Describes the existing operations of the Community Services Department and analyzes the costs of providing park and recreation services in Calabasas.

### **Section 5 – Public Input Summary**

Provides a summary of each of the public input opportunities, including the community survey.

**Section 6 – Recreation Needs Assessment**

Provides a summary of the methodology used to assess and quantify park and facility needs in Calabasas.

**Section 7 – Recommendations and Policies**

Provides recommendations and policies for the development or redevelopment of parks, open space, and other recreation facilities. This section also includes recommendations on operations and management.

**Section 8 – Implementation**

Provides a list of potential funding sources, a capital projects list, and project priorities.

**C. Public Involvement**

In order to reflect the views of the community and build consensus for the plan, public participation was an integral part of the planning process. Public involvement was achieved through the following methods:

- **Community Survey** – This was a survey about recreation attitudes and priorities distributed to randomly selected households in Calabasas in February 2003.
- **Youth Workshops** – Workshops with youth leadership classes at Calabasas High School and A.E. Wright Middle School were held to obtain input about youth recreation needs.
- **Public Workshops** – A series of three public workshops was held during the planning process.
- **Other Input Opportunities** – The City of Calabasas distributed 1200 questionnaires to the families of students with disabilities through the Las Virgenes Unified School District. These one-page questionnaires asked about the recreation needs of people with disabilities in Calabasas, with specific attention on the needs of youth.

## D. Planning Process

The planning process included four basic elements; outlined in the figure below.

**FIGURE 1.1**  
**Planning Process**

