



c i t y o f c a l a b a s a s



park & recreation

m a s t e r p l a n

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MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.
412 NW 13th AVENUE
PORTLAND, OR 97209
503 297 1005

www.migcom.com



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

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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

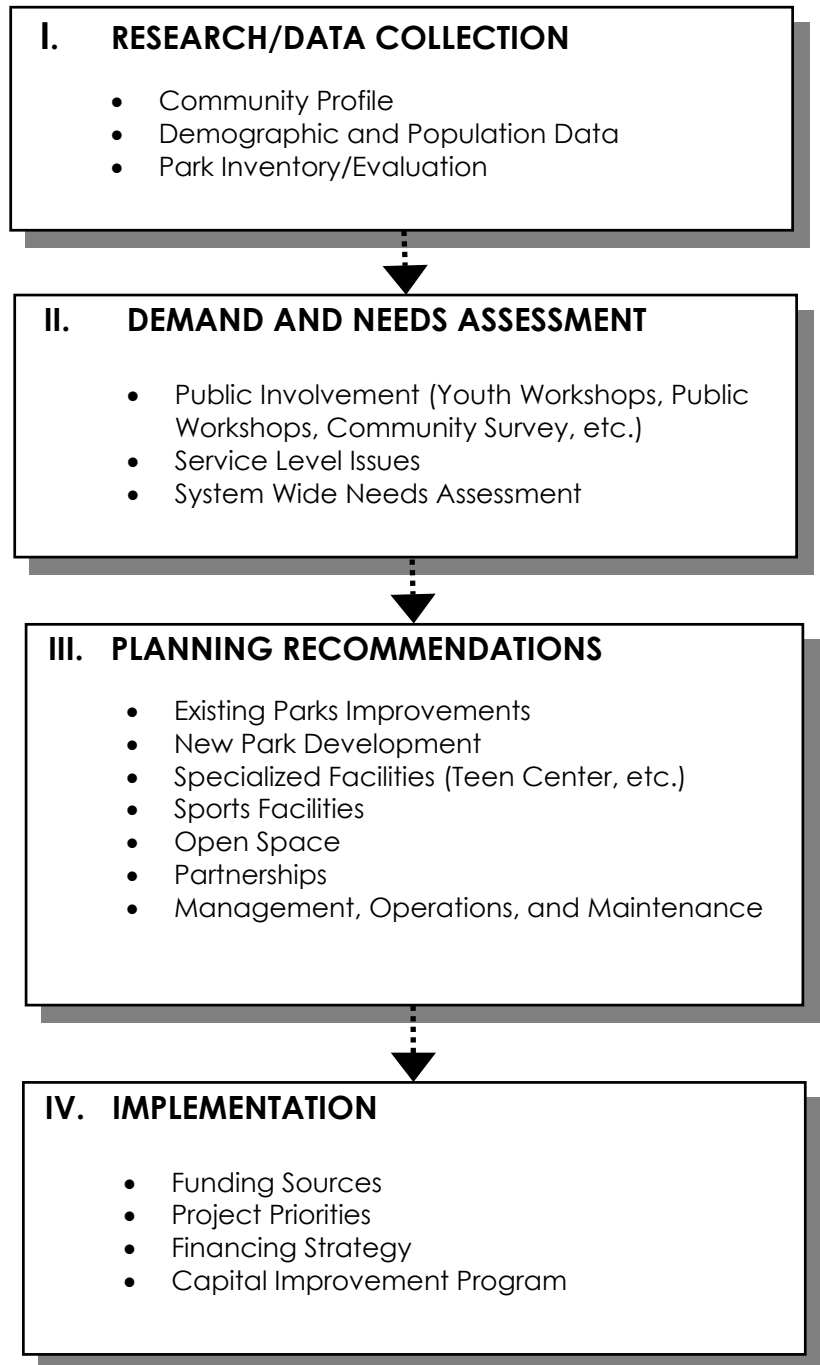




Photo of Highlands Park



CITY of CALABASAS

Section 2

COMMUNITY PROFILE

- *Regional Context*
- *Planning Area*
- *Natural Resources*
- *Climate*
- *Demographic Characteristics*
- *Land Use*

INTRODUCTION

This document section outlines general information about the community of Calabasas, including natural resources, demographic, and land use characteristics.

A. Regional Context

Located adjacent to U.S. Highway 101, the City of Calabasas is known as the gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains. Calabasas is situated 31 miles northwest of Los Angeles near the Ventura County boundary. The City encompasses an area of approximately 12.9 square miles. Scenic Mulholland Highway runs to the south of the City.

Calabasas is located in the picturesque Santa Monica Mountains, and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is located nearby. This 150,000-acre area includes 550 miles of multi-use trails in 70,000 acres of public park land.

Calabasas is the newest city in Los Angeles County. It was formed in 1991, and the incorporation passed by a 9 to 1 margin.

Listed below are travel distances from Calabasas to various destinations.

<i>Los Angeles</i>	<i>31 Miles</i>
<i>Santa Barbara</i>	<i>65 Miles</i>
<i>San Diego</i>	<i>150 Miles</i>



FIGURE 2.1
Regional Location

B. Planning Area

The planning area for this study includes all lands within the city limits of the City of Calabasas.

C. Natural Resources

Natural resources are important to recreation planning for a variety of reasons. The topography/terrain and the existence of water features impact the potential for development. While land with natural resources is often considered environmentally sensitive and has development limitations, it is often conducive to park, open space, and recreation uses as well. Aside from minimizing hazards associated with these features, the preservation of resource areas has a number of other benefits, such as protecting unique landforms, maintaining aquifer recharge areas and other hydrological functions, and preserving the riparian and vegetative cover.

In the City of Calabasas, many areas remain undeveloped with the natural features remaining. The City has a number of zoning designations protecting natural resource areas, restrict development, and maintain the open character.

Topography/Terrain

The terrain in the Calabasas area can be categorized as rugged or mountainous, with few level areas. Calabasas is located within the Santa Monica Mountains, and ranges in elevation from 500 to 2,500 feet above sea level, with an average elevation of 796 feet. This topography is a major factor in the development and overall aesthetic character of the City of Calabasas. The scenic character of Calabasas is a result of the topography and most undeveloped areas in the City will likely remain that way due to constraints and zoning limitations resulting from the topography.

Water Features

Las Virgenes Creek, part of the Malibu Creek drainage, passes through the City, as do several other creeks and drainages. There is one small human-made lake located near the Tennis and Swim Center.

Streams and drainage areas are important because of their ability to provide habitat corridors for fish and wildlife, preserve riparian vegetation, and carry stormwater runoff. In addition to their functional and aesthetic characteristics, the drainages can also serve as conduits for trails.

D. Climate

Similar to most communities in southern California, the climate in the City of Calabasas can be characterized as mild in the winters, and warm and dry in the summers. Precipitation averages 13.6 inches a year. This mild climate encourages year round outdoor recreation activity.

E. Demographic Characteristics

Demographic characteristics are important attributes because they provide a picture of the local population and allow comparisons between communities. Information about demographics also provides insight into recreational interests and participation. Factors such as age and income significantly affect the level and individual ability to pursue recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment, education and ethnicity also play a role. The population and demographic information for the City of Calabasas is derived from the 2000 U.S. Census.

According to the U.S. Census, the City's 2000 population was placed at 20,033 people. Limited growth is expected in the City over the coming years. Due to environmental constraints and steep hillsides, most undeveloped land within the City limits will remain that way, and most of the developable areas are already built out. Several annexations are planned, and the population will increase as a result.

Demographic Profile

As a whole, Calabasas is much less diverse than Los Angeles County. In Calabasas, the population is predominantly white, with 82.2% of the population characterized as non-Hispanic white; and the Black, Asian, and Hispanic populations are all significantly lower than in the county. Housing costs are very high, and most of the housing in Calabasas is owner-occupied (81%). In terms of age, the distribution of the population of Calabasas is generally similar to that of Los Angeles County, although the median age in Calabasas is higher. Calabasas also has a highly educated population. Almost 25 percent of the population ages 25 and over have a graduate degree.

Past recreation studies conducted by MIG indicate that, in most cases, the older the population, the less participation in active or competitive recreation activities. In contrast, young age groups tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group and favor more active and competitive activities. This includes activities such as basketball, baseball, soccer, swimming, and bicycling.

Age

As shown in Table 2.1 on the next page, although the City of Calabasas has roughly the same percentage of population in each age group as Los Angeles County, the median age is significantly higher. Calabasas is comparable to Agoura Hills, although Agoura Hills has a lower percentage of seniors and a higher percentage of children.

Table 2.1
Age Distributions – 2000

	Under Age 18	Ages 18 to 64	Age 65 and Over	Median Age
State of California	27.3%	62.1%	10.6%	33.3
Los Angeles County	28.0%	62.3%	9.7%	32.0
Calabasas	28.6%	62.8%	8.6%	38.5
Agoura Hills	30.5%	63.3%	6.2%	37.6
Camarillo	25.3%	57.7%	17.0%	38.9
Hidden Hills	33.0%	56.9%	10.1%	40.4
Thousand Oaks	26.0%	62.9%	11.1%	37.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income

Income levels within the City of Calabasas are higher than in Los Angeles County and the rest of the state. However, many of the communities surrounding Calabasas also have relatively high incomes compared to the county.

Table 2.2
Household Income Levels – 2000

Area	2000 Median Household Income
California	\$47,493
Los Angeles County	\$42,189
Calabasas	\$93,860
Agoura Hills	\$87,008
Camarillo	\$62,457
Hidden Hills	\$200,000+
Thousand Oaks	\$76,815

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Education

An analysis of education revealed the vast majority (97.2%) of adult residents have a high school degree or higher. Nearly two-thirds of the residents (57.9%) have a bachelor's or graduate degree. Almost one-quarter have a graduate degree (24.4%); an extremely high percentage. Overall, the breakdown of the educational attainment would suggest a highly educated community, with much higher educational attainment levels than countywide or statewide.

F. Land Use

Land use plays an important role in the location, distribution and availability of park and recreational facilities. A major characteristic of land use in Calabasas is that most of the undeveloped land in the City is in protected or restricted development designations. This means that even though it might appear there is quite a bit of undeveloped land, most of that land is either unavailable or unsuitable for development. Since the

area within the existing city limits is either well developed or has development limitations due to rugged terrain, there are very few parcels of land that are not steeply sloped. This poses a challenge to the development of additional parks and recreational facilities. The land use and topographic characteristics create a challenge and make it necessary to evaluate the most effective means of meeting the park and open space needs for each major park category.

The total land area of the City of Calabasas is about 12.9 square miles or 8,256 acres. There is limited residential growth potential due to the steep hillsides and other constraints on development. Based on zoning and available vacant land, between 567 and 1,209 residential units could be added to the City of Calabasas.

The non-developed areas of the City are mainly in Open Space or Hillside/Mountainous zones. The Open Space zoning category limits the use of land, and the City is in the process of adopting a second Open Space zone with additional development restrictions. This new zone will be called the Open Space Development Restricted zone and will include most of the remaining undeveloped land within the Hillside/Mountainous district. This zoning designation also limits development, allowing anywhere from 1 unit per 10 acres to 1 unit per 40 acres, depending on the individual site and the development proposal.

The predominant housing type is single family residential, which represents more than three-quarters of the homes in Calabasas. Compared to most neighboring cities, Calabasas has a relatively high employment base. Commercial areas are located on the east and west ends of town, near Highway 101. Most of the available jobs are in the service sector, and a high percentage of these employees are in the low to moderate income ranges and cannot afford to live in Calabasas.¹

Population growth primarily occurs through two means: 1) annexation and 2) in-migration and infill. Identifying population growth potential from both sources is critical to identifying new demand for park and recreation services. In Calabasas, infill in developed areas is unlikely to be a significant source of population growth, given that most of the developed areas are subdivisions with covenants, codes, and restrictions (CCRs) that will likely not permit infill. Annexation has greater potential for population growth. Three major annexations are anticipated within the next few years and additional annexations may take place in the future.



Photo of Juan Bautista de Anza Park



CITY of CALABASAS

Section 3

INVENTORY OF RECREATION LAND AND FACILITIES

- *Summary of Findings*
- *Park Definitions*
- *Summary of Recreation Facilities*
- *Other Recreation Facilities*
- *Nearby Recreation Facilities*
- *Private Facilities*
- *Sport Facilities*

INTRODUCTION

This section of the document provides an inventory of existing recreation resources in the community. A more detailed analysis of the condition of the existing parks is found in Appendix B.

Listed below is a summary of the findings and conclusions of the inventory and analysis of the existing park and recreation resources in Calabasas.

A. Summary of Findings

- The City of Calabasas owns a total of 56.6 acres of park land. This includes two mini-parks, two neighborhood parks, one community park, five special use areas, and one undesignated/undeveloped park site.
- For a city of its size, Calabasas has significant recreation facilities, including the Tennis & Swim Center (16 tennis courts and an outdoor pool), the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center (gym and climbing wall), the Klubhouse Pre-School building at Creekside Park, and attractive meeting rooms and offices at De Anza Park. However, the City has very few sport fields. Most of the fields in the community are located on school sites. At City parks, there are a total of three fields: Two with multi-use backstops and one youth baseball field. Due to topographic constraints and the limited availability of suitable land, finding additional sites for active recreation facilities and sports fields will likely be a challenge.
- There are also 8 school facilities in Calabasas. These provide some additional park land to City residents through a joint use agreement between the School District and the City.
- A new Middle School opened in Calabasas during the 2003/2004 school year. As part of the construction, Calabasas contributed financially and has exclusive use of specific school facilities through a specially crafted joint use agreement.
- There is a significant amount of open space in the City. Most of the open space is land zoned either as “Open Space” or as “Hillside Mountainous”. Both zones restrict development. Some of the land zoned “Open Space” or “Hillside Mountainous” is privately owned. The City of Calabasas owns almost 300 acres of open space, but the Community Services Department is not currently responsible for it and does not include any open space in its park inventory. Open space in Calabasas is owned by the City, other public agencies, homeowners associations, or by non-profit groups including the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains

Restoration Trust.

- There are some trails within the City of Calabasas, including several regional trails, but the Community Services Department is not responsible for any trails outside of existing parks, and does not include trails within its parks inventory. There are many opportunities for trails and trail connections because of the quantity of open space land in Calabasas.

B. Park Definitions

The most effective and efficient park system to manage is one made up of different park types; each designed to provide a specific type of recreation experience or opportunity. When classified and used properly, they are easier to maintain, create fewer conflicts between user groups and have less impact on adjoining neighbors. In order to assess the park system in Calabasas and to address specific land needs, the existing resources have been listed based on the following classifications.

Mini-parks

Mini-parks, tot lots and children's playgrounds are all small single purpose play lots designed primarily for small children use. Due to their size, the facilities are usually limited to a small open grass area, a children's playground, and a picnic area. The service area is roughly one-quarter mile radius and the size is usually less than two acres.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are a combination playground and open space area designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size and serve an area of about one-half mile radius. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use sport fields for soccer and youth baseball etc. In most communities, their size ranges from 2 - 10 acres, with the optimum size of about 5 acres.

Community Parks

A community park is planned primarily to provide active and structured recreation opportunities. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Community parks serve a larger area and offer more facilities. As a result, they require more support facilities, such as parking, restrooms, and covered play areas. These parks usually have sport fields or similar facilities as a central focus. The service area is roughly a 1 - 2 mile radius. In most communities, the size ranges from 15 to 50 acres, with the optimum size at 30 acres. Due to the land constraints in Calabasas, the community parks are smaller, about 8 to 10 acres in size. While they are highly developed and include active recreation facilities, community parks in Calabasas may not include many sports fields due to the land constraints.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are recreational areas serving the city and beyond. They are usually large in size and often include a specific use or feature that makes them unique. Typically, use focuses on passive types of recreational activities. Those located within urban areas sometimes offer a wider range of facilities and activities. Calabasas does not have

any regional parks, and none are recommended.

Special Use Areas

Special use areas are miscellaneous public recreation areas or land occupied by a specialized facility. Some of the uses falling into this classification include community centers, golf courses, community gardens, single purpose sites for field sports or other activities, and sites occupied by special recreation buildings.

Environmental Education Center

An Environmental Education Center is a facility with the purpose of educating the public about natural resources and conservation.

Linear Parks

Linear parks are developed landscaped areas and other lands that follow linear corridors, such as abandoned railroad right-of-ways, drainage channels, power lines and other elongated features. This type of park usually contains trails, landscaped areas, viewpoints and seating areas.

**Natural Open Space Areas/
Greenways**

Natural open space areas/greenways are defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural environment with recreation uses 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 habitat corridors, wetlands, steep hillsides and other similar areas. Environmentally sensitive areas can be acquired for open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.

Private Parks

These privately owned sites contribute to the recreational opportunities in the area. Private parks include golf courses, facilities in private developments, and park areas owned by homeowners associations.

**C. Summary of
Recreation
Facilities**

The following table is a summary, by type, of all parks and recreation areas located within the Calabasas planning area.

Table 3.1
Summary of Existing Park and Recreation Resources
City of Calabasas

Park Land Type	City of Calabasas	Other Public or Non-profit	TOTAL
Mini-Parks	2.2	0.0	2.2
Neighborhood Parks	10.0	0.0	10.0
Community Parks	8.0	0.0	8.0
Special Use Areas	34.6	0.0	34.6
Natural Open Space	287.6 ¹	1470.0 ¹	1757.6 ¹
Undev / Undesignated	1.8	0.0	1.8
TOTAL	344.2	1,470.0	1,814.2

¹ Estimated acreage

One method of analyzing park land needs is to compare the amount of park land on a per capita basis. This is referred to as

the *current park land ratio* and often used as a means of comparison to other communities. Listed in the following table is the current ratio for each park land category in Calabasas.

Table 3.2
Summary of Current Ratios: Acres per 1,000 Population
City of Calabasas

Park Land Type	Ratio
Mini-Parks	0.11
Neighborhood Parks	0.50
Community Parks	0.40
Special Use Areas	1.72
Natural Open Space	14.36 ¹
Undeveloped /Undesignated	0.09

¹ Based on City-owned open space only. Does not include open space owned by other agencies.

Shown below is a listing of each existing park and recreation area under the ownership of the City of Calabasas. A more detailed description is found in Appendix B.

Table 3.3
Summary of Parks and Recreational Areas By Type
Calabasas

Park Areas	Total Acres	Comments
Mini Parks		
Freedom Park	1	
Highlands Park	0	
Subtotal	2	
Neighborhood Parks		
Gates Canyon Park	7	Potential for more use
Grape Arbor Park	3	
Subtotal	10	
Community Parks		
Juan Bautista de Anza Park	8	
Subtotal	8	
Special Use Areas		
Community Center	4	Health memberships
Creekside Park	11	Day care operation
Calabasas Bark Park	0	Heavily used
Tennis & Swim Center	7	Health memberships
Wild Walnut Park	10	Trails, Picnic Tables
Subtotal	34	
Natural Open Space		
Micor properties	33	
De Anza open space	180	
Wild Walnut open space	25	
Civic Center open space	20	
Dorothy Road properties	23	

Park Areas	Total Acres	Comments
Dry Canyon Cold Creek open space	5	
Subtotal	287	
Undeveloped /Undesignated		
Las Virgenes/Lost Hills	1	
Subtotal	1	
TOTAL	344	

Existing Parks Map

D. Other Recreation Areas

Environmental Education Center

Headwaters Corner, an environmental and cultural interpretive center was developed by the public/private partnership of the City of Calabasas and Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT). MRT's mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains through acquisition, restoration, and education. The purpose of the center is to educate the public about the natural resources of the local environment and the importance of conservation.

Current ownership by MRT includes 12 acres of land with five different ecosystems and two former single-family residences, one dating back to 1895. Both of these buildings have been adapted for educational and administrative purposes. There is one remaining parcel to acquire to complete the center. There are a number of current and planned programs at the facility.

MRT's Cold Creek Docents, established in 1977, conduct outdoor education programs for elementary schoolchildren, naturalist-led family walks, and resource education events in the Cold Creek watershed. MRT organizes hands-on habitat restoration and education programs throughout the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to engage the local community in becoming stewards of the land. Outdoor walks and lectures led by the MRT staff and volunteers engage the public in understanding and appreciating the dynamics of the local ecosystem and how humans are a part of the system.

Headwater's Corner is also home to the Youth Naturalist Program and Nature Discovery Camp summer day program. Headwaters Corner provides a venue for local service projects for a variety of organizations such as youth and school groups, community organizations and home school programs. MRT includes the Calabasas High School Earth Club on many environmental and cultural education opportunities for all age groups in addition to passive recreation at Headwaters Corner. MRT will work with local schools to incorporate the Headwaters Corner programs into their curriculum.

Public/Non-profit Land

Calabasas is located in a very scenic area at the edge of the Santa Monica Mountains. There is a substantial amount of publicly owned land around the City of Calabasas, as well as tracts of publicly owned land within the City. In addition, non-profit conservation groups also own land around and within the City. Public and non-profit lands within or adjacent to City limits include:

- Malibu Creek State Park, 4,000 acres
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District’s (LVMWD) Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility, 100 acres
- Approximately 1,000 acres of open space throughout Calabasas owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Los Angeles County Landfill (which will likely become open space after closure)
- The Mountains Restoration Trust owns approximately 1,200 acres at the site of the Headwaters Corner Education Center and in the Cold Creek Preserve

Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD)

Schools are an important resource for recreation facilities, such as sport fields, playgrounds, and gymnasiums. The City and LVUSD have joint use agreements in place, and a special use agreement covering the new A.C. Stelle Middle School and its fields. Most of the sport fields in Calabasas are located at school sites. The school sites in Calabasas include:

- Calabasas High School
- Indian Hills High School
- A.E. Wright Middle School
- Alice C. Stelle Middle School¹
- Bay Laurel Elementary
- Chaparral Elementary
- Lupin Hill Elementary
- Round Meadow Elementary¹

¹ These two schools are outside Calabasas city limits, but inside the City’s planning area as depicted in the General Plan. For this reason, they are included here.

Private Facilities

Many of the homeowners associations (HOAs) and individual subdivisions in Calabasas provide some type of recreation facility for their residents. These range from small open turf areas to play areas and sport fields, and include a number of small private pools.

The other major private facility in Calabasas is the Calabasas Golf Club, a private golf club on the east side of the City.

E. Nearby Recreation Facilities

Table 3.4 lists largest and most significant park and open space recreational resources serving the Calabasas area. Due to the federal Santa Monica National Recreation Area, there are many parks and protected areas in the vicinity of Calabasas. Not all of these lands are included on the list.

Table 3.4
City of Calabasas - Summary of Nearby Resources

Recreation Area	Owner	Activity/Facility
Tapia Park	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Park associated with treatment plant.
Topanga State Park	California State Parks	11,000 acres of open space, 36 mi. of trail
Escondido Canyon Natural Area	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	Open space
Red Rock Canyon Park	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	Open space
Ramirez Canyon Park	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	Open space
Malibu Lagoon State Beach	CA State Parks	Open space, trails, beach, historic house
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area	National Park Service	Open Space- 550 mi. of trail 70,000 ac in public ownership
Henry Ridge Trail System	N/A	Hiking
Summit-to-Summit Trail	N/A	Hiking
Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve	CA State parks	2960 acre preserve

F. Sport Facilities

For the master plan, sport fields and athletic facilities were inventoried. The majority of the sport fields in Calabasas are located at LVUSD school sites. Without the school facilities, there would be very few sports fields available in the City.

Table 3.5
City of Calabasas - Summary of Nearby Resources

Facility	City	LVUSD	Comments
Baseball Fields	0	8	3 adult, 5 youth
Softball Fields	1	2(adult) ¹	City field is small youth field.
Soccer Fields	0	8	7 fields, 1 open turf area
Football Fields	0	1	Lighted
Tennis Courts	18	8	1 clay court (City-owned)
Roller Hockey Rink	1	0	Overlaid with basketball
Outdoor Basketball	6	14	8 at A.C. Stelle School
Outdoor Volleyball	1	0	
Gymnasiums	1	3	H.S. gym has 2 full courts.
Swimming Pools	1	1	

¹ 3 multi-use backstops are provided at A.C. Stelle, and could be upgraded.



Photo of

Photo of playgrounds at De Anza Park



CITY of CALABASAS

Section 4

EXISTING OPERATIONS

- *Organizational Structure*
- *Staffing Levels*
- *Finances*
- *Maintenance Costs*
- *Revenue*

- *Program Participation*

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report examines the existing organizational structure for managing park and recreation services in Calabasas, including an analysis of the existing operations, organizational structure, staffing, operating costs, revenue and maintenance.

A. Organizational Structure

The organizational structure in Calabasas is typical of smaller California cities. Citizens of Calabasas elect a 5-member City Council, the Councilors elect a mayor from the Council each year to serve a one-year term. The mayor presides over City Council meetings, but does not have any special powers. A City Manager administers the City staff and, in turn, reports to the City Council.

There are six main governmental areas providing services to residents: *City Clerk/Administrative Services*, *Community Services* (provider of park and recreation services), *Engineering and Public Works* (maintains parks and open space areas and operates Landscaping & Lighting Districts in addition to typical public works functions), *Finance*, *Media Operations* (operates City website, cable access, publications), and *Community Development*. The City also operates its own library, having taken over services from Los Angeles County in 1998. Calabasas does not provide its own public safety services, but instead, contracts with Los Angeles County to provide police, fire, and animal control services.

Within the Community Services Department, there are seven separate areas of service: 1) *Management*, responsible for managerial/operation functions, oversight of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Center Authority, 2) *Special Events*, 3) *Creekside Park/Klubhouse*, responsible for Pre-School operation at Creekside and certain other program and leisure classes, 4) *De Anza Park/Recreation Programs*, responsible for most recreation and leisure classes, activities, excursions, and recreational facility operations, 5) *Parks Maintenance*, responsible for general maintenance of City parks but not landscape maintenance contracts, the Landscape & Lighting Assessment Districts, or open space areas, 6) *Cultural Arts*, responsible for events and arts programs and support (budget items, but no staff) of the Arts Council and Orchestra, and 7) *Tennis & Swim Center Program*, responsible for operation of the Tennis and Swim Center, which operates as an enterprise fund.

The City Library is not included within the Community Services Department. It is operated as a separate entity with its own budget and is not included in this park and recreation plan.

B. Staffing Levels

In order to provide park and recreation services, the City currently employs **14 full-time** employees and **9.8 permanent part-time** full-time equivalents (FTEs).

Table 4.1
Full-Time Community Services Employees FY 2000/01 to
2003/04
City of Calabasas

Fiscal Year	Manag ement	Maint.	De Anza /Rec. Programs	Pre- school	Tennis Center	TOTAL
'00-01	2	1.7	3.5	10.2	4.4	21.8
'01-02	3	.7	4.2	10.5	4.4	22.8
'02-03	3	.7	4.2	11.5	4.4	23.8
'03-04	3	.7	4.2	11.5	4.4	23.8

- ¹ Much of landscape maintenance is contracted out, and Public Works is responsible for maintenance of open space and other areas.

Staffing levels in Calabasas have remained relatively stable. Staffing increased in FY '01-02 because of the addition of a Special Events Coordinator, a position previously contracted out. Staffing increased by one additional FTE in FY '02-03 with the addition of another staff person at the Creekside Pre-School facility.

When examining FTE data for Calabasas, it is important to keep in mind the maintenance staffing appears low compared to many cities (only 0.7 FTEs are shown) because one full-time maintenance employee is allocated between the De Anza and Pre-school budgets rather than in the maintenance budget. In addition, much of the landscape maintenance is done by outside contractors whose employees do not appear as FTEs. These contractors are managed by the Public Works Department.

The employment status of employees who contribute to the parks and recreation services is diverse. Of the permanent employees shown in Table 4.1, 14.0 were permanent full-time employees, and 9.8 were permanent part-time employees in FY 02-03. In addition, Calabasas uses seasonal employees for a variety of jobs to meet peak demands. Park programs and activities greatly increase in the summer, and the numerous summer programs and camps require seasonal employees. There are about **50 to 75 seasonal employees during the summer months** and about **20 to 30 employees year-round**.

It is also important to note the employees at the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center are currently Agoura Hills employees, and they are paid through the budget managed by the Community Center joint powers authority. Discussions are occurring that may result in the Community Center staff becoming City of Calabasas Community Services Department employees. In terms of staffing, this would cause the number of FTEs within the Community Services Department to increase. However, the Community Center staff would continue to be paid through the Community Center budget and would not change the financial status of the Community Services Department.

C. Finances

The City of Calabasas operates on a fiscal year (FY) that runs from July 1 through June 30. The City began adopting a two-year budget in 1998. Each spring, a budget for the next two FY is adopted. In January, midway through the FY, City departments go before City Council if budget adjustments are necessary.

In FY 2000-01, the Community Services Department operating budget was about 11% of the City's total General Fund budget, typical for most budget years. This figure does not include landscape maintenance contracted through the Public Works; the Tennis & Swim Center Enterprise Fund; the Library; or the Community Center joint powers authority. In the same year, parks and recreation (Community Services plus the Tennis & Swim Center) account for 18.6% of total city operating budget, excluding debt service and capital improvements. Again, the Community Center, the Library, and the landscape maintenance contracted through the Public Works are not included.

Given the size of Calabasas and the services provided by the City, the percentage of budget devoted to park and recreation is typical for a community with a full range of park and recreation services.

Table 4.2 shows the expenditures by service area for the Calabasas Community Services Department. As this table shows, the Tennis & Swim Center is the largest expenditure for community services. However, because it is an enterprise fund, it is considered separately from the rest of the Community Services budget because its expenditures are offset by its revenues.

De Anza/Recreation Programs and the Preschool account for the next largest expenditures. The percentage of the budget devoted to landscape maintenance is lower than typical. This may be explained by the inclusion of maintenance workers within the

budgets of certain service areas, such as the Tennis & Swim Center, De Anza Park, and the pre-school operation at Creekside.

Table 4.2
Actual Expenditures by Service Area – 2002–03
City of Calabasas

Service Area	2002/2003 Expenditures ¹	Percent of Total
Management	\$216,699.25	11.8%
Maintenance	\$110,624.74	6.0%
De Anza /Rec. Programs	\$719,389.25	39.2%
Pre-school	\$583,064.90	31.8%
Cultural Arts	\$57,277.49	3.1%
Landscape Maintenance ²	\$148,020.92	8.1%
TOTAL	\$1,835,196.27	100.0%
Tennis & Swim Center	\$2,419,076.14	--
TOTAL + Tennis & Swim	\$4,254,099.90	--

¹ Excludes non-General Fund CIP, debt service, and reserves

² The parks maintenance share of General Landscape Maintenance from the Public Works Department budget

The table above does not include costs associated with the Agoura Hills / Calabasas Community Center. Although this facility is intended to be self-supporting, it is currently not bringing in enough revenue to offset its operational costs. The Community Services Department provided a payment of \$60,302 in '01-02, and \$50,000 '02-03. The City of Agoura Hills is responsible for providing the same amount annually to the Center. It is anticipated this subsidy will continue to be reduced over time until the Community Center is self-supporting, a goal that is close to attainment.

D. Maintenance Costs

The cost of maintaining the parks within a park system is an important factor when planning for the future. In many communities, maintenance is under funded, resulting in long-term deterioration of parks and greater costs. In Calabasas, maintenance of parks is allocated differently from in most communities. Calabasas has only **1.7 FTEs for park maintenance**. These employees generally maintain the park buildings. **Private contractors are used for most of the regular park grounds maintenance**, such as mowing. It is also important to keep in mind that maintenance and janitorial

services for the Tennis & Swim Center and for the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center are accounted for in the budgets for each of those facilities, and the costs are not reflected in the Community Services Department budget.

Landscape Maintenance, the division of Public Works that handles parks maintenance contracts, was a part of the Community Services budget. It was moved to the Public Works budget in recent years. The landscape manager handles parks maintenance contracts, street landscaping maintenance contracts, and maintenance contracts for the Landscaping and Lighting (L&L) Assessment Districts within the City.

Based on acreage maintained, Calabasas spends approximately \$5,468/acre of developed park land. The cost per acre for park maintenance is normal, when compared to other communities of similar size. Many similar communities have limited facilities and have a tendency to underfund park maintenance and the appearance of the parks is evidence of these practices. Calabasas parks are generally well-developed with facilities, and appear to be well-maintained. Calabasas gets good value for the money spent on park maintenance, and its use of contractors to do grounds maintenance could be a model for many cities of its size.

E. Revenue

Although recreation fees are not a significant source of revenue to the City’s overall General Fund, a substantial portion of the cost of operation the Community Services Department is recovered through Recreation Fee revenue.

Table 4.3 compares service area expenditures and revenues within the Community Services Department. Some service areas are not in a position to charge for services (e.g., maintenance). It should also be noted there is no staff assigned to the Cultural service area, so all expenditures associated with that service area are reflected in other areas of the budget (i.e. Administration).

Table 4.3
Actual Revenue/Expenditures by Service Area Division FY 2002–03
City of Calabasas

Item	Actual '02-03 Revenues	Actual '02-'03	Revenue Rate (Deficit)
------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------

❖ Park and Recreation Master Plan

		Expenditures	
Management Total	\$28,144.25	\$216,699.25	13%
Special Events	\$28,144.25		
Maintenance Total	\$0	\$258,645.26	(\$258,645.26)
De Anza Park Total	\$367,479.75	\$719,389.25	51%
De Anza Park	\$1977,457.75		
Recreation Fees	\$170,022.00		
Creekside Total	\$454,068.99	\$583,064.90	78%
Cultural Total	\$61,335.86	\$57,277.49	107%
Concert tickets	\$13,570.86		
Art Festival	\$47,765.00		
TOTAL	\$911,028.85	\$1,835,076.15	50%
Tennis & Swim Center Total	\$2,484,331.91	\$2,419,023.75	103%

When compared to total budget, revenues account for 50% of the total Community Services operating budget. This is above the normal cost recovery rate, particularly since Calabasas does not offer many adult sports programs, which can increase revenue in some communities. Private providers fill this niche. Again, the Tennis & Swim Center is operated as an enterprise fund and revenues cover 100%+ of expenses. The Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center is not included in the table as it is operated by a joint use authority and not the Community Services Department, and is also intended to be self-supporting.

F. Program Participation

Table 4.4 summarizes participation in recreation and cultural programs.

Table 4.4
City of Calabasas – Recreation Participation, 2002 Total

Activity	Number of Participants	Participant Days
Parks		
Basketball leagues	493	13,197
T-Ball /Coach pitch leagues	92	1,610
Tennis & Swim Center		
Swim lessons	1,100	11,000
Rec. swimming, non-members	NA	21,000
Swim Team	80	2,400
After school Tennis Program	40	7,200
Summer Youth Tennis Program	80	4,000
Private tennis lessons	NA	7,224
Personal training	NA	4,680
Fitness classes	NA	33,540
Children/Youth Care		
Klubhouse (Pre-School)	104	
Enrichment (Lupin Elem.)	442	3,225
After school programs	242	5,178
Sports camps	40	197
Summer camps (non-sport)	1,116	5,700
Recreation Classes		
Tots	611	3,990
Youth	225	1,739
Teens	97	795
Teen volunteer programs	138	4,194
Tennis lessons (group)	234	1,924
Adults	157	1,301
Cultural Arts		
Orchestra (5 concerts)	250	1,000
Special Events		
"EGG"stravaganza	1,000	1,000
Arts & Crafts Festival	10,000	10,000
4 th of July	3,000	3,000
Pumpkin Festival	20,000	20,000
Halloween Carnival	500	500
Snow, Snow, Snow	1,500	1,500

TOTAL	171,614
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Note: Participant day is defined as one person conducting one recreation activity in one day.

In Calabasas, there were a total of 171,614 participant days, which is **8.6 occasions per capita** (participant days/population), excluding use occasions by facility members. The figure of 8.6 occasions per capita does not include use of the Tennis & Swim Center by members outside of classes, or any use of the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center by members, non-members, or in classes.

All Tennis & Swim Center members may use the pool and all health facilities. Outside of participation in classes, use of these facilities is not included in Table 4.4. In addition, outside of classes, Tennis & Swim Center tennis members are free to use tennis courts whenever they wish. Outside of classes and programs, court use by members is not included in Table 4.4.

At the Tennis & Swim Center, there are 820 tennis memberships, a total of 2,050 tennis members at an average of 2.5 people per membership; 800 health memberships, a total of 2,000 health memberships at an average of 2.5 people per membership; and 500 non-primetime memberships, a total of 500 non-primetime members at an average of 1.0 people per membership. All together, there are about 2,120 memberships at the facility with a total of approximately 4,550 members. Primetime memberships at the Tennis & Swim Center are capped at the current levels. Tennis memberships have been capped for 5 years, and health memberships have been capped for 3 years. The waiting list for memberships is more than 500 names long, and it is about an 18-month wait for tennis memberships and a 12-month wait for health memberships. Non-primetime memberships were added as a way to provide service to those on the waiting list, and to provide reduced rates to those who can use the facility at off-peak hours.



Photo of Frog Circle at De Anza Park



CITY of CALABASAS

Section 5

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

-
- *Summary of Community Survey*
 - *Summary of Public Workshops*
 - *Summary of Youth Workshop*

- *Summary of Recreation Needs of People With Disabilities Questionnaire*

INTRODUCTION

In order to reflect the views of the community and build consensus support for the plan, public participation was an integral part of the planning process. Public participation was sought in a number of ways:

- A random sample community survey
- Three public workshops
- Youth workshops with high school and middle school students
- A questionnaire about recreation needs of people with disabilities sent out to 1200 families of youth with disabilities

This section summarizes the results of each of these public participation efforts.

A. Summary of Community Survey

A survey of public attitudes, recreation interests and recreation participation characteristics was made in the City of Calabasas in late February of 2003. A total of 1,156 surveys were hand-delivered to 594 randomly selected households in Calabasas. After the random sample was selected, it was mapped and checked to ensure that each of the HOA's and apartment complexes in Calabasas was represented, as well as the few areas not included in associations. When the surveys were delivered, each member of the household aged 10 and over was asked to fill out a separate questionnaire.

Based on the random sample method used, in most communities, results are statistically accurate within an expected maximum error range of approximately 5% (a 95% confidence interval). In other words, if the sample were randomly selected 100 times, it would be expected that for 95 times, the results would vary no more than 5% from the results if everyone in the city were surveyed. However, the survey response rate in Calabasas was lower than average, despite a larger than average initial selection of households. Based on the **271 returns, the maximum margin of error is 5.91%**. This is slightly less than the five-percent deviation for which the sample was designed.

It was noted by the Community Services Director that there was a 27% turnout for the City election that took place right after the survey was conducted, and that this turnout was slightly higher than typical due to the high level of interest in a tax repeal measure on the ballot. Based on the election turnout, the survey return ratio may be a typical 'good' response rate for Calabasas.

It is also important to note an effort was made to ensure representation from all Homeowners Associations (HOAs), condominium complexes, and apartment complexes, as well as representation from the very minor areas of the City that are not part of a planned development. This included coordination with HOA presidents. However, City staff could not gain access to six gated HOAs despite these efforts, which means residents of Calabasas Country Estates, Clairidge, Malibu Canyon Villas, Malibu Creek Condominiums, Mulwood Town Homes, and Tanterra could not be surveyed.

For purposes of comparison, Calabasas was divided into two survey areas: west Calabasas and east Calabasas. Table 5.1 shows the percentage of returned surveys from each survey area.

Table 5.1
Survey Areas
City of Calabasas

Area	Percent of Sample
West	44.6%
East	55.3%
TOTAL	100.0%

It is interesting to note the west side of Calabasas had a higher survey return rate than the east side, although the east side has a higher population than the west side. The west side received 37.2% of the surveys distributed and the east side received 62.7%, but the west side accounts for 44.6% of returned surveys.

Listed below is a summary of the survey results. A more detailed analysis is contained in Appendix D.

- Based on the survey results, **De Anza Park** receives the most use in the community with an average of 12 visits per capita annually. The Tennis & Swim Center and the Community Center are also well used.
- Park use varies, sometimes significantly, depending on geography. There was much higher use by west side residents of westside parks, even the Community Center, and much higher use by east side residents of eastside parks, even the Tennis & Swim Center.
- Overall, respondents rated Park and Recreation Services highly. When lower ratings were given, cost and availability of facilities at popular locations were frequently the reasons.

- When asked what the most needed facilities in Calabasas were, the three most frequently cited responses were **Sports Fields** (of all types), **Trails/Paths**, and **Open Space**.
- There was high interest in trails and an extremely high level of support for open space acquisition. This was illustrated through the responses to a number of questions, as well as the recreation participation questions.
- When asked what types of trails are most needed, **Unpaved Hiking and Walking Trails** and **Off-Street Paved Trails** received the most support.
- Respondents overwhelmingly (74.9%) felt more **Sports Fields for Soccer, Baseball, and Softball** are needed in Calabasas. When asked who should be responsible for providing fields, more than 75% of respondents indicated either the City or a partnership between the City and the School District.
- There is relatively high participation in programs. Community-wide, **41.3%** of the respondents indicated they **have participated in recreation programs** sponsored by the City of Calabasas within the past year.
- When asked to prioritize seven major projects, the three that were most favored were **Acquisition of Open Space**, **Develop More Trails**, and a **Sports Field Complex**.
- When asked what cultural arts programs are of greatest interest, **Performances or Concerts in the Parks** and **Community Arts Festivals and Special Events** received the most support.
- A **Teen Center** and **Place to Gather or Hang Out** received the most responses when respondents were asked what types of youth programs or facilities are most needed.
- When asked about the **pricing of programs and services**, **88.3% of respondents were satisfied**, selecting either that “the prices are about right” or “no opinion”. Only about 10% felt prices are too high.
- The City’s **Recreation Brochure is very successful**. When asked how they find out about programs, 52.4% of respondents indicated the Recreation Brochure as the main source. This is much higher than in most communities.

- There is very high support for acquisition of open space. When asked how aggressively the City should acquire open space as it becomes available, **42.7%** chose the most aggressive level of **open space acquisition**.
- Participation in Calabasas is somewhat higher (about 8%) than the MIG Average.
- **Exercising/Aerobics** and **Hiking/Backpacking** have the highest recreation participation rates among survey respondents, and the participation rate for these activities in Calabasas was double the MIG Average.
- **Six of the Top Ten** Preferred Recreation Activities in Calabasas are **trail-related**.
- The activities that had the highest latent demand (defined as activities people would like to participate in if facilities were more available) included:
 - * Yoga
 - * Horseback Riding
 - * Golf (both Playing and Driving Range)
- In response to the open-ended question about how to use the 2-acre west side park site, there were two main themes to the answers: very active park use with sport fields and courts or very passive uses, such as trails and open space. Responses were pretty evenly split between the two.
- The majority of responses to the open-ended question about how to use the 10-acre east side park site focused on passive uses, such as trails, open space, and environmental education.

B. Summary of Public Workshops

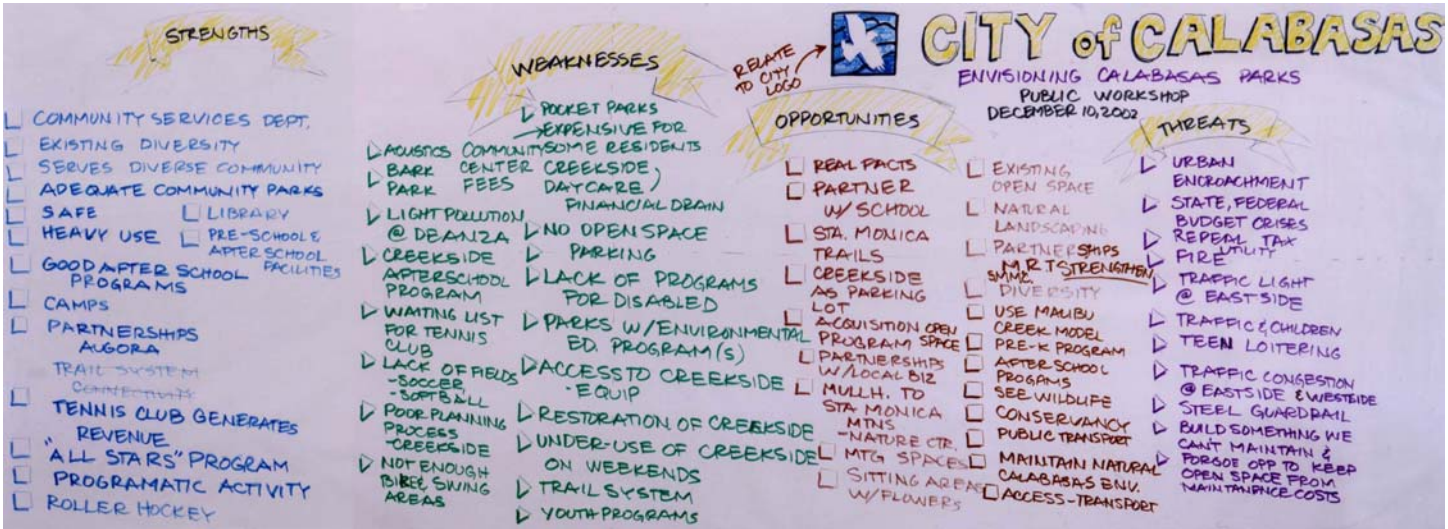
Public meetings were held on December 10, 2002; March 10, 2003; and November 10, 2003. A summary of each of these public meetings is included below. More detailed summaries are included in Appendix D.

December 2002 Workshop

The first public workshop for the Master Plan was held on December 10, 2002 at the Tennis & Swim Center. The purpose of this workshop was to obtain community input into the future vision for the Parks and Community Services Division. The workshop began with a brief Presentation on the Master Plan process and an overview of the public input opportunities.

During the next section of the meeting, community members were asked to participate in a large group visioning exercise. The discussion focused on four main points: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Comments were graphically recorded on a large sheet of paper at the front of the room. Figure 5.1 contains a reproduction of the wall graphic from the workshop.

Figure 5.1
12/10/02 Wall Graphic



After the large group exercise, participants were divided into two smaller groups to discuss two future parks sites; one at the intersection of Las Virgenes and Lost Hills Roads (west), and the other at the intersection of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway (east).

After the break-out session, each group chose a delegate to report back to the overall group at the close of the meeting. The groups had a range of opinions for the west side parcel from natural open space to community gardens, or an educational center (less activity) to more active uses, such as playfields or ball fields. Both groups noted the area was a gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains, and when reviewing the site, the city should keep it within the context of the Santa Monica Mountains and existing, or potential, open space. For the east side parcel, participants in both groups tended to favor more passive uses that emphasize the site’s natural features. There was a range of opinions on what “open space” might encompass, from simple unpaved trails, to accessible walkways, to a National Park Service-style, rustic amphitheatre.

March 2003 Workshop

The second public workshop was held March 10, 2003, from 5:30 to 7:30 at the De Anza Park community room. The workshop was conducted in open house format with four stations, including public comments to date; existing recreation facilities and potential specialized services; East Side park site development concepts; and West Side park site development concepts.

Project team members and staff facilitated and recorded discussions at each of four stations. Participants were encouraged to write comments at each station and many wrote comments on notepaper and attached them directly onto display boards or maps. Additional comments were recorded on flip charts.

At Station One, participants were intrigued and appreciative of comments expressed by the two Youth Leadership Classes from Calabasas High School and A.E. Wright Middle School. Many supported the concept of adding a teen center, as outlined by students. Some were surprised the youth are more interested in outdoor nature activities, and one alternative (minority) comment was expressed that the youth will not have an equal voice in contributing to the decision making process. The majority view reiterated earlier public input comments that open space should be preserved and trails could become an interconnecting link.

At Station Two, the participants indicated their top three preferences for specialized new facilities would be: an environmental education area, additional group picnic areas, and an amphitheater. In contrast, a formal garden, indoor recreation center and/or sports complex, and larger or new dog park received no ranking by the open house participants.

The public also reviewed the preliminary results of a random household survey conducted as part of the project, which indicated the three most needed recreation facilities in Calabasas are sport fields, trails/paths, and open space.

At Station Three, participants viewed two potential options for park development at Old Topanga Road and Mulholland Highway. The passive park concept with native plant restoration and trailhead connections, with additional features, such as a connection to the future environmental education center across the street and a children's play environment taking its inspiration from the natural and cultural history of the area was favored. Areas of divided opinion were in regards to the children's play area, parking and access to the new Mountains Restoration Trust Headquarters facility and future environmental educational center across the street.

At Station Four, participants reviewed two potential options for park development at the corner of Lost Hills and Las Virgenes Roads. Option A was conceived as a more active park with basketball courts and a community garden, while Option B was more passive in design. The majority view among open house participants was to provide a more passive park.

November 2003 Workshop

The November 2003 workshop was an open house format at City Hall. The draft master plan was presented for public review and comment. Specific support was expressed for some of the recommendations, in particular for providing a playground accessible to youth of all ages and abilities. The proposal to provide neighborhood parks on three school sites attracted the most comments. There was concern the two existing sites could not accommodate separate facilities, but a desire to increase public access to the existing play facilities. In addition, there was concern about the possibility of the proposed new elementary school being located within a gated neighborhood, and a related concern about spending public funds on park facilities that might not be readily available to the public. As a result, the recommendations were revised.

C. Summary of Youth Workshops

Leadership classes from A.E. Wright Middle School and Calabasas High School participated in workshops designed to obtain input into youth recreation needs. The two Leadership classes provided insight into the teens' likes/dislikes, desires, and vision for the future of Calabasas Parks and Recreation. While the middle school students expressed concern over not knowing enough about City programs, they offered suggestions on activities they would like to see added, as well recommending a communications tools to ensure they receive information.

Both groups overwhelmingly endorsed the concept of a Teen Center, though a few students at the high school were concerned it would not be used to its capacity by high school age students. Both groups offered suggestions on what a Teen Center should offer, from passive activities, such as a study or movie room, to physical activities, such as athletic offerings, or a pool table. Both agreed Calabasas teens needed a place "hang out."

Students at the high school had a detailed visioning discussion on potential development of the two new park sites. They expressed concern the sites could be sold to developers, and emphatically stated they didn't want commercial sprawl.

D. Summary of Recreation Needs of People with Disabilities Questionnaire

In 2002, the City of Calabasas Community Services Department began offering the ALL STARZ basketball program, a league open to developmentally challenged youth and young adults between the ages of 8 and 21. Because the program has been very popular, the Department began to consider whether additional programming for people with disabilities was needed in Calabasas.

As part of the master plan process, the City decided to seek input on recreation programs and facilities for people with disabilities. Working with the Las Virgenes Unified School District, the City distributed 1200 questionnaires to the families of youth with disabilities. These one-page questionnaires asked about the recreation needs of people with disabilities in Calabasas, with specific attention on the needs of youth. Seventy responses were received. Some of the highlights of those responses were:

- There would be interest in additional programming designed for people with disabilities, if the City were to offer it.
- A variety of activities were suggested in response to the question about what programs are needed. Programs that were suggested by more than one respondent include **Sports, Camps, Swimming, Classes, Dance Classes, and Activities.**
- A variety of age groups were identified as needing services, with several comments that all ages are in need of programs and services.
- When asked whether improvements were needed to existing parks, paved paths and an accessible playground were the only improvements noted.



Photo of west side park site



CITY of CALABASAS

Section 6

RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- *Alternative Approaches to Identifying Needs*
- *Methodology of Assessing Park Land Needs*
- *Park and Open Space Needs*
- *Recreation Facility Needs*

INTRODUCTION

This section summarizes the methodology and results of the recreation needs assessment. A detailed description of the methodology and how the conclusions were derived can be found in Appendix E.

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. 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.

A. Alternative Approaches to Identifying Needs

There are several approaches to estimating needs including use of national standards, measurement of participation levels, user trend analysis, input from surveys and public meetings, goal setting and participation models. The analysis on the following pages uses these methods, and a brief description of each is listed below.

National Standards

In 1983, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published the first recognized standards. These standards were developed by professionals in the field and based on “what seemed right”. In 1996, NRPA updated the approach based on a desired level of service or "LOS". LOS is expressed in terms of acres per population, but is driven by variables established by the providing agency, such as service areas and density of use.

Participation Level Analysis

Recognizing the need to reflect local conditions, MIG Inc., began measuring per capita participation levels in every community it studied. Participation level is measured in terms of the number of occasions occurring in a given 30-day period when that activity is in season. The activity level is then compared to other similar communities studied by MIG. The average activity level in the last 15 communities studied is called the MIG AVERAGE.

Trend Analysis

A facility demand estimate is extrapolated from historical use statistics. If local information is used, results can be reasonably accurate because they reflect use in the specific community.

Recreation Surveys

Recreation surveys are conducted using several different methods and approaches. These include mail-in, internet, telephone and door-to-door surveys. Each type of survey process has positive and negative attributes that include cost efficiency, return ratio, desired information and time frame. 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 data to quantifiable numbers of need.

Public Meetings General public or committee meetings can be used to identify perceived needs but often are attended by organized groups who may or may not represent the interests of the community.

Goals In some instances, community goals are expressed as the need without quantifiable or statistical analysis to support the goal.

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

B. Methodology of Assessing Park Land Needs

Developing a statement of land needs for parks and open space is difficult because it depends on availability of land, financial resources and desired service levels.

To determine land needs in Calabasas, several analytical methods were used. These included a comparison to other similar communities, results of the recreation survey, national trends, land availability and geographical deficiencies for parks and open space areas. It should be noted that even with all the statistical information available, a certain amount of subjective analysis and professional experience must be used to quantify the standards.

To determine land needs in Calabasas, an analysis was made of existing conditions. Current park land was expressed in terms of a comparison of acres of existing park land to the current population. This comparison is called *The Existing Ratio*, which was then used as a basis for recommending a desired ratio of park land to population. This is called *The Recommended Standard*. The Recommended Standard is based on a build-out population. The Existing Ratio and the Recommended Standard are expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 people. In developing these ratios, the following population estimates were used:

Census Population (2000)	20,033
Current Population (2002)	20,390
Build-out Population (2020)	27,400¹

By developing a desired level of service (the Recommended Standard) and applying it to a future population forecast, one can determine future needs. However, it should be noted the demand model used to create the Recommended Standard was based on a set of assumptions and desired service levels. For example, for community parks, the desired service level was to provide a community park within a mile of most residents. These assumptions are discussed in more detail in Appendix E.

¹ Peter A. Morrison, Calabasas Library Grant application

C. Park and Open Space Needs

Below is a table indicating the Current Ratio and the Recommended Standard for each category of park land discussed in the Plan.

Table 6.1
Comparison of Current Ratio and Recommended Demand Standard
Park and Recreation Areas – City of Calabasas

Recreation Area	Current Ratio per 1,000 population	Recommended Standard per 1,000 population
Mini-Parks	0.11 Acres.	0.08 Acres
Neighborhood Parks	0.49 Acres.	0.22 Acres
Community Parks	0.39 Acres.	0.80 Acres
Special Use Areas	1.21 Acres.	1.01 Acres
Open Space Areas ¹	14.17 Acres.	15.00 Acres

¹Ratio includes City-owned open space only. Does not include the 1400+ acres owned by non-profits and other public agencies.

By applying the Recommended Standard to the existing and future population base, a determination of park land needs expressed in acres can be derived, as shown in the table below.

Table 6.2
Summary of Park Needs in Acres
Park and Recreation Areas – City of Calabasas

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Year 2002 Demand	Current Additional Need ¹	Build-out Demand	Build-out Additional Need
Mini-Parks	2.2	1.6	(0.6)	2.2	0.0
Neighborhood Parks	10.0	3.0	(7.0)	6.0	(4.0)
Community Parks	8.0	16.2	8.2	22.0	14.0
Special Use Areas	34.6	20.5	(14.1)	34.6	0.0
Open Space Areas ¹	287.6	304.5	16.9	411.0	123.4
Undeveloped	1.8	NA	NA	NA	NA

¹ Additional need is indicated in plain text. Excess capacity is indicated with parentheses.

D. Recreation Facility Needs

The establishment of the need for recreation facilities, such as sport fields, swimming pools and trails was derived from several analytical approaches. This included an analysis of present recreation participation levels, needs expressed in the community survey and at the public meeting, play and practice time requirements of sport teams and mathematical models developed over the years from other studies.

The *Existing Ratio* and *Recommended Standard* were used to quantify need. The existing ratio is the existing population divided by the number of facilities (e.g., fields, square feet, and miles). The recommended demand standard is the desired ratio of population to facilities based on the desired level of service. By establishing a desired level of service and applying it to existing and future population, one can determine appropriate recommended demand and ultimately future needs. To determine the existing ratio for facilities, the population within the City was used.

Table 6.3
Comparison of Current Ratio and Recommended Demand Standard
City of Calabasas – Recreation Facilities

Recreation Area	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Baseball Fields	1 field per 2,549 people	1 field per 3,400 people
Softball Fields	1 field per 6,797 people	1 field per 7,000 people
Soccer Fields	1 field per 2,549 people	1 field per 1,500 people

The difficulty of calculating sport field needs in Calabasas was the regional nature of organized sport leagues serving the youth in Calabasas. In addition, Calabasas relies heavily on Las Virgenes Unified School District to meet sports field needs in Calabasas.

To determine the need for sport fields, a demand model was created that 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 on each field per week
 - * Existence of lighted or unlighted fields

Specific needs for each type of facility are shown in Table 6.4

Table 6.4
City of Calabasas - Summary of Recreation Facility Needs

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Year 2002 Demand	Current Additional Need	Build-out Demand	Build-out Additional Need
Baseball Fields ¹	8	8	0	11	3
Softball Fields ¹	3	3	0	4	1
Soccer Fields	8	14	6	18	10

¹ This excludes multi-use backstops that, if upgraded, could satisfy a portion of the need.

Special Use Facilities

Calabasas provides a high level of service, and owns several specialized facilities for recreation use. These include: the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center, the Tennis & Swim Center, Bark Park (lease from Las Virgenes Municipal Water District), and Creekside Park (used for a City-run pre-school operation). Based on the results of the planning process, several additional special use facilities appear to be needed in Calabasas. These include:

- * A teen center (identified in survey and through youth workshop)
- * Additional dog off-leash areas (identified in survey)
- * West side day care facility (identified by City officials)
- * A senior center or senior citizen facilities (identified in survey and by City officials)
- * A permanent, in-ground skate park (identified in survey and through youth workshop)
- * Cultural arts facilities

There also appears to be a need for more aquatic facilities in Calabasas, and if possible, expansion of membership opportunities at the Tennis & Swim Center. Additional special use facilities identified during the planning process include community gardens and a special play environment fully accessible to youth with disabilities.

Some of these special use facilities could be incorporated into other park sites or facilities.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREA MAP

COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREA MAP



Photo of Grape Arbor Park



CITY of CALABASAS

Section 7

RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICIES

- *Park Facility Plan*
- *Development Concept*
- *Park Planning Concepts*
- *Park Recommendations*
- *Recreation Facilities*
- *Aquatic Facilities*
- *Natural Open Space*
- *Recreation Programs*
- *Management and Operations*
- *Maintenance*
- *Park Planning and Development Guidelines*

INTRODUCTION

This section of the document recommends specific courses of action to meet the needs described in the previous sections.

A. Park Facility Plan

The Park Layout Plan is a graphic representation of existing and future parks and other proposed recreation facilities. A map locating existing and proposed park sites is shown on page 7-8. Some important notes about the Layout Plan are:

1. A letter of the alphabet and number (such as NP-4) defines each site on the Layout Plan. The number is for site identification only and corresponds to text in this section. The letters represent the type of existing or proposed park and are keyed as follows:

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Park Type</u>
MP	Mini Parks
NP	Neighborhood Parks
CP	Community Parks
SU	Special Use Areas

2. On the Layout Plan map, an asterisk illustrates each proposed park or facility site. The intent is to show a general location of where it should be located to serve the community. The actual location will be determined based on land availability, acquisition cost and the property owner's willingness to sell.
3. The location and arrangement of the parks and facilities are designed to serve the City for the next 20 years.

B. Development Concept

The "ideal park system" for a community is one made up of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering certain types of recreation and/or open space opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one basic function, but collectively they will serve the entire needs of the community. By recognizing this concept, Calabasas can develop a more efficient, cost effective and usable park system.

However, within the city, the main factor limiting the ability to meet recreation needs is the lack of available park land. Although there is a good supply of land available suitable for use as natural open space because of topography and natural resources, there is very limited available land for more traditional parks, especially for larger parks containing sports fields.

Calabasas has established a strong foundation in its current park system. The proposed park system for Calabasas centers on the premise that a multi-use neighborhood or community park should be located within about a mile radius of most residents. Due to land constraints, the City will need to continue to find creative ways to meet the community's need for parks and facilities. For example, in places where park land is not available, a school site may be used to provide park facilities.

The City's core system of parks (neighborhood and community) will provide the basic recreational opportunities within Calabasas. Supplementing these parks will be specialized recreation facilities and open space areas serving the entire community.

C. Park Planning Concepts

Mini-Parks

Calabasas has two mini-parks in its current inventory. In areas where land is scarce, mini-parks can provide park facilities to neighborhoods that would otherwise not be served. However, it is not recommended that Calabasas seek to acquire any additional mini-parks due to high maintenance cost and limited recreation value of this type of park. If a mini-park site is proposed, it should only be added to the City's park inventory if it meets the following policies:

- The site should be in an area not already served by a park.
- The site should be accessible to the general public and have frontage on a public street. It should not be located within a gated or otherwise limited access neighborhood.

This policy should apply to undeveloped park sites and developed park sites homeowners associations or other groups wish to turn over to the City.

Neighborhood Parks

In most communities, neighborhood parks are located within walking distance of residents (about one-half mile). Although Calabasas would like to provide parks within walking distance of all its residents, there is recognition this is an unattainable goal due to the lack of suitable park land in the City. Therefore, Calabasas has established a goal of providing neighborhood or community park facilities within a mile of most residents.

A service area analysis of the existing park system revealed that many areas of Calabasas, particularly in eastern Calabasas, are not served by a neighborhood or community park. With the reclassification of Gates Canyon Park to a community park, Grape Arbor Park is the only neighborhood park in Calabasas.

Neighborhood parks are needed in eastern Calabasas. Due to a lack of suitable park land, neighborhood park facilities are proposed on school grounds to serve areas without parks. The school/park concept calls for upgrading a portion of the school grounds with better irrigation, play equipment, and turf, if necessary, and, if possible, providing small recreation facilities, such as picnic tables, benches and a shelter structure. Ideally, some facilities on school grounds would be available to the public during daytime hours. Since the school grounds are closed to the public during school hours, special fencing may be needed to allow public access to park facilities during the day. Due to site constraints, it may not be possible to meet this ideal at some school sites. To encourage LVUSD to participate in this concept, Calabasas should offer to partner in the development and maintenance costs of any new or improved park facilities. It is recommended the City seek formal use agreements with LVUSD to provide park facilities at the recommended school/park sites.

Community Parks

Due to land constraints, community parks in Calabasas are smaller than in many other communities. Since the sites are smaller than typical, the concept for the community parks in Calabasas is to provide at least one unique feature at each of the sites, in addition to basic park amenities, which include:

- Children's playground
- Open multi-use grass area
- Rest rooms
- Picnic areas
- Internal pathways
- Outdoor basketball court
- Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
- Parking appropriately sized for facilities included.

Any park site should include enough relatively level ground to provide the facilities listed above. Other facilities to include, if space permits, are sport fields (unlighted), sand or grass volleyball courts, and shelter buildings.

When Gates Canyon Park is upgraded, the western portion of Calabasas will be served by parks. Even with the proposed school parks, eastern Calabasas will continue to be underserved. Therefore, it is recommended that a community park offering larger scale opportunities for recreation be provided in eastern Calabasas. Despite the challenges in acquiring a large enough parcel, it is important to provide active recreation opportunities for east side residents, even if only a small community park can be provided. If an opportunity arises to secure a community park site on the east side, the City should act upon it quickly if the site is suitable.

Special Use Areas

Calabasas has four special use areas and based on public input, there is community interest in additional facilities to serve community needs. Some facilities may be provided as stand-alone special use areas, while others may be incorporated into other parks or city facilities. The discussion on Specialized Facilities provides greater detail on the proposed specialized facilities.

Natural Open Space / Greenways

The City of Calabasas has been very proactive in the protection of natural open space, both through ownership of land and through partnerships with other agencies. Calabasas owns almost 300 acres of natural open space, including the new Wild Walnut Park. In addition to the acreage owned by the City, there are hundreds of acres of natural open space within city limits owned by other agencies or non-profits. It is recommended that Calabasas seek, at a minimum, to maintain the current ratio of open space as the City's population grows. This refers to natural open space owned by the City of Calabasas. It is also recommended that the City of Calabasas continue to seek protection of open space that will preserve environmentally sensitive areas or protect steep hillsides, habitat, or rare species. Finally, Calabasas should continue to partner and coordinate with other agencies to provide protection of natural open space.

Trails

Many trails pass through the natural open space areas in Calabasas, including those areas owned by the City as well as those owned by other groups. In addition, several major regional trails pass through Calabasas. Concurrent with the preparation of the Park and Recreation Master Plan, the Calabasas Planning Division is in the process of creating a Trails Master Plan for the City. The Trails Master Plan will address trails standards and responsibilities, and will outline the roles of the Community Services Department and other City departments in providing trails to serve residents.

From a recreation standpoint, linkages and access are major considerations for a trail system. Linkages refer to the connections between hiking trails and the path systems in parks. Although the Trails Master Plan will address trails, it is recommended that trail linkages from existing parks be carefully considered to maximize opportunities for Calabasas residents to access the hiking trails. It is also recommended that the Trails Master Plan effort coordinate with the Park and Recreation Master Plan to ensure that these linkages are provided. In addition, the City should seek to provide trailheads at strategic trail access points so that Calabasas residents can easily access the trail system.

D. Specific Park Recommendations

The following are recommendations and suggested alternatives for existing and proposed park sites. It is important to note that the implementation of these recommendations and suggestions may vary, depending on available funds and the community's priorities for capital improvements. The index below indicates the page each site is discussed.

Table 7-1
Index of Park Recommendations
City of Calabasas

Site Number	Park Name	Page Number
EXISTING		
MP-1	Freedom Park	7-8
MP-2	Highlands Park	7-8
NP-3	Grape Arbor Park	7-9
CP-7	Juan Bautista de Anza Park	7-10
CP-8	Gates Canyon Park	7-11
SU-10	Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center	7-13
SU-11	Bark Park	7-14
SU-12	Creekside Park	7-15
SU-13	Tennis & Swim Center	7-16
SU-14	Wild Walnut Park	7-17
SU-15	West Side Park Site	7-17
PROPOSED		
NP-4	Bay Laurel School Park	7-9
NP-5	Chaparral School Park	7-10
NP-6	The Oaks/Millennium School Park	7-10
CP-9	East Side Community Park	7-12

Park Type Key

MP	Mini Parks
NP	Neighborhood Parks
CP	Community Parks
SU	Special Use Areas
OS	Open Space Areas

**Table 7-2
Summary of Park Recommendations
City of Calabasas**

Site Number	Park Name	Existing Acres/ (Proposed Acres)	Action
MP-1	Freedom Park	1.7	Minor improvements
MP-2	Highlands Park	0.5	Minor improvements
NP-3	Grape Arbor Park	3.0	Upgrade
NP-4	Bay Laurel School Park (P)	(1.0)	Negotiation with LVUSD, development
NP-5	Chaparral School Park (P)	(1.0)	Negotiation with LVUSD, development
NP-6	The Oaks/Millennium School Park (P)	(1.0)	Negotiation with LVUSD, development
CP-7	Juan Bautista de Anza Park	8.0	Minor improvements
CP-8	Gates Canyon Park	7.0	Significant development
CP-9	East Side Community Park (P)	(7.0)	Planning, acquisition, and development
SU-10	Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center	4.5	Minor improvements
SU-11	Bark Park	0.8	Minor improvements
SU-12	Creekside Park	11.8	Minor improvements
SU-13	Tennis & Swim Center	7.5	Minor improvements

(P) Proposed Site

PARK LAYOUT PLAN

Freedom Park**MP-1**

Freedom Park is an existing mini-park located in a residential neighborhood. Freedom Park was the first park built by the City of Calabasas after incorporation. Although it is adjacent to the new A. C. Stelle Middle School, it can only be accessed from the residential neighborhood due to the steep topography.

Like the rest of Calabasas' parks, Freedom Park is in very good condition. Although it is small in size, it provides much needed recreation facilities in an area of Calabasas deficient in parks.

At publication, a proposal by the surrounding neighborhood to gate itself was under consideration at the City. If this proposal is approved, the neighborhood streets would become private property and Freedom Park would be located within the gated neighborhood. The neighborhood has proposed a public access walkway from Mulholland Highway to Freedom Park. However, there would be no vehicular access and the park is not visible from Mulholland. Although this park mainly serves residents of the surrounding neighborhood, losing direct public access to this park is not a good precedent to set. Despite the public access walkway, if access to the surrounding streets is limited, Freedom Park will essentially become a private neighborhood park that must be maintained and upgraded by the City.

Only minor improvements are needed at this park:

- Provide ADA access improvements.
- Provide a “doggie bag” station. In addition to placing one at Freedom Park, the City should consider providing these at most of the parks, or establish a program where they are provided in parks upon request.
- Additional Trees

Highlands Park**MP-2**

Highlands Park is an attractive existing mini-park located within an established residential neighborhood, tucked into the hillside. The surrounding neighborhood is characterized by steep topography, and the streets are quite narrow and don't have sidewalks. Access to the park is somewhat challenging due to the topography, the narrow streets, and limited on-street parking.

Despite its small size, Highlands Park is well designed, and appears to be fairly low maintenance. Only minor improvements are needed at this park:

- Provide erosion control measures.
- Provide ADA access improvements.

Grape Arbor Park**NP-3**

Grape Arbor Park is the only existing neighborhood park in the City of Calabasas. A former Los Angeles County park, Grape Arbor has a pleasant character and a nice range of facilities. Grape Arbor Park receives heavy use from residents throughout Calabasas, most likely a result of the very popular picnic shelter. According to the community survey results, Calabasas residents visit Grape Arbor Park an average of eight times a year.

Although Grape Arbor Park has a pleasant character, the parking and circulation within the park is awkward. The original layout of the park included a large parking area, part of which has been converted to a basketball court. The park is in need of a redesign to address the circulation and design issues.

Although permanent restrooms are usually not recommended for a neighborhood park, it is recommended that the restrooms at Grape Arbor be maintained and upgraded due to the popular picnic area and the heavy use this park receives.

The following improvements are proposed at Grape Arbor Park:

- Redesign the park, to include:
 - * Replacement/significant upgrade to the restroom
 - * Adding barbeques near the picnic shelter
 - * Providing improved volleyball court, including edging
 - * Providing an improved basketball court, including better layout within the park
 - * Providing an improved parking layout
 - * Providing improved pathways in the park
 - * Providing fully accessible play areas, including replacement of the older play area
- Implement the park redesign, reusing salvageable equipment and facilities.
- Explore the possibility of expanding the park by an acre or two. This should occur prior to any redesign of the park.

Bay Laurel Elementary School Park (proposed) NP-4

Bay Laurel Elementary School is a Las Virgenes Unified School District facility located in eastern Calabasas. The neighborhood surrounding Bay Laurel School has no public park facilities. As previously discussed, much of the east side of Calabasas is not served by neighborhood park facilities. Since the residential areas are mostly built out, opportunities to provide new parks are limited.

It is recommended that the City of Calabasas seek an agreement with LVUSD to use the play areas and grounds at Bay Laurel and two other elementary school sites. Calabasas and LVUSD have a successful record of cooperation and joint use of facilities, and the two agencies have developed use agreements for other sites.

This concept calls for use agreements allowing public use of the facilities after school hours. This will help serve some of the need for neighborhood park facilities, although it doesn't address the need for neighborhood park facilities during school hours. If possible, signs should be provided that identify public use hours at each of the sites.

The following recommendations are proposed for this site:

- Negotiate a use agreement with LVUSD allowing public use of the school site after school hours. To make this attractive for the school district, the City could offer to help pay for future playground upgrades or to assist in the maintenance of the site. Also, the City should pay for any signs identifying public use hours.

Chaparral Elementary School Park (proposed) NP-5

See the recommendations for Bay Laurel Elementary School Park, site NP-4.

The Oaks/New Millennium Elementary School Park (proposed) NP-6

It is important to note there is some concern on the part of the community about the possibility of this school being located behind the gates of a private community. There was concern about public funds being used to fund park improvements on a site that may not be accessible to the public. It may be prudent for the City to wait until this site is developed to determine how the access arrangements work and whether there truly is public access to the site.

If the site issue can be addressed, this school site (if large enough) could perhaps offer an opportunity for a school park, where a portion of the school playground is upgraded with better irrigation and turf and additional recreation facilities, such as a better children's playground, picnic areas, a small picnic shelter, and a basketball court. Since the school playground is closed to the public during school hours, special fencing may be required to allow access to the public portion of the site.

The following recommendations are proposed for this site:

- Determine whether there will be public access to the school site.
- If there is public access, see the recommendations for Bay Laurel Elementary School Park, site NP-4.
- Alternatively, if the site permits and an agreement can be reached with LVUSD, design and develop neighborhood park facilities at this site. Facilities to include are:
 - * A children's playground
 - * A small shelter structure
 - * An open multi-use grass area
 - * Internal pathways
 - * An outdoor basketball court or half court, if space permits
 - * Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
 - * Fencing if needed to address access issues.

Juan Bautista De Anza Park

CP-7

De Anza Park is the signature park in Calabasas. Heavily used, this park accommodates a wide variety of community activities. It contains three large group picnic areas shaded by attractive arbor structures that seat 80 each. The park contains three separate age-specific play areas, and a small water feature suitable for young children. There is a community building containing restrooms and meeting spaces, as well as an administrative office. The park is used for organized basketball and roller hockey league play, and for City organized sport programs for very young children. A paved court area containing three basketball courts is also designed for use as a single roller hockey court, and court time is split between the two sports. De Anza also includes a multi-use backstop, which is used for T-ball. The path system at De Anza contains some interpretive signage and provides links to the hiking trails on surrounding natural open space lands. Due to the popularity of this park, the 40-space parking lot is frequently filled. Spillover parking occurs on-street.

Minor improvements are suggested to improve De Anza Park's function as a community park:

- Provide additional shade throughout park, especially over the play areas. Shade canopies should be considered for the play areas and additional large trees should be planted along pathways and sitting areas.
- Improve the multi-use field (turf and grade modifications) but don't provide foul line fencing and similar improvements that would impede the vistas across the park.
- Provide permanent storage building(s) that complement the building architecture. The location of these structures should be convenient for park maintenance personnel, but not in a highly visible location of the park. Consider relocating non-park storage uses to a less visible site, such as Creekside Park. The goal of providing additional storage should be removal of the shipping containers currently used for storage, and integration of storage facilities into the overall site plan.
- Provide modifications to the hillside trail heading north from the park to reduce erosion. This includes improved trail signage.

Gates Canyon Park

CP-8

Gates Canyon Park is a former Los Angeles County park located just outside of the current Calabasas city limits. The county transferred ownership of this park to the City of Calabasas in 2000. Although it was developed in 1993, this park was built as a neighborhood park and is therefore underdeveloped as a community park.

Gates Canyon Park has two lighted tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, a picnic shelter, a small play area, a fitness course, and a multi-use ball field. There is a large parking lot (for the uses currently at the site), as well as a long street frontage providing opportunities for on-street parking. Gates Canyon Park also contains the Home Garden Learning Center, an educational display and outdoor classroom about environmentally friendly home gardening run by Los Angeles County.

There may be an opportunity for expansion of the park to the north, which is quite level and very suitable for park development. This site appears to be part of the common area established for the Mountain View Planned Unit Development.

Additional facilities are needed at Gates Canyon Park to improve its function as a community park. A detailed master plan for the site should be prepared and should consider the improvements listed below. It should be noted that the master plan for the site

will need to prioritize these potential facilities and that all of the facilities may not be included in the final master plan.

- Explore acquiring additional land to the north.
- Gates Canyon is a gateway to the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve and should connect to the Ahmanson Preserve trail system, if possible. A trailhead should be considered, including interpretive signage.
- As part of design development for improvements to the park, complete a master plan for development of Gates Canyon Park that takes into account any potential land acquisitions, as well as potential linkages to the open space preserve. The master plan process should include additional community input into priorities for the site.
- Address the existing restroom, either by upgrading, replacing, or relocating it. This should not be accomplished until an overall development plan for the park is completed, because the restroom location may change.
- Consider providing aquatic facilities at this site. This could be a medium to large-sized water playground, a 25-yd pool, a leisure pool, or a combination of aquatic facilities. Aquatic facilities should include locker rooms, restrooms, and concessions and ample shaded areas on the decks. In addition, a reservable picnic area for birthday parties and other parties should be included in the design of the deck area. Additional discussion of aquatic facilities is contained in Section 7F.
- Provide play equipment for respective age categories with safety surfacing and curbing. New play equipment should be usable by children with disabilities, as well as children without disabilities.
- Gates Canyon Park is a potential site for an exciting children's play environment, which could be provided instead of standard play equipment as recommended above. See the discussion on special recreation facilities in Section 7E.
- Provide more picnic shelters.
- Due to the popularity of tennis in Calabasas, additional tennis courts could be considered for this park. A small tennis complex, as previously proposed by the Tennis & Swim Center tennis vendor, is an option that could be considered. If aquatic facilities are provided, the tennis complex could share its locker and restroom facilities. Additional tennis courts should be sited as part of the overall park design.
- Consider providing a roller hockey rink and/or basketball courts at this location, if the overall site design can accommodate it. This could be a facility dedicated to roller hockey or basketball, which would make the De Anza courts available for the other sport full-time, or it could be a

combined facility similar to the De Anza basketball/roller hockey facility.

- Consider providing space for community gardens at this park. The Home Garden Learning Center could be reworked to incorporate community garden plots nearby it.
- If the park can be expanded, the area to the north should be considered for sport fields, in particular soccer fields, if space permits.
- Gates Canyon is potentially an alternative location for a permanent, in-ground skate park. See the discussion on special recreation facilities in Section 7.E.

East Side Community Park (proposed)

CP-9

As previously discussed, the east side of Calabasas lacks park facilities, and the proposed school/parks will not be sufficient to serve the entire area. One community park in the vicinity of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway would provide community park service to the entire east portion of Calabasas.

Much of eastern Calabasas is already developed, steeply sloped, or otherwise protected as open space. Finding a parcel with enough level ground may be a challenge, but should be a priority for the City due to the lack of park services in this part of the community. Due to land constraints, the site for the east side community park site may need to be smaller than the two other community parks in Calabasas.

If the equestrian facility fronting on Mulholland Highway on the west side of Old Topanga Road ever became available, it would be an ideal location for a community park and should be a priority for acquisition. The City should consider discussing with the owner their interest in purchasing this property if the owner were ever interested in selling. Acquisition, planning, and development are needed for the east side community park:

- Identify and acquire a park site in the vicinity of Old Topanga Canyon Rd. and Mulholland Highway. The site should be a minimum of 5 acres, with at least 2 to 3 acres fairly level. More acreage would be better if it were available.
- At a minimum, this park should include:
 - * Play areas for respective age groups
 - * Open multi-use grass area
 - * Rest rooms
 - * Picnic areas (at least 3)
 - * Picnic shelter (to accommodate groups of at least 30)
 - * Internal pathways
 - * Outdoor basketball courts

- * Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
- * Parking appropriately sized for facilities included.
- If enough land could be acquired, this park should also include sport fields (unlighted). Soccer and baseball fields are needed.
- Space permitting, the East Side Community Park is a potential site for an exciting children's play environment if it is not provided elsewhere, as described under Gates Canyon Park, Site CP-8.
- Other facilities that could be included if a large enough site were acquired are sand or grass volleyball courts, more extensive play areas and specialized facilities, such as a teen center or a skate park.

Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center

SU-10

This facility was built through a partnership between the cities of Calabasas and Agoura Hills, and is managed by a joint powers authority composed of representatives from both cities. The facility is intended to become self-supporting, but currently is subsidized by both cities. The staff at the facility are City of Agoura Hills employees, but are paid through the Community Center budget, which is managed by the joint powers authority. Fitness memberships are available, but a cap on memberships went into effect in September 2001 because the fitness facilities were at capacity during peak hours. There is a waiting list. Drop-in use is available at any time, but is more expensive than the membership rate.

The Community Center is a 30,000-square foot structure built in 1999. It includes an aerobics room, outdoor courts, a 40' climbing wall, a senior citizen lounge, a 5,000-square foot meeting room, a 10,000-square foot gymnasium with a full-sized basketball and volleyball courts, and a fitness center.

Since the Community Center is operated by a joint powers authority, any proposals to make changes will have to be brought through the authority. Minor changes to this facility are recommended:

- Expand fitness facilities, if possible. If the fitness facilities could be expanded, additional memberships could be provided. Consider converting the meeting room to an exercise and fitness room, particularly if the rental or program revenue generated by the room is not significant. If the City of Calabasas provides a senior center (as discussed in Section

7.E), the senior lounge could be converted to an exercise and fitness room.

- Move the reception area closer to the front door to allow better tracking of facility use.
- Provide additional basketball courts (outdoors), if possible

Bark Park

SU-11

Bark Park is a small, heavily used dog off-leash area located on a portion of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's composting facility site off Las Virgenes Road. It is adjacent to a parking area that accommodates 35 cars. LVMWD built this lot as overflow parking for their main office building in order to meet parking code requirements. The City of Calabasas leases the fenced dog area from LVMWD for \$1 per year. LVMWD staff has indicated the District would be unwilling to allow the City to expand either the off-leash area or the parking lot.

Bark Park is a fully fenced off-leash area, with lights that operate on a user-initiated timer. There is a portable restroom and a dog watering facility. However, due to the heavy use, the turf is very worn and very little grass remains. As a result, the Bark Park can become very muddy during rainy periods or after the irrigation turns on.

It is recommended the City consider adding a second off-leash area at another park site, preferably in eastern Calabasas. If implemented, as discussed in Section 7.E, this may alleviate some of the use at Bark Park. A separate area for smaller dogs should be provided either at Bark Park or at the proposed new off-leash area.

Additional recommendations for Bark Park include:

- Paving the entrance gate areas, which are the most heavily traveled areas, to reduce wear and tear and cut down on muddiness on the site
- Consider replacing some of the turf with decomposed granite, sand, or another similar material (or even porous paving) to hold up to the dog traffic at the site
- Provide landscaping and lighting improvements.
- In a year or two, revisit the discussion of expanding the fenced area at Bark Park with LVMWD staff, because even a small increase in off-leash area would help disperse the use.

Creekside Park**SU-12**

Creekside Park is an 11.8 acre park in a canyon off Old Topanga Canyon Road, with an access from Dry Canyon Cold Creek Road. The site contains a building with two multi-purpose rooms, a children's play area, an outdoor basketball court, and a very small youth baseball field. There is a large parking area, given the facilities at the site.

The City purchased this property from a Pre-School operator and continued the licensed Pre-School program at the site. The program is popular and the City offers very flexible accommodations to Pre-School customers in terms of scheduling. Due to the current conditions of the state-licensed Pre-School program, access to this park is limited during the day.

Even though there is a shortage of sport fields in Calabasas, the Creekside field does not appear to get much use. This may be a result of a variety of factors, such as access limitations to the site, the size and condition of the field, or the lack of visibility. Creekside's field is undersized and not suitable for play much beyond T-ball. Although turf condition could be improved, there is a very limited area for field expansion. Also, spectator areas are very limited, and the site is inefficient for games because there is only one field. There is no field lighting, and none is recommended because of the limited usability of the field and the preference for dark skies in the community. In addition, the site access issues make scheduling games or practices challenging.

Although Creekside Park includes the most acreage of any park site (other than natural open space sites) in Calabasas, it has less usable acreage than either De Anza Park or Gates Canyon Park. Due to its somewhat hidden location and the configuration of the site, it is not suitable to serve as a community park. It is recommended that Creekside Park be mainly used as a Pre-School site, and that the Pre-School operation be expanded if there is a market. Compatible special use activities could also occur at this site, such as children's arts programming.

Minor improvements are recommended for this site:

- Expand the Pre-School, including adding classrooms if necessary, if there is a market. A market feasibility study should be conducted before expansion occurs.
- Consider locating a fenced off-leash area on what is currently the ball field at Creekside Park. There appears to be a need for more off-leash space in Calabasas. Because the existing Bark Park is in western Calabasas, it is recommended a second site be established in eastern Calabasas to serve residents on that side of the community. Since off-leash areas tend to be

destinations, an off-leash area at Creekside Park would likely generate use even though the site has been challenging for other park uses. Off-leash areas tend to be most heavily used before and after work, which would concentrate use at times when the Pre-School is not in operation. If an off-leash area is established, it should be set up similar to Bark Park with fencing and low level lighting on timers.

- Consider adding children’s arts and cultural programming to this site during times when the Pre-School is not in session.

Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center

SU-13

The Tennis & Swim Center (TSC) is a former private club purchased by the City in 1994. The facility contains 16 tennis courts: 15 hard courts and 1 clay court. It also contains an 8-lane, 25-meter outdoor pool, three fitness rooms, an aerobics/dance room, two social/meeting rooms, and locker rooms. The TSC offers seasonal food service, a playground, and drop-in childcare.

The pool at the TSC is the only public pool in Calabasas. It is open year-round, and is heavily used, particularly in summer when the City’s camps are in session. The TSC is run as an enterprise fund, which means it pays for its own operational costs, including the pool, through the revenue it generates. The TSC can be visited on a drop-in basis, but tennis and health memberships are also available. The facility is so popular there is a cap on memberships, with a waiting list of more than 500. To help address the waiting list, the TSC created an “off-peak” membership option that offers a reduced membership rate for limitation on the hours of use. Memberships are open to non-residents, which has been a source of minor conflict. However, according to City officials, the facility was purchased using grant funds that do not permit limiting memberships to city residents only.

The TSC fronts on Calabasas Lake, a privately owned lake with a perimeter walking path. The surrounding homeowners associations have put fencing in place across the TSC frontage that limits access to the walking path for TSC patrons.

There are plans for improvements to the TSC, including a therapeutic/teaching pool, to be completed in Fall 2004. It is anticipated that TSC staff will continue to identify improvements and upgrades to the facility over the coming years. This plan does not attempt to identify all of the routine facility maintenance the TSC requires, or the equipment purchases or facility adjustments required to maintain TSC’s market share.

Minor improvements are recommended for this site, in addition to the previously mentioned planned improvements:

- Improve parking lot and landscaping areas.
- Seek to accommodate the waiting list demand for this site, either by expanding facilities here or providing them at other sites. One option for expanding tennis facilities off-site is to explore a use agreement with LVUSD for improvement and use of the tennis courts at Calabasas High School.
- Add more fitness and weight room space, if feasible given the site constraints.
- Consider adding an outdoor shower to the pool deck area.
- Add a running path around the site perimeter if an agreement cannot be reached with surrounding homeowners associations to allow use of the lake path by TSC members.

Wild Walnut Park

SU-14

Wild Walnut Park is a new park located on the west side of the intersection of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway. This park is part of a larger open space parcel owned by the City. A master plan for this park was completed concurrent with the Park and Recreation Master Plan. The community vision for Wild Walnut Park is depicted in the master plan, which calls for a more passive park featuring a looped nature trail, interpretive signage, and a picnic area, with connections to the regional trail system.

The first phase of the Wild Walnut Park master plan received grant funding in the summer of 2003, with construction completed in December 2003. Implementation of Phase II is expected by 2005 or 2006. Implementation of Phase III is partly dependent on cost and the development of the Mountains Restoration Trust interpretive center located across Mulholland Highway from Wild Walnut.

The recommendation for Wild Walnut Park is implementation of the master plan.

West Side Park Site

SU-15

A master plan for this as-yet unnamed park was begun during the Park and Recreation Master Plan effort. The site contains 1.8 acres at the intersection of Lost Hills Road and Las Virgenes

Road, separated from De Anza Park by the Las Virgenes Creek corridor.

Options for this site were being reviewed when the Park and Recreation Master Plan was prepared. It is recommended the master plan for the site be implemented once it is completed and adopted.

E. Recreation Facilities

Calabasas has four special use facilities: The Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center, the Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center, Bark Park, and Creekside Park. Based on the survey results and input received at the community meetings, there is interest in additional specialized recreation facilities to serve the community's needs.

Calabasas residents are highly educated and sophisticated in their recreational activities and needs. The City's four existing special use facilities: Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center, the Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center, Bark Park, and Creekside Park, reflect this sophistication. It is also not surprising that Calabasans have identified a need for additional specialized recreation facilities to serve the community.

Many of the specialized facilities identified during the planning process could be provided either in conjunction with other facilities, or as a stand-alone facility. Specific locations have been identified for some of the facilities. For others, site selection criteria are provided. The City has been successful at taking advantage of opportunities to acquire park land and facilities when they have arisen in the past. Due to land constraints in Calabasas, it is recommended the City continue on the same course, and be prepared to act on opportunities when they are presented.

Westside Pre-School

A westside Pre-School was one of the needs identified during the planning process. There is a waiting list at the Creekside Pre-School, and that location is not convenient for west side residents. The City has also discussed the need for convenient Pre-School facilities with some of the businesses located in Calabasas. A westside Pre-School could meet the needs of those who work in Calabasas, too.

No specific location has been identified for the westside Pre-School, and there is no suitable site already City-owned. It is not recommended that the City locate a Pre-School operation on any of its existing neighborhood or community parks.

The City should work with state licensing representatives to determine the requirements for a new facility, in terms of square footage and recreation space. The conditions placed on the Creekside facility are not necessarily applicable to a new facility at a different, more urban location.

As a general siting guideline, a westside Pre-School should be located on an arterial or collector street in a location with enough space to establish and operate a licensed Pre-School operation. The Pre-School could be located in an existing building, or in new construction. The City could seek a stand-alone facility, and may find space along Las Virgenes Road either north or south of Highway 101. However, any site in this corridor is likely to be expensive if the City plans to acquire it. A location that may be suitable is the former kindergarten building at A. E. Wright Middle School, if an agreement can be reached with LVUSD.

Another option may be to seek a cooperative venture with one of the local employers, where the employer provides or leases space to the Pre-School, which the City operates, potentially giving preference to employees. A third option to consider is keeping some of the space at the current City Hall for use as a Pre-School facility once City Hall offices move to the proposed Civic Center. This would only be workable if the existing City Hall space could be redesigned to comply with state regulations.

LVUSD has expressed interest in a collaborative venture. The City should continue to discuss the possibilities for collaboration.

Teen Center

A teen center was identified as a need by a broad spectrum of Calabasans. It is recommended a free-standing teen center be established in Calabasas. No suitable location for a teen center is available at any of Calabasas' existing park sites. If possible, the facility should be centrally located so youth from the two middle schools and the high school can conveniently access it. An eastside location is preferable to a westside location because two schools are located on the eastside, as well as the major commercial area. Frontage or convenient freeway access is not necessary, although the location should be convenient to both east and west Calabasas.

One ideal site for a teen center is a former driving range located on a hillside on the south side of Highway 101. According to the Community Development Department, a private developer has apparently been discussing development ideas for this vacant site, but if the development proposal does not go forward, the City

should explore the possibility of acquiring this site for a teen center. Another option for a teen center could be to develop the facility in a space at one of the local shopping centers. This may be cost prohibitive, however.

The most important thing to keep in mind when selecting a site is the “coolness” factor. For this reason, the Civic Center is not recommended as a location for the Teen Center. The teen council or an ad hoc teen center advisory group should be involved in the review of potential sites to ensure the selected site is attractive to teens. This group should also be asked to provide input on the facility design and programming, as well as to name the center.

As part of the development of a teen center, transportation should be considered. Particularly for middle school students who are not old enough to drive, transportation will be necessary between the schools and the center. This could be accomplished through use of the City’s existing trolley or shuttle services, or possibly through the use of LVUSD’s school bus service.

Excellent input on ideas for a teen center were put forth by middle school and high school students at the youth workshops in February 2003. Appendix D contains a more detailed summary of the youth workshops. In addition to being involved in siting the teen center, youth should be involved in the design of the facility and in naming it. Based on public input to date, the following facilities are suggested for inclusion in the Teen Center.

Facilities to Be Considered for the Teen Center:

- “Hangout” space. There should be separate spaces for younger and older teens
- Computer/Study room
- Game room (pool tables, air hockey, etc.)
- Classroom/Meeting room space
- Support facilities, including office space for staff, storage, rest rooms, etc.
- Vending or concessions, especially if the site is not near any restaurants or coffee shops
- Outdoor “hangout” space
- Outdoor basketball courts
- The skate park could be located at the teen center, if the site is suitable
- Parking and bicycle parking

Senior Center

The only senior facility currently provided in Calabasas is a senior lounge room at the Community Center. In general, the population in the United States is aging. Calabasas has a higher median age than the county or state, and several of the neighboring communities have a higher than typical percentage of seniors. Given these trends, it is likely the senior population in Calabasas will increase in the coming years. It is recommended that Calabasas provide a small senior center to meet the needs of the senior population.

A senior center could be incorporated into the planned civic complex, if space permits. The civic center would be a good senior center site because of its central location. In addition, there are efficiencies that can be realized by combining facilities. If space does not permit inclusion of a senior center in the civic center, it could be a stand-alone structure. A stand-alone senior center should also be centrally located, near an activity generator such as a commercial area. The list below includes the facilities that should be considered for a small Senior Center for the City of Calabasas

Facilities to Be Considered for a Senior Center:

- Two (2) classrooms/meeting rooms
- Lounge area
- Library area
- Fitness/exercise room
- Game room
- Support facilities, including reception area, office space for staff, storage, rest rooms, etc.
- Multi-purpose/dining room with kitchen facilities

Senior centers typically are busiest during the daytime hours. Senior center facilities, such as classrooms or a multi-purpose room could be used for other programming in the evenings, or when otherwise not used for senior activities.

Skate Park

In many communities, much attention is devoted to the need for a skate park. Based on input received from the community, from the youth, and from the Parks and Recreation Commission, it is recommended that the City develop a permanent in-ground skate park for its youth.

The City attempted a trial temporary skate facility at Gates Canyon Park. Although initial use of the facility was high, it dropped off after a few months. This was a novice skate facility and probably didn't offer enough challenges for those beyond

novice ability. Therefore, the lack of success should not necessarily be written off as a demonstration of the lack of interest in a skate park. The youth input and the general consensus of staff indicated that youth did not find the temporary site challenging. In addition, Gates Canyon Park is an out-of-way location for many youth, and is not convenient to either of the middle schools or the high school.

The skate park should be a permanent, in-ground facility designed with participation from local youth. In addition, the skate park location should be highly visible from surrounding streets for safety and security, and to attract youth. It should be near a center of activity. A skate park could be a stand-alone site, or it could be located as part of or adjacent to another facility, which would make visibility from streets important.

An excellent site for a skate park would be the small parcel adjacent to De Anza Park, at the intersection of Lost Hills Road and Calabasas Hills Road. Although the City does not currently have title to this site, City officials have indicated it was promised to be dedicated to Calabasas when the neighboring subdivision was established. If this information is correct, it may be possible for the City to acquire this parcel easily. Even if the development conditions did not reserve this parcel for public use, it may be possible for the City to purchase it. A skate park at this site would be highly visible, and take advantage of the facilities at De Anza Park (restrooms, vending, etc). Also, although the site is too small for most other uses, the flat area of the site is about the right size for a skate park. Finally, the site could offer the opportunity to build a unique in-ground facility that takes inspiration from the surrounding hilly topography, and perhaps even uses integrally colored concrete so the concrete blends into the local soil.

The proposed Teen Center would be another excellent location for a skate park, if the selected site were large enough to support a skate park as well.

School sites also offer potential sites for a skate park. Middle school sites or the high school would be most suitable, if an agreement could be reached with LVUSD.

Performing Arts Stage/Flexible Use Room with Stage

According the results of the community survey, there is a high degree of interest in cultural and performing arts in Calabasas, and in special events involving cultural and performing arts. A performing arts stage has previously been discussed as a possible element of the proposed Calabasas Civic Center. In addition, Calabasas High School is planning to construct a performing arts

center on its campus. Based on the results of the park and recreation master planning process, it is recommended that a performing arts stage or a flexible use room with a stage be included in the Civic Center, be constructed adjacent to it, or be provided in cooperation with Calabasas High School to meet community recreation needs. The City should review these alternatives further to determine which option would best meet its needs.

The benefit of a room designed for flexible use is that it could also be used for meetings, events, and rentals, in addition to meeting the need for cultural and performing arts space. A flexible space could also accommodate a variety of theater configurations, unlike a theater with fixed seating. A flexible use space could become a source of rental income, because there appears to be a need for private event space in Calabasas. Specialized folding theater seating is available and could be used in a flexible use room with a stage.

Cultural Arts Exhibit Space

Due to the high level of interest in cultural arts activities in Calabasas, cultural arts exhibit space should be provided at the new Civic Center or in another City-owned facility. This could be as simple as an exhibit area in the building lobby, or be as elaborate as a gallery.

Children's Play Environment

Calabasas provides standard playground equipment within its existing parks, and several of its parks have age-specific play equipment. While Calabasas provides higher quality playground equipment that generally meets ADA requirements, none of its playgrounds allow for interactive play for children of all abilities. Input received during the planning process identified a need for play equipment that can be used by children with disabilities. Public input also highlighted an interest in providing facilities for children, and an interest in providing educational opportunities about the local environment.

For these reasons, it is recommended that a special children's play environment be developed that contains a wide variety of play facilities accessible to children of all ages and abilities. This type of facility can serve as an educational resource, providing play and learning opportunities through direct contact with the natural world. A play environment of this type should be unique enough to warrant a drive across town to visit it, and large enough to hold a child's attention for several hours. It should also provide a

learning opportunity about local cultural history and the natural environment.

A small-scale play environment is being considered as an option for the undeveloped Lost Hills/Las Virgenes parcel. The scale of the Lost Hills/Las Virgenes site is such that it cannot support a larger play environment. If this proposal goes forward, the City should still consider providing a large play environment at another location. Gates Canyon Park or the proposed east side community park are two locations that could accommodate a facility of this type.

Community Gardens

There are currently no community garden plots in the City of Calabasas. Community input during the planning process suggested that there may be a need for community gardens in Calabasas. Community gardens require minimal infrastructure, just fencing, a water source, and ideally a small amount of storage space for tools. Residents then rent plots for a nominal annual fee and are responsible for planting and maintaining their own plots. Most community gardening programs include guidelines about pesticide use, etc.

The City should consider establishing a two to three year trial for community gardens. A community garden site with at least 10 to 15 plots should be developed and advertised to the public. If the initial garden site is a success, additional plots or sites can be added. If residents aren't interested, the community garden area can be re-established in turf at the end of the trial period.

Community gardens can be “messy” in appearance, because they are working garden sites. For this reason, prominent locations are not recommended. However, gardens need to be sited in locations with good exposure and access to water. Gates Canyon Park may be a good location, especially because of the Home Garden Learning Center already established there. With the exception of Gates Canyon, most of the existing City parks do not have sufficient space to support community gardens. Grape Arbor could potentially provide space, particularly if it can be expanded somewhat.

Sport Fields

There is a shortage of sport fields in Calabasas, and soccer fields in particular are needed. A few new fields have recently become available to the public at A.C. Stelle Middle School through Calabasas' use agreement with LVUSD, but additional fields are still needed to meet the City's needs. The challenge in attempting

to meet the sports field need in Calabasas is the lack of relatively level land, and the lack of larger parcels. In addition, the City has a number of scenic areas and overlay zones that are not conducive to night-time lighting, which can help provide more game time when the number of fields is limited.

Due to challenges that terrain and parcelization present in Calabasas, it is unlikely the City will be able to meet field needs in the short-term. The following recommendations address maintaining the existing sports field inventory and suggest ways of providing more fields where possible, but will not fully meet the City's sports field needs:

- Community Services should consider taking over the scheduling of all LVUSD fields within Calabasas city limits. If this occurs, specific policies on field use and priority will need to be adopted.
- Community Services should work with LVUSD and the baseball league to secure the fields at Lupin Hill Elementary School for continuing local baseball league use. These fields are currently used by the league and no changes are anticipated. However, if the local leagues lost their field time at Lupin Hill, this would have a major impact on recreation activities for Calabasas youth because these constitute the bulk of the baseball field inventory in Calabasas. For this reason, it is recommended the City be proactive in ensuring that these fields remain available for local public use.
- If space for fields becomes available, it is recommended that soccer and baseball fields be the top priorities. Although there are limited softball fields available in Calabasas, it appears local league needs are being satisfied at Hughes Adult School, which is outside of the City of Calabasas.
- If the site selected for the east side community park is large enough and contains enough relatively level acreage, additional fields could potentially be provided.
- If Gates Canyon Park can be expanded to the north, additional fields could be located there, because the area is generally level.
- When LVUSD constructs the planned new elementary school near the New Millennium (The Oaks) development, there may be an opportunity to provide additional sport fields, depending on the site selected. If space is available for fields, the City should discuss a partnership with LVUSD where the City pays for upgraded fields in exchange for public use.

- Other school sites may offer opportunities for partnerships where the City upgrades fields in exchange for public use.
- Although there is a need for fields and a high level of community interest in a sports complex, there is no topographically suitable location large enough for a field complex within the existing Calabasas limits. Long term, the Calabasas landfill offers the best opportunity for a large park and sports complex. However, the landfill is not scheduled for closure for many years and might not be usable for recreation purposes for years after that. Despite the drawbacks of the landfill site, it is a large site convenient to Calabasas and that has the potential to be developed into an attractive recreational facility that could include sport fields. It is recommended that the City continue to monitor the status of the landfill and seek to be involved with decisions regarding the future use of the site.

For planning purposes, the City should budget \$50,000 to upgrade an existing school field; \$175,000 to provide a new baseball field including foul line fencing; and \$125,000 to provide a new soccer field (in 2004 dollars).

F. Aquatic Facilities

The hot summers in Calabasas make swimming a popular activity. The only public pool in Calabasas is at the Tennis & Swim Center. There is a pool at Calabasas High School, but it is currently not available for public use. A number of private homeowners associations in Calabasas have pools, but these are typically small pools similar to what one might find in a private yard.

TSC Pool

The TSC pool is an 8-lane, 25-yard outdoor pool. It is heavily used by TSC members and drop-ins, and is the site of the City's popular swim instruction and swim team programs. Aquatic exercise also occurs in the pool. In addition, the TSC pool is used by the City's day camps in the summer time, which adds to the volume. The swim lessons program is extremely popular, and generates quite a bit of revenue. Since the TSC is an enterprise fund, revenues generated from the facility completely cover the cost of operations, including the cost of operating the pool.

The TSC is adding a therapeutic/teaching pool in the fall of 2004 to complement the existing 25-yard pool, and is planning to add a water playground on the pool deck area in the future. No additional changes are proposed to the TSC pool.

Calabasas High School Pool

The City should consider discussing the possibility of a joint use agreement for the pool at Calabasas High School with LVUSD. A use agreement should also include the use of locker rooms. The high school pool could help alleviate crowding at the TSC pool, and would be particularly useful when the City's popular day camps are in session, but school is not.

Potential New Aquatic Facilities

New aquatic facilities should be considered in western Calabasas. This could be a standard 25-yard pool, a leisure pool with a zero depth entry, a medium- to large-sized water playground, or a combination of aquatic facilities. Land availability, the availability of funding for this type of capital project, and operations funding should be major factors in the decision of whether to add new aquatic facilities and which type to add. A detailed cost/revenue study should be completed prior to providing additional aquatic facilities to ensure that the City is able to support the ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

If a second pool is desired, it should have more of a focus on leisure and recreational swimming than the TSC pool, but with some lap swimming times and aquatic exercise classes offered. Swim lessons should also be offered at a second pool and, depending on the projected demand for lessons, a small teaching pool may be warranted. The day camps would go to this site for swimming, not to the TSC. If a second pool is constructed, it should include small locker room facilities, a refreshment stand, and plenty of shade on the deck area. A reservable area for birthday parties and private parties should also be included on the pool deck. The cost/revenue study may also identify other facilities that could generate revenue to offset operating costs.

A large water playground, either a stand-alone facility or located adjacent to a pool would provide additional aquatics options for Calabasas residents. This type of facility is very popular with children and provides more of a play environment than a traditional pool. Leisure pools have also become very popular in recent years and provide a different type of aquatics experience than a traditional 6-lane pool. These tend to be costly, but revenues can be higher than for a traditional pool.

The ideal site for new aquatics facilities is Gates Canyon Park. The concept for community parks in Calabasas is to provide at least one unique facility at each of the community parks. Gates Canyon is underdeveloped, has adequate space for a pool, and has the capacity for adequate parking as well as opportunities for on-street parking. However, there are a number of competing

priorities for this site and there may not be sufficient space to accommodate them. It may not be feasible to locate a pool at Gates Canyon due to land constraints or results of a cost/revenue study.

De Anza Park is another potential location for new aquatics facilities. Although De Anza would be a convenient location for use by day camps and the group picnic area, there are serious parking issues at this site. De Anza is the most developed City park and has the most special facilities (including a picnic area that can accommodate up to 240), but its parking lot can only accommodate about 40 cars. The addition of another special facility such as a pool that attracts even more use to the site should only be considered if the parking issue can be addressed or if some of the existing special facilities can be relocated to a different community park site to reduce demand.

G. Natural Open Space

Natural Open Space Areas/Greenways are defined as undeveloped lands primarily left in their natural environment with recreation uses as a secondary objective. These are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes habitat corridors, wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar spaces. Environmentally sensitive areas can be acquired for open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.

The City of Calabasas owns approximately 287.6 acres of open space. Open space sites include:

- * Micor properties – 33.4 Acres
- * De Anza Open Space – 180.7 Acres
- * Wild Walnut Open Space – 25 Acres
- * Civic Center Open Space – 20 Acres
- * Dorothy Road properties – 23.5 Acres
- * Dry Canyon Cold Creek Open Space – 5 Acres

In addition to the open space acreage owned by Calabasas, there are hundreds of acres of open space within city limits owned by other agencies or non-profits. There are also many large open space areas near the City, such as Malibu Creek State Park and the many open spaces affiliated with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Calabasas has developed very successful partnerships with groups, such as the Mountains Restoration Trust and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which has resulted in the protection of additional open space not necessarily owned by the City. A number of the homeowners

associations (HOA's) in Calabasas also own open space areas established when the subdivisions were platted. These areas are typically maintained as part of the HOA's maintenance district, which is paid for by the homeowners.

According to the input received during the planning process, citizens in Calabasas place a high value on open space and a very high percentage think the City should be aggressive in acquiring additional open space. Calabasas residents also value natural area trails. As a minimum standard for open space protection, it is recommended the city maintain a similar ratio of open space land inventory to what it has now, which is about 15 acres per 1,000 population. This includes City-owned open space only and does not include open space owned by non-profits, HOA's, and other agencies. To maintain the current standard of open space protection as the City's population grows, it is projected that at least 123 additional acres of open space will be needed by the year 2020. This should be considered a minimum, given the overwhelming interest among community members in open space protection.

Open Space Responsibility

Currently, no single department at the City of Calabasas is assigned responsibility for open space and natural areas. The open space identified above was acquired by the City in recent years, and with the high level of interest among citizens and elected officials, a continued commitment to open space protection is likely. In addition, the City is responsible for the maintenance of open space areas owned by HOAs through its management of the maintenance districts and their associated landscape maintenance contracts.

A Natural Resources Manager position needs to be established, with responsibility for the City's open space areas and natural area trails. In the course of preparing the Park and Recreation Master Plan, it became apparent there was a need for this role, because it was difficult even to get information about the open space in the City's inventory.

For a city the size of Calabasas, establishing a separate Natural Resources (or Open Space) Department doesn't seem necessary. However, because open space is a specialized area, a separate Natural Resources Division should be established within another department. At first, this division may only consist of one person. If needed, additional positions can be added in the future. The most logical place for the Open Space Division in Calabasas would be either within the Community Development Department or within the Community Services Department.

Within the Community Services Department, a Natural Resources Division would be established with the Natural Resources Manager responsible to the Community Services Director. Within the Community Development Department, a Natural Resources Division would be established with the Natural Resources Manager responsible to the Community Development Director.

The responsibilities of the Natural Resources Manager would include overseeing the management of all natural open space areas; seeking grant funding for trails; habitat improvements and land acquisition; and coordinating with local non-profits, among others. The Natural Resources Manager would need to coordinate closely with both the Planning Division and the Community Services Department, as well as some coordination with other departments such as Parks Maintenance.

Creating a division within Community Services has a number of advantages. First, it would ensure there is a high level of communication between the open space and parks staff. It would also set up a framework for better coordination of park facilities, such as trailheads, and the natural open space trails system. This option would also facilitate the development of programming on natural resources, such as naturalist-led hikes. Finally, responsibility for all parks and natural open space areas would fall to one department, allowing for better tracking of costs.

Creating a division within Community Development also has advantages. There would be a high level of communication between planning and open space staff, facilitating planning for the open space network, land acquisition and trail development. There would also be opportunities for coordination on grant applications for open space projects, which has been handled by the Planning Division in the past.

Another alternative is to consider using a contracted employee to provide Natural Resources Management services. Rather than taking on a new employee, the City could use contracted services at least initially. After an initial trial period, the City could evaluate the workload and make a determination whether it is more cost-effective to continue with contracted services or to bring the position in-house.

Open Space Management

In an urban environment, natural open space requires a certain amount of maintenance and care. Such issues as fire prevention, safety, control of invasive vegetation, tree removal, native vegetation replacement, and wildlife management are just a few of the areas to address. As previously discussed, a person with a

background in natural resources management is needed to oversee the City's natural resources, including establishing management policies and guidelines.

Initial recommendations on open space are identified below. It is expected these will be modified or changed once a Natural Resources Manager is hired.

- The following criteria are proposed for prioritizing open space acquisition to expand the open space network in the City of Calabasas:
 - *Continuous wildlife habitat:* Urban development typically separates habitat areas and creates barriers that prevent wildlife from migrating between areas. Providing continuous habitat corridors improves wildlife habitat and reduces conflicts between wildlife and development.
 - *Connecting existing open space:* One of the goals is to form an interconnected network of open space, and obtaining connecting open space parcels is a key to this concept.
 - *Protection of viewsheds:* The Santa Monica Mountains region is very scenic, and people place a high value on the viewsheds. The open space network can help protect key viewsheds.
 - *Interpretation/education:* Open space sites can offer opportunities to provide interpretation or education about the local environment.
 - *Trail corridors:* Trail corridors developed concurrently with the City's open space network can provide safe and enjoyable routes for off-street trails, identified as important by community members.

- Natural open space areas should be primarily used for natural resource protection. Where appropriate, passive and trail-related activities can be provided.

- Management plans should be established for each open space area. This may require coordination with partner groups, such as the Mountains Restoration Trust and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

- Some open space areas may be able to support development of trails, viewpoints, interpretive sites, etc. In such cases, policies on the type and scope of improvements should be adopted to ensure appropriate development and mitigate negative impacts. The following policies are proposed:
 - Encourage passive recreation use compatible with the preservation of the natural areas. Where feasible, public access and use of these areas via trails should be

permitted, but sensitive areas should be protected from degradation and overuse.

- Improvements should be kept to a minimum, with the natural environment, interpretive, and educational features emphasized. Such improvements should generally be limited to pathways, seating, informational/directional signs, and viewing areas. Some sites may permit more intensive development.
- Erosion control should be a priority in design of facilities in natural open space areas.
- Preserve, protect, and enhance the diversity of plant communities and wildlife habitat potential.
- Remove non-native species and re-introduce native indigenous species in developed areas, where possible. Take steps to eliminate the potential for non-native invasions.

Trails in Natural Areas

During the planning process, community members identified additional trails as one of the top recreation needs in Calabasas. In addition, trail-related activities accounted for six of the top ten preferred recreation activities. Unpaved hiking and walking trails were the most favored type of trail, with trails in natural areas and long distance (5+ mile) trails being the most desired trail functions. Based on this input, there appears to be a strong desire from community members for recreational trails through the City's many open space areas.

During preparation of the Park and Recreation Master Plan, Calabasas was in the process of preparing a trails master plan. The trails plan will provide guidelines for trail development, maintenance, and management. The Park and Recreation Master Plan does not address trail recommendations, but rather makes reference to the Trails Plan and its recommendations.

However, accessibility and public awareness of trails are important from a recreation perspective. The recommendations below focus on increasing opportunities for access to natural area trails:

- *Trailheads:* Calabasas does not currently have any trailheads. Access to trails is possible from some of the City's existing parks, but there are limited trail maps or markers provided at these parks. The development of Wild Walnut Park will provide a trailhead, and will eventually provide a connection

to the Henry Ridge and Summit-to-Summit Trails. Additional trailhead facilities are needed to make it easy and convenient for residents to make use of the local trail and open space network. In particular, access is needed to the Ahmanson Ranch property. Trailheads could be developed through cooperative ventures with other agencies.

- *Connections between path systems in developed parks and trails in natural open space areas:* Linkages between the paved path systems in developed parks and the trails in natural open space areas should be strengthened. Many of Calabasas' park areas are adjacent to open space areas with trails, and some natural area trails begin in a developed park, such as at De Anza. These connections need to be strengthened to improve access to the natural area trails. A connection is needed between Gates Canyon Park and the Ahmanson Ranch property, which will become a significant nature preserve.
- *Trail maps and signage:* The City should consider printing a map of the local trails to increase public awareness of the trail opportunities in Calabasas. Trail signs, including kiosks with trail maps, are also needed so people are aware of trail entrances and routes.

H. Recreation Programs

The City of Calabasas offers an extensive variety of recreation programming and special events, and there is a relatively high rate of participation among residents in programs. Of all park and recreation services, recreation programs provide the most benefit for the money spent because they reach many participants and generate revenue from the service provided. In most communities a good recreation program may only operate at a 25-50% deficit rate, whereas park services (maintaining and providing facilities) most often have a 97% deficit rate. Revenues account for 55% of the total Community Services operating budget, which is a good rate of return. As previously mentioned, the Tennis & Swim Center is operated as an enterprise fund and revenues cover 100% of the expenses.

City staff has developed a successful means for developing programming that is popular with the public and a very effective parks brochure to publicize the available programs. More than half of survey respondents found out about recreation programs through the Quarterly Parks Brochure. This is very high compared to other communities, where typically about 25% to 30% find out about programs through the brochure.

Generally, Community Services staff should continue on the same course in developing and publicizing programming because their methods have been very effective. Community Services staff should aggressively search for new and interesting programs that will continue to attract wide use.

Below are several suggestions for increased or new program areas derived from input received during the planning process.

- Community Services staff should look for opportunities to increase and expand the already extensive special events and cultural arts offerings because of the high level of interest indicated in the survey.
- There appears to be a very high level of interest in trail-related activities, since six of the top ten preferred recreation activities in the community survey were trail-related. Community Services staff should explore the possibility of partnering with other organizations to offer more nature walk, hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, and other trail-related programming.
- There appears to be demand for additional fitness programming, if facilities can be found to accommodate the need.
- There appears to be interest in additional programming in the following three areas:
 - Yoga
 - Horseback riding
 - Golf (both playing and driving range)
- Community Services should continue to track costs and participation levels to assist in program evaluation.
- *Staffing Needs:* New facilities will increase staffing needs. If a Senior Center is established, at least a part-time Senior Center Coordinator will be needed. A Teen Center will require staffing during the hours of operation. Also at that time, a specific Teen Coordinator position may be warranted, depending on the workload of the Special Events Coordinator, who currently coordinates the Teen Activities Council and teen events.
- *Cultural Arts Staff:* Currently, several major cultural arts events are put on in Calabasas. The current cultural art activities are highly valued by residents, based on the results of the survey. Also, the Arts Festival generates revenue.

I. Management and Operations

However, there is no staff devoted specifically to cultural arts activities. There is a need for at least part-time staff to provide assistance to the Arts Council and help put on the highly successful Arts Festival. The City is relying on volunteers to accomplish these popular activities, and the volunteers will eventually get burned out from the level of work if no assistance is provided.

- *Art in Parks and Public Places:* As discussed above, Calabasas citizens value cultural arts. Calabasas has developed some very attractive medians, streetscapes, and beautification areas in the City. Interest has been expressed in expanding the City's efforts in beautification to include more art in public places. This would include not only parks, but also public rights-of-way and other visible locations.

Community services staff is currently working with the Planning department to revamp the Art in Public Places program, and reinstate the Art in Public Places Advisory Committee to oversee the program.

- *Landscape Maintenance Division:* The Parks Maintenance portion of the Landscape Maintenance Division budget should be returned to the Community Services Department budget. Combining parks maintenance with recreation services under one department would allow for more streamlined funding allocations and better cost of service accounting.
- *Cost Recovery Goals:* The City of Calabasas has a good cost recovery rate on its park and recreation services (about 55%); despite the lack of a formal cost recovery policy. There is a general awareness of cost recovery. For example, it has been a goal that the Creekside Pre-School operation recover 100% of its costs, and the Tennis & Swim Center must recover 100% of its operating costs as an enterprise fund.

It is recommended that annually evaluated cost recovery goals be set as a department policy. It is important to note that a cost recovery goal for a program area means that overall, the program area should hit the targeted cost recovery level. However, within that program area, certain programs could have higher or lower subsidies.

- *Tracking Costs:* Community Services currently tracks costs for various program areas. Costs that should be attributed to each program area include direct costs (supplies, etc.), program staff costs, fees for contractors who provide the programs, room rentals and facility/field maintenance.

To better track the actual cost of providing recreation services, Community Services should consider assigning a share of the costs of administration, finance, and other general costs to each program area, depending on its size.

- *Transportation:* The Calabasas trolley currently stops at park sites and other major destinations. Community Services should work with the trolley/shuttle organizer to coordinate the transit service with activities at the park and recreation facilities. This will be particularly important when a Teen and/or Senior Center is established, to ensure that participants have transportation from school/home to the center.
- *Web Site:* When the Community Survey was conducted in Spring 2003, the City's website was infrequently used as a means for finding out about recreation programs. There is significant potential for expansion of use of the City website. Within the past year, Calabasas has instituted on-line registration as an option for program registration, which may result in an increase in website use. Recreation staff should explore ways of publicizing the website as another means of informing the public about available recreation options. The website especially may offer an opportunity for targeted outreach to teens, who have indicated they don't find out about programs through the Recreation Brochure or through the flyers passed out in school.

J. Maintenance

People in Calabasas seem to be very satisfied with the level of maintenance in the community's parks. Overall, the maintenance procedures currently in place seem to be effective.

- *Contracted Maintenance Services:* Contractors should continue to do the mowing and general grounds-keeping in the parks. This has been a cost-effective means of accomplishing the general grounds-keeping in Calabasas parks. The proposed new parks and facilities will not warrant bringing the maintenance function or the associated cost of equipment in-house.
- *Increase Staffing:* The existing part-time maintenance assistant position should be made into a permanent full-time position, because there is a need for at least two full-time staff to meet the current workload. In addition, the workload should be evaluated to determine if there is a need for seasonal maintenance staff during the busy summer months to keep up with trash removal and cleaning tasks.

- *Evaluation of Maintenance Needs:* When Gates Canyon Park is upgraded with new facilities, maintenance staffing needs should be evaluated because there may be a need for additional staff, whether full-time, part-time, or seasonal. Each time additional parks and recreation facilities are brought on line, maintenance staffing should be considered.
- *Pool Maintenance:* If additional aquatic facilities are added, pool maintenance will need to be considered. This can be done by the parks maintenance staff, or by contract services.
- *Organization of Maintenance Staff:* Currently, most of the parks are concentrated on the west side, which means Community Services maintenance staff spends the bulk of their time on the west side. This is very efficient, because unproductive travel time is limited. When the east side community park is brought on line, the Community Services Director should evaluate whether maintenance staff should be organized into geographic areas (i.e., responsible for certain parks).
- *Future Budget Allocations:* As new facilities are brought on line, additional maintenance dollars will need to be budgeted to maintain the new parks and facilities. The costs will be reflected in terms of additional staff, supplies, and new maintenance equipment. In addition, the maintenance of specialized facilities can be expensive. Since Calabasas has plans for several specialized facilities, maintenance costs should be considered in the initial design and construction.
- *Storage:* Adequate storage facilities for maintenance should be incorporated into the design of new parks and facilities. Coordination with maintenance staff should occur to ensure that storage needs are addressed.

K. Park Planning and Development Guidelines

The following recommendations are intended to help guide the planning, design and use of existing and future park sites in the City. These guidelines follow the basic concepts for the park system as described in Section 7C.

Mini- Parks

Definition:

Mini-parks, tot lots and children's playgrounds are small single-purpose play lots designed primarily for small children's usage. Facilities are usually limited to a small open grass area, a children's playground and a picnic site.

General Development and Use Guidelines:

- Mini-parks should only be added to the City's park inventory if they meet the following policies:

- The site should be in an area not already served by a park.
- The site should be accessible to the general public and have frontage on a public street. It should not be located within a gated or otherwise limited access neighborhood.
- Appropriate facilities include:
 - Children's playground
 - Open grass play area
 - Picnic sites
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
- Public sites should be visible from adjoining streets and have at least 100-150 feet of street frontage.

Neighborhood Parks

Definition:

Neighborhood parks are a combination playground and park designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size and serve an area of approximately one-half mile radius. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts and multi-use sport fields for soccer, and youth baseball.

General Development and Use Guidelines:

- Due to constraints on land availability, it is unlikely that many new neighborhood parks can be developed, other three recommended elementary school sites. Neighborhood parks should be no smaller than about 3 acres, with the optimum size being 5 acres. For dedicated neighborhood park facilities located on school sites (such as New Millennium Elementary School), optimum park size may be reduced to as little as 0.5-acre for dedicated public park facilities, depending on land availability and the facilities provided.
- The site should be central to the neighborhood it is intended to serve. If possible, walking/bicycling distance should not exceed one-half mile for the area it serves. Access should minimize physical barriers, and crossing of major arterials.
- The site should be visible from adjoining streets. Access to the site should be via a local residential street. The park should have at least 200 feet of frontage along the street. If located on a busy street, buffers and/or barriers necessary to reduce vehicular hazards should be incorporated.
- At least 50% of the site should be flat and usable, and provide space for both active and passive uses.

- Appropriate facilities include:
 - Unstructured open play areas
 - Children's playground (tot and youth)
 - Picnic areas
 - Shelter building (small)
 - Trails and/or pathways
 - Natural open space
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
 - Basketball court

- Parking: For stand-alone neighborhood parks, a minimum of three spaces/acre of usable active park area should be required. If on-street parking is available, this standard can be reduced by one car for every 25 feet of available street frontage. Design should encourage access by foot or bicycle.

- Active and noise producing facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts, should be located away from homes.

- Permanent restrooms are generally not appropriate for neighborhood parks, except in special circumstances. Portable restrooms may be appropriate for seasonal use.

Community Parks

Definition:

A community park is planned primarily to provide active and structured recreation opportunities. Community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are encouraged. Community parks serve a larger area and offer more facilities, but require support facilities, such as parking, restrooms, and covered play areas. Community parks usually have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Their service area is roughly a one-two-mile radius.

General Development and Use Guidelines:

- While 10 to 20 acres is the optimum size for a community park, Calabasas community parks may have only 6 to 8 acres due to the land constraints. Two-thirds of the site should be available for active recreation and adequate buffers of natural open space should separate active use areas from homes.

- If possible, walking or bicycling distance should not exceed one mile for the area it serves.

- The site should be highly visible from adjoining streets.

- Access to the site should be via a collector or arterial street.

- Appropriate facilities include:
 - Special recreation facilities
 - Tennis courts
 - Sand or grass volleyball courts
 - Open multi-use grass area
 - Children's playground (tot and youth)
 - Restrooms
 - Picnic areas
 - Trails and pathway
 - Outdoor basketball courts
 - Site amenities (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.)
 - Designated sport fields - softball, baseball, soccer, etc.
- Parking requirements depend on facilities. Generally, provide 5 spaces/acre of active use area and 50 spaces/ball field.
- Permanent restrooms are appropriate for this type of park but should be located in visible areas and near public streets.

Special Use Areas

Definition:

Special use areas are miscellaneous public recreation areas or land occupied by a specialized facility. Some of the uses falling into this classification include single purpose sites used for field sports or other activities and sites occupied by recreation buildings.

General Development and Use Guidelines:

- Prior to the addition of any special use area, the City should prepare a detailed feasibility and cost/benefit analysis for each proposed site considered.
- Size and location of facility will depend on the function of the facility being considered.
- Design criteria will depend upon the facilities and activities proposed.
- Parking requirements: Depends on the activities offered.

Open Space

Definition:

Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural environment with recreation uses 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.

General Development and Use Guidelines:

- When open space is acquired, a determination should be made on the level of recreation use permitted. In some cases, public access may not be desired due to environmental sensitivity or other concerns. Other open space areas may be appropriate for trails, viewpoints, or interpretive activities.
- Where feasible, public access and use of these areas should be encouraged through trails and other features, with environmentally sensitive areas 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.

Pathways and Trails

Definition:

Trails and pathways are designed to provide walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized recreational opportunities. By providing linkages to other areas and facilities, they can provide non-vehicular options for travel throughout the community. Trails can be designed for a single use or for multiple types of users. The trails and pathways emphasized here are those that are recreational and multiple use in nature. Bike routes with more emphasis on transportation are not included in this definition.

Trails may be either unsurfaced or treated with a variety of hard surfacing materials including concrete, asphalt or granite chips. Unsurfaced trails may be left in their natural condition or supplemented with decomposed granite, gravel, bark chips, sand or other material. Surfacing will depend on the soil type, slopes, type of use and amount of use.

General Development and Use Guidelines:

- Developers should be encouraged to provide pathways within their developments to link with the City's overall trail system.
- The primary purpose of recreation trails is to provide a recreation experience. Transportation to other parts of the community should be a secondary objective.
- Whenever possible, recreation pathways and trails should be separated from the roadway.
- Multi-use trails are the preferred to provide opportunities for a broad range of uses for walkers, hikers, runners, equestrian users and bikers. Trails should be multi-use except where environmental or other constraints preclude this goal.
- Recreation trails should be interesting to the user and maximize the number and diversity of enjoyable viewing opportunities.
- Trails should be looped and interconnected to provide a variety of trail lengths and destinations. They should link various parts of the community, as well as existing park sites.
- Where routes use streets, the pathway should be designed to minimize conflicts between motorists and trail users. If possible, crossings should occur at signalized intersections.
- Trails should be planned, sized, and designed for multiple uses.
- Trails should be lighted and with open landscaping where personal security is of concern.



Photo of a Play Area at De Anza Park



CITY of CALABASAS

Section 8

IMPLEMENTATION

-
- *Capital Facilities Plan*
 - *Funding Sources*
 - *Implementation Strategy*
 - *Project Priorities*

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report identifies implementation strategies for funding park and facility improvements.

A. Capital Facilities Plan

Table 8.1 contains a capital projects list including for all projects identified in Section 7.

**Table 8-1
Capital Projects List
Park and Recreation Master Plan**

Site #	Park Name	Cost
PARK REHABILITATION AND UPGRADES		
MP-1	Freedom Park	\$14,000
MP-2	Highlands Park	\$23,000
NP-3	Grape Arbor Park	\$575,000
CP-7	Juan Bautista de Anza Park	\$280,000
CP-8	Gates Canyon Park	\$8,700,000
SU-11	Bark Park	\$25,000
SU-12	Creekside Park	\$250,000
SU-14	Wild Walnut Park	\$2,750,000
	Subtotal	\$12,617,000
NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT		
NP-4	Bay Laurel Elementary School Park	\$400,000
NP-5	Chaparral Elementary School Park	\$400,000
NP-6	The Oaks/Millennium School Park	\$400,000
CP-9	East Side Community Park (acquisition & dev.)	\$9,200,000
SU-15	West Side Park Site	\$1,000,000
	Subtotal	\$11,400,000
NEW FACILITIES		
N/A	Teen Center (10,000 s.f.) ¹	\$2,500,000
N/A	Senior Center (5,000) ²	\$1,250,000
N/A	In-Ground Skate Park ³	\$625,000
N/A	Performing Arts Stage/Flexible Use Space ⁴	\$2,000,000
	Subtotal	\$6,375,000
OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION		
OS	Acquire 123 acres of open space ⁵	\$30,750,000
	Subtotal	\$30,750,000

¹ Does not include land acquisition.

² Assumes the senior center is part of the Civic Center, and shares some facilities, such as rest rooms.

³ Cost includes skate facility only, and does not include land acquisition or support facilities such as restrooms.

⁴ Assumes this facility is part of the Civic Center. Does not include land acquisition costs or costs for a free-standing facility.

⁵ Assumes acquisition cost of \$250,000 per acre.

Table 8.1 does not include costs for improvements to the TSC, because the facility is run as an enterprise fund and as such, funds its own capital improvements. Nor does it include costs for improvements to the Community Center, because this facility is also intended to pay for itself.

In the case of Gates Canyon Park, costs are based on no additional land acquisition and inclusion of a pool, small tennis center, large children's play environment, paved court area and two additional picnic areas. The site master plan for this park may recommend different facilities and will result in a more detailed cost projection. The purpose of Table 8.1 is to provide an order-of-magnitude cost projection for long-range budgeting.

The cost of the East Side Community Park is based on 8 acres of land acquired at \$700,000 per acre and park development costs of \$450,000 per acre. Land prices could vary greatly and park development costs may also vary depending on the site and the facilities included in the park's design. Again, the purpose of Table 8.1 is to provide an order of magnitude tool for long-range planning and budgeting.

For improvements at elementary schools, \$400,000 per school was allotted. This amount may be more than needed currently at the sites, but the City could potentially make this level of investment in the school sites (through improvements or maintenance) over time as part of a use agreement.

B. Potential Funding Sources

The following are possible funding sources for developing, upgrading and maintaining parks and other recreational facilities in Calabasas.

General Fund: This is the City's primary source for operating funds. The three major sources of General Fund revenue are sales tax; the utility users tax, a tax charged on telephone, electricity, and gas utility services; and property taxes levied on property within city limits. During fiscal year 2002-03, park and recreation services received approximately \$924,000 in General Funds. In a typical year, the General Fund represents about 45 - 50% of the cost of providing park and recreation services. This figure does not include the Tennis & Swim Center, which is a separate service area.

Capital Improvement Plan: The City maintains a Capital Improvement Fund and Budget. While the 2002-2004 plan is a two-year plan, the City is changing to a five-year capital improvement plan to allow for better long range planning. A variety of park improvements are included within the current plan. This includes \$852,000 in park development and improvement projects, \$350,000 in trail development projects, and \$421,000 in improvements at the Tennis & Swim Center. While General Funds pay for a variety of capital improvements,

the City has been very successful at obtaining funds from grants and other sources to help pay for capital projects.

General Obligation Bond: These are voter-approved bonds paid through an assessment placed on real property. The money can only be used for capital improvements, not maintenance or operations. 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.

Community Development Block Grants: Grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are available for a wide variety of projects. These funds have requirements that generally limit projects to lower income areas of the community.

Park Impact Fees: These are fees imposed on new development to pay for the impact on the City's park system. They can only be used for park land acquisition and/or development.

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 Kiwanis and Rotary often fund small projects, such as playground improvements. The City has been effective at obtaining donations. For example, the Cheesecake Factory recently donated new playground equipment for Grape Arbor Park, and the City has received donations of picnic tables and trash containers.

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.

Partnerships: The City of Calabasas has been very successful at using partnerships to leverage its recreation resources. For open space and trail projects, the City has developed strong relationships with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Restoration Trust. The City has also developed partnerships with the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, typically obtaining the use of land or facilities from these agencies.

Joint Public/Private Partnership: This concept is relatively new to

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 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.

Private Grants and Foundations: Private 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. Private foundations typically have specific interest areas they fund, and grant proposals need to fall within those interest areas. Private grants and foundations often fund unique projects or ones of extreme need.

TEA-21 and Reauthorization: Through the years, California has received considerable revenue for trail related projects. Originally called the *Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)*, this federal transportation funding source also funded a wide variety of transportation related projects, including regional trail systems. In 1998 this program was modified and renamed TEA-21 (The Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century). The money can be used for both maintenance and capital construction. In 2004, TEA-21 was reauthorized and called SAFE-TEA.

Land and Water Conservation Funds: This grant program is funded by the National Park Service and administered by California State Parks. About \$14 million is distributed to state and local agencies for land acquisition and park development. The grant requires a 50% match.

State Bicycle Funds: This is revenue from state gas taxes distributed to each City for the development of bicycle lanes. This would be an appropriate funding source for developing bicycle lanes or paths.

Statewide Park Bond (Proposition 40): In recent years, California passed two state-wide bond measures for funding parks and open space. The most recent one, Proposition 40, allocated about \$220,000 to the City of Calabasas. 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 Grant and Bond Funds: Calabasas has been very

effective at capitalizing on state grant and bond fund opportunities. There are several grant programs, such as Murray Hayden, which Calabasas may be able to take advantage of.

Landscape 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. This act requires 50% voter approval.

Enterprise Fund: The Tennis & Swim Center (TSC) is an enterprise fund, in which the revenues it generates completely recover the costs of operations. This is an unusual arrangement for a park and recreation service, and is more typically seen for municipal water or sewer service. The TSC enterprise fund has been very effective for the City of Calabasas, because the TSC is completely self-supporting and does not use General Funds. However, it is important to note that many other park and recreation services or facilities, such as a Teen Center, could not recover enough revenue to be run as an enterprise fund.

C. Implementation Strategy

Calabasas has been wise in its financial policies, and has built high quality facilities without ever seeking new tax measures. The City has taken advantage of opportunities to acquire additional parks and expand recreation services when they have arisen. The City has also been effective at identifying and successfully pursuing grants to assist in funding projects. As an example, the first phase of Wild Walnut Park was constructed last year with grant funding, and the City was awarded an \$8.2 million grant to help pay for a new library at its proposed Civic Center.

Community Services has been effective at obtaining donations, ranging from the recent donation of new play equipment by The Cheesecake Factory to smaller donations, such as picnic tables.

It is recommended the City continue on the same path as currently, to implement the recommended improvements. This means using general fund monies, aggressively seeking grants, seeking partnerships and donations, and capitalizing on opportunities when they arise.

It is also recommended the City set up a 501(c)(3) Parks Foundation. The purpose of this foundation would be to

provide an opportunity for citizens to make tax-free donations. Since many of the proposed facilities are the type that would attract donations (such as a skate park or teen center), it would be good to establish this Foundation as soon as possible.

D. Project Priorities

The priorities listed below are based on community input, as well as the results of the needs assessment. This list will be revised continually.

- Implement school parks at Bay Laurel and Chaparral Elementary. This is a top priority due to the lack of facilities in this area of Calabasas. Implementation of the New Millennium school park is a priority if public access issues can be addressed, and should occur when the school is built.
- Begin seeking locations for the East Side Community Park, and secure property when a suitable site becomes available, and assure funds will be available when an opportunity arises. It is unpredictable when an appropriate site might become available. It could happen immediately, or it could take years.
- Explore the potential for acquiring additional land to the north of Gates Canyon Park.
- Continue to look for open space acquisition opportunities and act upon them when they meet City objectives.
- Determine whether a performing arts center/flexible use space and a Senior Center will be part of the Civic Center.
- Establish a second off-leash area and community gardens within three years. These are fairly low-cost improvements and will expand the services available to the community.
- Identify a Teen Center site and a skate park site. Establish a youth committee to participate in the design and possibly site selection. Implement facilities as soon as funds are available.
- Proceed with development of Gates Canyon Park when funds permit. A decision on whether aquatic facilities will be included should be made as part of the design/ planning.
- Implement Phase II of Wild Walnut Park, and build the West Side Park as per master plan when funds become available.
- Implement improvements to parks as funds and time permit.



Photo of Highlands Park

APPENDIX A: Community Profile

Findings and Conclusions

Listed below is a summary of the findings and conclusions of the community profile analysis.

Regional Context

The City of Calabasas is known as the gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains. It is located in Los Angeles County roughly 10 miles from the Ventura County line. Although Calabasas is mainly a residential community, it has more of a business and commercial base than many other nearby cities. Highway 101 provides access to the greater Los Angeles area. There is a large amount of publicly owned land in and around the City of Calabasas because of the scenic location.

Planning Area

The planning area for the project is the City limits, about 12.9 square miles in size.

Natural Features

The Santa Monica Mountains are the key natural feature in the Calabasas area, and separate the valley from the coast. Due to the beauty of this area, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was established by the federal government. The scenic area encompasses about 150,000 acres, including 550 miles of multi-use trails and 70,000 acres of public park land. The importance of this is that many trail opportunities means more trail activity. Also, the location means that outsiders pass through Calabasas to participate in outdoor recreation activities.

Demographic Characteristics

The demographics of the city show a highly educated adult population with relatively high income levels. The City is predominantly populated by professional adults with young children. The population is much less diverse than Los Angeles County as a whole, and median income is significantly higher. In general, the older the population, the less they participate in active or competitive recreation activities. However, greater income is correlated with higher recreation use.

Land Use

Calabasas was incorporated in 1991. There are more than 50 Homeowners Associations (HOAs) in the City, and many of the developments are gated or have limited access. There is very little vacant buildable land in the City, although the city appears to show large expanses of undeveloped areas. However, land not already developed is usually protected open space, zoned for very low density development because of environmental constraints, or is unbuildable due to topography. There is some potential for expansion through annexation in the future.

Conclusions

Calabasas has more than 54 acres of developed parks, including several special facilities, such as the Tennis and Swim Center, and 1.8 acres of undeveloped parkland. However, due to the topography of the area, finding land for additional active recreation facilities will likely be a challenge.

A.1 Regional Context

Located adjacent to U.S. Highway 101, the City of Calabasas is known as the gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains. Calabasas is situated 31 miles northwest of Los Angeles near the Ventura County boundary. The city encompasses an area of approximately 12.9 square miles. Scenic Mulholland Highway runs to the south of the City.

Calabasas is located in the scenic Santa Monica Mountains, and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is located nearby. This 150,000-acre area includes 550 miles of multi-use trails in 70,000 acres of public park land.

Calabasas is the newest city in Los Angeles County. It was formed in 1991, and the incorporation passed by a 9 to 1 margin.

Listed below are travel distances from Calabasas to various destinations.

<i>Los Angeles</i>	<i>31 Miles</i>
<i>Santa Barbara</i>	<i>65 Miles</i>
<i>San Diego</i>	<i>150 Miles</i>

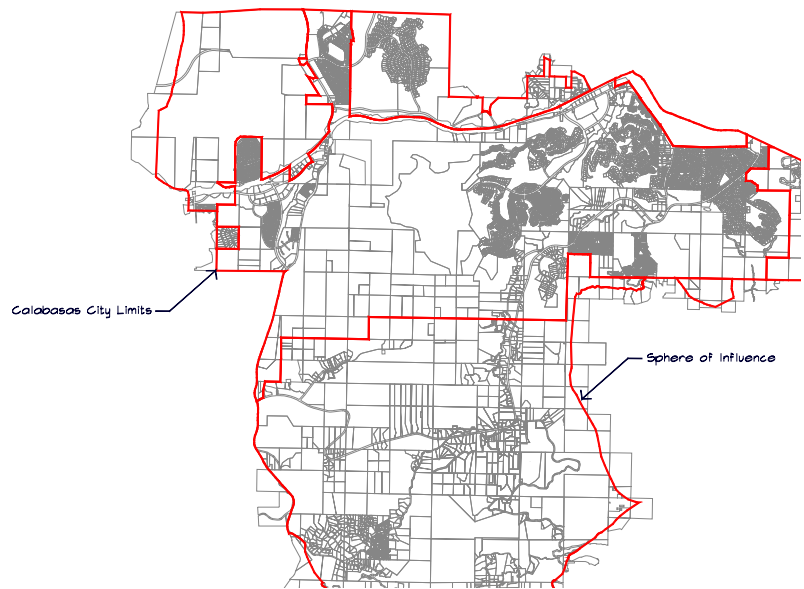
**FIGURE A.1
Regional Location**



A.2 Planning Area

The planning area for this study includes lands within the city limits of Calabasas. The current city boundary is shown below.

FIGURE A.2
Planning Area Map



A.3 Natural Resources

Natural resources are important to planning for a variety of reasons. The topography/terrain and the existence of water features all impact the potential for development. While land with natural resources is often considered environmentally sensitive and has development limitations, it is often conducive to park, open space, and recreation uses as well. Aside from minimizing hazards associated with these features, the preservation of resource areas has a number of other benefits such as protecting unique landforms, maintaining aquifer recharge areas and other hydrological functions, and preserving the riparian and vegetative cover.

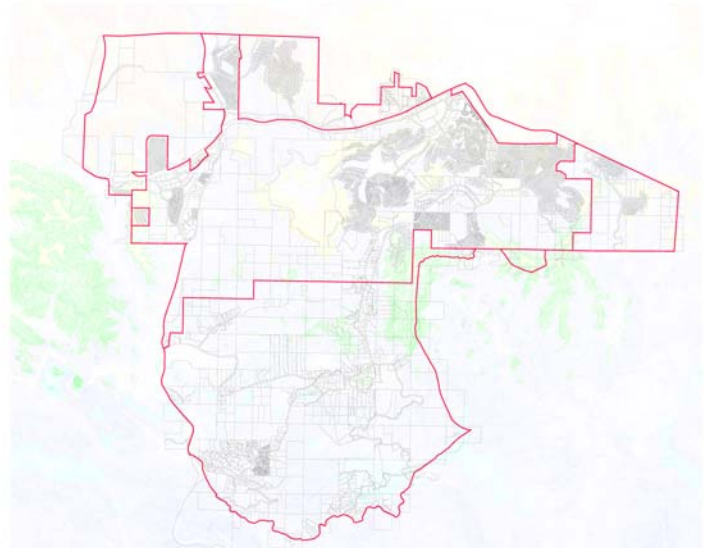
In the City of Calabasas, many areas remain undeveloped with the natural features remaining. The City has a number of zoning

designations that protect natural resource areas, restrict development, and maintain the open character.

Topography/Terrain

The terrain in the Calabasas area can be categorized as rugged or mountainous, with few level areas. The City is located within the Santa Monica Mountains. Calabasas ranges in elevation from 500 to 2,500 feet above sea level, with an average elevation of 796 feet. This topography is a major factor in the development and overall aesthetic character of the City of Calabasas. The scenic character of Calabasas is a result of the topography, and most undeveloped areas in the City will likely remain that way due to topographic constraints and the zoning limitations resulting from the topography.

**FIGURE A.3
Topography**



Water Features

Las Virgenes Creek, part of the Malibu Creek drainage, passes through the City. Several other creeks and drainageways pass through the City. There is one small human-made lake located near the Tennis and Swim Center.

Streams and drainage way areas are important because of their ability to provide habitat corridors for fish and wildlife, preserve riparian vegetation and carry storm water runoff. In addition to their functional and aesthetic characteristics, the drainage ways can also serve as conduits for trails.

A.4 Climate

Similar to most communities in southern California, the climate in the City of Calabasas can be characterized as mild and wet in the winters, and warm and dry in the summers. Precipitation averages about 13.6 inches a year. This mild overall climate encourages year round recreation activity.

Table A.1
Climate Statistics
City of Calabasas

Month	Average High Temperature (Fahrenheit)	Average Low Temperature (Fahrenheit)
January	68°	39°
February	71°	40°
March	72°	42°
April	77°	44°
May	81°	49°
June	87°	53°
July	95°	57°
August	95°	58°
September	91°	55°
October	84°	49°
November	74°	43°
December	68°	38°
AVERAGE	80°	47°

Source: Weather.com

A.5 Demographic Characteristics

Demographic characteristics are important attributes because they provide a picture of the local population and allow comparisons between communities. Information about demographics also provides insight into recreational interests and participation. Factors such as age and income significantly affect the level and individual ability to pursue recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment, education and ethnicity also play a role. The population and demographic information for the City of Calabasas is derived from the US Census.

Calabasas is the newest city in Los Angeles County. Incorporated in 1991, it became the 88th city in the County. According to the US Census, the city's population was placed at 20,033 people.

Although historic demographic data for the Calabasas area is not available for this study, limited growth is expected in the City over the coming years. Due to environmental constraints and undevelopable steep hillsides, most undeveloped land within the

City limits will remain that way, and most of the developable areas are already built out. Several annexations are planned, and the population will increase as a result of the annexations. Table A.2 below shows the population of the City of Calabasas in relation to the population of Los Angeles County.

Table A.2
Population
City of Calabasas / Los Angeles County

Year	Calabasas	Percent of County Population	Los Angeles County Population
2000	20,033	0.002	9,519,338

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The demographic profile for the City of Calabasas is quite different from that of Los Angeles County as a whole. However, Calabasas is similar to other affluent nearby cities.

Calabasas is much less diverse than Los Angeles County as a whole. In Calabasas, the population is predominantly white, with 82.2% of the population characterized as non-Hispanic white; and the Black, Asian, and Hispanic populations are all significantly lower than in the County. Housing costs are very high, and most of the housing in Calabasas is owner-occupied (81%). In terms of age, the distribution of the population of Calabasas is generally similar to that of Los Angeles County, although the median age in Calabasas is higher. Calabasas also has a very highly educated population: almost a quarter of the population age 25 and older has a graduate degree.

Past recreation studies conducted by MIG indicate that in most cases, the older the population, the less participation in active or competitive recreation activities occurs. In contrast, youth age groups tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group and favor activities that are more active and competitive in nature. This includes activities such as basketball, baseball, soccer, swimming, and bicycling.

Young adults (ages 18-34) are also an active age group and typically form the core of adult competitive sports. Older adults (ages 35-64) characteristically have less time to devote to recreational activities and tend to have a more passive interest in recreation programs. Recreational time is at a premium and often limited to weekends and occasional evenings. Since Calabasas has a higher percentage of older adults than average, and a lower percentage of young adults, participation in adult competitive sports is likely to be lower than average.

A comparison of the population profile for the state, the county, and nearby cities is shown in Table A.3.

Age

**Table A.3
Age Distributions – 2000
Selected Geographic Areas**

	Under Age 18	Ages 18 to 64	Age 65 and Over	Median Age
State of California	27.3%	62.1%	10.6%	33.3
Los Angeles County	28.0%	62.3%	9.7%	32.0
Calabasas	28.6%	62.8%	8.6%	38.5
Agoura Hills	30.5%	63.3%	6.2%	37.6
Camarillo	25.3%	57.7%	17.0%	38.9
Hidden Hills	33.0%	56.9%	10.1%	40.4
Thousand Oaks	26.0%	62.9%	11.1%	37.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As seen from Table A.3, although the City of Calabasas has roughly the same percentage of population in each age group as Los Angeles County, the median age is significantly higher. Calabasas is comparable to Agoura Hills, although Agoura Hills has a lower percentage of seniors and a higher percentage of children.

The specific age breakdowns for the City of Calabasas are listed in Table A.4, below. Comparisons are shown with the Los Angeles County age breakdowns.

**Table A.4
Age Breakdowns 2000
City of Calabasas**

Age Category	Calabasas Population	Calabasas Percentage	Los Angeles County Percentage
0-9	2,964	14.79	16.1
10-14	1,824	9.1	7.6
15-19	1,302	6.5	7.2
20-24	802	4.0	7.4
25-34	1,988	9.9	16.6
35-44	3,844	19.2	15.9
45-54	3,610	18.0	12.1
55-64	1,983	9.9	7.3
65-74	1,097	5.5	5.2
75+	619	3.1	4.5
TOTAL	20,033	100.0%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income

Income levels can also reveal important demographic characteristics. Generally, the higher income groups tend to be more active and participate in the more expensive types of activities.

Income levels within the City of Calabasas are higher than in Los Angeles County and the rest of the State. However, many of the communities surrounding Calabasas also have relatively high incomes compared to the County.

A comparison of the 2000 household incomes is shown in Table A.5 below.

**Table A.5
Household Income Levels - 2000
Selected Areas**

Area	2000 Median Household Income
California	\$47,493
Los Angeles County	\$42,189
Calabasas	\$93,860
Agoura Hills	\$87,008
Camarillo	\$62,457
Hidden Hills	\$200,000+
Thousand Oaks	\$76,815

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment

An analysis of the labor force in Calabasas revealed that the largest employment type class is from the professional, scientific, and management employment type. Calabasas also has a higher percentage of population in the finance, insurance, and real estate sector than California as a whole. The percentage of Calabasas population in the public administration and the transportation, warehousing, and utilities employment types are significantly lower than in California as a whole.

A breakdown of employment classifications in Calabasas is listed in Table A.6 on the next page.

**Table A.6
Employment Classification – 2000
City of Calabasas and State of California**

Type	Calabasas Percentage	California Percentage
Agricultural, forestry, fisheries, hunting and mining	0.2	1.9
Construction	4.0	6.2
Manufacturing	7.1	13.1
Wholesale trade	4.3	4.1
Retail trade	8.6	11.2
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	0.8	4.7
Information	2.4	3.9
Finance, insurance, real estate	11.5	6.9
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste mgmt. services	19.7	11.6
Education, health and social services	21.9	18.5
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations and food services	7.2	8.2
Other services (except public admin.)	3.5	5.2
Public administration	1.5	4.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Race

An analysis of race and ethnic background revealed that 82.2% of the residents are characterized as non-Hispanic White and 4.7% are Hispanic. Approximately 1.2% of the population is Black and 7.7% is Asian. The population in Calabasas does not reflect the diversity of Los Angeles County. Calabasas has a significantly higher percentage of non-Hispanic Whites, a significantly lower percentage of Hispanics, and lower percentages of all other racial groups. Ethnicity is important from a recreation participation standpoint. Some ethnic groups have a higher participation level in specific types of recreational activities, which increases the demand for certain types of facilities. A breakdown of race demographics is listed in Table A.7 on the next page.

Table A.7
Race – 2000
City of Calabasas Compared to the State and County

Type	Calabasas Number	Calabasas Percentage	Los Angeles County Percentage	California Percentage
White, non-Hispanic	16,463	82.2	4.1	32.4
Hispanic	949	4.7	44.6	46.7
Black	236	1.2	9.8	6.7
Asian	1,544	7.7	11.9	10.9
Pacific Islander	9	0.0	0.3	0.3
American Indian	27	0.1	0.8	1.0
Other	805	4.0	28.4	2.0
TOTAL	20,033	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Education

An analysis of education revealed that the vast majority (97.2%) of the adult residents have a high school degree or higher. Nearly two-thirds of the residents (57.9%) have a bachelor’s or graduate degree. Almost one-quarter have a graduate degree (24.4%), an extremely high percentage. Overall, the breakdown of the educational attainment would suggest a highly educated community, with much higher educational attainment levels than countywide or statewide.

A breakdown of educational background is listed in Table A.8 on the next page.

Table A.8
Educational Attainment – 2000
City of Calabasas

Type	Calabasas Pop. 25 yrs and over	Calabasas Percentage	Los Angeles County Percentage	California Percentage
Less than 9 th Grade	107	0.8	16.2	11.5
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	265	2.0	13.8	11.7
High School Graduate	1,495	11.3	18.8	20.1
Some college, no degree	2,720	20.5	20.0	22.9
Assoc. Degree	996	7.5	6.2	7.1
Bachelor's Degree	4,447	33.5	16.1	17.1
Graduate Degree	3,233	24.4	8.8	9.5
TOTAL	13,283	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

1.6 Land Use

Land use plays an important role in the location, distribution and availability of park and recreational facilities. A major characteristic of land use in Calabasas is that most of the undeveloped land in the City is in protected or restricted development designations. This means that even though it might appear there is quite a bit of undeveloped land, most of that land is not available for development. This makes it necessary to evaluate the most effective means of meeting the park and open space needs for each major park category.

The total land area of the City of Calabasas is about 12.9 square miles or 8,256 acres. There is limited residential growth potential because of the steep hillsides and other constraints on development.

The non-developed areas of the City are mainly in Open Space or Hillside/Mountainous zones. The Open Space zoning category limits the use of land, and the City is in the process of adopting a second Open Space zone with additional development restrictions. This new zone will be called the Open Space Development Restricted zone. Most of the remaining undeveloped land is within the Hillside/Mountainous district. This zoning designation also limits development, allowing

anywhere from 1 unit per 10 acres to 1 unit per 40 acres depending on the individual site and the development proposal.

The predominant housing type is single family residential, which represents more than three-quarters of the homes in Calabasas. Compared to most neighboring cities, Calabasas has a relatively high employment base. Commercial areas are located on the east and west ends of town, near Highway 101. Most of the available jobs are in the service sector, and a high percentage of these employees are in the low to moderate income ranges and cannot afford to live in Calabasas.¹

Residential areas need parks to fulfill active and passive recreation needs and provide open space for local residents. Commercial areas will require parks that focus on use during the day, or that attract people to travel to at night. Commercial areas are more likely to require plazas and places for passive recreation that are smaller in area and more urban. In addition, land use analysis helps to identify areas where development is at a higher density and therefore potentially with a greater need for parks.

Vacant land is important in terms of locating future park and recreation facilities. Since the area within the existing city limits is either well developed or has development limitations due to rugged terrain, there are very few large parcels of land with minimal slopes. Depending on the needs assessment, this may pose a challenge to future park development.

1.7 Housing

There are 7,426 housing units in the City of Calabasas, based on 2000 U.S. Census data. Of these units, 80.6% are owner-occupied, and 19.4% are renter-occupied. The majority of homes in Calabasas (68%) are single family detached. However, there are also a number of condominium and townhouse developments and one manufactured home park with 210 units.

Of the 1,399 rental units, 1,298 (93%) are contained in two apartment complexes. Malibu Canyon Apartments contains 698 apartments, and Malibu Meadows Apartments contains 600 apartments. Both of these developments were financed through Los Angeles County's Multi-Family Mortgage Revenue Bond program and therefore are required to rent a certain number of units to very low and low income households at reduced rents. Malibu Canyon has 140 affordable units, and Malibu Meadows has 120 affordable units. According to the City's Housing Element, these units constitute the bulk of affordable housing in Calabasas. According to the Community Development Director,

¹ City of Calabasas 2000-2005 Housing Element
Appendix A - Community Profile

these apartment complexes attract a number of students from Pepperdine University, which is located a short drive away.

1.8 Population Projections

Table A.9 below shows the anticipated growth (in housing units) that will be realized once the city’s vacant land is developed to its full potential. Based on zoning and available vacant land, between 567 and 1,209 residential units could be added to the City of Calabasas. Using the average household size of 2.76 as reported in the 2000 census, this converts to a population increase of between 1,565 and 3,337 additional residents. These figures exclude the Oaks development.

A range of population is shown because residential lots can be developed at less than maximum density and because the City’s General Plan requires a consistency review, which may result in a permitted density that is lower than the maximum.

**Table A.9
Housing Development Potential
City of Calabasas**

Land Use Designation	Maximum Density (DU/Acre)	Vacant Acreage	Development Potential (Units)
RS – Single family Residential	6	641.9 ¹	679-689 ²
RC – Rural Community	2	74.9	288-372
RR – Rural Residential	1	243.2	28-239
RM – Multiple Family Residential	16	22.4	43-295
HM – Hillside Mountainous	1/lot	1,407.2	79-164
TOTAL	NA	2,389.6	1,117-1,759²
TOTAL, excluding the Oaks			567-1,209

Source: Calabasas Community Development Department, 2000-2005 Housing Element

Notes:

¹ Includes the land for the Oaks development.

² Includes the 550 units at the Oaks.

Population growth primarily occurs through two means: 1) annexation and 2) in-migration and infill. Identifying population growth potential from both sources is critical to identifying new demand for park and recreation services. Infill in developed areas is unlikely to be a significant source of population growth, given that most of the developed areas are subdivisions with covenants, codes, and restrictions (CCRs) that will likely not permit infill. However, three major annexations are anticipated within the next few years and additional annexations may take place in the future.



Photo of Juan Bautista de Anza Park

APPENDIX B: Existing Resources

Findings and Conclusions

Listed below is a summary of the existing park and recreation resources within the Calabasas area.

Park land

The City of Calabasas owns a total of 56.6 acres of park land. This includes two mini-parks, two neighborhood parks, one community park, five special use areas, and one undesignated/undeveloped park site.

There are also eight school facilities in Calabasas. These provide some additional park land to City residents through a joint use agreement between the School District and the City.

Open space

There is a significant amount of open space in the City. Most of the open space is land zoned either as “Open Space” or as “Hillside Mountainous”. Both zones restrict development. Some of the land zoned “Open Space” or “Hillside Mountainous” is privately owned. The City of Calabasas owns almost 300 acres of open space, but the Community Services Department is not currently responsible for it and does not include any open space in its park inventory. Open space in Calabasas is owned by the City, other public agencies, homeowners associations, or by non-profit groups including the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Restoration Trust.

Trails

There are some trails within the City of Calabasas, but the Community Services Department is not responsible for any trails outside of existing parks, and does not include trails within its parks inventory. There are many opportunities for trails and trail connections because of the open space land in Calabasas.

Facilities

The City of Calabasas has several well-developed facilities, including the Tennis & Swim Center with its many tennis courts and an outdoor pool, the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center with its climbing wall, the Klubhouse Pre-School building at Creekside Park, and the attractive meeting rooms and offices at De Anza Park. However, the City has very few sport fields. Most of the fields in the community are located on school sites. At City parks, there are a total of three fields: Two fields with multi-use backstops and one youth baseball field. Due to topographic constraints and the limited availability of suitable land, finding additional sites for active recreation facilities and sports fields will likely be a challenge.

B.1 Introduction

One of the objectives of the Park and Recreation Master Plan is to identify future park sites and the type of facilities they should contain. In order to make these decisions, it is important to inventory and analyze the existing recreation resources in terms of service characteristics, development potential and existing deficiencies. To conduct this type of analysis, MIG has developed a park classification system based on size and function. This classification system not only helps in the needs assessment process, but also allows comparison with other communities. Definitions of the various park types are found on page 2-6.

The following table is a summary by type of all parks and recreation areas located within Calabasas. Please note the acreage is estimated for open space owned by public or non-profit agencies other than Calabasas. Also note there is additional open space owned by private parties in the City, including open space tracts owned by Homeowners Associations. Privately owned open space is not included within Table B.1.

Table B.1
Summary of Existing Park and Recreation Resources
City of Calabasas

Park Land Type	Calabasas Community Services Dept.	Other City of Calabasas	Other Public or Non-profit	TOTAL
Mini-Parks	2.2	0.0	0.0	2.2
Neighborhood Parks	10.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Community Parks	8.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
Regional Parks	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special Use Areas	34.6	0.0	0.0	34.6
Open Space	0.0	287.6 ¹	1470.0 ¹	1757.6
Undev / Undesignated	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.8
TOTAL	56.6	287.6	1106.0	

¹ Estimated acreage

Based on the inventory above, the current ratio of park land to population can be derived. The current ratio is the existing amount of park land divided by the existing population, and is expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population. By analyzing current ratios, one can quickly compare park inventories with other communities and determine the impacts of changing the ratios. Listed on the following page is the current ratio for each of the park land categories in Calabasas.

Table B.2
Summary of Current Ratios: Acres per 1,000 Population
City of Calabasas

Park Land Type	Ratio
Mini-Parks	0.11
Neighborhood Parks	0.50
Community Parks	0.40
Regional Parks	--
Special Use Areas	1.73
Open Space	14.36
Undeveloped /Undesignated	0.09

A ratio is shown for the Undeveloped/Undesignated park land, because once a park use is identified for the one park site, it will be reclassified and the ratios for its new classifications will be increased accordingly.

On the following page, the Existing Recreation Resources map for Calabasas shows each existing park and indicates the classification for each park.

[Insert 11x17 Existing Park and Recreation Areas Map]

B.2 Park Land Definitions

In order to assess the park system in Calabasas and to address specific land needs, the existing resources have been classified based on the following classifications.

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks, tot lots and children's playgrounds are all small single purpose play lots designed primarily for usage by small children. Due to their size, the facilities are usually limited to a small open grass area, a children's playground and a small picnic area. Size ranges from .25 to 2 acres.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are designed primarily as a combination of a playground and a park for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size and serve an area of approximately one-half mile radius. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts and multi-use sport fields for soccer, and youth baseball. Size ranges from 2 to 10 acres, with the optimum size at 5 acres.

Community Parks

A community park is planned primarily to provide active and structured recreation opportunities. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Community parks serve a much larger area and offer more facilities. As a result, they require more in terms of support facilities, such as parking, restrooms, and covered play areas. Community parks usually 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 20 to 40 acres, with the optimum size at 30 acres.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are recreational areas serving the city and beyond. They are usually large in size and often include one specific use or feature that makes them unique. Typically, use focuses on passive types of recreational activities. Those located within urban areas sometimes offer a wider range of facilities and activities.

Special Use Areas

Special use areas are miscellaneous public recreation areas or land occupied by a specialized facility. Some of the uses falling into this classification include community centers, golf courses, single purpose sites used for field sports, and sites occupied by buildings.

Environmental Education Center

An Environmental Education Center is a facility with the purpose of educating the public about natural resources and the importance of conservation.

Open Space Areas

Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural environment 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. At this stage of the project, no subcategories of open space have been developed. If the City identifies subcategories of open space, these parcels will be reclassified into the selected subcategories.

Linear Park

Linear parks are developed landscaped areas and other lands that follow linear corridors such as abandoned railroad right-of-ways, canals, power lines, and other elongated features. This type of park usually contains trails, landscaped areas, viewpoints and seating areas.

***Undesignated/
Undeveloped Land***

This is undeveloped land and has not yet been designated for a specific park use.

Private Parks

These include sites that are privately owned but that contribute to the recreational opportunities in the area. This would include golf courses, facilities in private developments, and park areas owned by homeowners associations.

Beginning on the following page is an evaluation of each existing park and recreation area under the ownership or control of the City of Calabasas.

**Agoura Hills / Calabasas
Community Center**

Location:	Malibu Hills Road near the Agoura Hills / Calabasas boundary.
Size:	4.5 acres
Ownership:	Joint venture, City of Calabasas and City of Agoura Hills.
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	30,000-s.f. structure built in 1999. Has aerobics room, a 40' climbing wall, a senior citizen lounge, a 10,000-s.f. gymnasium with full-sized basketball and volleyball courts, and a fitness center. The facility includes a 5,000-s.f. banquet hall.
Planned Improvements:	none
Deficiencies:	none noted
Comments:	The facility was built through a partnership between the cities of Calabasas and Agoura Hills, and is managed by a joint powers authority composed of representatives from both cities. The facility is intended to become self-supporting, but currently is subsidized by both cities. The staff at the facility is currently City of Agoura Hills employees, but are paid through the Community Center budget managed by the joint powers authority. Fitness memberships are available, but a cap on memberships went into effect in September 2001. There is a waiting list. Drop-in use is available at any time, but is more expensive than the membership rate.

Calabasas Bark Park

<i>Location:</i>	Across from A.E. Wright Middle School on Las Virgenes Road.
<i>Size:</i>	0.8 acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
<i>Status:</i>	Developed
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	Enclosed lighted off-leash area, parking (35 spaces).
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	none
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	According to the maintenance staff, Bark Park is too small for the number of dogs it accommodates. It is currently used at all times of the day, and is bare earth due to the number of dogs and heavy use.
<i>Comments:</i>	The City leases the fenced area from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District for \$1 per year, but this does not include the parking lot. The LVMWD built the Bark Park parking lot as overflow parking for their office building to meet code requirements for parking spaces. According to LVMWD planner Gene Talmadge, the District does not wish to expand this parking lot, and does not intend to allow the City to expand it. The off-leash area is mainly dirt – very little grass remains. The lights do not turn on automatically. They are operated when a park user turns on the timer. There is a portable restroom facility and a dog watering facility.

Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center

<i>Location:</i>	Near intersection of Park Granada and Park Sorrento in civic center of town.
<i>Size:</i>	7.5 acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Calabasas
<i>Status:</i>	Developed
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	8-lane, 25-meter outdoor pool with small locker room, ADA-accessible playground, 3 fitness rooms (1 small – 1,000-s.f.), dance/aerobics room, locker room for tennis, sauna, 2 social / meeting rooms, children’s play room, 15 hard tennis courts, 1 clay court, seasonal food service
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	Last remodel completed in 2000.
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	None noted.
<i>Comments:</i>	This is a former private club purchased by City in 1994. The facility is run as an enterprise fund, and it pays for its own operational costs. Tennis and health memberships are available. There is currently a cap on memberships, with a waiting list of more than 500. The Tennis & Swim Center has the only public pool in Calabasas.

Creekside Park

<i>Location:</i>	Old Topanga Canyon Road.
<i>Size:</i>	11.8 acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Calabasas
<i>Status:</i>	Developed
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	Open grass area, youth baseball field, basketball court, community center building with 2 multi-purpose rooms, children's play area, parking
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	none
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	none noted
<i>Comments:</i>	<p>The City bought this property to use as a Pre-School/park. Before the City purchased the site, it contained a licensed Pre-School program. The City has continued to operate the Pre-School operation. Due to current conditions of the State-licensed Pre-School program, access to this park is limited during the day. The surrounding neighborhood has a history of opposing any type of active use of this park.</p> <p>The building on the site is used for the Pre-School program. There is more parking on the site than the Pre-School use needs, and possibly more than the other facilities at the park warrant. A youth baseball field on the site is used for practice only, not for games. This field could be improved and potentially provide for some of the City's field needs, if the Pre-School situation were addressed to allow use of the park during the day or early evening.</p>

Freedom Park

Location:	Eastern edge of Calabasas, overlooking the site of the A.C. Stelle Middle School
Size:	1.7 acres
Ownership:	City of Calabasas
Status:	Developed
Existing Facilities:	Small ADA accessible playground, tetherball pad, unpaved trail, seating area
Planned Improvements:	Park was constructed by the City in 1994.
Deficiencies:	Lack of ADA access from the street.
Comments:	<p>This is a very small mini-park located on a hillside across a gulch from the new middle school. There was a possible land acquisition adjacent to the park, but the land could not be used due to the slopes. The park is located on a slope, and contains an unpaved trail that is badly eroded. In general, there is a lot of erosion on the site. Some of the timber steps need replacement. Overall, the park needs only minor upgrades and improvements.</p> <p>The surrounding neighborhood is seeking (at the time the master plan was being prepared) to add a gate with coded entry for residents to prevent non-residents from entering the neighborhood. The neighborhood intends to add pedestrian-only access to the park from Mulholland Highway. As part of the neighborhood's plan for access to Freedom Park, nonresidents of the neighborhood would park on Mulholland Highway and walk through the pedestrian only access to the park.</p>

Gates Canyon Park

<i>Location:</i>	Northwest Calabasas just outside City limits
<i>Size:</i>	7 acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Calabasas
<i>Status:</i>	Developed
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	Two (2) lighted tennis courts. Small playground with fiber play surface, small shelter app. 30' x 30' in size, lighted full basketball court, restroom, vending machines, 9 picnic tables on concrete pads, fitness course, multi-use ball field, Home Garden Learning Center (an environmental education building), parking
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	Park was constructed by Los Angeles County in 1993, and ownership was turned over to Calabasas in 2000.
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	Limited ADA accessibility to playground. There is a large open area at the north, but it is sloped.
<i>Comments:</i>	This park is located outside Calabasas city limits. Ownership of the park was recently turned over to the City from Los Angeles County. It is a fairly new neighborhood park in overall good condition. Drainage is a problem adjacent to the shelter. The restroom is a very basic single occupancy structure with two units. There is a 12' wide concrete sidewalk. There was a portable skate park located on the basketball court, but it was closed in Autumn 2002. There is potential to add additional facilities and features to this park.

Grape Arbor Park

<i>Location:</i>	Westernmost Calabasas
<i>Size:</i>	3 acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Calabasas
<i>Status:</i>	Developed
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	Two (2) playgrounds, 1 sand volleyball court, full basketball court, large grape arbor shelter, multi-use backstop, restroom, parking
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	Change-out of play equipment, upgrade restrooms
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	none
<i>Comments:</i>	There are a number of old mature trees, which provides a nice setting. This was once a Los Angeles County park. It was turned over to Calabasas upon incorporation. This park is in overall good condition with only minor improvements needed. Parking is limited. The full basketball court is located on dedicated portion of the parking lot, and was created by reconfiguring the parking. The court is in fair condition with new glass backboards and needs surfacing. The restroom is in fair condition.

Highlands Park

<i>Location:</i>	Southeastern Calabasas on Summit Drive
<i>Size:</i>	0.5 acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Calabasas
<i>Status:</i>	Developed
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	Small fenced playground, 1 picnic table, concrete pad
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	None
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	No parking. This site is located on a very narrow winding street.
<i>Comments:</i>	This is the newest park in Calabasas. It was built by the City in 1997.

Juan Bautista de Anza Park

<i>Location:</i>	Southwestern Calabasas on Lost Hills Road
<i>Size:</i>	8.0 acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Calabasas
<i>Status:</i>	Developed
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	Small water play area, 100' x 200' roller hockey rink overlaid on 3 full basketball courts, multi-use backstop, 3 playgrounds, small amphitheater, small conference center with 2 meeting rooms, an administrative office, and restrooms, 3 sheltered picnic areas seating 80 each, 40 parking spaces, 1 picnic table, concrete pad
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	Maintenance Shed, minor improvements
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	None noted
<i>Comments:</i>	The courts are lighted. Of the three playgrounds, one is enclosed and geared for ages 2 to 5, and one is quite large. There is an unpaved trail around the park, and a trailhead to the hills behind the park. This park was built by the City in 1996.

Wild Walnut Park:

<i>Location:</i>	At the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Old Topanga Canyon Road.
<i>Size:</i>	Approximately 10 acres of a larger open space site.
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Calabasas
<i>Status:</i>	Partial Development
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	Picnic, nature trail, interpretive signage
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	Through the Park and Recreation Master Plan process, a concept plan was developed for this site.
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	None
<i>Comments:</i>	The park size is established by CC&Rs which protect the remainder of the City-owned parcel for open space and identify the area that may be used for more active recreation. The Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority owns the portion of the parcel located north of the private Wagon Wheel Ranch Road.

**Future Park Site:
West Side**

<i>Location:</i>	At the intersection of Las Virgenes Road and Lost Hills Road, adjacent to De Anza Park
<i>Size:</i>	1.8 acres
<i>Ownership:</i>	City of Calabasas
<i>Status:</i>	Undeveloped
<i>Existing Facilities:</i>	None
<i>Planned Improvements:</i>	Through the Park and Recreation Master Plan process, a concept plan was developed for this site, but has not been taken forward.
<i>Deficiencies:</i>	None
<i>Comments:</i>	This site is adjacent to De Anza Park, but is separated from De Anza by the Las Virgenes Creek arroyo. Malibu Creek State Park is adjacent to the southern boundary of the site.

Table B.3
Summary of Parks and Recreational Areas By Type
Calabasas

Park Areas	Total Acres	Comments
Mini Parks		
Freedom Park	1.7	
Highlands Park	0.5	
Sub Total	2.2	
Neighborhood Parks		
Gates Canyon Park	7.0	Potential for more use
Grape Arbor Park	3.0	
Sub Total	10.0	
Community Parks		
Juan Bautista de Anza Park	8.0	
Sub Total	8.0	
Special Use Areas		
Community Center	4.5	Health memberships
Creekside Park	11.8	Day care operation
Calabasas Bark Park	0.8	Heavily used
Tennis & Swim Center	7.5	Health memberships
Wild Walnut Park	10.0	Passive use
Sub Total	34.6	
Undeveloped/Undesignated		
Las Virgenes/Lost Hills	1.8	
	1.8	
TOTAL	56.6	

Table B.4
Summary of Recreation Facilities in Existing Parks
City of Calabasas

Park Area Services Matrix	Reg. Baseball Fields	Youth Base/softball Fields	Reg. Softball Fields	Multi-use Backstop	Soccer Fields	Open Play Areas	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Basketball Courts	Playground Areas	Shelter Buildings	Picnic Areas	Restroom	Parking Areas	Pathway/Trails	Pools	Indoor Facilities	Other
Mini Parks																		
Freedom Park																		Tetherball
Highlands Park												1						
Neighborhood Parks																		
Gates Canyon Park							2		1	1		9						Lighted courts, vending machines
Grape Arbor Park				1				1	1	2								Grape arbor over picnic tables
Community Parks																		
De Anza Park				1					3	3		3						Water playground, Roller hockey (on basketball court), *3 picnic areas each seating 80
Special Use Areas																		
Bark Park																		Lighted fenced off-leash area with dog watering. Restroom is portable.
Community Center																		Indoor basketball, volleyball, climbing wall and fitness rooms. Gymnasium
Creekside Park		1							1									
Tennis & Swim Center							1 6									1		15 hard courts, 1 clay court, fitness rooms
Wild Walnut Park											1				1			Picnic area, nature trail

**Undesignated/
Undeveloped Parks**

**Environmental Education
Center**

The City has one undesignated/undeveloped park site. In conjunction with the Park and Recreation Master Plan project, conceptual designs were prepared for the site. The site is 1.8 acres in size and is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Las Virgenes and Lost Hills Roads, adjacent to De Anza Park.

Headwaters Corner, an environmental and cultural interpretive center was developed by the public/private partnership of the City of Calabasas and Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT). MRT's mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains through acquisition, restoration,

and education. The purpose of the center is to educate the public about the natural resources of the local environment and the importance of conservation.

Current ownership by MRT includes 12 acres of land with five different ecosystems and two former single-family residences, one dating back to 1895. Both of these buildings have been adapted for educational and administrative purposes. There is one remaining parcel to acquire to complete the center. There are a number of current and planned programs at the facility.

MRT's Cold Creek Docents, established in 1977, conduct outdoor education programs for elementary schoolchildren, naturalist-led family walks, and resource education events in the Cold Creek watershed. MRT organizes hands-on habitat restoration and education programs throughout the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to engage the local community in becoming stewards of the land. Outdoor walks and lectures led by the MRT staff and volunteers engage the public in understanding and appreciating the dynamics of the local ecosystem and how humans are a part of the system.

Headwater's Corner is also home to the Youth Naturalist Program and Nature Discovery Camp summer day program. Headwaters Corner provides a venue for local service projects for a variety of organizations such as youth and school groups, community organizations and home school programs. MRT includes the Calabasas High School Earth Club on many environmental and cultural education opportunities for all age groups in addition to passive recreation at Headwaters Corner. MRT will work with local schools to incorporate the Headwaters Corner programs into their curriculum.

Other Park Land

The Community Services Department currently pays for maintenance of a small tract called "Linear Park" or "Las Virgenes Greenbelt". This area is undeveloped Right of Way (R.O.W.) on Las Virgenes Road located across from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District offices. It was planted with drought tolerant plants by LVMWD, and has been maintained by the City ever since. There are a number of landscaped medians and landscaped R.O.W.'s in the City, and all but "Linear Park" are either maintained by the Public Works Department or by private Homeowners Associations through assessment districts. The Community Services Department does not include "Linear Park" in its parks inventory. This area is not included in the facilities inventory for the following reasons: it serves no recreation purpose, it is part of a R.O.W., and it functions simply as a beautification area. Beautification areas in

Calabasas, with the exception of “Linear Park”, are the responsibility of Public Works or of HOA’s.

Open Space

Calabasas has approximately 200 acres of open space land adjacent to De Anza Park. As part of the Micor property acquisition, the City of Calabasas acquired a parcel of land near the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Las Virgenes Road, next to the holdings of LVMWD and the SMMC. The City also owns more than 20 acres of protected land adjacent to the Wild Walnut Park at Mulholland and Old Topanga. An additional 20 acres (approximately) of open space is located adjacent to the future City Hall site, behind the Commons shopping center. The City owns 5 acres of open space at Dry Canyon Cold Creek. The most recent open space acquisition for Calabasas is the Dorothy Road properties, which include 23.5 acres off Old Topanga Canyon Road on the east side of town.

Calabasas has had an ongoing commitment to protecting open space and environmentally sensitive areas. The City’s Planning Department is in the process of preparing an Open Space Master Plan, which will include an inventory of open space land in Calabasas. However, although the City already owns several hundred acres of open space, Community Services does not currently include any open space land within its park inventory. No open space is included in the facilities inventory because Community Services is not responsible for any at the present time.

Trails

There are several trails in Calabasas, and many trails in the mountains and open space nearby. Currently, there are no trails under the responsibility of the Community Services Department outside of existing parks. Most trails identified within City limits are unpaved hiking trails that are not maintained by the City. Some park facilities contain trailheads that connect into existing systems. The City is currently completing a Trails Master Plan that could result in more trails in Calabasas, and an increased role for the City in trails development and maintenance. When the Trails Master Plan is completed, the Community Services Department may take on a greater role in trails.

B.4 Public Lands

Calabasas is located in a very scenic area at the edge of the Santa Monica Mountains. There is a substantial amount of publicly owned land around the City of Calabasas, as well as tracts of publicly owned land within the City. In addition, non-profit conservation groups also own land around the City.

Table B.5
 Summary of Publicly Owned Lands
 Within or Adjacent to Calabasas City Limits

Publicly Owned Land In Calabasas Vicinity	Acres	Facility
Malibu Creek State Park (California State Parks)	4,000	Open Space 15 miles of trail Abuts city limits to the southeast.
Mountains Restoration Trust	1,200	Headwaters Corner Environmental Education Center and Cold Creek Preserve
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	1,000	Protected acreage throughout Calabasas
Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District)	100	LVMWD office, biosolids composting, 91-acre farm used for biosolid injection/ fodder crops
Cheseboro/Palo Comado Canyon (National Park Service)	--	Located at NW boundary of Calabasas. Part of Santa Monica Mountains N.R.A. 18 miles of trails.
Los Angeles County		Landfill
Calabasas Golf & Country Club		18-hole golf course, driving range, putting green
Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve	29600	Open Space, trails.
LeMans Property	19.23	Open Space.

B.5 School Facilities

Schools are an important resource for recreation facilities such as sports fields, playgrounds and gymnasiums.

Table B.6
Summary of Existing Public School Facilities in Calabasas City Limits
Las Virgenes Unified School District

School Facility	Acres	Facility
Calabasas High School	40.0	Track, lighted football field, 8 tennis courts, 4 outdoor basketball courts, 1 outdoor pool (25 yd, 6 lane), 1 practice football/ soccer field, Overlaid fields: 2 baseball fields, 1 softball field, 1 soccer field – all unfenced and unlighted. Gymnasium with two full basketball courts and dance studio
Indian Hills High School	1.5	Turf playfield – not large enough to provide an athletic field
A.E. Wright Middle School	19.0	6 outdoor basketball courts, gymnasium with one full basketball court
Alice C. Stelle Middle School*	15.2	3 soccer fields overlaid on 3 multi-use backstop fields, 1 softball field, 8 outdoor basketball courts, gymnasium, multi-purpose room
Bay Laurel Elementary	8.0	1 soccer field, 1 youth baseball field
Chaparral Elementary	4.5	Open turf area, used as 1 soccer field
Lupin Hill Elementary	14.5	2 basketball courts, 4 baseball fields (3 youth, 1 adult), YMCA and Camp Calabasas on site. According to site plan
Round Meadow Elementary*	7.0	Youth baseball field overlaid on soccer field
TOTAL	109.7	

* These two schools are outside Calabasas city limits, but inside the City’s planning area as depicted in the General Plan. For this reason, they are included in this table.

B.6 Nearby Recreational Resources

Below is a list of nearby recreational resources serving the Calabasas area. Due to the Santa Monica National Recreation Area designation, there are many parks and protected areas in the vicinity of Calabasas. Not all of these lands are included on the list. This list includes some of the major park and open space areas nearby.

Table B.7
Summary of Nearby Resources
City of Calabasas

Recreation Area	Owner	Activity/Facility
Tapia Park	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Park associated with Tapia treatment plant.
Topanga State Park	California State Parks	11,000 acres of open space, 36 miles of trail
Escondido Canyon Natural Area	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	Open space
Red Rock Canyon Park	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	Open space
Ramirez Canyon Park	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	Open space
Malibu Lagoon State Beach	CA State Parks	Open space, trails, beach, historic house
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area	National Park Service	Open Space 550 miles of trail 70,000 ac in public ownership
Henry Ridge Trail System	N/A	Hiking
Summit-to-Summit Trail	N/A	Hiking

B.7 Facility Definitions

The most functional types of sport facilities are adequately developed and designed to serve a particular function. However, for various reasons (e.g., facility shortages, poor condition), sport facilities are often used for activities or sports they were not designed for. In order to assess the condition of existing facilities and to address additional needs, the facilities have been divided into the following categories.

Baseball / Softball Fields

Regulation baseball field dimensions: 320' + outfields, 90' baselines, grass infield, permanent backstop and support facilities

Youth baseball field dimensions: 200'+ outfields, 60' baselines, dugouts. Grass infield not required, permanent backstop and support facilities.

Softball field dimensions (slow-pitch): 250' minimum-women 275' minimum-men outfields, 60 baselines, (fast pitch) 225', skinned infield, permanent backstop and support facilities

Soccer Fields

Regulation soccer field dimensions: 195' x 225' by 330' x 360', grass or all weather surfacing, permanent or portable goals

Youth soccer field dimensions: varies according to age -- U14 (60 yds. x 110 yds.) - U6 (20 yds. x 30 yds.), permanent or portable goals

Football Fields

Field dimensions: 160' x 360', permanent goals

Tennis Courts

Appropriate dimensions, fenced and surfaced with a color coat.

Gymnasium Space

Appropriate dimension for the sport and has adequate dimensions outside the court for safe play. Playing surface should be of resilient flooring.

Swimming Pools

Appropriate dimension for intended use (recreation or competitive).

Basketball Court

42'-50' x 74'-94' plus appropriate perimeter distance

Volleyball Court (Sand)

30' x 60' plus appropriate perimeter distance

B.8 Summary of Facilities

A list of recreational facilities categorized by type is included in this section. This includes ball fields, soccer fields, football fields, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, volleyball courts, gymnasium space and swimming pools. Facilities at Las Virgenes Municipal School District sites are included.

Table B.8
Summary of Recreation Facilities by Type
City of Calabasas

<i>Baseball Fields</i>			
Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
2	Calabasas High School	Adult. Overlays	Good
1	Round Meadow Elementary	Youth. Overlaid with soccer	Fair
4	Lupin Hill Elementary	1 Adult, 3 youth	Good
1	Bay Laurel Elementary	1 youth	Fair
8	TOTAL (Baseball Fields)	3 adult 5 youth	

<i>Softball Fields</i>			
Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Calabasas High School	Adult. Overlay	Good
1	Alice C. Stelle Middle School	1 adult field. 3 backstops only, overlaid with soccer.	Good
1	Creekside Park	Small. Youth softball/baseball	Fair
3	TOTAL (Softball Fields)	2 adult, 1 youth, 3 backstop only	

<i>Football Fields</i>			
Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Calabasas High School	Lighted	Good
1	TOTAL (Football Fields)		

<i>Soccer Fields</i>			
Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Bay Laurel Elementary		Poor
1	Chaparral Elementary	Open turf area used as field, not official field	Poor

1	Round Meadow Elementary	Overlaid with baseball	Good
3	Alice C. Stelle Middle School	Overlaid with backstop-only softball	Good
2	Calabasas High School	1 field overlaid with ball fields, 1 practice football/soccer field	Fair
8	TOTAL (Soccer Fields)	7 fields, 1 non-regulation field	

Tennis Courts

Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
16	Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center	1 clay	Good
2	Gates Canyon Park		Good
8	Calabasas High School		Good
26	TOTAL (Tennis Courts)		

Roller Hockey Rinks

Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
1	De Anza Park	Lighted. Overlaid with basketball. Available 4 nights per week	Good
1	TOTAL (Roller Hockey Rinks)		

Outdoor Basketball Courts

Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Gates Canyon Park	Lighted, new surface, glass boards	Good
1	Grape Arbor Park	New glass boards	Fair
3	De Anza Park	Lighted. Overlaid with hockey	Good
1	Creekside Park		Fair/Poor
4	Calabasas High School		Good
6	A.E. Wright Middle School		Fair
8	Alice C. Stelle Middle School		Good
2	Lupin Hill Elementary		Fair
26	TOTAL (Basketball Courts)		

Volleyball Courts (sand)

Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Grape Arbor Park		Fair
1	TOTAL (Volleyball Courts)		

Gymnasiums

Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center		Good
1	Calabasas High School	Wood floor, 2 full courts	Good
1	A.E. Wright Middle School	Tile floor, 1 court	Good
1	Alice C. Stelle Middle School		Good
4	TOTAL (Gymnasiums)		

Swimming Pools

Nmbr.	Location	Comments	Condition
1	Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center	Outdoor	Good
1	Calabasas High School	Outdoor. Not available to the public.	Good
2	TOTAL (Swimming Pools)		



Photo of playgrounds at De Anza Park

APPENDIX C: Existing Operations

Findings and Conclusions

Listed below is a summary of the management and operation of park and recreation services within the City of Calabasas.

Organization

- In Calabasas, park and recreation services are offered through the Community Services Department.
- The Agoura Hills / Calabasas Community Center is operated by a joint use authority, and is not under the direct responsibility of the Community Services Department.
- Within Community Services, there are seven separate areas of service: Management, Creekside Park/ Klubhouse, De Anza Park/Recreation Programs, Parks Maintenance, Cultural Arts, Tennis & Swim Center Program, and Special Events.

Staffing

- To provide parks and recreation services, the Community Services Department currently employs staff equivalent to 22.8 full-time employee equivalents and seasonal staff varying throughout the year from 20 to a maximum of about 75.

Operations

- In the fiscal year 2002-03, Community Services accounted for **10.7%** of the City’s General Fund.
- Unlike many cities, Calabasas uses contracted landscape maintenance for much of the City’s park maintenance.
- The City spends approximately **\$5,468 per acre (excludes Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center)** annually to maintain park and recreation facilities, a normal figure compared to other communities. On a budget percentage basis, only about **20%** of Park and Recreation funds are spent on maintenance, low compared to many other communities.
- About **50%** of Community Services expenditures are recovered through **revenue**. This does not include the Tennis & Swim Center, which as an enterprise fund recovers 100% of expenditures through revenues.

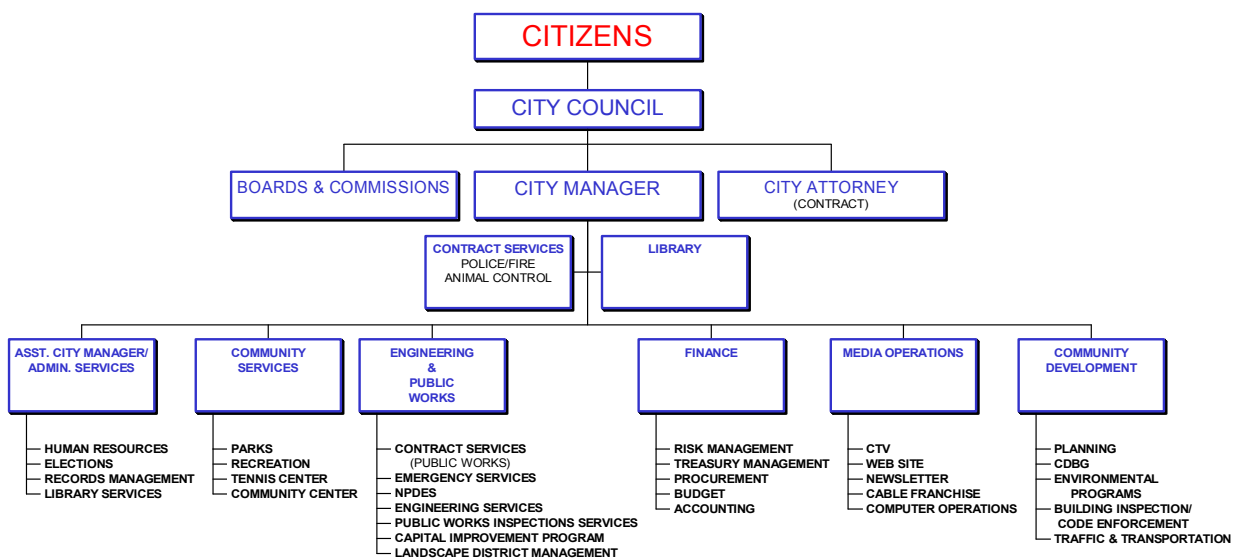
C.1 Organizational Structure

Organizational structure in Calabasas is fairly typical of smaller California cities. The citizens elect a 5-member City Council. The Councilors elect a mayor from the Council each year to serve a one-year term. The mayor presides over City Council meetings but does not have any special powers. A City Manager administers City staff and reports to the City Council.

There are six main governmental areas that provide services to Calabasas residents, including the **City Clerk/Administrative Services, Community Services** (provider of park and recreation

services), **Engineering and Public Works** (maintains open space areas and operates Landscaping & Lighting Districts in addition to typical public works functions), **Finance, Media Operations** (operates City website, cable access, publications), and **Community Development**. The City also operates its own library, having taken over services from Los Angeles County in 1998. Calabasas does not provide its own public safety services. Instead, the City contracts with Los Angeles County to provide police, fire, and animal control services.

City Structure Illustrated below is a City organizational chart.



Within the Community Services Department, there are **seven separate areas of service**. These include: 1) *Management*, responsible managerial/operation functions as well as oversight of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Center Authority, 2) *Creekside Park/Klubhouse*, responsible for the daycare operation at Creekside and certain other program and leisure classes, 3) *De Anza Park/Recreation Programs*, responsible for most recreation and leisure classes, activities, excursions, and recreational facility operations, 4) *Parks Maintenance*, responsible for maintenance of City parks and greenbelt areas but not the Landscape & Lighting Assessment Districts or open space areas, 5) *Cultural Arts*, responsible for special events and arts programs and support of the Arts Council and Orchestra (Note: Cultural Arts includes budget items such as the Orchestra and Arts Council, but no staff), and 6) *Tennis & Swim Center Program*, responsible for operation of the Tennis and Swim Center, which operates as an enterprise fund, and 7) *Special Event Programs*.

The City Library is not included within the Community Services Department. It is operated as a separate entity with its own budget and is not included in this park and recreation plan.

A number of committees and commissions are in operation in the City, and several of these are involved with park and recreation issues. The Park & Recreation Commission is the main City body dealing with parks. It has 5 members and one student member. A Teen Advisory Council also reports to the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Planning Commission and the Tree Board are two other commissions that have occasional involvement with park-related issues. The Education Commission has recently been assigned to the Community Services Department, and a Community Services staff person is assigned to be a liaison to the Education Commission.

C.2 Staffing Levels

In order to provide community services, the City currently employs **14 full-time** employees and **9.8 permanent part-time** full-time equivalents (FTEs).

Table C.1 shows the number of employees in terms of FTEs from FY 2000-01 through staffing in 2003-04.

Table C.1
Employees (FTE's) FY 2000/01 to 2003/04
Community Services
City of Calabasas

Fiscal Year	Management (FTEs)	Maint. (FTEs ¹)	De Anza /Rec. Programs (FTEs)	Pre-school (FTEs)	Tennis Center (FTEs)	TOTAL (FTEs)
'00-01	2	1.7	3.5	10.2	4.4	21.8
'01-02	3	.7	4.2	10.5	4.4	22.8
'02-03	3	.7	4.2	11.5	4.4	23.8
'03-04	3	.7	4.2	11.5	4.4	23.8

¹ Much of landscape maintenance is contracted out, and Public Works is responsible for maintenance of open space and other areas.

Full Time, Part Time and Seasonal Employees

The employment status of employees who contribute to the parks and recreation services is diverse. Staffing levels in Calabasas have remained relatively stable. Staffing increased in FY '01-02 because of the addition of a Special Events Coordinator, a position previously contracted out. Staffing increased by one additional FTE in FY '02-03 with the addition of another staff person at the Creekside daycare facility.

Table C.2 shows the full-time and permanent part time FTEs for each service area in the Community Services Department. As this table shows, De Anza/Recreation Programs has the greatest number of full-time employees, with 4.2. Creekside/Preschool has the most permanent part time FTEs, with 7.7, and the most total FTEs, with 10.5. When examining FTE data for Calabasas, it is important to keep in mind the maintenance staffing appears low compared to many cities (only 0.7 FTEs are shown) because one full-time maintenance employee is allocated between the De Anza and Preschool budgets rather than in the maintenance budget. In addition, much of the landscape maintenance is done by outside contractors whose employees do not appear as FTEs. These contractors are managed by the Public Works Department.

Table C.2
Employees (FTE's) FY 2003/04
Calabasas Community Services Department

Service Area	Full Time FTEs	Part Time FTEs	TOTAL FTEs
Management	2	0	2
Maintenance	0	0.7	0.7
De Anza /Rec. Programs	4.2	0	4.2
Pre-school	2.8	8.7	11.5
Tennis Center	3	1.4	4.4
Special Events	1	0	1
TOTAL	13	10.8	23.8

It is important to note that many communities in the West are increasingly utilizing seasonal employees in an effort to meet peak demand and reduce operating costs. Calabasas uses seasonal employees for a variety of jobs. Parks programs and activities greatly increase in the summer. There are a number of summer programs and camps, all of which use seasonal employees. There are about **50 to 75 seasonal employees during the summer months** and about **20 to 30 seasonal employees year round**.

The staff at the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center are currently Agoura Hills employees, and are paid through the budget managed by the Community Center joint powers authority. Discussions are occurring that may result in the Community Center staff becoming City of Calabasas Community Services Department employees. In terms of staffing, this would cause the number of FTEs within the Community Services Department to increase. However, the Community Center staff would continue to be paid through the Community Center budget and would not change the financial status of the Community Services Department.

C.3 Finances

The City of Calabasas operates on a fiscal budget year that runs from July 1 through June 30. The City began adopting a two-year budget in 1998. Each spring, a budget for the next two fiscal years is adopted. In January, City departments go before City Council if budget adjustments are necessary.

The table below compares the budget for Community Services with the citywide budget. Two comparisons are shown: The **General Fund** compared with the Community Services budget and the overall **City operating budget** compared with the overall park and recreation budget (Community Services plus Tennis & Swim Center enterprise fund).

Table C.3
City and Department Budget Comparisons
FY 2000-01 to 2003-03

Year	City General Fund	Community Serv. Budget ¹	Percent of Total
'00-01	\$11,673,368	\$1,545,432	13.2%
'01-02	\$14,595,407	\$1,670,303	11.4%
'02-03	\$17,873,812	\$1,910,175	10.7%
Year	City Operating Budget ²	Total Community Serv. Budget ³	Percent of Total
'00-01	\$19,388,889	\$3,604,796	18.6%
'01-02	\$28,659,740	\$4,104,393	14.3%
'02-03	\$29,294,268	\$4,279,425	14.6

¹ Excludes Tennis & Swim Center and Public Works Landscape Maintenance.
² Excludes capital improvements and debt service
³ Includes Tennis & Swim Center but not Public Works Landscape Maintenance

In FY 2002-03, the Community Services Department budget was about 11% of the City’s total General Fund budget. Note that this figure does not include landscape maintenance contracted through the Public Works Department; the Tennis & Swim Center Enterprise Fund; the Library; or the Community Center joint powers authority. In the same year, parks and recreation (Community Services plus the Tennis & Swim Center) account for 14.6% of the total city operating budget, excluding debt service and capital improvements. Again, the Community Center, the library, and the landscape maintenance contracted through the Public Works Department are not included.

Given the size of Calabasas and the services provided by the City, the percentage of the budget devoted to park and recreation is typical for a community with a full range of park and recreation services.

Expenditures

Table C.4 shows the expenditures for the service areas that provide Community Services. In addition to the service areas listed in Tables C.1 and C.2, Table C.4 also includes Cultural Arts, which has a budget but no employees, and Landscape Maintenance, which is contained in the Public Works budget.

The Tennis & Swim Center is the largest expenditure for community services. However, as an enterprise fund, it is considered separately from the rest budget because its expenditures are offset by its revenues. De Anza/Recreation Programs and the Preschool account for 39.2% and 31.8% of department expenditures respectively.

Table C.4
Expenditures by Service Area - 2002-03
City of Calabasas

Service Area	2002/2003 Expenditures ¹	Percent of Total
Management/Special Events	\$216,699	11.8
Maintenance	\$110,625	6.0
De Anza /Rec. Programs	\$719,389	39.2
Pre-school	\$583,065	31.8
Cultural Arts	\$57,278	3.1
Landscape Maintenance ²	\$148,021	8.1
TOTAL	\$1,835,077	100.0
Tennis & Swim Center	\$2,419,024	--
TOTAL + Tennis & Swim	\$4,254,101	--

¹ Excludes capital outlay, debt service, and reserves

² The parks maintenance share of General Landscape Maintenance from the Public Works Department budget

Examining expenditures, **maintenance** (plus the Community Services share of landscape maintenance from the PW works budget) receives **14.1%** of the parks and recreation budget (includes landscape maintenance and excludes the Tennis & Swim Center). It should be noted that in the FY 2002-03 budget, the cost of the Facilities Maintenance Technician is split between the De Anza and Preschool budgets, and is not reflected in Maintenance or Landscape Maintenance expenditures.

Expenditures for maintenance as a percentage of the total department expenditures are slightly lower in Calabasas than is typical in similar communities. In **many communities, the park maintenance operations receive between 40%-50%** of the total operating budget for park and recreation services. However, on a maintenance dollars per acre basis, Calabasas has a higher than typical maintenance cost per acre. For a more thorough analysis of maintenance expenditures, see Table C.6 and the associated discussion.

Community Services Department expenditures are shown in Table C.5 below. It excludes the Tennis & Swim Center because it is an enterprise fund. Landscape Maintenance’s expenditures are also excluded because these are accounted for through the Public Works Department budget. With the exception of a \$50,000 payment in FY 02-03, expenditures related to the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center are not included in the table because this facility has a separate budget managed by a joint use authority and not by the Community Services Department.

Table C.5
 Actual Expenditures by Service Area – 2002-03
 City of Calabasas

Service Area	2002/2003 Expenditures ¹	Percent of Total
Management	\$216,699.25	11.8%
Maintenance	\$110,624.74	6.0%
De Anza /Rec. Programs	\$719,389.25	39.2%
Pre-school	\$583,064.90	31.8%
Cultural Arts	\$57,277.49	3.1%
Landscape Maintenance ²	\$148,020.92	8.1%
TOTAL	\$1,835,196.27	100.0%
Tennis & Swim Center	\$2,419,076.14	--
TOTAL + Tennis & Swim	\$4,254,099.90	--

The Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center is intended to be self-supporting, but currently does not create enough revenue to offset operational costs. The Community Services Department is budgeted to provide \$60,302 in ‘01-02, and payments of \$50,000 in ‘02-03 and ‘03-04 to the Center. While this figure appears as an expenditure in the Parks Maintenance budget, the use of funds is not specified. The City of Agoura Hills provides the same amount annually to the Center. This subsidy will be reduced until the Community Center is self-supporting.

Table C.6 on the next page contains greater detail on maintenance expenditures. The cost of maintaining parks within a park system is an important factor when planning for the future. In many communities, maintenance is under funded, resulting in long-term deterioration of parks and greater costs. In Calabasas, maintenance of parks is allocated differently from in most communities. Calabasas has only **1.7 FTEs for park maintenance**. These employees generally maintain the park buildings. **Private contractors are used for most of the regular park grounds maintenance**, such as mowing. It is also important to keep in mind that maintenance and janitorial services for the Tennis & Swim Center and for the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center are accounted for in the budgets for each of those facilities, and the costs are not reflected in the Community Services Department budget.

Landscape Maintenance in Table C.6 is derived from the Public Works budget. Parks and street landscaping maintenance are included under the Public Works budget category of “General Landscape and Open Space Management”. The figures in Table C.6 are the parks share of maintenance costs. Table C.6 excludes capital outlay.

Table C.6
Maintenance Expenditures - FY 2002/03 and 2003/04
City of Calabasas

	Expenditure	
	Actual 2002-2003	Budget 2003-2004
Parks Maintenance		
Personnel Services	\$26,916	\$26,900
Supplies / Services		
Vehicle Maintenance	\$0	\$0
Water	\$44,972	\$92,000
Utilities: gas/electricity	\$10,970	\$25,000
Contractual Services	\$8,196	\$12,000
Mileage Reimb.	\$135	\$175
Dog Park	\$0	\$0
Custodial Supplies	\$10,056	\$14,800
Landscape Maintenance		
Personnel Services	\$21,554	\$15,525
Supplies / Services		
Contractual Services	\$126,466	\$130,500
Mileage Reimb.	\$0	\$250
TOTAL	\$258,645	\$317,150

Table C.7 shows cost per acre for park maintenance operations. Calabasas spends in excess of \$5,468 per acre of developed park land, which is normal compared to communities of similar size. The parks in Calabasas are generally well-developed with facilities, and appear to be well-maintained.

Table C.7
Maintenance Cost per Acre
City of Calabasas

City	Park Maintenance ¹	Maintained Acres ²	Cost Per Acre
Calabasas, CA	\$258,643	47.3	\$5,468

¹ Does not include Tennis & Swim Center and Community Center.

The Community Services Department identifies the percentage of maintenance resources spent on each park facility. This percentage is derived from landscape maintenance contract costs.

Table C.8
 Percentage of Maintenance Resources per Park
 City of Calabasas

Facility ¹	% of Maintenance Resources
De Anza Park	30%
Creekside Park	20%
Gates Canyon Park	16%
Grape Arbor Park	15%
Bark Park	6%
Freedom Park	4%
Highlands Park	4%
Linear Park	2%
Wild Walnut Park	3%

¹Does not include Tennis & Swim Center or Community Center. Maintenance for these is accounted for in their own budgets.

“Linear Park” is the Las Virgenes Road R.O.W. segment landscaped and maintained with Community Services funds, rather than with Public Works funds. Although maintenance of this area is funded by the Community Services, it does not serve a park function and is not included on the inventory of park land.

Revenues

The primary sources of General Fund revenue for the City of Calabasas are Sales Tax, Utility Users Tax, Property Tax, and Motor Vehicle In-Lieu Fees. Although Recreation Fees are not a significant source of revenue to the General Fund, a substantial portion of the cost of operation the Community Services Department is recovered through Recreation Fee revenue.

Table C.9
 Recreation Fee Revenue¹
 City of Calabasas

Year	Rec Fee Revenue
2000-01 (actual)	681,539
2001-02 (actual)	710,986
2002-03 (actual)	849,038
2003-04 (budget)	858,150

¹ Does not include revenue at Tennis & Swim Center or Community Center.

Table C.9 compares service area expenditures and revenues within the Department. It should be noted some service areas are not in a position to charge for services (e.g., maintenance).

Table C.10 shows the breakdown of revenues and expenditures by division, for 2002-03. FY 2002-03 was used so actual figures could be compared, rather than budgeted figures.

Table C.10
 Revenue/Expenditures by Service Area Division FY 2002-03
 City of Calabasas

Item	Actual 2002-03 Revenues	Actual 2002-03 Expenditures	Excess Revenue (Deficit)
Management Total	\$25,784	\$216,600	(\$190,915)
Special Events	\$25,784		
Maintenance Total	\$0	\$258,645	(\$258,645)
De Anza Park Total	\$367,480	\$719,389	(\$351,909)
De Anza Park	\$197,458		
Recreation Fees	\$170,022		
Preschool/Creekside Total	\$454,069	\$583,065	(\$128,996)
Cultural Total	\$61,336	\$57,277	\$4,059
Concert tickets	\$13,570		
Art Festival	\$47,765		
TOTAL	\$911,029	\$1,835,076	(\$924,047)
Tennis & Swim Center Total	\$2,484,332	\$2,419,024	\$65,308

When compared to total budget, revenues cover approximately 50% of the total Community Services operating budget. The Tennis & Swim Center is operated as an enterprise fund and revenues cover 100% of the expenses. The Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center is not included in the table above because it is operated by a joint use authority and not the Community Services Department.

Revenues from programs are allocated to the facility where the program was held, where possible (i.e. fees for recreation programs at Creekside are allocated to the revenue for Creekside/Preschool). De Anza facility rentals bring in about \$40,000 per year from hockey court fees, room rentals, picnic area rentals, etc. The remaining revenue in the De Anza category is from programs. The “Recreation Fees” line item under De Anza includes some recreation programs at De Anza, as well as programs at other parks such as Grape Arbor and Gates Canyon.

Since it is an enterprise fund **Tennis & Swim Center expenditures are balanced by revenues** and revenues cover the cost of operating the facility. Revenue sources include facility rental, memberships, programs, lessons, the tennis academy, and the pro shop, among others. Daily aquatic revenue brings in about \$40,000 annually. This figure doesn’t include those with memberships to the facility, all of whom can use the pool whenever they wish. There are two classes of memberships: health memberships with access to facilities except the tennis courts, and tennis memberships with access to all facilities.

C.4 Participation

Listed below is a summary of cultural and recreation participation in Calabasas recreation programs.

Table C.11
Recreation Participation, 2002 Total
City of Calabasas

Activity	Number of Participants	Participant Days
Parks		
Basketball leagues	493	13,197
T-Ball /Coach pitch leagues	92	1,610
Tennis & Swim Center		
Swim lessons	1,100	11,000
Rec. swimming, non-members	NA	21,000
Swim Team	80	2,400
After school Tennis Program	40	7,200
Summer Youth Tennis Program	80	4,000
Private tennis lessons	NA	7,224
Personal training	NA	4,680
Fitness classes	NA	33,540
Children/Youth Care		
Klubhouse (daycare)	104	520
Enrichment (Lupin Elem.)	442	3,225
After school programs	242	5,178
Sports camps	40	197
Summer camps (non-sport)	1,116	5,700
Recreation Classes		
Tots	611	3,990
Youth	225	1,739
Teens	97	795
Teen volunteer programs	138	4,194
Tennis lessons (group)	234	1,924
Adults	157	1,301
Cultural Arts		
Orchestra (5 concerts)	250	1,000
Special Events		
"EGG"stravaganza	1,000	1,000
Arts & Crafts Festival	10,000	10,000
4 th of July	3,000	3,000
Pumpkin Festival	20,000	20,000
Halloween Carnival	500	500
Snow, Snow, Snow	1,500	1,500
TOTAL		171,614

Note: Participant day is defined as one person conducting one recreation activity in one day.

In Calabasas, there was a total of 171,614 participant days, which is **8.6 occasions per capita** (participant days / population), excluding use occasions by members of facilities. The figure of 8.6 occasions per capita does not include use of the Tennis & Swim Center by members outside of classes, or any use of the Agoura Hills / Calabasas Community Center by members, non-members, or in classes.

All Tennis & Swim Center members may use the pool and all health facilities. Outside of participation in classes, use of these facilities is not included in Table C.11. In addition, outside of classes, Tennis & Swim Center tennis members are free to use tennis courts whenever they wish. Outside of classes and programs, court use by members is not included in Table C.11.

At the Tennis & Swim Center, there are 820 tennis memberships, a total of 2,050 tennis members at an average of 2.5 people per membership; 800 health memberships, a total of 2,000 health memberships at an average of 2.5 people per membership; and approximately 300 non-primetime memberships, a total of 750 non-primetime members at an average of 2.5 people per membership. Altogether, there are about 1,920 memberships at the facility with a total of approximately 4,800 members. Primetime memberships at the Tennis & Swim Center are capped at the current levels. Tennis memberships have been capped for 5 years, and health memberships have been capped for 3 years. The waiting list for memberships is more than 500 names long, and it is about an 18-month wait for tennis memberships and a 12-month wait for health memberships. Non-primetime memberships were added as a way to provide service to those on the waiting list, and to provide reduced rates to those who can use the facility at off-peak hours.

The participation table also does not include any participation at the Agoura Hills / Calabasas Community Center.



Frog Circle at De Anza Park

APPENDIX D: Public Input Summary

Findings and Conclusions

Random Household Survey

Listed below is a summary of the results of the random household survey.

- Based on the survey results, **De Anza Park** receives the most use in the community with an average of 12 visits per capita annually. The Tennis & Swim Center and the Community Center are also well used.
- Park use varies, sometimes significantly, depending on geography. There was much higher use by west side residents of westside parks, even the Community Center, and much higher use by east side residents of eastside parks, even the Tennis & Swim Center.
- Overall, respondents rated Park and Recreation Services highly. When lower ratings were given, cost and availability of facilities at popular locations was frequently the reason.
- When asked what the three most needed facilities in Calabasas were, the three most frequently cited responses were **Sport Fields** (of all types), **Trails/Paths**, and **Open Space**.
- There was high interest in trails, and an extremely high level of support for open space acquisition. This was illustrated through the responses to a number of questions, as well as the recreation participation questions.
- When asked what types of trails are most needed, **Unpaved Hiking and Walking Trails** and **Off-Street Paved Trails** received the most support.
- Respondents overwhelmingly (74.9%) felt more **Sports Fields for Soccer, Baseball, and Softball** are needed in Calabasas. When asked who should be responsible for providing fields, more than 75% of respondents indicated either the City or a partnership between the City and the School District.
- There is relatively high participation in programs. Community-wide, **41.3%** of the respondents indicated they **have participated in recreation programs** sponsored by the City of Calabasas within the past year.
- When asked to prioritize seven major projects, the three most favored were **Acquisition of Open Space**, **Develop More Trails**, and a **Sports Field Complex**.
- When asked what cultural arts programs are of greatest interest, **Performances or Concerts in the Parks** and

Community Arts Festivals and Special Events received the most support.

- A **Teen Center** and **Place to Gather or Hang Out** received the most responses when respondents were asked what types of youth programs or facilities are most needed.
- When asked about the **pricing of programs and services**, **88.3% of respondents were satisfied**, selecting either that “the prices are about right” or “no opinion”. Only about 10% felt that prices are too high.
- The City’s **Recreation Brochure is very successful**. When asked how they find out about programs, 52.4% of respondents indicated the Recreation Brochure as the main source. This is much higher than in most communities.
- There is very high support for acquisition of open space. When asked how aggressively the City should acquire open space as it becomes available, **42.7%** chose the most aggressive level of **open space acquisition**.
- Participation in Calabasas is somewhat higher (about 8%) than the MIG Average.
- **Exercising/Aerobics** and **Hiking/Backpacking** have the highest recreation participation rates, and the participation rate for these activities in Calabasas was double the MIG Average.
- **Six of the Top Ten** Preferred Recreation Activities in Calabasas are **trail-related**.
- The activities with the highest latent demand (defined as activities people would like to participate in if facilities were more available) included:
 - Yoga
 - Horseback Riding
 - Golf (both Playing and Driving Range)
- In response to the open-ended question about how to use the 2-acre west side park site, there were two main themes to the answers: very active park use with sport fields and courts or very passive uses, such as trails and open space. Responses were fairly evenly split between the two.
- The majority of responses to the open-ended question about how to use the 10-acre east side park site focused on more

passive uses such as trails, open space, and environmental education.

***Recreation Needs of
People with Disabilities***

- 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.
- Responses indicated there would be interest in additional programming designed for people with disabilities, if the City were to offer it.

Public Workshops

- The first public workshop for the Master Plan was held on December 10, 2002 at the Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center. The purpose of this workshop was to obtain community input into the future vision for the Parks and Community Services Division, and to obtain input on the design of two future parks sites, one at the intersection of Las Virgenes and Lost Hills Roads (west), and the other at the intersection of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway (east).
- The second public workshop was held March 10, 2003 at the De Anza Park community room. The workshop was conducted in open house format with four stations, including public comments to date; existing recreation facilities and potential specialized services; East Side park site development concepts; and West Side park site development concepts.
- The third public workshop was held November 10, 2003 at City Hall. The draft master plan was presented for public review and comment, and an open house format similar to the March workshop was used.

Youth Workshops

- On February 25, 2003, leadership classes from A.E. Wright Middle School and Calabasas High School participated in workshops designed to obtain input into youth recreation needs. The two Leadership classes provided insight into the teens' likes/dislikes, desires, and vision for the future of Calabasas Parks and Recreation.

PART I. RANDOM HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

D.1 Introduction

A survey of public attitudes, recreation interests and recreation participation characteristics was made in the City of Calabasas in late February of 2003. Questionnaires were distributed to randomly selected households in the city limits of Calabasas. Each member of the household age 10 and over was asked to fill out a separate questionnaire.

Sample Design and Selection

A total of 1,156 surveys were hand-delivered to 594 randomly selected households in Calabasas. Each member of the household ages 10 and over was asked to fill out a separate questionnaire. After the random sample was selected, it was mapped and checked to ensure that each of the HOA's and apartment complexes in Calabasas was represented, as well as the few areas not included in associations.

Based on the random sample method used, in most communities, results are statistically accurate within an expected maximum error range of approximately 5 percent (a 95 percent confidence interval). In other words, if the sample were randomly selected 100 times, it would be expected that for 95 times, the results would vary no more than 5 percent from the results if everyone in the city were surveyed. However, the survey response rate in Calabasas was lower than average, despite a larger than average initial selection of households. **Based on the 271 returns, the maximum margin of error is 5.91 percent.** This is slightly less than the five-percent deviation the sample was designed for.

Summary of Survey Results

A summary of the survey process is shown below.

Table D-1
Survey Summary
City of Calabasas

Survey Summary	Results
Number of Households Surveyed	594
Number of Households Responding	176
Return Ratio	29.6%
Number of Questionnaires Distributed	1,156
Number of Questionnaires Returned	271
Return Ratio	23.4%

The return rate in Calabasas was lower than is typical in most communities where this type of survey is conducted, which usually have a return rate that is 50% or higher.

It was noted by the Community Services Director there was a 27% turnout for the City election that took place right after the survey was conducted, and that this turnout was slightly higher than typical due to the high level of interest in a tax repeal measure on the ballot. Based on the election turnout, the survey return ratio may be a typical “good” response rate for Calabasas.

It is also important to note that an effort was made to ensure representation from all Homeowners Associations (HOAs), condominium complexes, and apartment complexes, as well as representation from the very minor areas of the City not part of a planned development. This included coordination with HOA presidents. However, City staff could not gain access to six gated HOAs despite these efforts, which means that residents of Calabasas Country Estates, Clairidge, Malibu Canyon Villas, Malibu Creek Condominiums, Mulwood Town Homes, and Tanterra could not be surveyed.

D.2 Demographic Results

AREA OF RESPONDENT:

Table D-2
Survey Areas
City of Calabasas

Area	Percent of Sample
West	44.6%
East	55.3%
TOTAL	100.0%

It is interesting to note the west side of Calabasas had a higher survey return rate than the east side. The west side received 37.2% of the surveys distributed and the east side received 62.7%, but the west side accounts for 44.6% of returned surveys.

1. AGE OF RESPONDENT:

This question is used primarily as a means to cross-tab responses to other questions by age category or age group.

Table D-3
Age Distribution
City of Calabasas

Response (N=271)	Number Of Returns	Percent of Sample	2000 U.S. Census
10-14	30	11.1%	9.1%
15-17	9	3.3%	6.5%
18-24	12	4.4%	4.0%
25-34	23	8.5%	9.9%
35-44	56	20.7%	19.2%
45-54	60	22.1%	18.0%
55-64	50	18.5%	9.9%
65+	31	11.4%	8.6%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-3:

- The highest percentage of responses was obtained from the 45-54 age group. The 35-44 age group obtained the second highest number of responses, and the 55-64 age group obtained the third highest number of responses.
- Compared to the 2000 U.S. Census age distribution, the sampling achieved a lower response rate in the teen age group (ages 15-17).
- Compared to the 2000 U.S. Census age distribution, the sampling achieved a higher response rate in the older adult age groups (45-54 and 55-64 age groups). Youth (10-14 age group) and the seniors' age group (age 65+) received a slightly higher response rate than Census age distribution.

Table D-4
Age Distribution By Area
City of Calabasas

Response (N=271)	Percent, West Side	Percent, East Side	2000 U.S. Census
10-14	13.2%	9.3%	9.1%
15-17	5.0%	2.0%	6.5%
18-24	2.5%	6.0%	4.0%
25-34	9.9%	7.3%	9.9%
35-44	28.1%	14.7%	19.2%
45-54	20.7%	23.3%	18.0%
55-64	15.7%	10.7%	9.9%
65+	5.0%	16.7%	8.6%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-4:

There are some significant differences between the age distribution on the west side and the east side of Calabasas. This may be a reflection of differing population profiles on the two sides of town.

- Compared to the 2000 U.S. Census age distribution, on the west side the sampling achieved a much higher response rate in the adult and older adult age groups (35-44 and 55-64 age groups). The youth (10-14) and the 45-54 older adult age groups also responded on the west side at a higher rate than the Census age distribution.
- On the west side, seniors (65+ age group) responded at a lower rate than the Census age distribution.
- On the east side, teen-age youth (ages 15-17) responded at a much lower response rate than the U.S. Census age distribution.
- On the east side, the seniors (65+ age group) responded at double the 2000 U.S. Census age distribution. On the east side, the older adult age groups (45 -54 and 55-64) also responded at a slightly higher rate than the Census age distribution. The 18-24 age group also responded at a slightly higher rate on the east side.
- On the east side, the 25-34 and 35-44 adult age groups responded at a slightly lower rate than the U.S. Census age distribution.

D.3 Opinion Results

2. ON AVERAGE, HOW OFTEN DID YOU VISIT THE FOLLOWING PARKS AND FACILITIES WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

Table D-5
Park/Facility Visitation
City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Average # of Visits Annually	% of Respondents Who Didn't Visit
Juan Bautista De Anza Park	12	24%
Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center	18	31%
Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center	12	37%
Gates Canyon Park	10	49%
Grape Arbor Park	8	49%
Bark Park	5	64%
Creekside Park	2	64%
Freedom Park	1	81%
Highland Park	1	81%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-5:

- Based on the results, **Juan Bautista De Anza Park** receives the most use. 76% of respondents have visited this park, and the average number of visits annually for respondents is 12. Only 8% of west side respondents had not visited this park (which is located in western Calabasas), compared to 35% of east side respondents. West side respondents visited the park an average of 20 times a year, compared to an average of 7 visits for east side respondents.

- The **Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center (TSC)** and the **Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center** (Community Center) also received high use. For the TSC, 69% of respondents have visited the facility, and the average number of visits annually is 18. For west side respondents, 39% had not visited the TSC (located in eastern Calabasas), compared to 26% of east side respondents. East side respondents averaged 23 visits per year to the TSC, compared to an average of 8 visits per year for west side respondents. For the Community Center, 63% of respondents have visited the facility and the average number of visits annually is 12. However, 50% of east side respondents had not visited the Community Center (located in western Calabasas), compared to only 20% of west side respondents. West side respondents averaged 20 visits per year, compared to 5 visits per year for east side respondents.

- **Highlands Park** and **Freedom Park** received the least use. 81% of respondents haven't visited either of these parks within the past year, and the average number of visits annually for each is 1. Ninety-three percent of west side respondents have not visited Freedom Park, and 95% have not visited Highland Park. In comparison, 74% of east side residents have not visited Freedom, and 76% have not visited Highland. Both of these parks are in eastern Calabasas.
- There are geographic differences in the use of the other City parks, including Creekside Park, Gates Canyon Park, and Grape Arbor Park. For Creekside (in eastern Calabasas), 83% of west side respondents had not visited the park, compared to 55% of east side respondents. For Gates Canyon Park (in western Calabasas), only 21% of west side respondents have not visited the park, compared to 74% of east side residents. West side respondents average 16 visits to Gates Canyon per year, compared to an average of 4 visit per year for east side respondents. For Grape Arbor Park (also in western Calabasas), 42% of west side respondents had not visited the park, compared to 54% of east side respondents.

West side respondents average 11 visits per year to Grape Arbor, compared to an average of 5 visits per year for east side respondents. It is surprising how much use Grape Arbor Park receives, especially from east Calabasas residents. Most neighborhood parks are used mainly by surrounding residents. The high use of Grape Arbor may be a result of a lack of neighborhood parks in Calabasas.

3. USING A GRADING SCALE OF 1-5 WITH 1 BEING POOR AND 5 BEING EXCELLENT, HOW DO YOU RATE THE CITY IN THE FOLLOWING PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES?

This question asked respondents to rate the Community Services Department in several service areas, and specifically asked about service at two major facilities: the Tennis & Swim Center and the Community Center.

Table D-6
Rating Specific Park and Recreation Services
City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Percent Rating 4 or higher	Percent Rating 1 or 2
Parks and Facilities		
Adequate number of park sites	75.5%	9.0%
Adequate facilities in the parks	61.1%	8.9%
Programs and Services		
Customer service/friendliness of staff	78.4%	5%
Quality of and range of programs	68.7%	8.4%
Quality of special events	55.4%	17.4%
Quality of cultural arts programs	50.9%	20.8%
Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center		
Customer service/friendliness of staff	78.7%	5.5%
Membership policies and costs	64.6%	13.0%
Availability of facilities	53.3%	20.8%
Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center		
Customer service/friendliness of staff	75.2%	4.3%
Availability of facilities	69.5%	18.3%
Membership policies and costs	65.7%	14.3%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-6:

- Overall, respondents rated all of areas of service fairly high. For all areas, more than half of respondents rated the service a 4 or 5.
- **Cultural Arts, Special Events, Availability of the Tennis and Swim Center**, and availability of the **Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center** had higher than typical ratings of 1 and 2. Based on responses to other survey questions, this may reflect a desire among respondents that the City provide more cultural arts activities and special events. Ratings for the TSC and Community Center appear to reflect the popularity of these facilities, which means they are frequently crowded.
- There are some geographical differences. While 0% of respondents on the west side rated “adequate number of park sites” a #1 (poor), 7.2% of respondents on the east side did. Oddly, there was both higher satisfaction and higher dissatisfaction with cultural arts on the east side than the west side. On the east side, 9.9% of respondents gave a #1 (poor) rating – 9.9% -- and 18.7% gave a #5 (excellent) rating.

Comments on Ratings

Those who rated any area a 1 or 2 were asked to comment. Comments were reviewed and grouped by service area.

Table D-7
Comments on 1 and 2 Ratings for Park and Recreation Services
City of Calabasas

Comments
<i>Parks and Facilities</i>
Adequate number of park sites: More teen activities closer to the Mulwood area (2); More parks needed in Eastern Calabasas, shade in parks is needed (2); Need park on East side of city (2); I live in Vista Pointe and there are no adequate park facilities to take my kids ages 4 and 8; There are no parks north of Paseo Primario; We need more parks in Calabasas that are larger, better facilities, and provide more shade for summer. We need a better Mulwood park; Creekside Park is used for a subsidized (by City) nursery school. It is usually locked; I don't believe there are any parks close to the Mulwood area; No parks around Gelson's and Mulwood
Adequate facilities in the parks: More parks needed in Eastern Calabasas; shade in parks is needed (2); Creekside Park is used for a subsidized (by City) nursery school. It is usually locked; Always seems extremely busy; The bathrooms are dirty; Need baseball fields
<i>Programs and Services</i>
Customer service/friendliness of staff: Not friendly (2); Not very friendly, never (2)
Quality of and range of programs: More programs for 3 and under (2); As a working parent, I would like to see more classes offered after 6 or on weekends (2).
Quality of cultural arts programs: Better music and arts and theater through city classes and programs (2); We enjoy the Calabasas orchestra. We would like to see more cultural arts, and a theatre or concert hall would be a great asset. (3); As a working parent, I would like to see more classes offered after 6 or on weekends.(2)
Quality of special events: Fun family parks (2); Improve!
<i>Calabasas Swim & Tennis Center</i>
Customer service/friendliness of staff: Not very friendly, never (2); Staff seemed disinterested; Staff very rude to me at swim and tennis; Not very nice
Membership policies and costs: Takes too long to become a member (2); Long waiting list for membership (2); Impossible to get membership; Free use for residents of Calabasas (2); Day rate is too expensive (2); Many students on tight budgets in area. Student rates for college and grad students would be nice (2)
Availability of facilities: A lot of times it's too crowded and not many facilities are available (2); Always seems extremely busy (2); The Swim Center is always crowded; Cannot use TSC without paying membership fee; Free use for residents of Calabasas(2); No full membership available; Need more tennis lesson options (2); Pool not available for enough free swim hours (2)
<i>Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center</i>
Customer service/friendliness of staff: no comments provided
Membership policies and costs:: Day rate is too expensive (2); High prices (2); Too expensive for low income seniors (2); Community Center too expensive for non-profit groups
Availability of facilities: Overfull gym (2);
<i>General Comments</i>
We have enough parks; I think the TSC should be open more often; I'm pleased with most facilities; Need programs for younger children at Community Center; We need more parks off Parkway Calabasas; We need a Bark Park for small dogs; Have not visited the facilities

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-7:

- In terms of park facilities, comments focused on geographic location of parks, especially on the need for more east side parks.
- For the **TSC**, comments focused on the difficulty of obtaining a membership, the cost of day use fees, and the high use the facility receives.
- For the **Community Center**, comments focused on cost.

4. WHAT SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY, ARE NEEDED IN THE CALABASAS PARKS YOU USE MOST FREQUENTLY?

This was an open-ended question where respondents were asked to list their suggested improvements.

Table D-8
 Needed Park Improvements in Calabasas
 City of Calabasas

Number (N=Varies)	Response
Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center	Walk-in fee for workout room is too expensive; All girls basketball team would be good; Pool (2); Skateboard park
Bark Park	Stop people from allowing their dogs to defecate; It's wet in the a.m.; Frequently wet in the morning. Dogs get muddy. Watering should be done early evening not in morning; Better lights; Too muddy. Won't go there; Doggy water fountain needs adjustment to flow more easily (2); Won't use when muddy; Post dog owner etiquette. If your dog is unruly - it's time to go; Bigger dog run (2); Calabasas dog park; Restrooms; More shade
Calabasas Tennis & Swim Center	Facilities: Locks on exercise rooms stick in the rain and don't work. Larger area for yoga and exercise classes; Better tennis lighting (2); More classroom space; Kids pool; Kids workout facilities; Jogging track; Year round snack bar; More trees; Heat pool more Programs: Less summer camps for public use; More classes; Need more tennis lesson options Policies: Can't walk in to use gym; Remove Viewpoint High School from using up courts (2)
Creekside Park	Access Issues: Not available to the community; Greater accessibility; Not available to residents due to subsidized nursery school; Get rid of nursery school and open to the public; Access and hours of operation Other Comments: Rest rooms; Bathroom plumbing; Maintenance; Picnic tables; Something for children to play on; Filtration system; 3 wall handball court; Bike path

Table D-8
(continued)

Number (N=Varies)	Response
Freedom Park	Restrooms(2); Needs shade; Better maintenance and ADA access; Improve maintenance; Clean up dog waste by providing signs, dog poop bags.
Gates Canyon Park	<p>Restrooms: Keep eye on bathrooms; Clean bathrooms (2); Bathrooms are horrible; Restroom maintenance</p> <p>Facilities: Gym; Tire swing; More basketball courts</p> <p>Other Comments Fix water fountain (5); Shading; Tennis lights; Lights on permanently for tennis courts; Mud puddles east of picnic table area (2); Water drainage problem sometimes with soggy grass; Pet waste bag stations are needed; Dogs off leashes constantly; People from local businesses smoking pot; Homeless people</p>
Grape Arbor Park	<p>Restrooms: Clean up restrooms (3); Bathrooms (3); Cleaner bathrooms; Restrooms; Lighter restrooms</p> <p>Facilities: Soccer field; Tennis courts</p> <p>Other Comments: Level field / holes; Barbeques; Improve lighting; New sand and basketball nets; Redo; Enlarge it; Enlarge to hillside on north with walk bridge over flood control; Vending machines are always broken; Trash after parties (2); # of parties on weekends</p>
Highland Park	Stop motorized scooters; Plant bare area, its an eyesore; Stop using polluting leaf blowers
Juan Bautista De Anza Park	<p>Facilities: Pool (5); Skate park (2); Better playground equipment; 3 wall handball court; Exercise course; Tennis courts; More parking (2)</p> <p>Trails: Bike path (2); Improve trails; More walking and exercise trails; Landscaping / unpaved walkways eroded</p> <p>Shade: Needs more shade (3); More trees (2); Tent over playground equipment</p> <p>General Improvements: More adult attractions; More recycling bins needed; New and improved vending machines and change machine that will take \$5, \$10, \$20 bills; Acoustics in building are bad; Maintenance of courts; Raise swings; Drain swing area (rain creates pond); Equipment rentals; Drinks/water; Community hours for open courts as leagues dominate play. More play sets; Motocross; Annex area along Las Virgenes and build soccer field; More bleachers; Bathrooms dirty</p>
Other Comments	<p>General: Offer volleyball; All parks need more shade; More baseball fields; Free/nominal charge for all facilities for Calabasas residents; No true 24 hour open basketball courts for the community; Preschool on west side; Great job</p> <p>Geographic Specific: Need a local park near Vista Pointe; Need a Mulwood Park; Calabasas Hills - Needs toilet and water. Recreation room would be nice; Park Calabasas poop; Sorrento Calabasas Tennis and Swim; Park Sorrento Calabasas Lake – Keep sidewalk clean</p>

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-8:

- The responses above fall into two main categories: 1) **Maintenance** issues and 2) **Lack of Facilities/Amenities**. There were also some comments about policies or enforcement, such as off-leash dogs.
- A number of comments focused on restrooms. Comments fall into two categories: that restrooms need more frequent maintenance or that a park without restrooms needs them. This is typical for most communities.

5. IF YOU SELDOM OR DO NOT USE THE PARKS IN CALABASAS, WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS?

Respondents were asked to select all reasons that apply from a pre-determined list.

Table D-9
Reasons For Not Using Parks
City of Calabasas

Response (N=187)	% of Responses
Don't know where they are located	26.0%
Not interested in parks	21.6%
Use parks in other areas	16.1%
Too far away, not conveniently located	14.7%
Use facilities in my homeowners association, condominium complex, or apartment complex	13.2%
Poorly maintained	5.1%
Feel unsafe	3.3%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-9:

- The primary reason for not using parks was **Don't Know Where They are Located**. This can be addressed with a public outreach campaign.
- Only 3.3% of respondents chose **Feel Unsafe**, which is lower than typical. In most communities, 7% to 8% of respondents choose this option. This means Calabasas has been doing a good job with public safety and with designing parks so people feel comfortable in them.

- **Not Interested in Parks** was the reason given by 21.6% of people. Unfortunately, the City can't do much to reach these respondents.
- There were some geographical differences in the responses. 21.7% of respondents from west Calabasas use facilities within their HOA, condominium or apartment complex, compared to only 10.3% of those from east Calabasas. In addition, a higher percentage of those on the west side said they weren't interested in parks (27.5% on the east side versus 19.6% on the west). However, a higher percentage on the east side said they don't know where parks are located (27.9% on the east side versus 20.3% on the west side)

6. WHEN YOU ARE PURSUING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CALABASAS AREA, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS SPENT IN PRIVATE FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS, SUCH AS A PRIVATE HEALTH CLUB OR A PARK OWNED BY YOUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION?

This question was intended to gauge how much residents use private recreation facilities in Calabasas, compared to public facilities. Most Calabasas residents live within Homeowners Associations or complexes, many of which have their own recreation facilities. In addition, there are several private clubs in the area, such as the Calabasas Golf & Country Club. If private facilities are meeting a portion of recreation need, then public facilities aren't needed to serve those needs.

Table D-10
Recreation Time Spent in Private vs. Public Facilities
City of Calabasas

Response (N=216)	Average Percent of Time Spent	Percent of Respondents Who Visited Facilities
Public Facilities	50%	81%
Private Facilities	29%	57%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-10:

- Based on the responses, people spend more of their recreation time at public facilities than at private ones, and more people have visited public facilities than private to pursue recreational activities.

7. FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST OF PROJECTS, WHICH SHOULD HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN CALABASAS TODAY, IF IT COULD BE PROVIDED?

Respondents were asked to prioritize the entire list of projects. Listed below is a table that shows the number of times a project was picked as the number one response.

Table D-11
 Priorities for Future Projects
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Number of 1 st Choices
Acquisition of open space	66
A sports field complex for soccer, softball, and baseball	42
Develop more trails	30
Another outdoor pool on the west side of town	29
A plaza or other large community gathering place	19
Build additional facilities in existing parks, e.g. swings, shelters	15
Acquisition of land for future parks	14

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-11:

- Based on this method of analysis, **Acquisition of Open Space** was the number one response. This was followed by a **Sports Field Complex**. **Develop More Trails** was third, followed closely by **Another Outdoor Pool**. **Acquisition of Land for Future Parks** ranked last by this method of analysis.

A debate often occurs over the appropriate method of analysis for questions that prioritize. Another analysis method is to weigh the answers by giving more value to a #1 response and less value to the last response.

The following table shows the total score of each response after giving the responses a weighted value. Responses were ranked according to priority, with a first choice response assigned a score of "7," a second choice assigned a score of "6," and so on.

Table D-12
 Priorities for Future Projects
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Weighted Ranking
Acquisition of open space	970
Develop more trails	816
A sports field complex for soccer, softball, and baseball	768
Acquisition of land for future parks	710
Another outdoor pool on the west side of town	616
Build additional facilities in existing parks, e.g. swings, shelters	603
A plaza or other large community gathering place	538

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-12:

- Based on this method of analysis, **Acquisition of Open Space** remained the number one response. However, **Develop More Trails** moved to the second position and a **Sports Field Complex** moved to the third position.
- Using this method, **Acquisition of Land for Future Parks** ranked higher (4th, instead of 7th) and a **Plaza or Other Large Community Gathering Place** ranked lower (7th, instead of 5th).
- Regardless of the method used, **Acquisition of Open Space** ranked #1, and was clearly favored over other choices.

8. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PATHWAY OR TRAIL FUNCTIONS SHOULD HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT?

Respondents were asked to select their top two choices.

Table D-13
 Highest Priority Pathway or Trail Functions
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=245)	Percent of Sample
Natural area trails that provide peace/solitude	34.4%
Trails that extend long distances (5+ miles)	19.8%
Trails that link schools and parks within neighborhoods	19.3%
Trails that link other existing trails	11.7%
Trails are not important to me	6.7%
Trails that primarily provide a transportation function	4.9%
Internal park pathways	3.1%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-13:

- **Natural Area Trails** were clearly favored the most. **Trails that Extend Long Distances** and **Trails that Link Schools and Parks with Neighborhoods** received similar levels of support, and are the second most favored trail functions.
- **Internal Park Pathways** and **Trails that Primarily Provide a Transportation Function** were least favored, and these trail functions clearly had significantly less support than others.
- There were some geographical differences in responses. **Trails that Link other Trails** were favored more highly on the west side than the east. Although **Natural Area Trails** were clearly the top choice community-wide, this trail function received even more support on the east side (38.3% of responses) than on the west (29.9% of responses).

9.HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN RECREATION PROGRAMS OR SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CALABASAS COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

Table D-14
Participation in City Programs or Services
City of Calabasas

Response (N=259)	Percent of Sample
Yes	41.3%
No	58.7%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-14:

- Almost 42% of people have participated in City recreation programs, which is a fairly good participation rate. In many communities, only about 25% have participated.
- There was higher participation in programs on the west side (47.0%) versus the east side (36.9%).

10. IF YOU DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN CITY RECREATION PROGRAMS OR SERVICES, WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS?

Respondents were asked to select all reasons that apply.

Table D-15
Reasons For Not Participating in Programs
City of Calabasas

Response (N=151)	Percent of Sample
I'm unaware or uninterested in the programs offered.	30.3%
I'm not interested in participating.	28.4%
I participate in private programs or I am a member of a private club.	16.4%
The times are not convenient.	15.9%
The locations are not convenient.	4.5%
Transportation problems	4.5%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-15:

- **I'm Unaware of or Uninterested in the Programs** was the main reason people don't participate, followed closely by **I'm Not Interested in Participating**.
- **Transportation and Location Problems** are not significant reasons for lack of participation.
- There were some geographic differences in the responses. On the west side, 22.0% identified "The times are not convenient" as their reason for not participating, compared to 11.8% on the east side. On the east side, a higher percentage (20.2%) participate in private programs or are members of a private club, compared to 11.0% on the west side. This may be a result of the location of the private Calabasas Golf and Country Club in eastern Calabasas.

11. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE PRICING FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CITY ?

Table D-16
Pricing of Recreation Programs and Services
City of Calabasas

Response (N=240)	Percent of Sample
The prices are about right	50.8%
Don't have an opinion	37.5%
The prices are too high	10.8%
The prices are too low	0.8%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-16:

- Based on the responses, the vast majority of residents (88.3%) don't have a problem with the pricing for recreation programs and services. Slightly more than half felt that **the Prices are About Right**, and another 37.5% didn't have an opinion.
- However, people clearly do not feel prices are too low, since less than 1% of respondents selected this option.
- There was no significant geographic differences in the responses. However, double the percentage of respondents in the 15-17, 18-24, and 25-34 age groups felt "the prices are too high", as compared to other age groups.

12. ARE SPORT FIELDS FOR SOCCER, SOFTBALL, AND BASEBALL NEEDED IN CALABASAS?

Table D-17
Need for Sports Fields
City of Calabasas

Response (N=215)	Percent of Sample
Yes	74.9%
No	25.1%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-17:

- Based on the responses, the vast majority of residents (74.9%) think more sport fields are needed.
- There was a significant geographic difference in the responses. On the west side, 87.1% thought more fields are needed, compared with 64.6% on the east side.

13. IF YOU ANSWERED “YES” TO THE ABOVE QUESTION, WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION?

Table D-18
Responsibility for Sports Field Development and Operation
City of Calabasas

Response (N=138)	Percent of Sample
The City of Calabasas	52.9%
A partnership with the School District	22.5%
A partnership with other cities	9.4%
Los Angeles or Ventura County	9.4%
Private sports groups	3.6%
A commercial, for-profit organization	2.2%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-18:

- More than 75% (75.4%) of respondents felt either the **City** or the **City in partnership with the Las Virgenes Unified School District** should develop and operate sport fields in Calabasas.
- Very few respondents felt private groups or for-profits organizations should be responsible for sport fields.

14. WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST NEEDED RECREATION FACILITIES OR ACTIVITIES IN CALABASAS?

This was an open-ended question where respondents were asked to list what they believe are the three most needed facilities in Calabasas.

Table D-19
Most Needed Recreation Facilities
City of Calabasas

Number (N=Varies)	Response
60	Sports fields (includes soccer (26), baseball/softball (19), sports fields (13), football(2))
53	Trails/paths (includes trails, bike paths, skate paths, mountain bike trails)
26	Open space areas (includes open space, nature center, wildlife preserve)
24	Swimming Opportunities
13	Basketball courts
9	Tennis courts
9	Senior activities /center
6	Community gathering place
6	Cultural center
5	Horseback riding
4	Golf Opportunities
4	Health/fitness club
4	In-line skate facilities

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-19:

- 60 responses cited a need for more **Sport Fields** of some type, with soccer fields being specifically mentioned 26 times.
- 53 responses cited a need for **Trails or Paths** of some type, including trails, bike lanes or paths, skate paths, and mountain bike trails.
- **Open space Areas**, including nature centers and wildlife preserves, was mentioned 26 times. **Swimming Opportunities** was mentioned 24 times, almost as frequently.
- **Basketball Courts** were identified as a need 13 times.

15. WHAT TYPES OF PATHWAYS OR TRAILS ARE MOST NEEDED IN CALABASAS?

Respondents were asked to select their top two choices.

Table D-20
Most Needed Types of Pathways or Trails
City of Calabasas

Response (N=235)	Percent of Sample
Unpaved trails for walking and hiking	27.2%
Off-street paved trails for biking, walking, in-line skating, etc.	22.2%
Multiple use trails shared by bikers, walkers, and equestrian users	19.5%
On-street bike trails or bike lanes	14.7%
Designated off-street trails for mountain biking	6.7%
Unpaved trails for equestrian use	4.8%
Do not believe more trails are needed	4.8%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-20:

- **Unpaved Trails for Walking and Hiking** were identified as the most needed trail type. **Off-Street Paved Trails** ranked second. **Multiple Use Trails** and **On-Street Bike Trails** also received good support.
- **Off-Street Trails for Mountain Biking** and **Unpaved Trails for Equestrian Use** did not receive much support.
- Respondents from the east side were more interested in equestrian trails than those from the west side. However, those from the west side were more interested in mountain biking trails. Unpaved walking and hiking trails were supported by a higher percentage of east side respondents (32.6% compared to 21.2%), and multiple use trails were favored by a higher percentage of west side respondents (26.9% compared to 13.1%).

16. WHICH TYPES OF PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, OR ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OFFERED TO THE TEENAGE YOUTH?

Respondents were asked to select their top two choices.

Table D-21
 Programs for Teenage Youth
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=215)	Percent of Sample
Teen center and a place to gather or "hang out"	20.2%
Organized sports	19.7%
Outdoor adventure activities (hiking, surfing, etc.)	16.8%
Special interest classes (art, music, technology, etc.)	15.9%
Drop-in sports activities	7.2%
Job training / career placement	6.7%
Dances / social events	6.5%
Outdoor education programs	6.0%
City should not be involved in teen programs	1.0%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-21:

- A **Teen Center** and **Organized Sports** received the highest levels of support. **Outdoor Adventure Activities** and **Special Interest Classes** received the next highest levels of support.
- The vast majority of people believe the City should be involved in teen programs. Only 1% said the City should not be involved.
- The 15-17 year old age group favored drop-in sports activities and dances and social events more than any other age groups. This age group had very little support for outdoor education programs and less support for a teen center than other age groups.
- The 10-14 year old age group favored a teen center, outdoor adventure activities, and organized sports.

17. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, DID YOU LEAVE THE CITY OF CALABASAS TO VISIT OTHER PARKS OR PARTICIPATE IN A RECREATION PROGRAM? IF YES, PLEASE LIST THE NUMBER OF TIMES FOR EACH FACILITY OR ACTIVITY IN THE TABLE BELOW.

This question was intended to gain information on how frequently residents have to leave Calabasas to use specific recreation programs or facilities.

Table D-22
Participation in Facilities and Activities Outside of Calabasas
City of Calabasas

Response (N=varies)	Average # of Times in Past 12 Months
Sports Fields	26
Open Space	25
Trails	21
Recreation Programs / Classes	19
Cultural Activities	9
Special Needs Programs	1
Did Not Leave	0

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-22:

- Based on the responses, people left Calabasas to use **Sport Fields** and visit **Open Space** most frequently, closely followed by **Trails**.

18. WHICH TYPES OF CULTURAL ARTS ACTIVITIES ARE MOST INTERESTING TO YOU?

Respondents were asked to select up to two choices.

Table D-23
Preferences for Cultural Arts Activities
City of Calabasas

Response (N=238)	Percent of Sample
Community arts festivals and special events	28.5%
Performances or concerts in the park	28.5%
Performing arts classes (music, drama, dance)	11.3%
Cultural activities for children	9.9%
Visual arts classes / instruction (painting, etc..)	8.3%
Art in public places (murals, sculpture, etc.)	6.0%
Literary arts programs	4.1%
Cultural arts programs are not of interest to me	3.4%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-23:

- **Community Arts Festival and Special Events and Performances or Concerts in the Park** received the most support.
- There was not much interest in **Literary Arts Programs or Art in Public Places**.
- Most respondents are interested in cultural arts programs. Only 3.4% indicated they weren't interested. When looking at the responses broken down by age, none of the respondents in the 18-24, 25-34, and 35-44 age groups chose this response. The 10-14 age group was least interested in cultural arts, followed by the 15-17 age group.

19. HOW IMPORTANT ARE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY? PLEASE RANK THEM, WHERE #1 IS MOST IMPORTANT, #2 IS SECOND MOST IMPORTANT, #3 IS THIRD MOST IMPORTANT, ETC.

Respondents were asked to prioritize the list of areas of responsibility. Listed below is a table showing the number of times each area was picked as the number one response.

Table D-24
 Prioritization of Areas of Responsibility
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Number of 1 st Choices
Preservation of open space	98
Maintenance of existing parks	96
Acquisition of more land for parks, facilities, and trails	22
Development of new parks / facilities	12

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-24:

- Based on this method of analysis, **Preservation of Open Space** and **Maintenance of Existing Parks** received the most support, and each received about the same level of support.

A debate often occurs over the appropriate method of analysis for questions that prioritize. Another analysis method is to weigh the answers by giving more value to a #1 response and less value to the last response.

The following table shows the total score of each response after giving the responses a weighted value. Responses were ranked according to priority, with a first choice response assigned a score of "4," a second choice assigned a score of "3," and so on.

Table D-25
 Prioritization of Areas of Responsibility
 City of Calabasas

Response (N=Varies)	Weighted Ranking
Maintenance of existing parks	675
Preservation of open space	652
Acquisition of more land for parks, facilities, and trails	428
Development of new parks / facilities	287

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-25:

- Based on this method of analysis, **Maintenance of Existing Parks** received the most support, followed closely by **Preservation of Open Space**.
- **Acquisition of More Land for Parks, Facilities, and Trails** received higher rankings from those on the east side. The lack of parks on the east side is likely the reason for this.
- Regardless of the method of analysis, **Development of New Parks/Facilities** received the least amount of support.

20. RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Question 20 on the survey addressed recreation participation and respondents’ top ten recreation activities. The responses to this question are discussed in Section D.4 and D.5.

21. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU USED THE CITY OF CALABASAS WEBSITE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

This open-ended question was intended to gauge how frequently residents use the City’s website.

Table D-26
Use of the City Website
City of Calabasas

Response (N=239)	Average # of Visits	% Who Did Not Use At All
Web site visits within the past year	3	62%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-26:

- The average number of visits was **3**. However, **62%** of respondents did not visit the City’s website at all within the past year. There may be opportunities to increase the public’s use of the website. The new on-line registration system Community Services put in place may serve to increase use of the overall City website.
- Of those who did visit the website within the past year, most visited 1 or 2 times (8% of respondents each).

22. HOW DO YOU GENERALLY FIND OUT ABOUT RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CITY?

Table D-27
How People Find Out About Programs
City of Calabasas

Response (N=231)	Percent of Sample
Quarterly Parks Brochure	52.4%
Through the schools	12.6%
From friends	11.3%
City of Calabasas cable access channel	6.1%
From special announcements	6.1%
Through the newspaper	6.1%
City of Calabasas website	5.6%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-27:

- More than half of respondents (52.4%) find out about programs through the **Quarterly Parks Brochure**. This is very high compared to other communities, where typically about 25% to 30% find out about programs through the brochure. This means the Community Services Department is doing an excellent good job with its brochure.
- **Through the Schools** and **From Friends** also seem to be effective means of publicizing the programs.
- From the **City of Calabasas website** was the least common way to find out about programs. This is a method of publicizing programs that have significant potential for growth. With the on-line program registration, there will likely be an increase in the number of people who find out about programs through the website.

23. THE CITY OF CALABASAS HAS TWO PARCELS OF LAND FOR PARK USE

- A 2 ACRE PARCEL ON THE WEST SIDE OF TOWN
- A 10 ACRE PARCEL ON THE EAST SIDE

HOW SHOULD THESE PARCELS BE USED? PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INPUT INTO THE DESIGN OF THESE TWO PARKS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

Question 23 on the survey asked for open-ended responses about how to use two park sites. The responses to this question are discussed in Sections D.6 and D.7.

24. WHAT SHOULD THE NEW PARKS BE NAMED?

Question 24 on the survey asked for open-ended responses about what to name the two new park sites. The responses to this question are discussed in Sections D.6 and D.7.

All respondents ages 18 and older were asked to respond to the following questions.

25. IS THERE A NEED FOR BEFORE-SCHOOL AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS IN CALABASAS?

This yes or no question was intended to gauge need for before-school and after-school programs.

Table D-28
Need for Before and After School Programs
City of Calabasas

Response (N=167)	Percent of Sample
Yes	74.9%
No	25.1%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-28:

- A clear majority of respondents believe there is a need for before-school and after-school programs for children and teens. A somewhat higher percentage of west side respondents responded “yes” to this question (79.2% versus 71.6% of east side respondents).

26. IF, THROUGH BUDGET CONSTRAINTS, THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD TO REDUCE ITS EXPENSES, HOW SHOULD THE LOSS OF FUNDING BE ADDRESSED?

This question was intended to gain public input on how the department should address a budget shortfall, in the event of the passage of the Utility User Tax (U.U.T.) repeal measure on the ballot for the March 2003 election. Since the repeal of the U.U.T. failed, this question is less pressing for the present time but does offer insight into public opinion in the event that the Department faces budget shortages in the coming years.

Table D-29
How to Address Budget Shortfalls
City of Calabasas

Response (N=183)	Percent of Sample
Increase fees charged to users of parks and programs	33.8%
Eliminate some programs	27.1%
Create a special assessment to cover the loss	25.3%
Cut the budget in all services	9.8%
Close some facilities	4.0%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-29:

- **The top response was to increase user fees.** However, it is important to note that less than 1% of respondents to question 11 felt the fees for programs were too low.
- **Create a special assessment and Eliminate some programs** received similar levels of support.
- There were geographic differences in the responses to this question. A higher percentage of east side respondents (37.1%) favored increasing user fees, compared to 28.3% of west side respondents. Higher percentages of west side respondents favored eliminating programs (31.5%) and creating a special assessment (28.3%) than east side respondents (Respectively, 24.2% and 23.5% of east side respondents favored these).

27. HOW AGGRESSIVELY SHOULD THE CITY ACQUIRE OPEN SPACE WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE?

On this question, respondents were asked to mark their preferred level of aggressiveness in acquiring open space on a continuum of 10 boxes, ranging from not aggressive to very aggressive. Table D-30 summarizes the percentage of respondents who selected each box.

Table D-30
Finance Options for Park Funding
City of Calabasas

N=192									
Not Aggressive				Very Aggressive					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.6%	1.0%	1.6%	2.6%	12.5%	5.2%	6.8%	16.7%	8.3%	42.7%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-30:

- There clearly was significant support for very aggressive acquisition of open space, with 42.7% of respondents favoring the most aggressive level of open space protection. More than 2/3 of respondents (67.7%) selected 8, 9, or 10, the three most aggressive levels of open space acquisition.
- The third most favored response was level 5, the medium rating, which was favored by 12.5%.
- Only 2.6% of respondents favored “not aggressive” acquisition of open space, and only 7.8% favored combined levels of 1, 2, 3, and 4.

28. HOW SHOULD FUTURE NATURAL OPEN SPACE BE USED?

Table D-31
Use of Natural Open Space
City of Calabasas

Response (N=179)	Percent of Sample
Limited public use (trails, viewpoints, wildlife watching, etc.)	40.2%
Combination of the above	29.1%
Depends on the site	15.1%
Semi-active recreational use (picnicking, playgrounds, etc.)	8.4%
No public use (preserved for wildlife habitat)	7.3%

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-31:

- The most favored use of open space was **Limited Public Use**, such as trails, viewpoints, wildlife watching, selected by 40.2% of respondents.

- The second most favored use was a **Combination of No Use, Limited Use, and Semi-Active Use**, selected by 29.1% of respondents.
- The least favored option was **No Public Use**, selected by 7.3% of respondents.
- There were some geographic differences. A higher percentage of east side respondents (12.6%) favored **Semi-Active Recreational Use**, compared to 2.6% of west side respondents. A much higher percentage of west side respondents (38.7%) favored **Combination of Uses**, compared to 21.4% of east side respondents.

D.4 Current Recreation Participation

One element of measuring recreation demand is to identify current recreation participation patterns. To help track this type of information, MIG began tracking participation levels in communities throughout the western United States. An average level of participation for any one recreation activity is called the MIG AVERAGE. This information gives us an idea of whether the level of that activity in a particular community is above or below the norm. However, keep in mind that many factors influence participation levels. These include:

- Population profile
- Lack or condition of facilities
- Climate
- Current recreation trends
- Fad or trend activities
- Cost of using facilities and programs
- Present economic conditions
- Level of recreation programs and services offered

Participation rates are shown in the table below for the 50 recreation activities included on the survey. The per capita occasions for a 30-day period refer to the average amount of participation per person in 30 days, when the activity is in season. These activities are ranked so the most popular activities appear first. Activities shaded in gray have a higher participation rate than the MIG Average. Activities in bold have a participation rate higher than the MIG Average by more than 0.75.

Table D-32
Ranking of Participation in 50 Existing Recreation Activities
City of Calabasas

Rank	Activity	Per Capita Occasions per 30 Days	
		City of Calabasas	MIG AVERAGE
1.	Exercise/Aerobics	7.59	3.56
2.	Hiking/Backpacking	5.05	2.22
3.	Gardening	3.74	3.94
4.	Bicycling, Pleasure	3.41	2.91
5.	Reading for Pleasure	3.29	7.39
6.	Basketball	3.12	2.20
7.	Walking for Pleasure	3.06	5.26
8.	Jogging/Running	2.25	2.48
9.	Baseball	2.23	1.44
10.	Cultural Events, Attending	2.13	1.37
11.	Nature Walks	2.10	2.39
12.	Bicycling, Unpaved	2.09	2.39
13.	Playground – Visit/use	2.05	2.57
14.	Swimming (outdoors)	1.99	2.47
15.	Weightlifting	1.93	1.99

		Per Capita Occasions per 30 Days	
Rank	Activity	City of Calabasas	MIG AVERAGE
16.	Wildlife Watching	1.93	2.14
17.	Creative Writing	1.85	N/A ¹
18.	Tennis	1.82	1.12
19.	Arts & Crafts	1.74	1.81
20.	Musical Instrument, Playing	1.70	N/A
21.	Museums/Galleries, Visiting	1.66	1.59
22.	Soccer	1.62	1.68
23.	Picnicking	1.57	1.96
24.	Photography	1.52	1.57
25.	Drama, Attend	1.49	0.97
26.	Roller Skating/In-line Skating	1.44	1.24
27.	Yoga	1.41	N/A
28.	Horseback Riding	1.33	0.51
	Softball	1.33	1.35
30.	Golf, Play	1.31	1.42
	Painting/Sketching	1.31	1.13
32.	Football	1.29	1.49
33.	Volleyball	1.25	0.89
34.	Swimming, Indoor	1.24	2.13
35.	Skateboarding	1.19	0.86
36.	Needlecraft/Sewing	1.18	N/A
37.	Pottery/Ceramics	1.16	N/A
	Rock Climbing, Indoor	1.16	N/A
39.	Rock Climbing	1.14	0.68
40.	Judo/Karate	1.13	N/A
	Senior Activities	1.13	N/A
42.	Roller Blade Hockey	1.12	0.68
43.	Dancing, Social	1.09	1.00
44.	Scuba Diving	1.06	0.19
45.	Golf, Driving Range	1.02	1.27
46.	Bicycling, BMX	0.98	0.91
47.	Dancing (Ballet, Tap, Etc.)	0.95	0.60
48.	Handball/Racquetball	0.76	0.54
49.	Drama, Participate	0.57	0.65
50.	Archery	0.25	N/A

¹ N/A indicates an activity with no comparables or only 1 comparable.

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-32:

- Participation in Calabasas is higher (8%) than the MIG Average. Twenty-one of the activities listed had a higher participation average than the MIG Average.

- **Exercise/Aerobics** and **Hiking/Backpacking**, the activities with the two highest participation rates, have participation rates more than double the MIG Average.
- **Baseball** has a higher participation rate in Calabasas than **Soccer**, which is different from most communities. Also, in Calabasas, **Baseball** has a higher participation rate than the MIG Average, while **Soccer** has a lower participation rate.
- In Calabasas, **Reading for Pleasure** and **Walking for Pleasure** have participation rates that are about half the MIG Average. **Indoor Swimming** also has a significantly lower participation rate, but this is likely due to the warm climate and lack of indoor facilities.

D.5 Preferred Recreation Activities

Respondents were also asked to rank their top 10 preferred recreation activities, if facilities were available. The activity rankings were then scored with a weighted value, by giving a first choice a value of ten, a second choice a value of nine, etc. The total weighted score was then added up for each activity. The 20 highest-ranking activities are shown below in Table D-33. The weighted score is shown only for ranking purposes.

The last column lists the current participation ranking from Table D-33. While not directly comparable to the ranking of preferred activities, it does help to give an idea of activities showing strong differences between desired participation and current participation. This difference between what people are currently doing and what they would like to be doing is called *latent demand*. The activities with the highest latent demand are screened.

Table D-33
Top 20 Preferred Recreation Activities For All Age Groups
City of Calabasas

Ranking	Activity	Weighted Score	Participation Ranking
1.	Walking for pleasure	637	7.
2.	Hiking/Backpacking	520	2.
3.	Exercising/Aerobics	461	1.
4.	Nature Walks	461	11.
5.	Bicycling for Pleasure	349	3.
6.	Horseback Riding	342	28.
7.	Cultural Events (Attend)	336	10.
8.	Reading for Pleasure	310	5.
9.	Tennis	307	18.
10.	Jogging/Running	300	8.
11.	Swimming, Outdoor	272	14.
12.	Wildlife Watching	271	5.
13.	Yoga	270	27.
14.	Golf, Driving Range	265	45.
15.	Golf, Play	257	30.
16.	Baseball	249	9.
17.	Photography	244	24.
18.	Museums/Galleries (Visit)	238	21.
19.	Basketball	224	6.
20.	Weightlifting	222	15.



Screened activities are those with a latent demand (difference of 1 to 9)



Screened activities are those with a latent demand (difference of 10 or more)

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-33:

- Six of the top 10 activities are **trail-related**: walking for pleasure, hiking/backpacking, nature walks, bicycling for pleasure, horseback riding, and jogging/running. There is latent demand for walking for pleasure and nature walks, so there may not be enough places in Calabasas for people to participate in these activities.
- There is a high latent demand for yoga, so there may be a market for additional yoga classes. There is also latent demand for photography, which is an activity that typically does not turn up on the top twenty list. There may be a market for photography classes.
- There is a high latent demand for golf, both playing and driving range. If it is possible to provide public facilities, either in the City or nearby, they could potentially be money-makers for the City.
- There is high latent demand for horseback riding. It is unusual to have horseback riding in the top 10 preferred activities. It is possible that people have horses, but don't have places to ride them; or that people don't have horses but would like to participate in equestrian activities. Based on the latent demand, there may be a need either for equestrian-related classes or programs, or for equestrian facilities such as trails or riding rings.
- There is also latent demand for tennis. There may be a need for more tennis facilities, or for more capacity for tennis lessons and programs, or a combination of the two.

D.4 West Side Park Site

The City of Calabasas acquired two sites for future parks, including one on the west side of Calabasas. This site, 1.8 acres in size, is located at the intersection of Lost Hills Road and Las Virgenes Road and adjacent to the Las Virgenes Creek corridor. Concurrent with the Master Plan for the Calabasas park system, a site master plan is being prepared for this park site.

In addition to public input through workshops, the City sought to obtain ideas from the public about how to use this park site through the survey. Question 23 on the survey was an open-ended question where respondents were asked to describe how the west side parcel should be used. The table below summarizes all of the responses from the survey.

Table D-34
Summary of Responses for West Side Park Site
City of Calabasas

West Side Park Site Summary of Responses
A facility for the kids to skate (in-line skate)
A mall with ice-skating facility
A park and gym and trails and a swimming pool
A pre-school if no other site quickly found
Additional rec. room for events
Amphitheater for concerts, performances
As a recreational park (basketball courts, tennis courts, playground, garden type park with walkways)
Ball fields, major
Basketball courts (3), open basketball court that is open play all (the) time
Benches to view and enjoy the creek
Bicycle lanes
Bike - Paved bike trails (2)
Bowling alley
Center - 2 acres isn't big enough for more than a building, so make activity center
Center - Community center that is more accessible
Center - Nature center
Center - Nature center with wildlife and plant displays, trail maps, educational displays
Center - Would be nice we have no/nor do we offer any social places for our teens to hang, but the commons
City Park
Concerts (2): Concert area, Free concerts
Cultural center
Dog park - They should be used for dog parks, a tight place to hang out
Don't develop now
Equestrian - This should be an equestrian park
Gardens, paths, fountains, QUIET
Have fun
Hiking(3): Hiking, hiking/picnics, hiking/biking

West Side Park Site Summary of Responses (cont.)
Historical Center
Historical gardens in cooperation with state parks
Ice skating rink
Indian cultural center
Just as is
Large pool and community center
Leave it alone. Let low maintenance trails provide walking access. No bike. Give the flora & fauna a OL - chance for once.
Limited public use
More park facilities
More parking
Native plant site
Natural - Don't develop, leave natural
Nature programs for children
Open Land (7): A natural park with trees, grass, benches,; Keep natural - hiking, walking; Leave as it - develop existing areas (2); Left as much as possible; Please keep these stretches of open country as undeveloped as possible. They provide great relief from the manmade environment ever encroaching on the wilds.; Should be preserved as open land, maybe SOME hiking and equestrian trails
Open grass field with trees for picnics, soccer fields, etc. - clean restrooms
Open Space (15): Open space with trails for walking, jogging, etc.; If this land is in a natural state then leave it as open space. We don't NEED more development of any kind; Keep as open space / available for hiking; Leave as open space; Open space (7); Open space with walking trails; Open space, natural state; Open, undeveloped; Too close to intersection to be safe for kids
Outdoor educational programs
Paths for walking
Paved paths for bikes, roller blades, skateboards, etc.
Picnic (5) - we need picnic areas; Picnic area; Picnicking (3)
Plaza or other large community gathering place
Pool
Recreation center with community meeting rooms & larger classrooms for exercise & yoga classes
Roller skating facility
Senior activities
Senior center (2): Senior center, If you have a plan to have retired people here - there (should be) something social, & classes for them would be important
Should have pathways that lead into good, safe trails, & shopping center
Soccer fields (8)
Softball
Something for the children - ice hockey is my choice
Sports - Ice skating rink
Sports - make a skate park
Sports - more roller hockey courts to get away from using school facilities
Sport s- Second swimming pool, tennis courts, biking trail
Sports - Since there's a lot of space, a soccer or football field would be appropriate, a skating rink would be nice too
Tennis courts (4): we need public tennis courts at all new parks
Sports - ice skating, swimming
Sports - Indoor skate rink or pool
Sports - Bowling, billiards or miniature golf course

West Side Park Site Summary of Responses (cont.)
Sports - pool, soccer fields
Sports - soccer field, handball court
Sports - Outdoor pool facility or sports field
Sports - soccer fields and baseball diamonds
Sports - More basketball, tennis courts and bathrooms
Sports fields- Ball field
Sports fields - Baseball fields
Sports fields- Baseball/Softball with option to use as soccer
Sports fields- Soccer fields & football fields
Sport fields(6): Sports fields; Create sports fields; Sports field/park; Sports center; Sports park
Swim - Indoor pool definitely!
Swimming pool (6): Pool; public pool; swimming pool
Teen programs
Tire swing
Trails (15): Circuit trail; add trails; Expand the facilities for more hiking; Hiking Trails (4); it should be used for trails; Limited public use; More new trails & linkage to other trails (if possible); Paths for walking/solitude; Walk trails; Trails for hiking; Trails for walking; Trails linking areas; Trails, picnics;
Used for more parks and fields
Walking
Walking trails or community pool like tennis & swim center (no tennis) and social center
Walking trails, exercise classes
Wildlife preserve

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-34:

- Two themes seem to emerge from the suggested uses for the west side park site: A very active park use, with sports fields, courts, or a pool; or a very passive park use, with trails and limited public use.
- Respondents to this question seemed to be fairly evenly split between proponents of very active and proponents of very passive use.
- The limited size of the site will preclude many of the suggested sports field uses. However, these suggestions point to a need for sports fields and courts in Calabasas.

Park Names

Respondents were also asked to suggest names for the west side park. Name suggestions are summarized in Table D-35. Overall, the name suggestions frequently were related to the uses a respondent suggested for the park site. All of the name suggestions were forwarded to the Calabasas Park & Recreation Commission for the March 10, 2003 meeting.

Table D-35
Name Suggestions for West Side Park Site
City of Calabasas

West Side Park Site Summary of Name Suggestions
General Comments on Names
Both should relate to community history
Propose names and then have a vote
Name in memory of people who have given back to the community – other than politicians
Name after famous Calabasian
Name after wildlife in the City
Name after local figures from the past – recent past.
Name something after a native animal or plant
Specific West Side Park Site Names
West Park
Westside Park (2)
Calabasas West
Calabasas Westside Park
Calabasas Westend Park
Calabasas Natural Park
Calabasas Entry Park
Calabasas Ranchero Park
Rancho Calabasas Community Park (2)
Old Oak Park
Las Virgenes Park (4)
Lost Virgenes Park
Lost Hills Park (2)
Virgenes Hills
Malibu Corridor Park
Malibu Canyon Park
Canyon Creek Park
Creekside Park
Oak Grove Park
De Anza Park – make part of De Anza
Juan Bautista De Anza Cove
Streamside De Anza
Las Virgenes Creek Open Space
New Open Space # 1
Calabasas Wildlife Preserve
Calabasas Cool
Calabasas Recreation Palace
Lost Hills Swim Center (2)
Lost Hills Leisure Center
The Westside Leisure Center
Lucky Horseshoe (2) – an equestrian park
Wrigley West
Lakers Park
Sports Park
Cherokee Park
Boring Park
Robert Park
Pumpkin Park
Trailbreaker Park
Doris La Violette Park
La Follett Park
Ralph Nader Preserve
Vasco de Balboa Park

4.7 East Side Park Site

The second park site acquired for park use is a 10-acre site at the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Old Topanga Canyon Road. This site is part of a larger open space tract and is located across Mulholland Highway from a future environmental education site being planned by the Mountains Restoration Trust.

In addition to public input through workshops, the City sought to obtain ideas from the public about how to use this park site through the survey. Question 23 on the survey was an open-ended question where respondents were asked to describe how the east side parcel should be used. The table below summarizes all of the responses from the survey.

Table D-36
Summary of Responses for East Side Park Site
City of Calabasas

East Side Park Site Summary of Responses
A mall with ice-skating facility
As part of the scenic corridor, it should remain preserved with trails & picnic benches only
Bark Park 2
Bathrooms & water fountains
Bench and picnic opportunities
Bike paths/trails (4): Bicycle lanes; Develop bike path; bike paths, bike trails
Bird watching opportunity on site
Buildings for classes for teens
Center – Community center, indoor gym, fitness center
Center - Recreation center
City Park
Don't develop now
Equestrian (2): Horse stables for public riding; Place for equestrian use as well as horseback riding lessons.
Gardens, wildlife, horse trails, dog training paths & grass, large pool, small shopping center, and a closed place to bring pets - No cars!
Golf (2): Golf, Par 3 golf course
Grassy areas
Have fun
Have parking spaces on safe side
Hiking (8): Hiking (3); Hiking trails (3); Hiking-preservation of natural habitat; Hiking, outdoor education programs
If you have a plan to have retired people here - there (should be) something social, & classes for them would be important.
Install picnic tables & fountains
Interpretive nature display
Leave in natural state, protect wildlife and forests
Left in natural state, except for paved trails (or boardwalk) for walking & biking; tables for picnicking
Limited public use (7): Limited public use – trails, picnicking areas
Natural - don't develop. Leave natural
Nature center
Nature center / low developed trail for nature hikes

East Side Park Site Summary of Responses (cont.)
Nature hikes and activities
Nature preserve
No car parking
NO fields for sports
No organized recreation
Open Land (9): Open land, Also natural park for picnics, hiking, families; As a nature park leaving everything as it is because there are a lot of wildlife homes there; Do not destroy! Safe for open land and wildlife; Give more importance to NOT let swings, kid's noise, bikes, etc. disrupt the little remaining peace available to local wildlife - LEAVE IT ALONE - you'll do everyone a favor; Keep it open; Keep natural for hiking and walking. Let low maintenance trails provide walking access. No bike. Give the flora & fauna a chance for once; Open field of grass; This should be kept as open land for the wildlife living there.
Open grass field with trees for picnics, soccer fields, etc. - clean restrooms
Open Space (32): Open space with trails for walking, jogging, etc.; leave it as open space. We don't NEED more development of any kind; Keep as much as possible open so people can re-charge their batteries. Please do not allow bike trails. Please do something about the motor-bike riding on local hills; Keep as open space / available for hiking; Open grass space with lots of trees for picnicking or playgrounds; Open space / wild foods learning center; Open space limited use; Open space with walking trails; Open space, trails; Open space, with a few trails; Please leave it open. It's so restful just to see that pretty meadow (Deer come here); Preserve the open space; Restore & keep as open space; This wildlife sanctuary for bobcats, coyotes, mtn. lions, deer and other disappearing species must be preserved as natural, undisturbed open space.
Outdoor educational programs
Outdoor pool and putting greens
Park with trails
Parking (off road)
Paths (2): For walking; For walking/solitude
Picnic area (6): Picnic area, Picnic area with photography spots, Picnicking; Picnics
Playground (4): Preserve the old trees, the shade adds to the park's charm during summer, huge playground for children 1 thru 10; Park/Playground; Playground for small children; Playgrounds for young children
Plaza or other large community gathering place
Recognize that this area is home to bobcat, coyote, mtn. lion - that special nature should be preserved
Recreation, education
Roller skating facility
Shade (2)
Something for children - Hiking, trails, nature education
Sport - Baseball
Sport - Basketball court
Sport - One multi-purpose field
Sport - Softball fields
Sports
Sports - Ball fields
Sports - baseball diamonds & soccer fields
Sports - Expand park facility for more sports
Sports - soccer, baseball fields
Sports fields (4): Sports complex for soccer, softball and baseball, park
Stage and cultural events
Street widening (2)
Swimming pool (3): Swimming pool.; More bathrooms swimming pool

Park Names

activities in eastern Calabasas.

East Side Park Site Summary of Responses (cont.)	
To look at and have a park there	Respondents were also asked to suggest names for the east side park. Name suggestions are summarized in Table D-37. Overall, the name suggestions frequently were related to the uses a respondent suggested for the park site. All of the name suggestions were forwarded to the Calabasas Park & Recreation Commission for the May 19, 2003 meeting.
Tot swings and slides, etc.	
Trails (32): A walking trail along perimeters; Create walking trails for daily exercises; Walking trails (2); Trails for walking and nature walks and wildlife viewing; Trails for bikes, paved, to view and enjoy nature. Un or paved bike trail, hiking trail - walking on paved trail for bicycling walking, in-line skating; Nature trails with limited public use - no playgrounds or other structures; Nature trails of all sorts; Natural trails (4); Hiking/Walking trails; Hiking trails (2); Hiking & nature trails; Are trails feasible? If so, develop trails; visitor center?; Add trails (2); Trails (3); Walk paths; No human facilities except trails; Nature trails; More new trails & linkage to other trails;	
Trails visitor center on our hills and the importance of nature	
Trails with information signs along the trail	
Trails, dog day care center	
Used for fairs and fields	
Walking	
Walking sign for students of nearby schools & be respectful of the environment	
Walking trails play facilities for children, restroom	
Wildlife - Pond for wildlife	
Wildlife - Preserve for wildlife based park	
Wildlife habitat	
Wildlife preserve	
Wildlife preserve, make	
Wildlife viewing and education	

OBSERVATIONS OF TABLE D-36:

- The majority of respondents favored more passive use of the east side park site, mainly focusing on trails, nature centers, and similar passive activities.
- Some respondents did identify more active uses for this site, including sports fields and golf. However, there were fewer proponents of sport fields for the east side site. Golf was suggested by two respondents.
- Playgrounds and picnic areas were suggested by several respondents. This may be because there are few opportunities for these

Ishmael Park
Park of Parks
Bluebird Park
Sweet Freedom
Freedom Park
Liberty Park

Table D-37
Name Suggestions for East Side
Park Site
City of Calabasas

East Side Park Site Summary of Name Suggestions
General Comments on Names
Both should relate to community history
Propose names and then have a vote
Name in memory of people who have given back to the community – other than politicians
Name after famous Calabasian
Name after wildlife in the City
Name after local figures from the past – recent past.
Name something after a native animal or plant
Specific East Side Park Site Names
Mulholland Center
Mulholland Park (3)
William Mulholland Park (2)
Spirit of Mulholland Park
Wild Walnut Park (3)
Walnut Park (5)
Old Topanga Park
Old Topanga Open Space
Topanga Park
Old Topanga Trails
Canyon Point Park
Canyon Highway Park
East Park
Eastside Park (2)
Calabasas Park
Calabasas Eastside Park (2)
Calabasas Meadows
Calabasas Pumpkin Trail or Calabasas Squash Trail
Calabasas Pitch & Putt (2)
Old West Park (2)
Scenic Gateway Park
Open Skies Park
Bark Park 2
New Horizons
Headwaters
Peregrine Park
Falcon Forest
Deer Park
Wildlife Park
Wildlife Homes
The Native Oak
Old Oak
Live Oak Park
Vista Oak
Forest View
Nature’s Gate
Green Acres
California Gold Park
Calabasas Conservation Center
Calabasas Wildlife Preserve
Calabasas Nature Preserve Park
Calabasas Outdoor Wildlife Center – “Wildlife Center” for short
New Open Space #2

East Side Park Site Summary of Name Suggestions (cont.)
John W. Lennon Memorial Park
Ronald Reagan Regional Park
Bluebird Park
Artist's Grove Park (2) – for Park Moderne
Gensley Park (3) – for John and Julianna
Edward Abbey Preserve
Junipero Serra Park
Oak Tree Park ¹
Wild Walnut Park at Headwaters Corner ¹
Gateway to the Scenic Corridor Park ¹

¹ Suggested at the December 8, 9, & 10, 2002 park workshops

PART II. RECREATION NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

D.8 Questionnaire Results

In 2002, the City of Calabasas Community Services Department began offering the ALL STARZ basketball program, a league open to developmentally challenged youth and young adults between the ages of 8 and 21. Since the program has been very popular, the department began to consider whether additional programming of this type is needed.

The City decided to seek input on recreation programs and facilities for people with disabilities. Working with the Las Virgenes Unified School District, the City distributed 1200 questionnaires to the families of youth with disabilities.

Seven responses have been received to date. Additional responses will be incorporated into this report as they are received.

Each question from the questionnaire is included in bold type in the report, and responses to that question are summarized below it.

HAS A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY PARTICIPATED IN ANY PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES? IF SO, WHAT IS THE PROGRAM AND WHO IS OFFERING IT?

Four don't participate in programs

Programs identified:

- SERT – horseback riding
- Swimming lessons at Conejo Park & Rec
- AYSO VIP soccer
- Pony League baseball
- Encino Community Center sports clinic for kids with special needs
- Ballet/Tap class in Las Vegas

IF THE CITY OF CALABASAS WERE TO OFFER ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, WOULD YOUR FAMILY BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

Six of the seven respondents indicated interest in additional programs designed for people with disabilities. One respondent noted they are not interested in programs only for children with disabilities, but rather in programs that integrate children with disabilities. The one respondent who responded no to this question did not provide any additional comments.

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS ARE NEEDED?

Respondents listed the following programs. Numbers in parentheses after the responses indicate the number of mentions, if more than one respondent listed the program type

- Hikes
- Outdoor education, especially for teens
- Sports (4)
- Camps (4)
- Swimming (4)
- Activities (2)
- Classes (3)
- Special events
- Dance classes(2)
- Picnics
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Functions at a restaurant, movie theatre or park
- Theatre for kids

WHICH AGE GROUPS NEED PROGRAMS?

The following responses were given:

- 15 to 16 year olds
- All age groups, but especially teens
- 5 to 12 or older
- 3 to 11
- 9 year olds
- 3 to 21. It is difficult to find or have friends when you have a disability.
- All ages

IS ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR PARTICIPATION IN PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAMS? IF SO, WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED?

The following types of assistance were listed:

- Parent / child events would work for hikes, with a park ranger to lead the hike
- Someone to guide / aide / supervise those who need help
- One to one aides for some children, a high degree of supervision and structure for others

One respondent commented “Not sure. Not familiar enough with all programs available.”

ARE ANY MODIFICATIONS NEEDED AT EXISTING CALABASAS PARKS THAT WOULD MAKE THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE TO YOU? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE.

Only four responses were given.

- No, not for me
- No
- None that I can think of
- Make playgrounds accessible to wheelchairs

ARE ANY ADDITIONAL PARK FACILITIES NEEDED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, EITHER WITHIN EXISTING PARKS OR AT A NEW PARK? PLEASE DESCRIBE.

Only four responses were given.

- Accessible playground for wheelchairs, like Shane’s Inspiration playgrounds
- More paved paths at parks (i.e. at De Anza)
- Can’t think of anything at this time
- No

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- My son is ADD and has a hard time mixing
- My daughter is 17 and really needs some local programs
- There used to be hikes in Northern California with campouts and it was a wonderful thing for High School kids – better than TV

demand for programs designed for youth with disabilities. Sports, camps, and swimming were each mentioned by four of the seven respondents.

- There may be a need for outreach to youth with disabilities about existing recreation programs for youth, with specific attention given to accommodating and modifying programs to meet the needs of those who would prefer to be mainstreamed into existing programs. Outreach about how to accommodate or modify programs may also be needed as part of this effort.
- Based on some of the comments, there may be a need for social activities, such as hikes or outings.
- Accessible paths and playground accessibility were noted as an issue, specifically with regard to wheelchairs. When the City upgrades playgrounds or installs new ones, accessibility should be a major consideration. This could mean going beyond minimum legal requirements in some cases. It may be advisable to seek input from playground users in wheelchairs, or their families.

OBSERVATIONS OF RESPONSES:

- Depending on the programs offered, there is probably

PART III. PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

D.9 Public Workshops

During the master planning effort, three public workshops were held to obtain community input on the future of park and recreation services in Calabasas. In addition, youth workshops were held with Leadership classes at Calabasas High School and A.E. Wright Middle School to obtain youth perspectives on park and recreation needs.

December 2002 Workshop

Welcome and Introduction

- *Jeff Rubin, Calabasas Community Services Director:* Thanked everyone who attended and gave a brief overview of the Parks Master Plan Project.

Parks Master Planning Project Review

- *Lauren Schmitt, Dave Walters, consultant team, MIG:* Consultant team gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the planning project, the process and then reviewed opportunities for future public involvement. They also reported on the two parks site tours conducted on Sunday, Dec. 8.

Parks Master Plan Visioning Session

- *Sam Gennawey, MIG:* Mr. Gennawey facilitated a discussion on visioning for the city's Community Services Division parks and recreation programs and services. Esmeralda Garcia with MIG graphically-recorded the session. The discussion focused on four main points: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Comments per category are:

Strengths:

- Efforts should be related back to the Calabasas logo (hawk)
- Community Services Department staff
- Existing diversity
- Serves a diverse community
- Adequate community parks
- Safe
- Facilities are heavily used
- Library
- Pre-school and after-school facilities
- Good after-school programs
- Camps
- Partnerships, such as with the City of Agoura Hills for community center construction
- Tennis and swim center is run as an enterprise fund
- All-Starz basketball program
- Programmatic activity
- Roller hockey

- Pocket parks: minimal usage due to lack of equipment and field space
- Acoustics (in meeting room)
- Bark Park is too small
- Hockey court light pollution at de Anza
- Creekside after-school program limited due to state licensing regulations
- Waiting list for tennis club
- Lack of soccer and softball fields
- Poor park design at Creekside
- Not enough bike and swing areas
- Community Center fees are too expensive for some residents
- Creekside daycare is not self-sustaining
- No open space
- Parking (?)
- Lack of programs for disabled
- Parks with environmental educational program (s)
- Creekside should be restored to better serve the community
- Under-use of Creekside on weekends
- More trail systems should be identified
- Not enough teen programs

Opportunities:

- Sound facts to clear misinformation
- Partner with schools
- Partner with Santa Monica trails
- Condense parking lot at Creekside for greater field usage
- Establishment of an open space acquisition program
- Partnerships with local businesses
- Mulholland to Santa Monica Mountains Nature Center
- More meeting spaces
- Sitting areas with flowers
- Nurture and protect existing open space
- More natural landscaping with less development/maintain natural Calabasas environment
- Partnerships (such as Mountain Restoration Trust) strengthen SMMC
- Greater program and facility diversity
- Use Malibu Creek Model
- Pre-kindergarten program
- More after-school programming
- Use more public transportation to get to facilities/access transport

Threats:

- Urban encroachment
- State, Federal budget crisis
- Repeal of Utility Users Tax
- Fire
- Traffic light at east side
- Traffic and children
- Teen loitering

Weaknesses:

- Traffic congestion at eastside/westside
- Steel guardrail
- Building something we can't maintain
- Forego opportunities to keep open space from maintenance costs

Break out discussion on potential park sites at Las Virgenes/Lost Hills and Old Topanga/Mulholland.

The group divided into two sub-groups to discuss potential parks and recreation amenities and features at the two sites. Each group received information on the variety of parks that include: Linear, large urban, special use, community, neighborhood, mini (pocket) parks and open space. Each group chose a delegate to report back to the overall group at the close of the meeting.

West Side Parcel/Las Virgenes, Lost Hills Intersection:

Group One

When reviewing conceptual plans, consideration should be given to:

- Area has a newer community
- Community garden
- Environmental education, especially for kids
- Entry to Santa Monica Mountains
- Links to natural surroundings
- Noise, parking, erosion problems
- Croquet, bowling, bocce
- Artwork, stagecoach, well
- Nature walk
- Rustic, but attractive (views) not formal
- Community educational garden, but not formal garden
- Bridge to de Anza
- Birds, and animals along creek corridor – be sure to maintain wildlife
- No invasive (vegetation)
- Natives aren't invasive:
- Rugosa roses near creek
 - Cotoneasters
 - Food plants
 - Wild berries, nut trees, figs, etc.
- Educational uses should not contradict purpose

IDEAS:

- Native plant, low impact garden
- Compatible plants, more active educational use
- Tie in de Anza party history
- Trail head to State Park
- Think About Context:
 - LasVirgenes MWD
 - State Park
 - de Anza: 184 acres of open space plus 10 in park
 - State land as ball fields

Group Two:

- 1.8 acres
- Information on local history – Native Americans
- Community park with swings, playground with larger than neighborhood park in the east
- Passive recreation/picnic tables
- Consider “State Scenic” guidelines
- Protection of creek
- Trail access
- Equestrian trail
- ADA access
- Community garden – cultural/educational area, organic compost, local school plots, opportunities with existing wild food garden
- Gateway to Santa Monica Mountains
- Open skating area for practice
- Water feature, similar to Vancouver, “Water Play”
- Keep in mind gateway area to recreation
- Nature center – simple
- Education of local vegetation and wildlife

East Side Parcel/Headwaters Corners:

Group One:

- Open space: unspoiled natural land
- Steep north-facing slopes: unstable geology
- Hills and site contains endangered species
Grading and retaining walls would violate scenic corridor ordinance
- Playfields, ball fields not appropriate
- Very little needs to be done to make it good open space – minor trash removal
- Link to Mountain Restoration Trust site
- Traffic light may be only option and is not acceptable
- Purchase of property was a problem
- Elaborate engineering is no good
- Security issue of underground passage
- Making a connection is perhaps not possible
- Rancho Sierra Vista – Native American Camp
- Amphitheatre with Native American structure as an idea for box canyon
- Anything in box canyon would be too disturbing – keep development out
- Wildlife on-site is a major resource - use should not scare off wildlife
- Surrounding homeowners know site
- Extreme street noise: traffic, emergency vehicles, and trucks
- Contemplative space will be a problem due to noise
- Trail – low-impact, no motorbikes
- Clean it up
- Micor property – trails were gouged
- Trails should be hand dug
- No fire pits/Council circles - Don’t encourage fire, teens gathering or graffiti
- Maybe a few benches – less than on west side parcel

- East side parcel should tie to MRT, (?) maybe parking
- Use Creekside parking
- No water

Group Two:

- Parking and trail head access off Old Topanga road
- Interpretive information – education on trees - signs on path or at the center and or brochures
- ADA access walkway around park
- Plan carefully with regards to Walnut and Oak trees
- Underground tunnel access
- Remove illegal fill, keep as “natural and untouched,” no ball fields
- Playground with bicycle and tricycle access (Creekside as an option!)
- Metal guardrail – replace with wood or remove

Closing Remarks/Next Steps

- **Sam Gennawey, MIG:** Mr. Gennawey facilitated a closing discussion, wherein citizen delegates from each of the sub-groups reported back to the main group. The groups had a range of opinions for the west side parcel from natural open space to community gardens, or an educational center (less activity) to more active uses, such as playfields or ball fields. Both groups noted that the area was a gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains and when reviewing the site, the city should keep it within the context of the Santa Monica Mountains and existing, or potential open space.

For the east side parcel, participants in both groups tended to favor more passive uses that emphasize the site’s natural features. There was a range of opinions on what “open space” might encompass, from simple unpaved trails, to accessible walkways, to a national park service-style, rustic amphitheatre.

March 2003 Workshop

Overview

The second in a series of three community workshops for the City of Calabasas’ Parks and Recreation Master Plan development took place on Monday, March 10, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at De Anza Community Center. The workshop was conducted in open house format with four stations, which contained:

- Station One: community input and comments to date
- Station Two: review of current open space conditions, community park service areas, new or improved park facilities that the public feels is needed, and a prioritized list of specialized facilities
- Station Three: East Side park development concepts
- Station Four: West Side park development concepts

Community Services Director Jeff Rubin welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the session. Approximately 35 people attended the open house and shared comments with project team members and City staff. Project team members and staff facilitated and recorded discussions at each of the four stations. Participants were encouraged to write comments at each station and many wrote comments on notepaper and attached them directly onto display boards or maps. Additional comments were recorded on flip charts.

Highlights of Findings:

At Station One, participants were appreciative of the comments expressed by the two Youth Leadership Classes from Calabasas High School and A.E. Wright Middle School. Many supported the concept of adding a teen center, as outlined by students at the two schools. Some were surprised that the youth were interested in outdoor nature activities, and one alternative (minority) comment was expressed that the youth will not have an equal voice in contributing to the decision making process. The majority view reiterated earlier public input comments that open space should be preserved and trails could become an interconnecting link.

At Station Two, the participants indicated their top three preferences for what specialized new facilities would be: an environmental education area, additional group picnic areas, and an amphitheater. In contrast, a formal garden, indoor recreation center and/or sports complex, and larger or new dog park received no ranking by the open house participants.

At Station Two, the public also reviewed the preliminary results of a random household survey conducted as part of the project, which indicated the three most needed recreation facilities in Calabasas are: sport fields, trails/paths, and open space.

At Station Three, participants viewed two potential options for park development at Old Topanga Road and Mulholland Highway. Concept A is conceived as a passive park with native plant restoration and trailhead connections. Concept B has the restoration and trailhead connections of Concept A, with additional features, such as a connection to the future environmental education center across the street and a children's play environment taking its inspiration from the natural and cultural history of the area. While Option A was valued for its open space, Option B was favored. Areas of divided opinion were in regards to the children's play area, parking and access to the new Mountains Restoration Trust headquarters facility and future environmental educational center across the street.

At Station Four, participants viewed two potential options for park development at the corner of Lost Hills and Las Virgenes Roads. Option A was conceived as a more active park with basketball courts and a community garden, while Option B was more passive in design. The majority of participants didn't want a duplication of De Anza Park and preferred Option B.

Comments by Station:

General Comments:

- For more input, advertise more for parents to know ideas kids would be interested in to speak out about. Let the public know things. Not everyone gets Calabasas' public channel.
- Calabasas is beautiful. Please keep new developments low key.

Station One

Display information included wallgraphics from two facilitated Youth Leadership Classes from Calabasas High School and A.E. Wright Middle School; reproduced wallgraphic of public comments from the first Community Workshop held on Dec. 10, 2002; and key preliminary findings from the random household survey.

Flip Chart Comments:

- I'm surprised that the youth preferred hiking and outdoor activities to parks as a learning experience.
- It's interesting that the youth prefer natural settings for the West Park.
- They want more of an outdoors experience.
- Kids are burnt out on high-tech activities, we want something else. It's nice to go somewhere peaceful.
- Community should help maintain trails and parks – "sweat equity" brings more value into ownership.
- Children's' voice doesn't have equal weight.
- Kids like to hike and open space and trails are needed and need to be safe.
- Advertise! Kids will respond to pictures.
- If you want information for youth, advertise what they want or what interests them.
- Transportation is needed for kids (to get to programs/services) parents don't want to drive after 8 p.m.
- Dive in movies sounds good!

Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:

- Teen Center is needed, near or in the new City library.
- Acquire open space and have a teen center.

What's Missing?:

- We live in a cowboy country and it's perceived that open space belongs to all, but the reality is that there's very little open space. Open space is limited. We don't have as much as we think we do. The East Side needs to be open, it's highly valuable.
- Trails now are on private property. We need more public access.
- The information is interesting. Trails are the thread that ties together public and open space areas. It's very important.
- Emphasis seems to be on trails, but is it? Helpful to have information on trail usage – are there any figures? How do you evaluate usage?
- Analysis of existing environmental and cultural conditions on both park sites. It's needed so that the public can understand the evaluation tools
- Could there be an economic partnership between the City and school district, to save programs and services? Funding (for programs/services) should go where it's most useful and where used.
- There's nowhere for kids to play on the East side.
- Motorbikes on weekends on the East side parcel/Mulholland area a major concern for noise and speeding, and any design should keep that in mind.
- Creekside Park is an issue because there's a lack of access to park.

Additional comment: Yes!

- Stream on West Side parcel could become a natural barrier on de Anza site between kids and the public and equestrian use.

Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:

- Community areas for meetings, picnics, etc. are too expensive to use.

Comments written on the A.E. Wright Middle School Wallgraphic:

- More sports and trips to theme parks or ski/snow resorts.
- "Dive in movies" are a good idea. Sell food and request movies.
- One participant indicated several geographic areas on the Existing Parks and Recreation Resources from the middle school discussion. They include: Stokes, Cold Creek, Dry Canyon Creek, Arroyo Calabasas, McCoy Creek. Note: These were corrections to the map to ensure that creeks were labeled correctly.

Comments written on Calabasas High School Wallgraphic:

- (in regard to a suggestion to put an In and Out Burger on the East Side parcel) Put an In and Out at The Triangle, south of Calabasas High School.
- (in regard to a suggestion for the East Side parcel left for natural beauty with minimal development and a passive park) Yes!

- (in regard to a suggestion for trails for hiking and biking on the East Side parcel) Biking trails with multiple levels: kids/family and challenging.
- (in regard to a suggestion to have piped-in music similar to the Commons at the West Side parcel) Is this serious?
- (in regard to the Existing Park and Recreation Resources map) – does the East Side parcel extend further?
- (in regard to a suggestion to have a fee-free club/teen center) Good idea. Kids don't usually have lots of money and parents don't give them much. The idea for a club is great for bands to go play. Great for Friday nights.
- (in regard to a suggestion for an educational center) Uses MRT property on the East parcel for a park and park educational program.

Station Two

The exhibits at Station Two consisted of an open space map, a community park service area map, a neighborhood parks service area map, a display board listing the three most-needed recreation facilities or activities in Calabasas from a random household survey, and a listed of specialized facilities for future consideration.

Participants were asked to place a sticky dot next to their top three choices for specialized facilities. The results are as follows:

Specialized Facilities	# of dots
Environmental education area	5
More group picnic areas	5
Amphitheater	5
Teen Center	4
Botanical Gardens	3
Historical buildings/sites	3
Sports field complex	2
Splash pool or other water playground	2
Performing arts center	2
In-line skate/hockey area (larger or second facility)	1
Downtown plaza (gathering place like The Commons)	1
Nature center (added to list)	1
Adventure playground	0
Formal gardens (rose, etc.)	0
Indoor recreation center	0
Another indoor sports complex (gym)/health club	0
Dog park (larger or second facility)	0
Model car/airplane area	0

Comments from Specialized Facilities display board:

- Teen Center should be located near new library/City Hall complex should allocate some of the new rooms.

- Watch out. Don't spend too much money on City Hall. Integrate teen center with existing facilities.
- When planning new activities/events, definitely try to utilize existing facilities before building unnecessary new structures. – **Additional comment:** Agreed.
- Too many frivolous attractions/centers/activities, etc. cheapen the city. Makes the city seem like an amusement park. Developments should be kept in low key to help maintain the peaceful environment that makes Calabasas such an enviable city to live in. **Additional comment:** I agree to an extent.

Development must be conscious of wildlife and not be excessive. No one wants an overbuilt Calabasas.

Most Needed Facilities or Activities:

The second display board listed the three most needed recreation facilities or activities in Calabasas as identified by respondents to the random household survey. These were responses to an open-ended question, where respondents were asked to write in their top priorities. The results were tabulated and presented at the open house. Open house participants attached comments to the respective recreation listings:

Activity	# (from survey)	Comments from Open House
Sport fields	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Survey oriented towards active parks, not so much passive, where parents can go picnic, etc. ▪ I agree!
Trails/paths	53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trails and parks, this is my top three! ▪ I agree!
Open Space	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bikes trails and lanes connecting the city's neighborhoods. ▪ Survey did not include passive use. ▪ Please keep the nature. Wildlife needs to live too. I don't appreciate the coyotes and such being pushed into my backyard and eating my pets, seriously.
Swimming	23	
Basketball courts: Outdoor, indoor	12	
Tennis courts: Outdoor, indoor, more courts, tennis center	9	
Senior activities	9	
Community gathering place	6	
Cultural center	6	
Horseback riding	5	
Golf	4	
Health/fitness club	4	
In-line skate facilities	4	

Additional Comments:

- East side of Calabasas needs an area where community picnics could be held. No place for children ages 7-11 to run around or play after school.

Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:

- Improve landscaping at Creekside: also ADA access is needed
- Picnic tables/swings in Mulwood

Specific Comments on Existing Parks:

De Anza, Gates Canyon, Grape Arbor, Tennis and Swim Center, Freedom, Bark Park, Highlands, Community Center.

- I don't live close enough to go to a park. Walking is transportation. Closer to CHS, A.C. Stelle would be great places.

Freedom Park:

- Size and access is an issue (see open space map)
- Recommend no gate at Freedom
- A well-kept secret. I lived up the road for 12 years and never knew it was there!
- Freedom Park needs major upgrade of landscape and ADA access.

De Anza Park:

- Replace 10+ equipment with new equipment.
- Really likes the 10+ equipment, it's "unique!"

Creekside Park:

- Access to Creekside is an issue. Or sell it off as a private club?

Tennis and Swim Center:

- Advertise that if only \$1 per person under 18. It will get kids to say, "Only \$1, I thought it was \$10."

Open Space Map:

The open space map depicted the planning area boundary, city limits, school locations, neighborhood parks, community parks, mini parks, special use parks, undeveloped parkland, City open space and other open space. Participants placed comments written on sticky notes, directly on the map. These included:

- Annex Cold Creek community to City of Calabasas (Hal's walked the viewshed boundaries)
- Need to show the open space in the adjoining land for wildlife cross connections. **Additional comment:** Agreed.
- What are the criteria for the "planning area?"
- Weedy area behind the Commons could be used as parkland
- Where are the open space connections to open space outside City of Calabasas' "planning area?"
- Keep as much land as possible open. It is the natural beauty that differentiates Calabasas from other neighboring cities. A perfectly manicured environment doesn't belong in the real world. Once land is developed it can never be returned to its natural state no matter how much research and effort is put into the site. Plenty of

Calabasas is developed. There is only so much to do in a small community like this. **Additional comment:** I absolutely agree with this. New structures are not always necessary. We must preserve our open space, for everyone's sake.

- This is City of Calabasas open space? (pointing toward an area on the map's southwest corner near Las Virgenes Circle.
- This visual area to annex to city? (referring to the planning area in the southern part of the map)

Community Park Service Areas:

The map indicated the service area for each of the city's Community Parks within a one and one-half mile radius. Comments printed on sticky notes and attached to the map include:

- Appearance attracts kids like nothing else!
- An overwhelming amount of the city, as shown here, is a park of other development. Why develop any further?
- Festival, carnivals, attracting, gatherings to get public involved and maybe get a profit!
- Where does the profit go? Carnivals are a great way to get the community involved, however, not too often.
- Make parks easily accessible so kids will go!
- Clarify access and size (too small?) of Freedom Park, parking?
- Use (area near Creekside Park) with MRT as the urban high-use area and the East Park rural low-impact run, hike, view, nature are underpass between

Station Three

East Side Park Site

Two preliminary design concepts were shown for the East Side Park site, located at the intersection of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway.

East Side Concept A featured native plant restoration, an ADA-compliant loop trail with interpretive signage, benches, and trailheads to the regional trail system. With the exception of two ADA-compliant parking spaces, parking for this option would take place at nearby Creekside Park. A path connection would be created between the East Side Park and Creekside. Comments taped to the map include:

- I like the interpretive signs!
- Benches should be very rustic.
- Love the porous paving!
- Absolutely, native plants are only natural once. Stay with natural beauty.
- Priority #1:
 - Much less environmental impact with Plan A
 - Restore the stream in Concept A
 - **(Additional comment:** I second this)
 - Put other play areas, courts, etc. in Creekside Park

- How close would this trailhead be to existing trails that are part of the Santa Monica Mountains Park System (e.g., Backbone Trail)?

East Side Concept B featured a connection to an environmental education center proposed to be located across Mulholland Highway from the site. An undercrossing would link the two sites, with a potential alternative of an on-grade crossing of Mulholland. In addition to providing the native plant restoration, an ADA-compliant loop trail

- This is City of Calabasas open space? (pointing toward an area on the map's southwest corner near Las Virgenes Circle.
- This visual area to annex to city? (referring to the planning area in the southern part of the map)

Comments taped to the map included:

- Prefer B to A, but remove play area and do not have fences. Running water of some sort is important.
- Leave the play areas to de Anza and the new middle school. Would disrupt natural flow.
- Maybe children's play area could be in Creekside Park!
- Children's play environmental area moved to Creekside Park.
- Tables, benches, rest area? Equipment and courts? Those are some ideas, and water or stream like in concept B is a great idea!
- Great place for a park because it would let kids from the high school and Chaparral go, plus A.C. Stelle kids can go when it opens.
- How do we get people from Creekside to Headwater and east side?
- Prefer concept B without children's play zone.
- Establish a springhouse and let pipe take it to a pond north of walnut tree as a year around shallow pond as the stream washes out with high water and this pond can naturalize over the seasons.
 - Picnic area with MRT
 - Entry off of Old Topanga
 - No signal
- Do need parking for 12-16 (?) Park benches at both ends not outside areas in back area.
- Small group area in box canyon very rough – with a mortar (current made in rock near by)
- Have interface with MRT. Underpass for people and wildlife from one side to the other of Mulholland (width important)
- I'd not put a children's play area on East Side Park unless it's set way back because of traffic danger. Better it should be in Creekside.
- Keep park benches to visible trail (i.e. visible from Mulholland).
- Restore Headwaters – no fences!
- Need to restore protected open space in this area.
- It's really, really important to have parking access from Old Topanga Canyon.

Comments:

- In any conceptual option, a traffic signal is ruinously degrading.
- Move child's play back in canyon.
- Educational circle back in canyon.
- Underpass preferred.
- The planning could be done in such a way that a traffic light will not be necessary. For example, parking at Creekside Park is good.
- This is a naturally beautiful setting. I believe the less is more rules can relate here. I prefer plan A, but the idea of a creek is good.
- I like the idea of connecting the trails. This would be fabulous!
- Concept A best preserves the natural beauty and value of the site without a traffic signal.
- East side parcel concept plan: Concept A best preserves the natural state of this site and is therefore preferable.

Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:

- East side parcel concept A is much preferable to concept B. Preserving the natural view shed from the highway is consistent with scenic corridor ordinances.
- East side parcel: underground connection is a great idea.
- (Like) Plan B. But don't duplicate the MRT nature/educational/interpretive center.
- (Dislike) Plan A, needs trailhead parking for open space trails (City and Conservancy)
- (Like) Prefer B without play environment, which should be at Creekside.
- (Dislike) A: There is no shielding for car park (to reduce visibility from Mulholland)

Station Four

West Side Park Site

Two concepts were also shown for the West Side Park site. *West Side Park Site Concept A* featured more active uses, with a bridge to de Anza Park, an interactive water play feature, picnic shelter, basketball courts, native plants along the creek canyon, and a trailhead to the Malibu Creek State Park trail system (with a kiosk with trail maps). Two bocce courts, a seating wall and benches were also provided. Community garden space was offered as an option. Alternative site options would replace the basketball courts with a skatepark and the bocce courts with a half basketball court. Parking would be provided at De Anza Park and along the street. This concept also has an eight-foot sidewalk along Las Virgenes Road., an ADA-compliant path to Lost Hills Rd., and service access from Las Virgenes Road.

Comments taped to the map include:

- This site is so close to de Anza, why bother creating a similar site? Concept B is much better suited to Calabasas.

- Will there be too much availability for the limited parking?
- Interactive water play could be nice. Should definitely include some kind of running water - relaxing.
- This is a park in Calabasas, not an attraction at an amusement park.
- Yay! Bocce courts!
- Basketball courts would get more use than a skate park, but would prefer natural habitat to both.
- Community garden is a good idea. Nice addition.
- Is a full time roller hockey court really necessary?
- Regarding the community garden – be careful of invasives!

Information on a flipchart:

- Put a wood cover on bocce court for shuffleboard or a portable ping pong table.
- Provide horse trailer access in concept B, either cooperatively with State Parks or on city property alone – separation of people and horses.

West Side Concept B features a native plant restoration and demonstration garden with a loop path, interpretive signs, and benches; a picnic shelter; restroom; and trailhead to Malibu Creek State Park trail system. On-site parking is provided adjacent to the trailhead. An alternative site option would provide community garden space in addition to the native plant demonstration garden.

Comments taped to the map include:

- Concept B best suits the site's adjacency to the Santa Monica Mountains open space. Concept A degrades the corridor.
- Could, maybe you put a bunch of baby oaks fronting Las Virgenes to eventually create a sound and visual barrier?
- Make this a staging place for mountain bikers and horses (indicated an area on the northwest side of the property, east of Las Virgenes Creek).
- Much better concept than concept A. Things should be kept more natural. Since the site is only two acres, it seems like a relatively small project. Shouldn't the land be left natural? Is it really necessary to develop everything?
- Concept B would flow better with the rest of the area – scenic corridor, and is a nice contrast to the busy activities of de Anza Park. Community garden would be wonderful with other indigenous plant life and possibly some relaxing streams or waterfalls.
- I think I like the native plant restoration and demonstration garden idea the best.
- Concept B preferred without the community garden.

Marketplace of Ideas and Comment Cards:

- (Like) concept A – should be no access from L.V. road

- (Dislike) Community garden, difficult to keep well maintained.
- (Like) Plan B without community garden. However, native plants will need maintenance.
- (Dislike) Plan A is an off-shoot of de Anza and inappropriate for this location on L.V. Road

November 2003 Workshop

The third community workshop was held November 10, 2003, at Calabasas City Hall. The purpose of this open house format workshop was to present the elements of the draft master plan and provide opportunities for public review and comment. Specific support was expressed for some of the recommendations, in particular for providing a playground accessible to youth of all ages and abilities. The proposal to provide neighborhood parks on three school sites attracted the most comments. There was concern the two existing sites could not accommodate separate facilities, but a desire to increase public access to the existing play facilities. In addition, there was concern about the possibility of the proposed new elementary school being located within a gated neighborhood, and a related concern about spending public funds on park facilities that might not be readily available to the public. As a result, the recommendations were revised.

Youth Workshops

The Las Virgenes Unified School District participated in a youth participation component of the City of Calabasas' Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Leadership Classes from A.E. Wright Middle School and Calabasas High School participated in the youth-oriented outreach effort. Community Services Director Jeff Rubin gave an overview of the parks master plan process. He was joined by the city's Special Events Coordinator Aimee Eastman. MIG staff members Gail Connors and Eileen Takata facilitated and graphically recorded both sessions, respectively.

The two Leadership Classes provided insight into the teens' likes/dislikes, desires, and vision for the future of Calabasas Parks and Recreation. While the middle school students expressed concern over not knowing enough about City programs, they offered suggestions on activities they would like to see added, as well recommending a variety of communications tools to ensure they receive updated information.

Both groups overwhelmingly endorsed the concept of a Teen Center, though a few students at the high school were concerned it would not be used to its capacity. Both groups offered a variety of suggestions on what a Teen Center should offer, from passive activities, such as a study or movie room, to physical activities, such as athletic offerings, or a pool table. Both agreed that Calabasas teens needed a place "hang out."

Students at the high school had a detailed visioning discussion on potential development of two new park sites. While there were minor areas of disagreement, the majority of students preferred open space, natural landscaping and plants and passive parks, over active parks with concrete structures and ball fields or courts. They expressed concern the sites could be sold to developers, and emphatically stated they didn't want commercial sprawl.

A.E. Wright Middle School Leadership Class

Students were given a handout with a listing of the City's teen-oriented programs and services. They were asked to indicate their top three favorites or priorities on the handout, which was collected at the end of the session. The group also verbally discussed the programs and services and indicated what programs they thought were beneficial to teens, as well as programs they felt the City should consider adding to the youth program. Students were asked what parks they attend, how they spend their time after-school, and if they would be interested in a Teen Center.

Programs and Services

Youth Preferences

Responses in Favor: (Verbal)	Responses in Favor: (Comment Card)	Programs or Services
16	9	Teen Court Program
15	9	Commercial Acting Classes
12	9	Blue Angels Youth Ski and Snowboard (3 days at Tahoe)
11	6	Teen Advisory Committee
10	7	Basic Acting
9	4	Counselor-in-Training Program
9	7	Volunteer Program
9	2	Zacharatos Karate and Kickboxing
6	3	Art Classes
6	2	Guitar Boogie
6	7	Hip Hop Dance
2	1	Dancers West
1	0	Celebrate Art
One student commented that “some,” or a “small” number of people might be interested		Adventures in Art

Ideas/Suggestions

The following list indicates programs or services that the middle school students would be interested in, if offered by the City of Calabasas.

- Offer more beach trips
- Offer more sports opportunities, such as swimming, soccer clinics, basketball camps, or one week with Coach Bibby
- Schedule “Dive-in” movies
- Open a dance studio
- Build a Teen Center: they would like to have somewhere to go
- Offer transportation for programs: student indicated it was difficult to get to Calabasas from other areas
- Support fund-raising efforts to cross-promote events
- Offer more frequent Mountain High trips, such as one day a week
- Organize festivals:
 - Art
 - Carnival
 - Advertise events
 - Earth-Day: recycled materials
 - Music featuring local (alumni) bands such as Incubus and Lincoln Park.
- Coordinate transportation:
 - Work on a system with Agoura and Bell Canyon
 - Use Dial-a-Ride service
- Open a Skate Park

Issues/Concerns

Students indicated they were not familiar with the City’s quarterly Parks and Recreation Brochure, and that they were unsure of how to access information about Parks Programs. Mr. Rubin provided the students with brochures and encouraged them to visit the City’s website at: www.calabasas.ca.us for additional information.

Comments regarding program notification were:

- There’s a lack of information about programs
- Colored announcement sheets (sent home from school) don’t work
- Use more descriptive pictures in promoting programs
- It’s difficult for non-Calabasas residents to obtain information on programs

Students obtain information:

- From word-of-mouth
- From friends
- By E-mail

Students offered the following suggestions for promoting programs and services:

- Advertise around the Commons
- Use TV Ads:
 - With music
 - On the WB
 - On cable
- Store Fliers or information at:
 - Barnes and Noble
 - Mann’s Theatre Trailer Ads
- Advertise in school programs

Parks Attendance

Students indicated with a show of hands which Calabasas Parks they attend or use.

Responses: (show of hands)	Park
10	Tennis Center
6	Gates Canyon
5	De Anza
3	Community Center
3	Bark Park
0	Grape Arbor

General Comments

- One student expressed concern that there wasn’t any park close to Town Crier Rd.
- One student felt the City shouldn’t automatically rent out to AYSO or other sports leagues such as lacrosse

- One student felt the Volunteer program needs to be expanded to other schools (such as Agoura High)
- One student said she didn't live in Calabasas, and that transportation to any event or program posed an ongoing problem

Follow up Question

One student asked if points count toward credit in the Volunteer Program, if a student does not go to Calabasas High?

Teen Center

The City of Calabasas wanted to ascertain whether Calabasas Youth was interested in having a Teen Center. The group overwhelmingly expressed interest in having a teen center, which they see as central place for activities or as an after-school destination. Potential facilities and programs suggested by the students include:

- Air hockey
- A work-out room with weights
- Arcade games
- A movie room
- Pool tables
- Basketball and volleyball courts
- Dance studio
- Rock climbing wall
- A pool
- A lounge area to "hang out" in
- Snack or coffee shop
- A facility similar to JCC
- Computer/Internet stations and access
- A shuttle between the Teen Center and schools

After-school Services

Students suggested the following after-school services, which could be housed at the Teen Center:

- After-school tutoring
- Job placement or coordination, especially for students – perhaps have a billboard with job listings
- Volunteer work and coordination
- Non-sports options
- Relaxed "hang out" area

What do the A.E. Wright students do after school?

The City of Calabasas is interested in understanding where students spend their time outside of school. The students responded:

- Sports

- Hang out with friends
- Stay at school and do homework
- Stay at home and be on the computer
- Dance
- Half of the class indicated they went home to an empty house after school

Calabasas High School

Students were given a handout with a listing of the City’s teen-oriented programs and services. They were asked to indicate their top three favorites or priorities, which was collected at the end of the session. Since the students were drawn to the potential development of the two park sites, they did not verbally discuss programs and services.

Students were asked what they felt would be appropriate for the two park sites; their interest in a Teen Center; and their after-school activities.

Programs and Services

Youth Preferences

Responses in Favor: (Comment Card)	Programs or Services
15	Hip Hop Dance
12	Blue Angels Youth Ski and Snowboard (3 days at Tahoe)
10	Volunteen Program
9	Teen Court Program
7	Art Classes
6	Counselor-in-Training Program
6	Zacharatos Karate and Kickboxing
4	Teen Advisory Committee
3	Commercial Acting Classes
3	Basic Acting
3	Dancers West
1	Adventures in Art
0	Celebrate Art

Ideas/Suggestions

The following list indicates programs and services that the high school students would be interested in, if offered, by the City of Calabasas.

- Lifeguard certification
- Pilates
- Yoga
- Art and dancing. “Teen advice is very important.”
- Maybe a music program or a theatre center.

Potential Park Site Development

West Side Parcel – Las Virgenes/Lost Hills Location

Students suggested the following in regards to development of the parcel:

- Include a natural barrier such as trees along the perimeter that borders Las Virgenes Highway
- If there's a ten foot drop between the perimeter and the road, there's no need for a fence or barrier
- Consideration should be given to the wildlife corridor in that area when developing property
- Perhaps have a "tie-in" to the Commons (such as piped in music)
- Create a Nature Center
- Have traditional playground equipment, such as swings
- Don't duplicate activities at nearby De Anza Park
- Have a passive park with barbeques and picnic areas and such amenities, as benches and picnic facilities
- Bring more activity to the area such as roller hockey
- The intersection is dangerous – development should consider the potential for cars to end up on the edge of the park site
- Ensure safe in-and-out parking
- Don't develop the park – leave as open space
- Have an interactive fountain, similar to Universal City Walk
- Any additional traffic in that area is cause for concern

East Side Parcel – Old Topanga Canyon/Mulholland Location

Students suggested the following in regards to development of the parcel:

- The area has a natural beauty; there should be minimal development
- Passive park
- Have a botanical garden similar to Huntington Gardens, with an educational/informational center and plant labels
- Build trails for hiking and biking
- A concrete, large construction project would disrupt the peace and natural beauty of the area
- Amenities should include: sports field, as there is nothing near by
- Construct a nature center, so youth would have a place to go
- Construct a recreational center
- Landscape the area to reflect local area (native plants)
- Keep the landscape natural
- Construct a basketball court surrounded by trees and trails
- Plan for open space and recreation – it's a vision for Calabasas
- There should be less development and less traffic
- People who live near the park want to keep it natural
- The high school has existing recreational amenities (which is close to the site), which people could use
- The youth need a place to go and parks are a good opportunity
- Build an In-and-Out Burger
- There should not be any lights. There currently aren't any lights and it's nice when it's dark

General Comments

- One student stated that the City should prevent commercial or housing development.
- The City is developing a master plan, is there even an option as to whether it can be left as open space?

Teen Center

The high school group expressed interest in having a teen center, though they were divided as to whether it would be used to its highest potential. Comments included:

- Gear a Teen Center toward high school students, with separate activities for younger students
- It's important to give kids a place to go
- Teen Center should be a meeting place for clubs
- Transportation to and from the center and schools is necessary
- Sports classes offered could include:
 - A work-out room with weights
 - Yoga
 - Kick-boxing
- Teen Center could keep kids off the street, but it might not necessarily work
- It should include summer programs
- Include intramurals
- Include pool and foosball tables
- Orient classes toward ability:
 - Make it cool to go to a class at the center
- It's good in concept, but not sure if it will work
- Should include activities for kids under 18 that they can't participate in anywhere else (such as pool tables)
- Include a snack bar
- Have an entertainment club that promotes use for bands and dances
- More kids will use it if there's no fee or a low fee
- Construct an amphitheatre:
 - Similar to Topanga
 - A place where bands can play or people can picnic
- Include a study lounge

After-school Activities

Students were asked about their after-school activities. Of those that responded:

- Five had jobs
- Twelve stayed in Calabasas
- Six traveled outside Calabasas



Photo of West Side Park Site

APPENDIX E: Recreation Needs Assessment

Findings and Conclusions

Listed below is a summary of the demand analysis for park and recreation services.

Park Land Needs

- It is recommended that Calabasas base its park system on Community Parks and that a community park be located within about 1.5 miles of every resident.
- To serve the community, two additional community parks are required. It is recommended that Gates Canyon Park be upgraded to serve as a community park, and that a community park site be acquired in eastern Calabasas.
- It is recommended that the City continue to provide the same level of open space protection its citizens currently enjoy. The recommended standard of open space lands is 15.0 acres/1,000 population.

Recreation Facility Needs

- Based on information received from the leagues, Calabasas has a severe shortage of soccer fields but has a sufficient supply of baseball fields to meet its share of regional demands.
- Although there aren't sufficient softball fields to meet Calabasas' share of current regional demands, additional softball fields are not recommended because the Hughes Adult School complex is providing for the needs of the local softball league.

Table E.1
 Comparison of Current Ratio and
 Recommended Demand Standard
Park and Recreation Areas
 City of Calabasas

Recreation Area	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Mini-Parks	0.11 Acres/1,000 pop.	0.08 Acres/1,000 pop.
Neighborhood Parks	0.49 Acres/1,000 pop.	0.22 Acres / 1,000 pop
Community Parks	0.39 Acres/1,000 pop.	0.80 Acres / 1,000 pop
Special Use Areas	1.21 Acres/1,000 pop.	1.01 Acres / 1,000 pop
Open Space Areas ¹	14.17 Acres/1,000 pop.	15.00 Acres / 1,000 pop

¹Ratio includes City-owned open space only. Does not include the 1400+ acres owned by non-profits and other public agencies.

The 2020 population within the current Calabasas city limits is projected to be between 27,400 and 27,900¹. For the purposes of the park and recreation master plan, a 2020 population projection of 27,400 will be used.

Table E.2
 Comparison of Current Ratio and
 Recommended Demand Standard
Recreation Facilities
 City of Calabasas

Recreation Area	Current Ratio	Recommended Standard
Baseball Fields	1 field per 2,549 pop.	1 field per 3,400 pop.
Softball Fields	1 field per 6,797 pop.	1 field per 7,000 pop.
Soccer Fields	1 field per 2,549 pop.	1 field per 1,500 pop.

¹ Peter A. Morrison, Calabasas Library Grant application

Park Land Needs

Table E.3
 Summary of Current Park Needs (Year 2003)*
 Park and Recreation Areas (in Acres)
 City of Calabasas

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Year 2002 Demand	Additional Need
Mini-Parks	2.2	1.6	(0.6)
Neighborhood Parks	10.0	3.0	(7.0)
Community Park	8.0	16.2	8.2
Special Use Areas	34.6	20.5	(14.1)
Open Space Areas	287.6	304.5	16.9
Undeveloped	1.8	NA	NA

* Based on a 2002 population of 20,390

Table E.4
 Summary of Park Needs (Build-out) **
 Park and Recreation Areas (in Acres)
 City of Calabasas

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Build-out Demand	Additional Need
Mini-Parks	2.2	2.2	0.0
Neighborhood Parks	10.0	6.0	(4.0)
Community Parks	8.0	22.0	14.0
Special Use Areas	34.6	34.6	0.0
Open Space Areas	287.6	411.0	123.4
Undeveloped	1.8	NA	NA

** Based on a 2020 population of 27,400

Facility Needs

Table E.5
Summary of Recreation Facility Needs (Year 2003) *
City of Calabasas

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Year 2002 Demand	Additional Need
Baseball Fields ¹	8	8	0
Softball Fields ¹	3	3	0
Soccer Fields	8	14	6

* Based on a 2002 population of 20,390

¹ This excludes multi-use backstops that, if upgraded, could satisfy a portion of the need.

Table E.6
Summary of Recreation Facility Needs (Build-out)**
City of Calabasas

Area or Facility	Existing Inventory	Build-out Demand	Additional Need
Baseball Fields ¹	8	11	3
Softball Fields ¹	3	4	1
Soccer Fields	8	18	10

** Based on a 2020 population of 27,400

¹ This excludes multi-use backstops that, if upgraded, could satisfy a portion of the need

E.1 Introduction

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 Calabasas. The process for identifying needs was:

- Inventorying and analyzing the existing supply of park and recreation facilities.
- Public input on park and recreation needs
 - A citywide opinion survey of Calabasas residents conducted by MIG Inc.
 - Public meetings
 - Contact with user groups
- Forecasting park and facility needs using various approaches.

E.2 Alternative Approaches to Identifying Needs

There are several approaches to estimating needs. They include the use of national standards, measurement of participation levels, user trend analysis, input from surveys and public meetings, goal setting and participation models. Since the analysis on the following pages encompasses these methods, a brief description of each is listed below.

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.

Participation Level Analysis

Recognizing the need to reflect local conditions, MIG Inc., began measuring per capita participation levels in every community it studied. Participation level is measured in terms of the number of occasions in a given 30-day period when that activity is in season. The activity level is then compared to other similar communities or with the MIG AVERAGE, which is the weighted average of the last 15 communities surveyed.

By comparing the subject community with the MIG AVERAGE, a determination can be made if participation is above or below average. This then gives an indication as to whether the standard should be above or below average.

Trend Analysis

With this approach, extrapolating historical use statistics for each type of facility allows development of 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 positive and negative attributes that include cost efficiency, return ratio, desired information and time frame. Using the survey approach, future facility needs are sometimes developed 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.

Public Meetings

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 may dominate meetings and often do not necessarily truly represent communitywide 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 statistically valid standard such as "xx" acres per 1,000 population. 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.

E.3 Methodology of Assessing Park and Open Space Needs in Calabasas

Developing a statement of land needs for park areas and open space is the most difficult of all types of needs analysis because it depends on localized values, availability of land, financial resources and desired service levels.

To determine specific land needs for the City of Calabasas, several analytical methods were used. These included a comparison to other similar communities, results of the recreation survey, national trends, land availability and geographical deficiencies for parks and open space areas. It should be noted that even with all the statistical information 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. In many cases, comparisons to other communities are given. These comparisons are given as the "existing ratio". The existing ratio is the existing amount of park land divided by the existing population. It is expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population. The recommended standard is the desired amount of parkland and is also expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population.

The ratio of park land or recreation facilities is based on a comparison with the existing population base. By developing a desired level of service (recommended standard) and applying it to a future population forecast, one can determine future needs. To determine the existing ratio, the population within the existing city limits was used.

For this study, we will use the existing and future population forecasts identified below.

Existing and Forecasted Population

Table E.7
Population Forecast
City of Calabasas

Year	Population
2000 (Census)	20,033
2002	20,390
2020	27,400 ²

² Peter A. Morrison, Calabasas Library Grant application

Table E.8
 Summary of Existing Parks and Facilities
 City of Calabasas

Park Site	Total Park Land	Number of Sites
Mini-Parks	2.2	2
Neighborhood Parks	10.0	2
Community Park	8.0	1
Special Use Areas	34.6	5
Open Space Areas/Greenways	287.6	6
Undeveloped Land	1.8	1

E.4 Park and Open Space Needs

On the following pages, specific needs for each type of park land are discussed. The categories of park land include:

- Mini-Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Areas
- Open Space Areas
- Undeveloped Lands

It should be mentioned that the needs assessment addresses only City of Calabasas recreation needs and facilities. No assessment of need for recreation facilities lands and facilities owned by other agencies has been made because of difficulty ascertaining the amount of dedicated land for recreation use, and difficulty in determining the population to be served. Recreation areas, such as SMMC open space serve a much broader community than Calabasas residents. Finally, no needs were developed for private recreation areas, such as private open space or clubs because these are limited or restricted by use or fees.

Mini Parks

Mini-parks, tot lots and children's playgrounds are small, single purpose play lots designed primarily for small children usage. Due to their size, the facilities are usually limited to a small open grass area, a children's playground and a small picnic area.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

■ Current Supply:

- Currently, there are two mini-park sites in Calabasas consisting of 2.2 acres. The existing sites that fall under this classification include:
 - * Freedom Park – 1.7 Acres
 - * Highlands Park – 0.5 Acres

■ Current Service Levels:

- Service Area: The service radius for a mini-park is considered to be about a one-quarter mile radius. Please refer to the Neighborhood Park Service Area Map to see the areas currently served by mini-parks.
- Size typically ranges from 0.25 - 1.0 acres.

ANALYSIS:

■ Comparison to Other Communities:

- The *average ratio* for mini-parks in 91 western communities (in California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana) MIG has collected information is *0.08 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The average ratio for mini-parks in 15 communities in California MIG has studied is *0.09 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average recommended demand standard* for the 91 western communities studied by MIG is *0.04 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average recommended demand standard* in 10 California communities MIG has studied is *0.03 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The ratio of mini-parks in Calabasas about typical for communities MIG has studied.

2. Trends

- Often this type of park is popular in new subdivisions, which traditionally have a high ratio of young children. However, as the children grow older, this type of park attracts less use.

- It should also be noted that in communities where land is scarce or where development has already taken place, the development of mini-parks is an option for serving some neighborhoods that do not have park service.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Level of Service:**
 - Service area: 1/4-mile radius.
 - Size requirement: Minimum of 1/2 acre

- **Determination of Demand Standard:**
 - It is recommended the city maintain its current ratio and not acquire or develop parks of this type. This is based on the following factors:
 - * High cost to develop and maintain on a per acre basis
 - * Limited service area
 - * Limited types of recreational facilities offered

Table E.9
Recommended Demand Standard
Mini Parks

Mini-Park Standard	
Current Inventory	2.2 acres
Number of Sites	2 Sites
Current Ratio	0.11 Acres / 1,000 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	0.08 Acres/ 1,000 Population

- **Development Standards:**
 - Basic Elements: Play area for children ages 2-5; small turf areas; benches; and trash receptacles.
 - Optional Elements: Picnic tables, picnic shelters, and drinking fountains.
- **Comments:**
 - Within medium to large residential developments, the City should encourage **private developers** to provide small mini-parks (e.g., playground areas) to serve their individual developments.
 - The city should not take over maintenance of privately provided mini-parks if asked to do so, but rather should leave that the responsibility of the development's HOA or assessment district.

Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park is a combination playground and park, designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts and multi-use sport fields for soccer, and Little League baseball.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

■ **Current Supply:**

- Currently, there are two neighborhood parks consisting of 10.0 acres in Calabasas. The existing sites that fall under this classification include:
 - * Gates Canyon Park -7.0 Acres
 - * Grape Arbor Park - 3.0 Acres

■ **Current Service Levels:**

- **Service Area:** The service radius for a neighborhood park is considered to be a half-mile radius. Please refer to the **Neighborhood Park Service Area Map** to see the areas served by neighborhood parks. Note that Community Parks provide neighborhood park facilities, and therefore are shown on the map to provide neighborhood park service at a half-mile radius.
- **Size:** 3 to 7 acres

ANALYSIS:

■ **Comparison to Other Communities:**

- The *average ratio* for mini-parks in 91 western communities (in California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana) is *0.92 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average ratio* for neighborhood parks in 15 communities in California MIG has studied is *0.66 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average recommended demand standard* for the 91 western communities studied by MIG is *1.51 acres / 1,000 population*.

Neighborhood Park Service Area Map

- The *average recommended demand standard* in 10 California communities studied by MIG is *1.13 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The current ratio and the recommended demand standard for Calabasas are both significantly lower than in many communities studied by MIG due to the unique topographical and land availability constraints in Calabasas.
- **Trends**
 - Most communities in the west have developed a park system centered on the neighborhood park. This balances the issue of convenience with the cost of development and maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Level of Service:**
 - Service area: Generally a half-mile radius with some modification to reflect population densities.
 - Size requirement: 1.5 - 5 acres
- **Determination of Demand Standard:**
 - Gates Canyon Park is recommended to be upgraded to a Community Park. This means that Gates Canyon Park will be reclassified as a Community Park, and upgraded with additional facilities. This leaves Grape Arbor Park as the only existing Neighborhood Park in Calabasas.
 - In addition to the reclassification of Gates Canyon Park as a Community Park, the Park and Recreation Commission has determined that it will not be possible to provide neighborhood parks within a ½ mile of all residents of the City due to a lack of available land. Therefore, the city's current ratio of 0.49 acres / 1,000 population will decrease as the population grows, despite a recommendation to partner with Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) to provide some neighborhood park service where possible.

- Due to the built-out nature of most of the developable land in Calabasas and the difficulty and expense of acquiring suitable park sites, it is recommended that the City not seek to provide additional neighborhood parks, except for those mentioned below at elementary school sites. It is recommended that the City not adopt a policy of providing neighborhood park service within one half-mile of most residents. This is based on the following factors:

 - * Lack of potential park sites
 - * Cost of land
 - * Topographic constraints
 - * Presence of gated neighborhoods and issues of equitable provision of service.

- It is recommended the city negotiate with LVUSD to develop neighborhood park facilities at Bay Laurel and Chaparral Elementary Schools if possible. It is further recommended the City enter into discussion with LVUSD to incorporate neighborhood park facilities at the proposed elementary school near the New Millenium (The Oaks) residential development, and potentially at any other future elementary schools in Calabasas depending on their locations.

- Assuming one acre at each of the three known elementary school sites, three additional acres of neighborhood park land will be provided. If this acreage is added to the existing developed inventory of 3.0 acres (The 7.0 acres at Gates Canyon is not included because it is recommended to be reclassified), a total of six acres is recommended to be provided. When this figure is divided by the build-out population/1,000, we come up with a service level of 0.21 acres per 1,000 population.

Table E.10
Recommended Demand Standard
Neighborhood Parks

Standard	Ratio
Current Inventory	10.0 Acres
Number of Sites	2 Sites
Current Ratio	0.49 Acres / 1,000 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	0.22 Acres / 1,000 Population

■ **Development Standards:**

- Basic Elements: Passive recreation areas, pathway system, playground areas, picnic areas, picnic shelters, half-court basketball, drinking fountains, bicycle parking, pathway lighting, and trash receptacles
- Optional Elements: Multi-purpose field or soccer field

■ **Comments:**

- No additional neighborhood park service is proposed, except for new facilities at some elementary school sites.

Required Actions:

- * Partner with LVUSD to develop neighborhood park facilities at Bay Laurel and Chaparral Elementary Schools, and at the new elementary school proposed near the New Millenium housing development. Neighborhood park facilities on school grounds, such as playground areas and picnic shelters should only be developed if they can be designed in such a way as to be open to the public during school hours.

Community Parks

Community Parks are planned primarily to provide active and structured recreation opportunities. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Community parks serve a much larger area and offer more facilities. As a result, they require more in terms of support facilities such as parking, restrooms, and covered play areas. Community parks usually have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

- **Current Supply:**
 - Although it is somewhat smaller than normally recommended, there is one community park consisting of 8.0 acres in Calabasas. The existing site that falls under this classification is:
 - * Juan Bautista De Anza Park – 8.0 Acres
- **Current Service Levels:**
 - Service Area: The service radius for a community park is usually ranges from about a 1.0-1.5 mile radius. In Calabasas, 1.5 miles is used for the Community Park service radius. Please refer to the **Community Park Service Area Map** for an analysis of underserved areas.
 - Size: 5 to 10 acres

ANALYSIS:

- **Comparison to Other Communities:**
 - The *average ratio* for neighborhood parks in 91 western communities (in California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana) is *1.24 acres / 1,000 population*.
 - The *average ratio* for neighborhood parks in 15 communities in California MIG has studied is *1.65 acres / 1,000 population*.
 - The *average recommended demand standard* for the 91 western communities studied by MIG is *1.71 acres / 1,000 population*.

Community Park Service Area Map

- The *average recommended demand standard* for 10 California communities studied by MIG is *1.43 acres / 1,000 population*.
 - The City's current ratio of 0.39 acres / 1,000 population is lower than average, and significantly lower than what is recommended in other communities.
-
- **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 they are more efficient to develop and maintain.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Level of Service:**
 - Service Area: The service radius for a community park is a 1-mile radius.
 - Size: 5 to 15 acres.

- **Determination of Demand Standard:**
 - It is recommended the city develop community parks conveniently located to most residences (1.5 mile service radius). This is based on the following factors:
 - * Offers wide variety of facilities and activities.
 - * Efficiency of operation and maintenance.
 - * City has a lower ratio than the average recommended demand standard for communities in the region.
 - Based on the service area analysis shown on the previous page, one additional community park site is needed to serve eastern Calabasas, if Gates Canyon Park is reclassified and upgraded to a community park. If 7.0 acres for Gates Canyon Park and one site approximately 7 acres in size is added to the existing developed inventory of 8.0 acres and then divided by the build-out population/1,000, we come up with a service level of 0.80 acres per 1,000 population.

Table E.11
Recommended Demand Standard
Community Parks

Standard	Ratio
Current Inventory	8.0 Acres
Number of Sites	1 Site
Current Ratio	0.39 Acres / 1,000 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	0.80 Acres / 1,000 Population

■ **Development Standards:**

- Basic Elements: Restrooms, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, parking, specialized facilities (community center, gymnasium, amphitheater, sports complex), passive recreation areas, pathway system, natural areas, group picnic areas, play areas, picnic areas, picnic shelters, drinking fountains, bicycle parking, pathway lighting, and trash receptacles
- Optional Elements: Sport fields (league and tournament play) if park size allows, nature interpretive area, exercise course, specialized facilities, food concessions, community gardens, dog run areas, horticultural garden areas, amphitheater, and small purpose buildings

■ **Comments:**

- Due to the lack of suitable land for park sites in Calabasas, the recommended size range for community parks is smaller than in recommended for most communities. Although sport fields are a typical community park component in most communities, because of topographical constraints in Calabasas and the lack of suitable land, sport fields should be considered an optional element.
- The approach to meeting the community park needs can be achieved by upgrading Gates Canyon Park and by acquiring a second site in the Mulholland Highway corridor in the vicinity of Old Topanga Canyon Road.

- The park site to be acquired should meet the following criteria:
 - * Have a visible entrance, like De Anza and Gates Canyon parks.
 - * Be as large as possible, but a minimum of about 5 acres in size.
 - * Have generally level areas that will allow for active park uses.

Required Actions:

- * Reclassify Gates Canyon Park as a Community Park and upgrade it with additional facilities.
- * Acquire one additional Community Park site in the vicinity of Mulholland Highway and Old Topanga Canyon Road.

Special Use Areas

Special use areas include land occupied by a specialized recreation facility and miscellaneous public recreation areas that don't fit into other categories. Some of the uses falling into this classification include dog parks, community gardens, marinas, single purpose sites used for field sports or sites occupied by buildings.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

■ Current Supply:

- Currently, there are five special use areas in Calabasas totaling 34.6 acres. The existing sites falling under this category include:
 - * Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center – 4.5 Acres
 - * Creekside Park – 11.8 Acres
 - * Calabasas Bark Park (owned by LVMWD, built by Calabasas) – 0.8 Acres
 - * Tennis & Swim Center – 7.5 Acres
 - * Wild Walnut Paek- 10 Acres

■ Current Service Levels:

- Service Area: City-wide
- Size: Varies

ANALYSIS:

■ Comparison to Other Communities:

- The *average ratio* for community parks in 91 western communities (in California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana) is *3.35 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average ratio* for community parks in 15 communities in California MIG has studied is *1.60 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average recommended demand standard* for the 91 western communities studied by MIG is *4.81 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average recommended demand standard* for 10 California communities studied by MIG is *2.92 acres / 1,000 population*.

- The City has special use facilities, the city's current ratio of 1.26 acres/1,000 population is average and what is recommended in other communities.

- **Trends**

- Many communities throughout the west have developed facilities for field sports, indoor spaces for volleyball and basketball, skateboard parks, golf courses, botanical and formal gardens, and amphitheaters. These single-purpose facilities are often found in a special use area.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Level of Service:**

- Service Area: City-wide or local depending on the facility/area
- Size: Varies, depending on the facility

- **Determination of Demand Standard:**

- It is recommended the city develop additional special use parks. This is based on the factors listed on the following:

- * Need for a teen center (identified in survey and through youth focus groups)
- * Need for additional dog off-leash areas (identified in survey)
- * Need for a west side day care facility (identified by City officials)

- In order to accommodate the spaces identified below, approximately 10 acres of additional land are needed. The breakdown of additional acreage is as follows:

* Teen Center	2.00 Acres
* Dog Off-Leash Area(s) (1 or more sites)	4.00 Acres
* Second Day Care Facility	4.00 Acres

- If the 10 acres mentioned above were added to the existing inventory, there would be a total need of 44.6 acres. If this figure is divided by the build-out population, we come up with a service level of 1.63 acres per 1,000 population.

Table E.12
 Recommended Demand Standards
 Special Use Parks

Standard	Ratio
Current Inventory	34.6 Acres
Number of Sites	5 Sites
Current Ratio	1.70 Acres / 1,000 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	1.26 Acres / 1,000 Population

■ **Development Standards:**

- **Basic Elements:** Combination of one or more of the following: community center, indoor gymnasium, indoor pool, aquatic complex, community theater, outdoor theater, sports complex, senior center, teen center, community art facility, golf course, or other special use sites. All support facilities, such as parking, lighting, pathways, and site amenities.
- **Optional Elements:** Playground equipment, sport courts, picnic facilities, fountains and plazas.

4. Comments:

- A teen center could be located as a stand-alone facility, or be combined with another park site. A teen center should be centrally located, and be accessible or easily served by transportation (especially if it is intended to serve younger teens). A teen center site should also have good visibility from surrounding streets to encourage use.
- Additional dog off-leash space could be provided at one site, or at several sites. Comments in the survey noted that it would be nice to have a separate off-leash area for small dogs. Other comments noted it would be desirable to have an off-leash area on the east side of Calabasas. It might be possible to provide off-leash space at another park site, which would lessen the need to acquire additional land.

- A site for a second daycare operation in western Calabasas could be a stand-alone facility or could be combined with another park site or public facility. It should be located fairly convenient to one of the major streets for easy access, but needs less visibility than the teen center site.

Required Actions:

- * Acquire a site for use as a teen center. This could be developable land or it could be a site with an existing structure suitable for remodeling.
- * Acquire or secure a long-term lease for additional dog off-leash space.
- * Acquire land in western Calabasas to be used for a second day care site. This could be developable land or it could be a site with an existing structure suitable for remodeling.

**Natural Open Space
Areas/Greenways**

Natural Open Space Areas/Greenways are defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural environment with recreation uses 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 habitat corridors, wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar spaces. Environmentally sensitive areas can be acquired for open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

▪ **Current Supply:**

- The City of Calabasas owns six open space areas totaling approximately 287.6 acres. These sites include:
 - * Micor properties – 33.4 Acres
 - * De Anza Open Space – 180.7 Acres
 - * Wild Walnut Open Space – 25 Acres
 - * Civic Center Open Space – 20 Acres
 - * Dorothy Road properties – 23.5 Acres
 - * Dry Canyon Cold Creek Open Space – 5 Acres

In addition to the open space acreage owned by Calabasas, there are hundreds of acres of open space within city limits that are owned by other agencies or non-profits. For the purposes of the needs assessment, the demand standard for open space in Calabasas is based solely on open space owned by the City.

■ **Current Service Levels:**

- There is no defined service area for open space. Service area is determined by its intended purpose, such as protection of habitat, separation of neighborhoods, preservation of environmentally sensitive areas, and steep hillsides.

ANALYSIS:

■ **Comparison to Other Communities:**

- The *average ratio* for natural open space in 91 western communities (in California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana) is *8.42 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The **average ratio** for natural open space in 15 communities in California MIG has studied is *8.81 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average recommended demand standard* for the 91 western communities studied by MIG is *12.50 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The *average recommended demand standard* for 10 California communities studied by MIG is *7.25 acres / 1,000 population*.
- The city's current ratio of 14.17 acres / 1,000 population is above average and is somewhat higher than what is recommended in many other western communities and significantly higher than what is recommended in many other California cities.

■ **Trends**

- In larger metropolitan areas, the preservation of open space has become important to many citizens.

RECOMMENDATION:

■ **Level of Service:**

- 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).

■ **Determination of Demand Standard:**

- As a minimum standard for open space protection, it is recommended the city maintain a similar ratio of open space land inventory to what it has now. It is further recommended that this be considered a minimum level of open space protection. To meet these goals, a demand standard of 15 acres/1,000 population is recommended.

In order to provide 15 acres/1,000 population, approximately 123.4 additional acres of land is needed.

Table E.13
Recommended Demand Standards
Open Space Areas

Standard	Ratio
Present Inventory	287.6 Acres
Present Sites	6 Sites
Present Ratio	14.17 Acres / 1,000 Population
Recommended Demand Standard¹	15.0 Acres / 1,000 Population

¹ Demand standard is for City owned open space only

■ **Design Standards:**

- Basic Elements: Natural areas
- Optional Elements: Nature trails/paths

■ **Comments:**

- The Calabasas hilly landscape and the presence of the nearby Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area present numerous opportunities for the preservation of additional open space land. In addition to the City’s pursuit of open space on its own, there are opportunities for partnerships to pursue acquisition with a variety of partners.

Required Actions:

- * Secure easements and/or development rights to additional open space land when it becomes available.

E.5 Recreation Facility Needs

The establishment of needs for sport fields was derived from several analytical approaches. This included an analysis of present recreation participation levels, needs expressed in the survey, from play and practice time requirements of sport teams and from mathematical models developed over the years from other studies.

On the following pages, the needs for specific types of facilities are discussed. Similar to the discussion of park land needs, the "existing ratio" and "recommended demand standard" are expressed. The existing ratio is the existing population divided by the number of facilities (e.g., fields). Likewise, the recommended demand standard is the desired ratio of population to facilities. This is based on the desired level of service. By establishing a desired level of service and applying it to the existing and future population forecast, one can determine appropriate recommended demand standard and ultimately the future needs. To determine the existing ratio for facilities, the population within the city was used.

To determine the need for sport fields, a demand model was created that 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

Most of the leagues serving Calabasas residents are regional in nature and also serve surrounding communities. In order to determine the field needs for Calabasas residents, leagues were asked to estimate the percentage of their participants from Calabasas. As an illustration, if a league reported 50 teams with 40% of its participants from Calabasas, the total number of league teams was pro-rated using the 40% figure. For that league, the Calabasas share of teams would be 20 (40% of 50 teams).

Facility Inventory

Table E.14
 Summary of Existing Facilities
 City of Calabasas

Park Site	Number of Facilities
Baseball Fields (includes youth and adult)	8
Softball Fields (includes youth and adult)	3 ¹
Soccer Fields	8 ²

¹ Includes 1 field under construction at A.C. Stelle Middle School.

² Includes 3 fields under construction at A.C. Stelle Middle School.

Facility Needs

On the following pages, specific needs for each type of facility are discussed. The facility categories include:

- Baseball Fields
- Softball Fields
- Soccer Fields

Baseball Fields

Regulation Baseball: 90' bases, 320+ foul line; Youth Baseball: 60' bases, approximately 200' foul line with grass infield

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

▪ **Current Supply:**

- In Calabasas, there are eight (8) fields that meet the physical requirements for baseball programs. Four fields are located at Lupin Hill Elementary School and are used by Pony Baseball league through an agreement with LVUSD. Two fields are located at Calabasas High School and are not available to the general public. The field locations are listed below:

- * Calabasas High School - (LVUSD) – 2 Fields
- * Lupin Hill Elementary School - (LVUSD) – 4 Fields
- * Round Meadow Elementary School - (LVUSD) – 1 Field
- * Bay Laurel Elementary School - (LVUSD) – 1 Field

- There are two multi-use fields located at city parks (Grape Arbor, DeAnza) that could be used. With upgrades, these fields could be used for youth baseball or softball games.

▪ **Current Standards:**

- The current service level for baseball is:
 - * Fields Accommodate - 2 games or practices/night M-F; 4 games or practices on Saturdays; and 0 games on Sundays to allow field rest.
 - * Team Participation - 2 games and 2 practices per team per week.
- Size: Regulation - three acres; youth – 1.5 acres

ANALYSIS:

▪ **Trends**

- On the national scale, youth baseball has increased by nearly 50% since 1984.
- According to the Calabasas Recreation Survey, baseball has a higher participation rate in Calabasas than soccer, which is different from most communities.

▪ **Input from Sponsoring Agencies:**

- The youth baseball program in Calabasas is sponsored by Agoura Pony Baseball. There is no organized adult baseball. Agoura Pony Baseball had a total of 98 teams playing in its spring 2003 season. An estimated 25% of participants are from Calabasas.
- Current participation is listed in Table E-15:

Table E.15
Baseball Participation
Calabasas Area Leagues

League	Total Teams
Agoura Pony Baseball	
T-ball (5 & 6)	6
Coach pitch (6 & 7)	11
Pinto (7 & 8)	26
Mustang (9 & 10)	20
Bronco (11 & 12)	18
Pony (13,14,15)	17
TOTAL	98
Estimated % of players from Calabasas	25%

- **Analysis of Supply and Demand:**
- The eight (8) existing fields can accommodate 14 games/practices per field per week for a total **supply of 112 games/practices per week**. There are two additional multi-use backstops located at Grape Arbor and De Anza Parks, and 3 additional multi-use backstops at A.C. Stelle Middle School. However, these are not counted because they are substandard in size and/or condition.
- The league has a total of 98 teams in six different divisions, and has estimated that 25% of players are from Calabasas. To determine Calabasas’ share of baseball field needs, the number of teams in each division was multiplied by 0.25. All fractions of numbers were rounded up. This calculation is shown in Table E-16.

Table E.16
Baseball Participation
City of Calabasas

Agoura Pony Baseball	Total Teams	Calabasas Teams
T-ball (5 & 6)	6	2
Coach pitch (6 & 7)	11	3
Pinto (7 & 8)	26	7
Mustang (9 & 10)	20	5
Bronco (11 & 12)	18	5
Pony (13,14,15)	17	5
TOTAL	98	27

- Calabasas’ share is 27 teams. Assuming two games and two practices a week, the 24 teams create a **demand of 81 games/practices per week**.
- According to the information received from the leagues, the ratio of teams to population in Calabasas is 1 team per 755 population. This is lower than in many other communities studied by MIG, but is not surprising given the demographic profile of Calabasas.
- Based on a supply and demand analysis, there is a sufficient supply to meet Calabasas’ share of local baseball field needs. There is a surplus of 31 games/practices per week, which is 2.2 fields. However, all of the available fields are owned by LVUSD, and the two high school fields are not generally available for public use. Based on the analysis, six (6) fields are needed to meet Calabasas’ current share of local baseball field demand.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Level of Service:**
 - The service level for team play should be maintained at an average rate of two games and two practices a week.
 - The service level for field use should be established at an average rate of 14 games/practices a week.
- **Determination of Demand Standard:**
 - If the total of six fields is divided by the current population, a recommended standard of one baseball field per 3,400 population can be derived. By build-out, a total of eight (8) fields will be needed.

Table E.17
Recommended Demand Standard
Baseball Fields

Standard	Ratio
Number of Fields	8 Fields (5 youth; 3 adult)
Current Ratio	1 Field/2,548 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	1 Field/3,400 Population

3. **Design Standards:**
 - Basic Elements: Regulation-320'-410' outfield fence length; field lighting; Little League-200' outfield fence length
4. **Comments:**
 - With the fields at Calabasas High School, there are sufficient fields to meet future needs in Calabasas. However, because they are not accessible to the public, they won't really satisfy field demand. The City could seek a use agreement with LVUSD that would make these fields more available to the public in the future.
 - Another means of meeting future field needs is to upgrade and program the multi-use fields. The field at De Anza could be upgraded to youth baseball size (60' bases) and could supply an additional 14 games/practices per week. The field at Creekside Park has been classified as a youth softball field, and is currently small. It could also be upgraded to youth baseball size to provide an additional 14 games/practices per week.

- The city could consider working cooperatively with the school district to ensure that the existing supply of baseball fields at school sites in Calabasas (especially the Lupin Hill complex) remains available to the public.
- Due to the regional nature of the leagues, Calabasas should consider working with neighboring communities and local leagues to establish a sports council to coordinate field use in Calabasas and surrounding communities.
- **Alternative Actions (Varying Service Levels):**
 - **Lighting fields.** In an attempt to gain additional playing time, lighting individual fields could add 5 games/practices a week per field. If the four fields at Lupin Hill were lighted, an additional 20 games a week could be added. However, because of the location of this school within a residential neighborhood, lighting of fields would be disruptive to neighbors and is not recommended. The lighting of other fields is also not recommended, due to community goals about maintaining dark skies.

Softball Fields

Adult Softball: 275-300' outfield for slow pitch; 225' for fast pitch and 250' outfield for women's slow pitch; Youth Softball: 60' bases, 180' foul line

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

- **Current Supply:**
 - In Calabasas, there are two (2) softball fields. One of the fields could be used for youth baseball or softball, and is quite small. These fields are listed below:
 - * Calabasas High School (LVUSD) – 1 Field (adult)
 - * Creekside Park (city) – 1 Field (youth softball/baseball)
 - One additional adult-sized field is at A.C. Stelle Middle School, along with three multi-use backstops overlaid with soccer fields.

2. Current Service Levels:

- The current service level for softball on a weekly basis is:
 - * Fields Accommodate - 2 game/night M-F (per week); 4 games/Saturdays; and 0 games / Sundays to allow field rest.
 - * Team Participation - 2 games and 2 practices per team per week
- Size: Regulation - three acres; youth – 1.5 acres

ANALYSIS:

- **Trends**
 - Coed softball has increased in popularity while men and women’s teams have experienced a decline.
 - According to the Calabasas Recreation Survey, softball participation is typical for communities MIG has studied.
- **Input from Sponsoring Agencies:**
 - West Valley Girls Softball league sponsors the girls softball programs in the Calabasas area, as well as high school age and womens teams.
 - There are no adult softball leagues in Calabasas.

Table E.18
Softball Participation
Calabasas Area Leagues

League	Total Teams
West Valley Girls Softball	
T-Ball	6
Micro (10 & under)	7
Mini (12 & under)	8
Minor (14 & under)	6
Major (16 & under)	4
High School (18 & under)	2
Women (Over 18)	4
TOTAL	37
Estimated % of players from Calabasas	30-40%

- The ratio of softball teams to population is lower in Calabasas than in many communities studied by MIG. Since there are no adult leagues in Calabasas, this is not surprising since adult softball teams usually constitute the majority of softball teams in a community.
- **Analysis of Supply and Demand:**
 - The two (2) existing fields can accommodate fourteen (14) games/ practices per field per week, a **supply of 28 games/practices per week**. The field at A.C. Stelle Middle School will supplies an additional 14 games/practices per week, for a **total supply of 42 games/practices per week**.
 - The league has a total of 37 teams in seven different divisions, and has estimated that 30-40% of players are from Calabasas. To determine Calabasas’ share of softball field needs, the number of teams in each division was multiplied by 0.40. All fractions of numbers were rounded up. This calculation is shown in Table E-19.

Table E.19
Softball Participation
City of Calabasas

West Valley Girls Softball	Total Teams	Calabasas Teams
T-Ball	6	3
Micro	7	3
Mini	8	4
Minor	6	3
Major	4	2
High School	2	1
Women	4	2
TOTAL	37	18

- Calabasas’ share is 18 teams. Assuming two games and two practices a week, the 18 teams create a **demand of 54 games/practices per week**.
 - Based on a supply and demand analysis, there is a **shortage of 12 games per week**. This is a **shortage of 1 field**. If the Calabasas High School field is not counted because it is not generally available for public use, the shortage would remain at **26 games a week, a shortage of 2 fields**.

RECOMMENDATION:

■ **Level of Service:**

- The recommended service level for team play should be established at an average rate of two games and two practices a week.
- If an adult league is established, the recommended service level is one game and no practices a week.
- The recommended service level for field use should be established at an average rate of 14 games/practices a week.

■ **Determination of Demand Standard:**

- While there are few softball fields in Calabasas, area needs appear to be satisfied because the West Valley Girls Softball league has exclusive use of the 8-field complex at Hughes Adult School in Woodland Hills through a settlement with the County. The fields at this location currently satisfy the needs of the league, and are expected to do so for the foreseeable future.
- Although there are insufficient fields in Calabasas to meet the city’s share of regional softball demand, it is not recommended that the City provide additional fields to meet current demand because the Hughes complex appears to be satisfying area needs.
- To maintain the current level of service in 2020, one additional softball field will be needed in Calabasas.

Table E.20
Recommended Demand Standard
Softball Fields

Standard	Ratio
Number of Fields	3 Fields
Current Ratio	1 Field/ 6,797 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	1 Field/ 7,000 Population

3. Design Standards:

- Basic Elements: Regulation-300' outfield fence length; field lighting; Youth Softball-180 - 200' outfield fence length
- Optional Elements: Lighting, covered dugouts, scorers table, storage facilities, drinking fountains

■ Comments:

- Due to the regional nature of the leagues, Calabasas should consider working with neighboring communities and local leagues to establish a sports council to coordinate field use in Calabasas and surrounding communities.
- If the field at Creekside Park is not converted to other uses, Calabasas should consider upgrading it to make it more suitable for youth softball and baseball.
- Calabasas should consider upgrading the multi-use backstops at A.C. Middle School, if upgrades are compatible with the soccer field overlays, to provide additional softball opportunities in Calabasas.

■ Alternative Actions (Varying Service Levels):

- **Lighting fields.** As previously discussed, lighting fields could provide additional games/practices a week per field. However, lighting is not appropriate in the softball field locations in Calabasas and should not be used to expand service at the current locations.

Soccer Fields

Field Dimensions: adult soccer 75 x 120 yards; junior soccer 65 x 110 yards; youth soccer 55 x 100 yards

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

■ **Current Supply:**

- Currently, there are five soccer fields in Calabasas. One of the fields is a turf area that was not developed as a field, but is used as one by soccer leagues. The fields include:
 - * Bay Laurel Elementary School (LVUSD) – 1 Field
 - * Chaparral Elementary School (LVUSD) – 1 Field (unofficial, but used by leagues)
 - * Round Meadow Elementary School (LVUSD) – 1 Fields
 - * Calabasas High School - (LVUSD) – 2 Fields (1 is a practice field)
- Three soccer fields at A.C. Stelle Middle School were opened in the 2003/04 school year, and Calabasas will have exclusive use of these fields outside of school hours through a joint use agreement.

■ **Current Service Levels:**

- The current service level for soccer is:
 - * Fields Accommodate - 2 games/night M-F; 6 games weekend
 - * Team Participation - 1 game and 2 practices per team per week
- Size: regulation - 2.5 acres; youth – 1.5 acres

ANALYSIS:

■ **Trends**

- Soccer play has increased significantly in the last 10 years. Locally, soccer participation is extremely popular and has also grown significantly over the past few years.
- Similar to other organized sports, many communities are developing soccer fields in a large complex and 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.

- Although the Calabasas Recreation Survey indicated a higher participation rate in baseball than in soccer, the amount of soccer league play in the Calabasas area appears to be higher than baseball play. The ratio of teams to population in Calabasas is significantly higher than in many communities studied by MIG.
- **Input from Sponsoring Agencies:**
 - Two soccer leagues sponsor programs in the Calabasas area. In addition to regular league play, one of the soccer leagues sponsors club play. These are more competitive teams that practice and play more frequently. League information is listed in Table E.21.

Table E.21
Soccer Participation
Calabasas Area Leagues

League	Total Teams
AYSO Region 4	
Total teams, Combined U6 – U18	330
Estimated % of players from Calabasas	10–15%
West Valley Soccer League	
Club teams	22
U6 (Boys & Girls combined)	24
U7 (Boys & Girls combined)	18
U8 (Boys & Girls combined)	20
U9 (Boys & Girls combined)	17
U10 (Boys & Girls combined)	11
U12 (Boys & Girls combined)	12
U14 (Boys & Girls combined)	6
TOTAL teams	108
Estimated % of players from Calabasas	60–75%

- **Analysis of Supply and Demand:**
 - The 5 existing soccer fields can accommodate sixteen (16) games/ practices per field for a **supply of 80 games/practices per week.**
 - The 3 fields at A.C. Stelle Middle School will accommodate an **additional 48 games/practices per week.** Combined with the existing supply, this is a **total supply of 128 games/practices per week.**

- AYSO has a total of 330 teams and has estimated that 10%-15% of players are from Calabasas. West Valley Soccer League has a total of 108 league teams and 22 club teams, and has estimated that 60 to 75% of players are from Calabasas. To determine Calabasas' share of area soccer field needs, the total number of AYSO teams was multiplied by 0.15 (AYSO provided only league-wide information) and the number of teams in each West Valley Soccer League division was multiplied by 0.75. All fractions of numbers were rounded up. This calculation is shown in Table E-22.

Table E.22
Soccer Participation
 City of Calabasas

Soccer Leagues	Total Teams	Calabasas Teams
AYSO	330	50
West Valley Soccer League		
Club teams	22	17
U6 (Boys & Girls combined)	24	18
U7 (Boys & Girls combined)	18	14
U8 (Boys & Girls combined)	20	15
U9 (Boys & Girls combined)	17	13
U10 (Boys & Girls combined)	11	9
U12 (Boys & Girls combined)	12	9
U14 (Boys & Girls combined)	6	5
Total, West Valley Soccer League	130	100
COMBINED TOTAL	460	150

- Calabasas' share is 150 teams. Assuming one game and two practices a week, the 150 teams create a **demand of 375 games/practices per week**. Note that this calculation does not take into account the additional games and practices for the West Valley Soccer League's club teams, which typically practice 3 to 4 times a week and have one home game a week. West Valley Soccer League has a policy of assigning 2 teams to practice on a field concurrently, due to a lack of field space. Based on this policy, the practice demand standard can be reduced by half for West Valley teams. This provides an adjusted **demand of 275 games/practices per week**. If AYSO teams were also required to share fields for practices, the demand would be further reduced to **225 games/practices per week**.

- Based on a supply and demand analysis, there is a **shortage of 97 games/practices per week**. This figure takes into account the 3 fields available at A.C. Stelle Middle School. The shortage of 97 games/practices a week means that **6 additional fields would be required to meet current demands**.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Level of Service:**

- The recommended service level for team play should be established at an average rate of one game and two practices a week. It is recommended that Calabasas adopt a policy that 2 teams will be assigned to share a field for practice for all fields that the City schedules.
- The recommended service level for field use should be established at an average rate of sixteen (16) games/practices a week.

- **Determination of Demand Standard:**

- The current level of service for soccer fields in Calabasas is one field per 2,549 population. It is recommended the city seek to increase its current level of service for soccer fields. This is based on the following factors:
 - * Extremely high ratio of teams to population (1 team per 136 population)
 - * Based on the current supply and demand calculations, there is a shortage of six soccer fields.
- If the shortage of six fields was added to the existing inventory of eight fields, a recommended standard of one field per 1,500 population can be derived. According to this standard, a total of eighteen (18) fields would be needed or 10 fields in addition to the current inventory of eight (8) additional fields.
- If the current standard is adopted (1/2,500 population), a total of 11 fields will be needed in 2020, 3 more than the current inventory of 8 fields.

Table E.23
Recommended Demand Standard
Soccer Fields

Standard	Ratio
Number of Fields	8 Fields
Current Ratio	1 Fields/2,549 Population
Recommended Demand Standard	1 Field/1,500 Population

- **Design Standards:**
 - Basic Elements: 220' x 330' turf area, moveable goals
 - Optional Elements: Drinking fountains, storage facilities

- **Comments:**
 - Due to the regional nature of leagues, Calabasas should consider working with neighboring communities and local leagues to establish a sports council to coordinate field use in Calabasas and surrounding communities.
 - Consider developing partnerships with neighboring cities to build a sports complex outside the city but convenient for Calabasas residents. Due to the land demands of soccer fields, there are no sites within city limits.
 - The city should work cooperatively with the school district to develop additional fields on school property when new schools are planned, and potentially to upgrade existing fields at elementary schools.

- **Alternative Actions (Varying Service Levels):**
 - **Decreasing the amount of practices.** Demand could be somewhat reduced if teams were only permitted only one practice a week (rather than two). However, this would be a lower service level than is recommended for baseball and softball. In addition, because the leagues are regional in nature, it would be difficult to enforce this policy.
 - **Lighting fields.** As previously discussed, lighting fields could expand the supply of games/practices on existing fields. However, due to the community's values and priorities, lighting of fields is not recommended in Calabasas.

