

1.11.3 Urban Recreation Subelement

Overview

Within the Tahoe Region, numerous outdoor recreational opportunities are conveniently located near urban areas. Urban recreation facilities are normally located within urban areas and are intended to serve the needs of local residents. Facilities such as picnic areas, neighborhood parks, recreation centers, athletic fields, participant sports facilities, and sport assembly facilities operated by local governmental entities are examples of urban recreation facilities.

Demand for urban recreation is anticipated to grow under all of the Regional Plan alternatives. In order to meet the demand, capacity for urban recreation facilities must be reserved. However, capacity for most types of urban recreation uses is not reserved under the PAOT allocation system. Therefore, capacity to accommodate future recreation facility expansion is reserved as infrastructure services and has been accounted for through allocations set aside for urban development such as commercial floor area and tourist accommodation units. Many Community Plans have targets that also serve as capacity reserves for urban recreation. These are established as design capacity for persons, or DCPs.

Alternative 1 – Continuation of Existing Regional Plan

Summary

The 1987 Regional Plan identified one goal for the Urban Recreation Subelement, and that is to provide sufficient capacity for local-oriented forms of outdoor and indoor recreation in urban areas. Two policies that enact this goal are to reserve sufficient public service and facility capacity to accommodate all forms of urban recreation, and to encourage the relocation of urban outdoor recreational facilities from sensitive areas to other suitable sites.

There would be no additional allocation of urban recreation capacity in the form of PAOTs or DCPs under Alternative 1. The PAOTs remaining from the 1987 Regional Plan would be allocated to new recreation projects, and DCPs remaining in the Community Plans would also be continued. The Code would be updated to reflect the number of PAOTs that remain to be allocated.

Goals and Policies

No changes are proposed to the goals and policies of the Urban Recreation Subelement under Alternative 1.

Implementation Measures

Support for urban recreation is implemented through numerous Code sections that will be retained with Alternative 1 for Urban Recreation projects. These sections are Chapter 18 for permissible land uses, Chapter 20 for coverage standards, with specific provisions for public outdoor recreation facilities, Chapter 26 for signs, which requires implementation of the TRPA Recreation Sign Guidelines, and Chapter 33 for allocation

of PAOTs, where applicable. Recreation Elements of the various Community Plans identify specific projects that support local recreation planning needs, and implement the Regional Plan Urban Recreation goals and policies.

Alternative 2

Summary

Within concentrated urban areas, urban recreation and urban open space would expand to keep pace with demand established by the Alternative 2 land use pattern. With redevelopment opportunities, Alternative 2 would provide a balance of recreation development to meet recreational needs (see Table Rec-2, Recreation Growth Scenarios 2005-2025). Additional emphasis is placed on urban open space by the addition of a new goal and three policies.

Goals and Policies

The one goal and two policies from the 1987 Urban Recreation Subelement would be retained with minor amendment to clarify the language while maintaining the original intent. A new goal to support the conversion of public parcels with high development potential to neighborhood parks in urban areas and three related policies would be added, incorporating the following concepts:

- social gathering spaces such as pocket parks, playgrounds, plazas, squares, and similar sites as an amenity and to create a sense of place in urban centers
- open space managed for multiple values in commercial areas
- community open space included in new projects to improve natural values in more urbanized commercial areas
- open space designed to meet the needs and provide for public health, safety and welfare of users

Implementation Measures

The following new measure is proposed under Alternative 2:

- Design standards and landscape requirements for urban recreation facilities will be included in the transect-based zoning system. These standards will include: community open space, public access and accessibility, and the support of natural values in urban areas.
- Provide incentives for the provision of community open space within new projects in PTOD districts.

Alternative 3

Summary

Based on Alternative 3's land use patterns, increased commercial development potential within the urban areas may result in competition for buildable land between recreation and non-recreation uses. As in Alternative 2, this Alternative places emphasis on urban open space by the addition of a new goal and three policies (see Table REC-2, Recreation Growth Scenarios 2005-2025).

Goals and Policies

The Goals and Policies would be the same as those proposed for Alternative 2 with the exception that design standard changes will be made to Plan Area Statements and Community Plans (*and not the transect-based zoning system*).

Implementation Measures

The following new measures are proposed under Alternative 3:

- Design standards and landscape requirements for urban recreation facilities will be included in the Plan Area Statement zoning system. These standards will include: community open space, public access and accessibility, and the support of natural values in urban areas.
- Require the provision of community open space within new projects in PTOD districts.

Alternative 4

Summary

Growth scenarios estimate that Alternative 4 would generate the least amount of recreation demand among the action alternatives, due to more restrictive development regulations. The reduced demand would mirror the overall higher emphasis on environmental gain and growth management in Alternative 4. As with the other action alternatives, new emphasis is placed on urban open space by the addition of a new goal and three policies. See Table REC-2, Recreation Growth Scenarios 2005-2025.

Goals and Policies

The Goals and Policies for Urban Recreation would be the same as those proposed for Alternative 3.

Implementation Measures

The implementation measures would be the same as those proposed in Alternative 3.

