
YOUTH AND SENIORS

CONTEXT

Currently, there are a number of facilities that serve youth and seniors within the City of Merced and programs offered other public and private entities.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

SUSTAINING THE COMMUNITY'S YOUTH AND SENIORS

Goal

A community that contains a broad base of facilities and programs that support the special needs of its youth and seniors.

Objective

PYS 1.0

To develop adequate facilities to serve the Community's youth and seniors.

Policies

PYS 1.1

Work with youth and senior program providers to develop facilities within the University Community. These should be located in the Town Center and Residential Village Centers to maximize access by local residents and benefit from the presence of other public and community uses. Opportunities to consolidate or share facilities with other service providers, schools, parks, and other organizations should be pursued for efficiency and to minimize costs. *(Imp 2.5, 3.5)*

PYS 1.2

Consider the development of an intergenerational facility for youth and senior activities. *(Imp 2.5, 3.5, 4.8)*

PYS 1.3

Encourage the development of special facilities to serve the needs of seniors in Community parks. *(Imp 2.5, 3.5, 4.8)*

PYS 1.4

Design youth and senior facilities to be accessible to persons of all ages and abilities. *(Imp 4.8)*

PYS 1.5

Encourage major employers in the University Community to provide day care facilities on site or in a location that is conveniently accessible by their employees. *(Imp 3.5, 5.10)*

PYS 1.6

Promote the development of day-care facilities in the Town Center and Residential Village Centers. *(Imp 2.5, 3.5, 5.10)*

Objective

PYS 2.0

To provide a diversity of high quality programs for the University Community's youth.

Policies

PYS 2.1

Monitor the needs of the Community's youth population and work with local agencies, youth groups, teen centers, and other service entities to provide social, recreation, after school, summer, educational, cultural, and other programs to meet these needs. *(Imp 3.5, 5.1)*

PYS 2.2

Work with UC Merced to develop collaborative programs with Community service providers to implement programs that serve campus and Community youth and create youth/UCM student mentoring programs. *(Imp 3.3)*

PYS 2.3

Encourage the development of programs to serve youth with developmental disabilities. *(Imp 3.5, 5.1)*

Objective

PYS 3.0

To provide a variety of high quality programs for the University Community's seniors.

Policies

PYS 3.1

Monitor the needs of the Community's seniors population and work with local agencies and organizations to ensure that a full range of programs, and services are provided to meet their needs. This may include social, nutrition, recreational, therapeutic, financial, health, and similar programs. (*Imp 3.5, 5.1*)

PYS 3.2

Work with UC Merced to develop cultural, educational, recreational, health, and other programs and services for the University Community's seniors. Encourage the establishment of a program to use area seniors as volunteers, docents, or greeters for University events and/or programs. Seniors may also serve as in supporting staff roles. (*Imp 3.3, 3.5*)

PARKS AND RECREATION

CONTEXT

Two existing recreation facilities are located on or directly adjacent to the University Community planning area. One site, the Merced Hills Golf Course, will be removed and replaced with the UC campus and portions of the University Community. Lake Yosemite Park, located in-between the University Community and Lake Yosemite, is an existing important recreational resource. Policies associated with the future development of this recreational resource are addressed separately in the Area Plan section of this document.

As the University Community Plan area is undeveloped, there are no existing recreation facilities. Development of the Community will generate the need for both active and passive recreation facilities for all age levels. The provision of these facilities will largely be the responsibility of Merced County. There are also opportunities for the sharing of recreational facilities with UC Merced as these are developed on campus to serve student needs.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

PARKS THAT MEET THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

Goal

A community of quality parks for its residents and visitors.

Objective

PP 1.0

To establish neighborhood and community park facilities to meet the diverse needs of University Community residents.

Policies

PP 1.1

Provide sufficient parkland to meet the recreational needs of the University Community's residents, based on a standard of five acres per thousand residents, in accordance with Policy LU 9.4. Of this, a minimum of three acres per thousand residents shall be developed as community and/or neighborhood parks that contain sports fields and facilities, picnic areas, swimming pools, multi-purpose gymnasiums/buildings, picnic areas, and similar improvements that meet the active recreational needs of the residents. The balance of acreage may be used for passive recreational activities such as hiking and nature observation. (*Imp 2.5, 2.7, 4.8*)

PP 1.2

Require that a comprehensive parks and recreation component be defined in each sub-area Specific Plan that reflects concepts depicted on the Illustrative Open Space Concept (Land Use, Figure 9) and:

- Defines service standards, park types, design guidelines, landscape standards, and appropriate programming for park facilities based on user demand assessments and community input
- Identifies mini, neighborhood, and community park sites in accordance with service standards
- Integrates neighborhood parks with neighborhood centers and schools
- Links park facilities through an integrated trail network
- Defines programming needs for park sites consistent with demographic trends in the University Community (*Imp 2.5*)