



Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District

District Master Plan

**A Living Strategy for Meeting the District's
Park and Recreation Needs**

April 2019



Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District
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Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District

Chapter 1

Introduction and Major Findings

Chapter 1 – Section 1

District Information

The Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District was originally established as a Park, Recreation and Parkway District on January 25, 1956. It was reorganized in 1958 as the Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District under the California Public Resources Code 5780.

The Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District is located within the Sacramento Metropolitan Area, about six miles northeast of Downtown Sacramento. The majority of the District is located in the community of Arden Arcade, an unincorporated area of Sacramento County. The western portion of the District lies within the City of Sacramento. The District shares boundaries with the City of Sacramento, Arcade Creek, Mission Oaks, Arden Park and Arden Manor Recreation and Park District. The District serves approximately 30,000 residents, is approximately 5.25 square miles in area and is bounded by the Capital City Freeway, Watt Avenue and Arden Way.

The District owns and maintains 2 Community parks: Cottage Park & Howe Park, and 4 Neighborhood parks: Bellview Park, Bohemian Park, Santa Anita Park, & Seely Park. There is one neighborhood park within the District boundaries which is owned and operated by Twin Rivers Unified School District: Babcock Park. The District owns and maintains the Creekside Nature Area.

District Governance

The District is overseen by a five person elected Board of Directors and has 11 full time employees: 3 in the Administration Division; 4 in the Recreation Division; 3 in the Maintenance Division; and 1 in the Park Police Division. There are 6 regular part time employees: 1 in Administration; 2 in Recreation; 3 in Maintenance. There are 20 to 100 (depending on the time of year) part time Recreation, Maintenance and Park Police. See the District Organization Chart, Table 1.1, on the next page.

The District offers a variety of recreation programs including but not limited to: adult and youth classes, sports, aquatics programs, youth camps, before and after school care and health and safety classes.

Table 1.1
Organization Chart

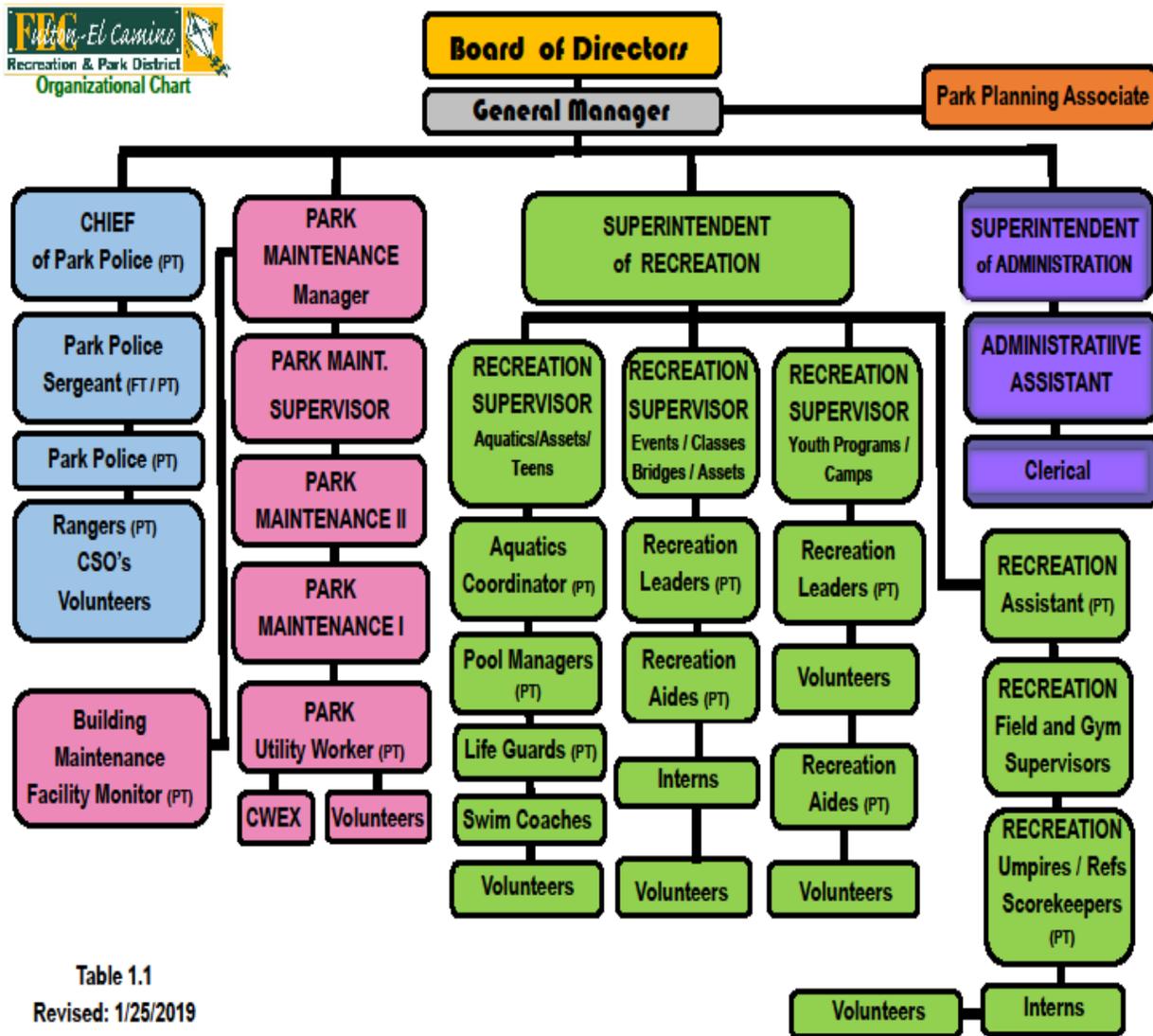


Table 1.1
Revised: 1/25/2019

Chapter 1 – Section 2

Planning Process

The 2001 Master Plan update was performed by District staff over a period of time. The five park advisory committees established by the District's Board of Directors in 2016, Bohemian Park, Seely Park, Bellview and Babcock Parks, Cottage Park and Creekside Nature Area, and Howe and Santa Anita Parks, were essential to the development of this plan. Each Park Advisory Committee is headed by a District Board member. Since the establishment of the Park Advisory Committees an excess of 20 meetings have been held in each of the parks across the community to gather input for this Master Plan update. These meetings secured up-to-date feedback and suggestions for future programs and park improvements from each segment of our community. Additional information was also received during their monthly Board meetings, via email, web site responses and telephone calls. All of the input received was incorporated into this Master Plan.

A survey was also created to solicit feedback and direction from the community. The survey utilized input received from the community during a series of meetings conducted in each of the District's parks. These meetings were held to determine the community's perceived park improvement needs. The resultant list of needs was used as the basis for the development of a community survey.

The District utilized an online survey for ease of access and ability to automatically tabulate and compile data. The District also distributed hardcopy surveys to randomly selected homes in six segments of our community as well as making them available at the Conzelmann Community Center. Further information on conducting the survey and the major survey results can be found in Chapter 5, Community Input.

Chapter 1 – Section 3

Major Findings

Park Improvements

The following list highlights important park improvements as recommended by the community and/or identified as infrastructure needs of the District. The complete expanded list can be found in Chapter 8. These are listed in priority order as determined by the Board during their February 2019 Board meeting.

1. Implement all the requirements needed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act
2. Consistent branding in all of the District parks to create a sense of community including consistency in: park signage, type and style of park amenities such as kiosks, drinking fountains, benches and garbage receptacles
3. Increase the number of benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains and garbage receptacles in all parks
4. Purchase land adjoining Bohemian Park and develop a Community Center to serve the northwest portion of the District
5. Construct a dog park in Bohemian Park
6. Convert one or two tennis courts at Cottage Park and Bohemian Park into pickle ball courts
7. Improve the lighting in all of the parks
8. Improve walking access into Seely Park
9. Improve accessibility to Babcock Park by ensuring the park is open to the public at all times
10. Provide restrooms in Bohemian, Cottage, Santa Anita and Bellview Parks
11. Replace the failing bridge at Cottage Park
12. Protect the Cottage Park Streambank from further erosion
13. Add lights to Howe Dog Park
14. Install digital marquee signs at Cottage and Howe Parks
15. Add shade canopies over all children's play areas
16. Increase the number of group picnic areas
17. Maintain existing facilities and amenities in all parks

Urban Forest Priorities

The District values the Urban Forest within the parks and our community. In keeping with well-maintained parks and in an effort to sustain and improve the Urban forest the District will adopt the following management priorities pertaining to how it maintains the District's Urban Forest as determined by the results of the survey results:

1. Implement a program of biodiversity through a mix of species and ages of trees. This will reduce the risk of losing trees at a given location at the same time through disease, insect infestation, and extreme weather.
2. Conduct a systematic program of safety maintenance to allow the urban forest to live and grow in a predictable manner with minimal unexpected tree and limb failures.
3. Implement proactive routine maintenance for its urban forest.
4. Implement "Good Neighbor Actions" like (1) pruning trees on park property away from neighboring fences and (2) managing insect disease and pest problems.
5. Encourage property value enhancement by having large trees.
6. Optimize the environmental benefits of air quality, carbon storage, air particulate removal, water quality improvement, erosion reduction, and saving energy by shading buildings.
7. Encourage native species representation which, in the long run, will realize cost savings.
8. Undertake reactive infrastructure management, such as work performed to protect buildings and hardscape.
9. Enforce compliance with ordinances governing protected tree species, tree removal, and tree pruning over roadways and near utilities.

Chapter 1 – Section 4

Master Plan Overview

This 2019 District Master Plan (herein referred to as Master Plan) varies from the previous two District Master Plans, 1991 and 2001, in that it is a comprehensive review of not only the parkland and park needs of the District but also the needs of each of the Divisions within the District: Administration, Recreation, Maintenance and Park Police. Another difference is this plan is to be updated on a yearly basis. Each year the plan is to be reviewed and adjusted as times, circumstances and previous year's progress dictates. A record of the improvements made each year will be chronicled in the appendix as a means of showing the progress made over the years.

This Master Plan is based on extensive involvement from the public, reflecting the voices of numerous Fulton-El Camino RPD residents, businesses and employees. This plan provides the District guidelines for meeting the needs of our residents as clearly expressed during the many public meetings and surveys conducted during the Master Plan process. Once this plan is approved, the District will explore ways to fund the improvements and recommendations.

The Master Plan provides the tools for FEC to continue efforts to create healthy neighborhoods, and to work hand-in-hand with residents, organizations and businesses to strengthen the community's social fabric in keeping with the District's Mission Statement:

“Enhance the quality of life for our community by providing park facilities and recreation programs of exceptional quality while maintaining and protecting our park lands for future generations.”

This Master Plan is a living document which will address future needs, policies, and District goals, and demonstrate the District's accountability to the community. It contains the following ten chapters.

Chapter 1 – Introduction provides basic information about the District and the planning process as well as an overview of the master plan and major findings.

Chapter 2 - Guiding Principles and Policies presents the foundations of the Master Plan and the process behind it, including:

- Mission Statement
- Guiding Principles
- Vision Statement

Also included are essential background data, facts and projections upon which the District formulated its planning decisions. These data sets include regional location, neighborhood planning data, natural resources, housing, population, homelessness, related school attendance, demographic data, and many other facets of information that affect planning for the District.

Chapter 3 - Existing Resources describes existing park, open space and recreation sites. This chapter explains the types of park facilities within the system, including the existing and desired amenities. A detailed inventory and analysis of

the District's existing resources in terms of service characteristics, development potential and existing deficiencies are included in this chapter. This analysis served as a basis for identifying parkland needs and facility improvements.

Chapter 4 – Existing Management and Operation analyzes the District's past and present organization and staffing levels, revenues and expenditures, and programs and services. It shows a steady decline in District staffing as a result of reduced property tax and assessment district revenues. The history and the outlook for funding and staffing the District's Divisions are also addressed.

Chapter 5 – Community Input summarizes and interprets the results of the district-wide community survey of park and recreation needs. The District's outreach included multiple types of feedback, such as meetings in each park, e-mail surveys, telephone calls, and mail out surveys. Survey responses revealed that the District's park and recreational program users are a diverse group with both common and varying preference. The chapter shows how specific the survey respondents were in expressing their desired facilities and programs.

Chapter 6 - Needs Assessment in the District is refined and influenced by many variables. Personal values, participation patterns, land availability and willingness to pay for services vary widely from community to community. The District re-examined its standards for parks and facilities, then identified its needs in the many categories of staffing, equipment/technology and programs/training for its four divisions: Administration, Recreation, Maintenance, and Park Police. In addition, the Park Land Needs Assessment includes neighborhood parks, community parks, partnership facilities, and open space areas. Further, the Facilities Needs Assessment covers pathways, indoor recreation facilities, sports fields, specialized recreational facilities, energy conservation, and technology improvements.

Chapter 7 – Recommendations: This chapter addresses the recommendations for the District's divisions: Administration, Recreation, Maintenance, and Park Police, and those for parks, facilities, recreation and programs. Recommendations for parks are categorized into neighborhood parks, community parks, open space areas, and partnership facilities, along with specific actions and timetables to address the needs identified in Chapter 6, Needs Assessment. Other recommendations apply to facilities such as pathways, indoor recreation facilities, sports fields, specialized recreational facilities, and recreation programs.

Chapter 8 – Implementation contains the compilation of prioritized specific actions that should occur, together with their potential sources of funding. Certain funding sources are new to the District, whereas others have been used previously. Highest ranked priorities will go to identified infrastructure, followed by community survey recommendations, then District identified priorities, followed by other new considerations, i.e., amenities and facilities.

Chapter 9 – Capital Improvement Plan: This chapter will provide a detailed Capital Improvement Plan once the Master Plan has been approved by the community and adopted by the Board of Directors.

Chapter 10 – Appendices: This chapter contains the support data for the tables, graphics and articles that furnish supplemental and numerical support for the text, community input, analyses, needs assessment, policies developed, recommendations and resulting implementation measures

Chapter 1 – Section 5

Project Acknowledgments

The 2001 Master Plan Update was performed by District staff over a ten year period of time, with the help of consultant Robert Cervantes, under the direction of the Board appointed Ad Hoc Committee members Michael Seaman and Kathy Stricklin. Special notes of appreciation go to:

District Residents, for their cooperation and participation in the many meetings and survey responses provided to ensure that this Master Plan reflects the needs of the community.

Roy Imai, former General Manager for starting the plan update and conducting the initial community outreach meetings in 2008.

Michael Grace, General Manager, responsible for drafting a large portion of the plan and bringing the in-house Living Master Plan update through to completion.

Becky McDaniel, Superintendent of Recreation, responsible for recreation related content and general quality control for each of the chapters in the plan.

Robert Cervantes, independent consultant, provided valuable research in many of the technical areas of the plan including demographics, planning norms and general technical help with content.

Hilary Harkins, former part time Planning Associate, responsible for putting together and conducting the community survey and compiling a portion of the demographics, several maps and graphics for the master plan.

Beverly Yee, former U. C. Davis College intern responsible for converting the 2001 Master Plan into a useable Word program format and developing many of the graphics used in the master plan.

