

CHAPTER 4

ACCESS TO OPEN LANDS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Carson City community members place great value on having access to scenic open space and recreational opportunities. In 1996, Carson City residents approved Ballot Question 18 – The Quality of Life Initiative, creating a supplemental sales tax revenue source (1/4 of a cent) for the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities. This funding has allowed the City, in partnership with a variety of organizations, to develop and maintain a wide assortment of facilities, including:

- An expansive open space program, both within and surrounding Carson City, that provides residents and visitors alike with access to scenic vistas and active and passive recreation opportunities.
- An extensive parks system, including special use facilities (such as shooting ranges) and sports complexes.
- A significant inventory of pathways, including trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use paths that support the use of non-automotive travel.
- A broad range of recreation facilities, programs, and gathering spaces including the Community Center theatre, Multi-Purpose Athletic Center (MAC), aquatic facility, sports complexes, and various off-site programs which routinely draw people from Washoe County (including Reno and Sparks), Douglas County, Storey County, Lyon County, and California.

Additional consideration will need to be given to how recreational amenities are distributed throughout Carson City, as well as how facilities are designed and updated to meet changing community preferences.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Carson City will continue to provide a diverse range of parks and recreational opportunities to include facilities and programming for all ages, abilities, and interests. The City will also continue to enhance connections to the community's expansive open space network, providing residents and visitors with access to scenic vistas and both passive and active recreation. These recreational opportunities will serve both existing and future neighborhoods.

GOALS AND POLICIES



Goal 4.1—Enhance the City's Parks, Trails, and Open Space Network

4.1a—Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Continue to provide a diverse range of parks and recreational opportunities consistent with the City's Parks Master Plan.

4.1b—Open Space Master Plan

Continue to review future development proposals for consistency with the City's Open Space Master Plan.

4.1c—Unified Pathways Master Plan

Continue to maintain and expand the City's existing network for pathways consistent with the Unified Pathways Master Plan.



See also, Goal 9.3 and associated policies

4.1d—Carson River Master Plan

Ensure that the goals and policies contained in the Master Plan and the uses designated on the Land Use Map are consistent with those contained in the Carson River Master Plan.

4.1e—Prison Hill Master Plan

Continue to promote the Prison Hill Recreation Area as an amenity for residents and visitors who enjoy both motorized and non-motorized trail use. Continue to support the maintenance and expansion of the area's trail system in line with the recommendations of the Prison Hill Master Plan.

Goal 4.2—Improve Access to Parks and Recreation at a Neighborhood Level

4.2a—Distribution of Facilities

Evaluate the amenities and features of parks and recreational facilities throughout the City on a periodic basis to ensure they are balanced in terms of their distribution and adequately meet the needs of the community.

4.2b—Maintain/Enhance Existing Facilities

Improve the quality of existing parks and recreational facilities. Continue to pursue opportunities to improve the City's existing community center/aquatic facility in Mills Park.

4.2c—Match Improvements to Demand and Current Standards

Require that new developments provide park facilities commensurate with demand created and consistent with the City's adopted standards. Continue to work with developers to identify opportunities for new park facilities in new neighborhoods based on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

4.2d—Balance Parkland Disparity

Identify opportunities to balance the amount and types of parkland available within existing and future neighborhoods by focusing new neighborhood parks in areas currently under-served (or that will be under-served as the result of future infill/redevelopment) and in new neighborhoods using the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guide.



Goal 4.3—Expand the City’s Capacity and Excellence in Community-Wide Recreation Facilities, Programs, and Gathering Spaces

4.3a—Ongoing Maintenance

Ensure standards and resources are in place to support continued maintenance of park and recreational facilities in advance of entering into agreements with private landowners, acquiring new sites, or accepting donations.

4.3b—Recreation Partners

Continue to pursue cost-effective sharing of facilities, resources, and maintenance opportunities with the City’s existing and potential recreation partners.

Goal 4.4—Promote Access to State and Federal Lands as a Community Amenity

4.4a—State and Federal Land Disposal

Continue to coordinate with state and federal agencies to ensure that disposal plans are consistent with the City’s Land Use Plan and the criteria for Urban Services Boundary expansion.

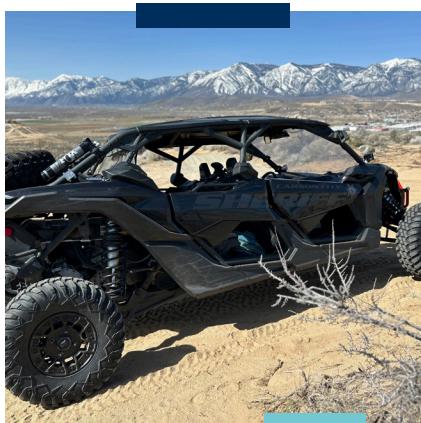
4.4b—State and Federal Land Transfers

Monitor lands slated for potential disposal and identify opportunities for the transfer of such lands to City ownership (where lands are needed for public facilities, parks, trail access, or similar functions or desired for land banking) through the Federal Lands Bill and other programs.

4.4c—Access to Public Lands

Ensure that vehicular and pathway access to surrounding public lands are maintained as development occurs adjacent to public lands. Require pathways, bicycle facilities, and roadway easements through future developments as identified in the Unified Pathways Master Plan.

See also, policy 3.1b



See also, Goal 9.3 and associated policies

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