

PARK ACREAGE SERVICE LEVEL GOAL

What is “park acreage service level goal”?

The Park Acreage Service Level Goal refers to the amount of parkland that the City of Sacramento strives to provide its citizens. Currently, the park acreage service level for neighborhood and community parks is 5 acres per 1,000 residents. This does not include regional parks. The service level goal is carried out by rules requiring developers to set aside parkland in new residential subdivisions, or to pay a fee to purchase parkland elsewhere.

How does the 2030 General Plan address parks?

Current citywide Park Acreage Level

While the current park acreage service level goal is 5 acres per 1,000 residents, the city currently has 3.4 acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents. This adds up to 1,573 acres of neighborhood and community parkland for the entire city. This does not include the 1,535 acres of regional parks in the City, such as the American River Parkway, William Land Park, or Natomas Regional Park.

Park Service Levels in the Central City

Currently, the Central City contains 120.6 acres of parks. An additional 55 acres will be added with the development of the Railyards and Township 9. With these major projects, the Central City will contain 3.76 acres per 1,000 residents. There are only about 16.5 acres of vacant land in the Central City appropriate for additional parks. As a result, opportunities to develop new parks in the Central City are limited.

What is the proposed change to Service Level Goals in the 2035 General Plan?

The 2035 General Plan proposes a reduction in the Park Acreage Service Level Goal from 5 acres per 1,000 residents to 1.75 within the Central City Area and 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents outside the Central City Area.

Why is this change being proposed?

Parkland acquisition, particularly in developed urban areas, is often not feasible. Development sites are either too small to dedicate parkland, other vacant land is in short supply, or development costs (including in-lieu fees) make projects infeasible. The City is dedicated to balancing its priority to provide parks and recreation facilities while encouraging development that would contribute to a healthy city economy.

What are the effects of this change?

The proposed change in park acreage requirements will have a number of effects, including:

- Infill development will be easier to achieve.
- The proposed changes will maintain (and reflect) the actual level of service at 3.4 acres per 1000 residents outside the Central City.
- Smaller, more urban parks will be provided in the Central City.
- Due to anticipated intensity of use, parks may have to be renovated more often.
- Park impact fees will be evaluated to ensure that the City provides adequate park development and renovation funds.