1. The following policies pertain to the system-wide portion of the planning function of the Department. The Parks Department shall:

   a. In coordination with the County Planning Department, develop and maintain a comprehensive park, recreation, and open space plan as an element of the County General Plan, including equestrian, hiking, and bicycle trails as an element of the County General Plan;

   b. Coordinate with federal, state, regional, and local agencies and recognize private recreational facilities in their planning process to insure full integration of recreation and open space program with other programs within the County;

   c. Consider future population growth when planning park, recreation, and open space areas. To provide, where possible, these areas in advance of development and subsequent demand;

   d. Initiate and maintain a continuing study of the demand for outdoor recreational experiences and their space requirements as the population expands;

   e. Insure when planning for the future demand for outdoor recreational experiences that sufficient flexibility is provided to recognize and accommodate meaningful changes in interest as they appear;

   f. Provide for a balanced geographical distribution of park and recreation open space within the County;

   g. Attempt to preserve outstanding representative areas of each of the County's separate biotic communities within the park system;

   h. Give special consideration to selecting sites for recreation areas and special recreation facilities which will provide for the multiple use of existing public lands. Examples of areas to receive such special consideration would be water reservoirs, sanitary landfills, airports, and flood control channels and basins.

2. The following policies pertain to the Department's planning function in regard to the individual park units. The Parks Department shall:
a. Develop a general plan of development and operation for each park unit. This plan shall contain an analysis of the type of uses the park is intended to provide; a general plan indicating the geographical relationships of these uses to each other and the site; the ultimate boundary of the unit; the level of service to the public contemplated; and the plan of operation for the park including staffing and maintenance requirements. This plan will also indicate how the park is to be utilized from an interpretive standpoint and what concession operations, if any, are required to supplement the Parks Department operations at that park unit. This shall become the guiding principal for development, administration and interpretation of the County park unit. Multiple uses of park lands for grazing, agriculture, education, etc., will be considered in the formulation of the general development and operation plan.

b. Invite public participation by solicitation of views and suggestions during the general development and operation plan process.

c. The general development and operation plan for each park unit shall be prepared for review by the Park Advisory Commission and adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

d. Individual park plans shall be updated as required in light of changing use patterns, outdoor recreation trends, etc., provided that such updating will follow the procedure of citizen input, Park Advisory Commission review and Board of Supervisor adoption.

e. Utilize the services of design consultants on all major projects for both general planning as well as construction drawing services.

3. The following policies shall pertain to the Department's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan:

The Parks Department shall prepare and recommend through the Park Advisory Commission to the Board of Supervisors for adoption of the Parks Department's acquisition and development budget, and shall become the basis for the annual budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

In developing such a plan, the Department shall evaluate existing and projected needs for both acquisition and development in the various regions of the County, and recommend an action plan to meet these needs.
Subject: PARKS PLANNING

Reference:
  Minute Order dated 02/18/75
  Minute Order 3.4 of 12/18/07

Policy Number: J-4
Page: 3 of 3