

Public Services

■ STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The State of California does not include Public Services among the mandatory elements of a general plan. However, *Government Code* §65303 allows local government to adopt any other elements or address any other subjects that in the judgment of the local government relates to the physical development of the community. Once adopted, the non-mandatory elements become a full-fledged part of the general plan with the same legal authority and effect as one of the mandatory elements. The provision of adequate public services for a newly developing community is considered crucial in establishing its vitality, livability, and health. The qualities of a community's schools, parks, libraries, youth and seniors programs, and health facilities are often cited as key determinants in a person's decision-making for a future residence. The development of a superior infrastructure of public services is essential to enable UC Merced to attract a high quality of students and faculty to the new campus.

■ CONTEXT

As an undeveloped property, the University Community planning area does not contain any of the key public service facilities that are essential to support the well-being of its future residents. As the Community grows, schools, parks, libraries, health, police, fire, health, and seniors, youth, and other social programs will have to be provided. These can expand from the existing service infrastructure that is provided to County of Merced and City of Merced residents. In some cases, new facilities will have to be developed in the Community, in others, services may be provided from centralized facilities in the City or another location. It is possible that wholly new service providers may be established to specifically serve the needs of the University Community's residents and businesses.

■ OVERVIEW

The social well-being of a population is nurtured and sustained by access to a full range of services that educate, enrich the lives, and meet basic human needs for health, safety, and quality of life. To reach these goals, the community will provide adequate educational and cultural services through schools, libraries, a range of cultural facilities, public safety services, health care, social programs, and programs for youth and seniors.

The policies will support the development of school facilities to meet the basic educational needs of the residents. They will also support opportunities for enhanced roles as centerpieces of community identity and integrated elements of the Merced area school districts for funding purposes. School will be located within village centers and within close proximity of parks, libraries, recreation facilities and day care centers to allow joint use of space. The new school building will use a sustainable approach in construction and maintenance to promote shared and mixed-use facilities, reduce energy consumption, avoid indoor air pollution causing materials. A partnership between UC Merced, the state, and Community will be encouraged to enrich educational programs and develop a "university laboratory school" on the campus for grade-school Community students.

Library facilities shared with schools and the campus will provide high quality library services to residents. Libraries will be integrated with multi-purpose community/cultural facilities, thereby creating community civic centers. High quality cultural facilities will be encouraged to provide amenities of the quality desired by related-related

faculty and staff. Cultural facilities will be sited in the Town Center and distributed within each community center.

Adequate fast-response police and fire protection services are essential to the long-term social and economic sustainability of the Community. Polices establish the ratio of law enforcement personnel to residents, accommodating population growth, development characteristics, and coordination with the campus police programs. Neighborhood crime watch and prevention programs will be encouraged, as well as site design measures to provide maximum safety through well-lit open public spaces. Fire services and personnel will be expanded to keep pace with the community growth, including addition of fire suppression infrastructure. Fire protection measures will include coordination with the campus fire services and programs to prevent encroachment of wildland fires into the Community.

Appropriate and high quality health care, social services, and programs for youth and seniors promote the social vitality of residents in the Community. High quality services will be achieved through collaboration with existing County and City services and the planned campus services. Services will be sited at the community centers, allowing for expansion with growth and use of nearby commercial buildings to support these services, i.e. to house medical offices. Programs will focus on enriching the lives of residents and promoting social interactions, such as establishing community gardens (particularly for seniors), providing intergenerational facilities for youth and seniors, and offering programs for developmentally disabled youth, a variety of recreational programs for youth to promote hobbies, environmental awareness, sports, volunteerism, and the arts. Seniors programs will encourage fitness and nutrition, recreation, and volunteer opportunities as docents or greeters.

SCHOOLS—EDUCATING COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

■ PROJECTED SCHOOL NEEDS

It is estimated that theThe University Community will generate a demand for four to five grade K–5 elementary, middle, and high schools, one to two grade 6–8 schools, and one high school at during its ultimate build-out (6,968 single-family and 4,645 multi-family units), based on student generation rates and school size standards provided by the Merced City School District and Merced Union High School District. As phased development of the University Community occurs, various levels of school facilities and services will be required. In addition, the generation of students within the University Community Plan area will require the expansion of local school district support facilities, including but not limited to administrative facilities, technology facilities, warehouse, maintenance and food service facilities, and transportation facilities that serve the jurisdictional areas of the school districts. The number of schools and the required support facilities that will ultimately be needed into support the University Community will depend upon its resident's residents' demographics— and the design and operational standards and requirements of the local school districts.

Experience in comparable campus-oriented communities with a large number of college students living in proximity to a campus, such as Davis, Santa Cruz, and Chico, suggests that the presence of a large number of students living in proximity to a campus substantially reduces the number fewer public school-age children and required classrooms. There are also statewide generated and the number of required classrooms are less in comparison with typical residential communities. Additionally, there are trends throughout the state to develop smaller, more efficient school sites by the construction of two-joint use and three-story structures and the sharing of libraries, auditoria, cafeterias, and athletic fields with school facilities and other schools or public facilities as a means to reduce costs in this era of limited financial resources. These trends, coupled with opportunities to develop facilities withwithin UC Merced, may lessen the enhance the efficiency of utilizing land and facility requirements

~~below~~ constructing facilities that may be required in compliance with the standards and requirements currently used by the Merced area school districts.

■ GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goals, objectives, and policies for the education ~~in the~~ of K-12 University Community students and residents are intended to provide adequate facilities to meet population needs, ensure that facilities are available concurrently with the development phasing of the Community, ensure that they are integrated into the fabric of the Community to enhance its livability, and provide programs that support and nurture the residents through all ages of their lives.

SCHOOL FACILITIES THAT ENRICH THE COMMUNITY

Goal

Adequate school facilities to meet needs of population.

Objective

PE I.0 To provide sufficient school facilities within the University Community for its residents, in accordance with Merced City School District and Merced Union High School District standards.



Policies

PE I.1 Designate sufficient lands for school sites within the University Community planning area to meet local population demands. *(Imp 2.5)*

PE I.2 Require ~~school sites to be identified and dedicated for development through the preparation of that~~ developers consult with applicable school districts during the formulation of a sub-area Specific Plan to mutually confirm the number of public school age children to be generated by the proposed development, school site and facility needs, and a program and responsibilities for site acquisition, facility development, and funding. The program shall be incorporated into the sub-area Specific Plans and Development Agreements, which shall be reviewed and approved by the County. *(Imp 2.5, 2.7)*

PE I.3 Cooperate and coordinate with the Merced area school districts in the County's administrative and legislative actions to provide ~~ensure that~~ elementary, ~~intermediate,~~ middle and high school sites ~~to and~~

facilities adequately serve the needs and requirements of the University Community residents consistent with the standards and requirements of the school districts and within the authorities and limits prescribed by State legislation. (Imp 4.7, 5.8)

PE 1.4 ~~Work with Merced area school districts to ensure that the full cost of school facilities and services are funded through developer fees, bonding, grants, and other available sources.~~ Condition the approval of new development within the University Community upon the requirement that school impact fees shall be paid to the applicable school districts consistent with State law, or as may be voluntarily negotiated by project developers with the school districts. (Imp 4.7, 5.8, 6.4)

PE 1.5 Encourage landowners and developers to enter into voluntary agreements with school districts where State-mandated fees may be insufficient to meet the full costs of school and facility development, to supplement funding or provide other support for the acquisition and construction of school facilities needed for the planned development. (Imp 4.7, 5.8, 6.4)

PE 1.56 ~~Use~~ Promote the use of creative financing methods to fund the construction of schools and associated community facilities where possible, such as access to federal grants, partnerships with corporate commercial developers and private foundations, and comparable techniques. (Imp 5.8, 6.1–6.4)

PE 1.67 ~~Consider~~ Promote the development of a magnate high school within the University Community to serve the local residents and the greater region. (Imp 2.5, 4.7, 5.8)

PE 1.8 Phase development within the University Community concurrently with the funding and/or availability of school facilities required to serve the development needs and requirements of the residents within the Community, or as otherwise agreed upon by the County and school districts in an approved sub-area Specific Plan and implementing Development Agreements. (Imp 2.5, 2.7)

Objective

PE 2.0 To support the development of UC Merced.

Policies

PE 2.1 Support and, as appropriate, cooperate with UC Merced in administering community educational programs. (Imp 3.3)

PE 2.2 Encourage the development of a “university laboratory school” on the UC campus for University Community students. (Imp 3.3)

PE 2.3 Encourage local industry and businesses to donate services or funds towards programs and/or scholarships for local youth for UC Merced. (Imp 5.10)

SCHOOL FACILITIES THAT ARE THE CENTERPIECE OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

Goal

Educational campuses/sites for elementary, middle, and high schools that function as centerpieces of community identity and activity.

Objective

PE 3.0 Establish schools as focal points of neighborhood identity.

Policies

PE 3.1 Work with the school districts to ~~locate~~establish a process for coordination with developers in the planning for the location and design of schools to be integrated with and serve as the focal point of neighborhood activity and identity, consistent with UCP urban form objectives and policies. Schools should become a multi-purpose gathering place for local residents for education, events, and socialization. As generally depicted on the illustrative land use concepts (refer to Land Use policies Figures 4 and 5), the schools should be integrated with uses that serve both students and neighborhood residents including public parks, multi-purpose facilities, libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums/athletic facilities, and similar uses. These may be physically sited on a common site, where facilities are shared, or in proximity to one another. The design, size, and configuration of schools shall be in accordance with the standards and requirements of the local school districts. Should these conflict with the urban design intentions for the Community, as specified in this Plan, the County shall work with the applicable school district to identify how these differences shall be resolved in accordance with procedures specified for the resolution of disputes and differences that shall be incorporated into each sub-area Specific Plan. *(Imp 2.5, 4.7, 5.8)*

PE 3.2 Locate preschool and day-care facilities in appropriate areas within neighborhood villages, possibly within or directly adjacent to local commercial facilities. *(Imp 2.5)*

PE 3.3 Encourage the school districts to site buildings and design the campuses to promote continuity with the development fabric of the adjacent residential uses. Avoid the establishment of an isolated, “walled” school environment. *(Imp 2.5, 4.7, 5.8)*

PE 3.4 Establish walkways, bicycle paths, greenways, and other elements that link school sites with surrounding uses. *(Imp 2.5, 4.1, 4.8)*

Goal

Community schools that sustain natural environmental resources.

Objective

PE 4.0 To create a sustainable approach to new building construction and maintenance.

Policies

PE 4.1 Promote the establishment of energy-efficient standards for school facilities. *(Imp 5.8)*

PE 4.2 Encourage the implementation of Bright Schools program for energy efficiency. The Bright Schools Program is sponsored by the California Energy Commission and offers specific services for new schools construction in designing cost-effective energy-efficient systems. Bright Schools can provide design consultation, identify energy saving measures, compare technologies, and other services (application process required). *(Imp 5.8)*

PE 4.3 Promote the School Districts' use of mixed-use facilities on school campuses in the University Community such as buildings that serve as two or more of the following: cafeteria, auditorium, library, community, and multiple-use rooms. *(Imp 5.8)*

PE 4.4 Encourage the School Districts to construct buildings that are reusable, recyclable, and adaptable over time. *(Imp 5.8)*

NURTURING LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Goal

Quality long-term educational opportunities for all stages of life.

Objective

PE 5.0 To support life-long educational opportunities for the University Community's residents through UC Merced, Merced College, Cal State Stanislaus, and other institutions and private entities.

Policies

PE 5.1 Support and cooperate, where appropriate, with UC, Merced Community College and Cal State Stanislaus in developing courses and educational programs that support the life-long educational needs of the University Community's residents including classes conducted on their campuses, in the Community, or through electronic media. *(Imp 3.3, 5.8)*

PE 5.2 Support UC Merced, other educational institutions, and local industries in the development of programs that enhance the educational skills of local residents to enable them to take advantage of new job opportunities that may emerge due to UC Merced' academic and research programs. *(Imp 3.3, 3.5, 5.8, 5.10)*

PE 5.3 Encourage UC Merced and Merced Community College to establish or expand existing mentoring programs to serve the youth of the University Community. *(Imp 3.3, 5.8)*

PE 5.4 Promote the use of enriched academic and support programs to promote student retention and academic success by local educational institutions. *(Imp 3.3, 5.8)*

PE 5.5 Encourage local industry and businesses to participate in internship, mentoring, teaching, job training, and other programs that increase the opportunity for residents to be employed locally. *(Imp 3.5, 5.10)*

EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Objective

PE 6.0 To enable the University Community to benefit from the latest technological advances for education and bringing information to its residents.

Policies

- PE 6.1** Promote the development of a telecommunications network that interconnects all residents with the Internet, local schools, UC Merced, libraries, government, health facilities, and other institutions to provide opportunities for education and communication (refer to Telecommunications Infrastructure policies). *(Imp 2.5, 3.3, 4.3)*



- PE 6.2** Consider the establishment of a local community Intranet to facilitate e-education opportunities. *(Imp 2.5, 3.3, 4.3)*
- PE 6.3** Work with the school districts, colleges, and universities to establish distance education programs for web-based education training for all Merced residents. *(Imp 3.3, 5.8)*

LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

■ CONTEXT

The Merced County Library system currently serves Merced's residents. However, reduced funding has resulted in the scaling back of services including programs, hours, and staff. Development in the University Community will need to creatively address the provision of this important service.

There are no cultural facilities located in the University Community, though there are numerous organizations and events that serve the City and region today. Among these are the Merced County Arts Center & Arbor Gallery, Multi-Cultural Arts Center, Merced Center for Performing Arts, Merced Open Air Theater in Applegate Park, Merced Symphony Orchestra, fun runs, county fairs, antique shows, farmers markets, and local school plays and performances.

■ GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Community Plan goals, objectives, and policies provide for the development of library and cultural facilities to serve the University Community.

LIBRARIES AS CENTERPIECES OF LEARNING AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Goal

High quality library services for University Community residents.

Objective

PLC 1.0 To develop library facilities to serve the needs of the University Community's residents.

Policies

PLC 1.1 Establish standards for the development of Community libraries that recognize opportunities for joint use with UC Merced, other institutions, and opportunities imposed by digital communication. *(Imp 2.5, 4.6, 5.7)*

PLC 1.2 Develop library facilities that serve the University Community, as identified in sub-area Specific Plans, which may include:

- One or more freestanding facilities for library services
- Shared library facilities with area schools
- Library facilities integrated with multi-purpose community/cultural facilities
- Shared library facilities with UC Merced
- Library facilities incorporated within commercial/retail development *(Imp 2.5, 4.6, 5.7)*

PLC 1.3 Encourage libraries to be consolidated with other public facilities in the Town Center and Residential Village Centers near transit facilities, bike paths, and pedestrian paths, to serve as a contributing use that fosters activity and identity. *(Imp 2.5, 4.6, 5.7)*

Objective

PLC 2.0 To capitalize upon the opportunity to integrate and share library facilities with related educational, cultural, and other Community institutions.

Policies

PLC 2.1 Encourage the development of library facilities that can be jointly used by public schools and community residents. *(Imp 2.5, 4.6, 5.7, 5.8)*

PLC 2.2 Work with UC library system to explore opportunities for the sharing/linkage of library resources including facilities, staffing, and circulation materials. Promote access to the UC library system by Merced's residents. *(Imp 3.3)*

Objective

PLC 3.0 To utilize technology to expand and enhance library services for residents.

Policies

- PLC 3.1** Install new technology, such as a fiber optic network, for telecommunication services to connect University Community housing and other neighborhood facilities with local libraries and, as feasible, the UC library system. *(Imp 2.5, 4.3, 5.7)*
- PLC 3.2** Encourage the development of “information access” in public facilities and buildings (computer terminals or kiosks in public facilities). *(Imp 2.5, 2.6, 4.6, 5.7, 5.10)*
- PLC 3.3** Support innovative methods (as they emerge) of delivering library services at the neighborhood level to promote community education and provide a focus for community activity and cultural development. *(Imp 5.7)*

CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS THAT ENHANCE LIVABILITY**Goal**

A diversity of cultural opportunities for University Community residents and visitors.

Objective

- PLC 4.0** To celebrate the University Community through programming of community events.

Policies

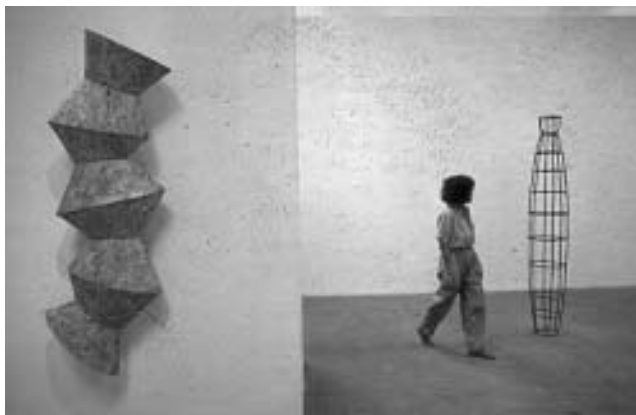
- PLC 4.1** Promote local community groups to establish and support a regular calendar of events that bring local residents together such as book fairs, festivals, neighborhood celebrations, athletic competitions, picnics/food preparation, and so on. *(Imp 3.5)*
- PLC 4.2** Work with UC Merced in the scheduling of events and activities that serve both campus and Community. *(Imp 3.3)*
- PLC 4.3** Encourage local artists to contribute artistically to the design of Community facilities and public art. *(Imp 3.5)*

Objective

- PLC 5.0** To develop a wide range of cultural facilities to serve the University Community.

Policies

- PLC 5.1** Work closely with civic groups to identify opportunities for the development of cultural facilities within the University Community. *(Imp 3.5)*



- PLC 5.2** Promote and support the development of “satellite” facilities of existing Merced cultural organizations, such as an arts or historical center, in the University Community. *(Imp 3.5)*
- PLC 5.3** Promote the development of a museum or educational facility that documents the history, culture, and landscape of the Merced region, including the agricultural industry and critical plant and animal resources. This may be accomplished in collaboration with UC Merced. *(Imp 3.5)*
- PLC 5.4** Work closely with UC Merced to develop community relationships with on-campus cultural facilities in terms of community participation and facility/event programming. *(Imp 3.3)*
- PLC 5.5** Promote the development of cultural facilities in the Town Center, as the first priority locations, with possible facilities in the Residential Village Centers. *(Imp 2.5, 3.5)*

POLICE AND FIRE—ASSURING THE SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY’S RESIDENTS

■ CONTEXT

The University Community site is served by the Merced County Sheriff’s Department, which operates out of City of Merced police facilities. Development in the University Community could necessitate the development of a local facility.

The Merced County Fire Department provides fire, rescue and emergency medical services to the University Community area and all unincorporated areas within the County. McKee Station #85 is the closest facility to the

University Community area. Development of the University Community would likely necessitate the development of new facilities to assure levels of service and response times.

■ GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

A SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY

Goal

A high level of police protection for University Community residents, visitors, and businesses.

Objective

PS 1.0 To coordinate land development activities with police and sheriff's departments in order to ensure that adequate facilities and services are development to provide service in the university community.

Policies

PS 1.1 Increase law enforcement personnel by approximately 40 personnel in order to accommodate the estimated 30,000 university community residents, based on the City of Merced Standard of 1.32 officers per 1,000 residents for urban services. This increase in personnel could differ if based on Merced County standards. *(Imp 4.4, 5.2)*

PS 1.2 Identify sites for police facility location(s) in subsequent Specific Plans for development in the University Community, based on need, phasing, and timing. The Town Center would be a priority candidate site. *(Imp 2.5)*

PS 1.3 Coordinate development of public safety programs and personnel to serve the University Community with the UC Merced police programs, finding shared opportunities, where appropriate such as mutual response programs. *(Imp 3.3, 5.2)*

PS 1.4 Work with appropriate policing authorities to establish community and neighborhood safety and crime prevention programs (e.g. neighborhood watch). *(Imp 5.2)*

PS 1.5 Work closely with UC Merced towards crime prevention specific to student/community conflicts. *(Imp 3.3, 5.2)*

Objective

PS 2.0 To create a land use and development configuration and site design standards to minimize crime

Policies

PS 2.1 Require that Specific Plans incorporate site designs that help ensure maximum visibility and security for entrances, pathways, streets and sidewalks, corridors, public and private open space, and parking lots and structures. *(Imp 4.5, 5.3)*

PS 2.2 Require the incorporation of appropriate lighting that provides adequate exterior illumination around commercial, business center, public, parking, and multi-family structures. *(Imp 2.5, 2.8)*

Goal

A high level of fire protection service for University Community residents, visitors, and businesses.

Objective

PS 3.0 To ensure that fire department facilities, personnel, and equipment needs keep pace with growth of the University Community.

Policies

PS 3.1 Ensure that fire facilities and personnel are expanded to serve the needs of the estimated 30,000 residents of the University Community and to maintain a five minute response time. *(Imp 4.5, 5.3)*

PS 3.2 Include appropriate fire facility location(s) in subsequent Specific Plans for development in the University Community, based on need, phasing, and timing. *(Imp 2.5)*

PS 3.3 Provide an adequate level of water-related infrastructure in development for use in event of fire. *(Imp 2.5, 4.2)*

PS 3.4 Coordinate development of fire personnel and facilities with the UC fire protection programs, finding shared opportunities when possible. *(Imp 3.3, 5.3)*

PS 3.5 Implement brush clearing and other fire suppressing programs in adjacent lands, thereby reducing the possibility for the encroachment of wildland fires onto inhabited areas (in consideration of maintenance programs for important plant and animal habitats). *(Imp 5.1, 5.10)*

HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

■ CONTEXT

Several hospitals and health care services facilities are located within the City of Merced and the surrounding region including Mercy Medical Center Merced Community Campus, Mercy Urgent Care, Olive Avenue Urgent Care, and various specialty clinics and medical groups.

There are a number of facilities providing social services within the City of Merced and the surrounding region. Examples of existing service providers include: family planning and birth control clinics, a blood bank, two mental health clinics, and home care, and hospice services.

■ GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

A HEALTHY POPULATION

Goal

A community that provides high quality health care for its residents.

Objective

PHS 1.0 To provide adequate and convenient health facilities for University Community residents.

Policies

- PHS 1.1** Work with local health providers to ensure that adequate health services are provided for University Community residents. This may involve the development of new facilities within the Community and/or expansion of existing facilities outside of the Community. *(Imp 3.5)*
- PHS 1.2** Locate any health care facilities that are developed in the Community in the Town Center and, secondarily, in the Residential Village Centers to maximize access by local residents and interface with other public uses. *(Imp 2.5)*
- PHS 1.3** Identify and commit the appropriate location(s) for health care facilities in subsequent sub-area Specific Plans, based on need, phasing, and timing. *(Imp 2.5)*
- PHS 1.4** Work with local health providers to ensure that information is provided to new residents of the University Community regarding available health services and programs. *(Imp 3.5, 5.10)*

Goal

A community that provides high quality social programs that nurture and support its residents.

Objective

- PHS 2.0** To provide social programs to meet University Community residents' diverse needs.

Policies

- PHS 2.1** Collaborate with local area social service providers to provide services to meet the needs of University Community residents. *(Imp 3.5)*
- PHS 2.2** Locate social provider facilities in the Town Center and, secondarily, in the Residential Village Centers to maximize access by local residents and interface with other public facilities. *(Imp 3.5)*
- PHS 2.3** Work closely with the UC in order to develop community relationships with on-campus social service programs. *(Imp 3.3)*
- PHS 2.4** Promote the development of programs to enrich the lives of residents and promote social interaction, such as the establishment of community gardens. *(Imp 3.5, 5.10)*

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*)



PP 1.3 Require the dedication of neighborhood and community park sites in future phases of development, before concurrent with the new population to be served by the parks exist review and approval of Tentative Maps. (*Imp 2.7*)

PP 1.4 Require that planned sites for park facilities be developed as part of an interconnected open space system (refer to LU 9.4). (*Imp 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 4.8*)

- PP 1.5** Require that neighborhood and community parks are sited, programmed, and developed in an environmentally sensitive fashion that is consistent with overarching principles of the University Community development. Park landscape should emphasize the use of native and drought-tolerant species. Treated wastewater and water captured and detained on site from rainfall should be used as primary sources of irrigation and on-site water amenity. Park structures should be constructed with recycled materials, to the extent practical. *(Imp 2.5, 2.9, 4.8)*
- PP 1.6** Provide park facilities programmed with active recreational facilities, including athletic facilities, such as multi-purpose fields, ball fields, multi-purpose courts, and other facilities oriented towards youth leagues and team sports in order that the existing highest recreational need in the Community is addressed. *(Imp 2.5, 4.8)*

Objective

- PP 2.0** To establish open space and park facilities alongside and integrated with development.

Policies

- ~~**PP 2.1** Require that multi-family residential developments of twenty or more units provide recreational facilities onsite and/or contribute fees towards community recreation facilities. *(Imp 2.5-2.7)*~~
- PP 2.21** Require that large-scale commercial developments, such as the proposed Town Centers and Business Centers, integrate common recreational or open space facilities onsite. *(Imp 2.5-2.7)*
- PP 2.32** ~~Encourage~~Support the creation of community gardens as one of several elements of the University Community's open space system, provided that they are compatible with and do not adversely impact adjoining land uses. *(Imp 2.5, 5.10)*

PARKLANDS THAT ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Goal

A community that is structured by high quality passive and natural open spaces for Community residents and visitors.

Objective

- PP 3.0** To establish a system of greenways/conservation corridors throughout the University Community and are linked to UC Merced.

Policies

- PP 3.1** Create a continuous system of connected open space and recreation areas throughout the University Community. This will integrate active and passive parklands with preserved and restored natural habitats, detention basins, trails, and other open spaces. The precise location of this system shall be defined by each sub-area Specific Plan, in accordance with concepts on the Illustrative Land Use Diagram (refer to Land Use policies). *(Imp 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 4.8, 4.10)*

Objective

PP 4.0 Protect and preserve natural resources through designated passive open space areas.

Policies

PP 4.1 Develop open space corridors alongside watercourses and valued natural resource areas, as an integral element of the continuous community park system (as defined in Policy PP 3.1). *(Imp 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 4.8, 4.10)*



PP 4.2 Provide open space buffers in areas where urban development abuts sensitive natural resource areas (wetlands, vernal pools, and grasslands) and agricultural lands. *(Imp 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 4.10)*

MAXIMIZING PARK OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH JOINT USE

Goal

Efficient use of parklands and open spaces, through multiple use.

Objective

PP 5.0 Take advantage of opportunities for the multiple use of parklands, open spaces, and other public facilities.

Policies

PP 5.1 Require the siting of park facilities in proximity to school facilities. Sites shall be defined by the sub-area Specific Plans. *(Imp 2.5, 4.8, 5.6, 5.8)*

PP 5.2 Require use agreements between school jurisdiction and park jurisdictions, addressing time and nature of use for recreation facilities, liabilities, and other issues. *(Imp 5.6, 5.8)*

PP 5.3 Design storm drainage basins to accommodate both passive and active recreational uses during the dry periods (refer to Water-Related Infrastructure policies). *(Imp 2.5, 4.2, 4.8)*

PP 5.4 Develop passive recreational facilities in natural resource conservation areas, e.g., nature interpretation, bird watching information, and similar amenities. *(Imp 2.5, 4.10)*

- PP 5.5** Integrate community facilities, such as community centers, auditoriums, day care centers, seniors facilities, and other uses into park facilities. *(Imp 2.5, 4.8)*
- PP 5.6** Encourage opportunities for the shared use of recreation facilities located on the UC Merced campus (Refer to Area-plan policy). *(Imp 3.3)*

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Goal

A comprehensive and interconnected system of public pathways and bikeways.

Objective

- PP 6.0** Create a trail system that provides residents with safe, useable, and attractive bicycle and pedestrian trails.

Policies

- PP 6.1** Require that a comprehensive network of pedestrian paths be established linking each portion of the University Community, including the Town Center, UC Merced, Residential Village neighborhoods and centers, schools, and parks. *(Imp 2.4, 2.5, 4.8)*
- PP 6.2** Require each phase of new development in the University Community to connect with and expand upon existing trail facilities. Locations and improvements shall be defined in the sub-area Specific Plans. *(Imp 2.5)*
- PP 6.3** Encourage infrastructure rights-of-way or easements to be designed and developed to accommodate trails where feasible and where compatible with the intended primary use. *(Imp 2.5, 4.2, 4.3, 4.8, 4.10)*
- PP 6.4** Encourage the development of trail facilities in greenway or conservation corridor areas. *(Imp 2.5, 4.10)*



- PP 6.5** Require new that new trail facilities provide connections with existing and planned regional trail facilities and those planned by the UC on the university campus. *(Imp 2.5, 3.3, 4.8)*

CORRELATING COMMUNITY PARKS WITH RESIDENT NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal

Recreational facilities and programs that meet the needs of the University Community's residents.

Objective

PP 7.0 To meet the recreation needs of the range of residents in the University Community, as they evolve over time.

Policies

PP 7.1 Conduct a detailed recreation demand analysis in order to match park siting and program characteristics with the needs of Community residents. ~~As parklands are designed, workshops shall be conducted with local residents to receive input regarding their needs, desired facilities/improvements and design character (landscape, buildings, fit with neighborhood, and so on).~~ (Imp 4.8)

PP 7.2 Create park facilities programmed with facilities for all age groups, including children and youth, teens, university students, and adults. (Imp 4.8)

PP 7.3 ~~Retain~~ Consider training and using local residents as volunteers to maintain and administer park programs (sports director, event organizers, property clean-up, and other) to enhance their ownership of the park, where appropriate. (Imp 5.6, 5.10)