



# Open Space Plan

Gardena General Plan 2006

## Authority

State General Plan law requires every community to prepare and adopt an Open Space Plan which addresses the preservation and development of open space areas for outdoor recreation, and areas that serve as links between major recreational areas and programs. Open space resources include parks and other recreation facilities, such as public school facilities, parks and ball fields, landscaped medians, open areas occupied by utilities, such as flood control channels and utility easements and private recreational facilities.

## Purpose

The intent of the Open Space Plan is to encourage the preservation of existing open spaces and recreation facilities and the development of new resources. The Plan outlines goals and policies that maintain and upgrade existing recreation programs and considers new parks, open space provisions and recreation programs to meet the needs of all residents of the City.

## Relationship to Other Plans and Programs

Several plans and programs have been enacted through State and local legislation that are applicable to the Open Space Plan. The following plans and programs help to ensure that parks, open space, and natural resources will continue to be available to the community.

### The Quimby Act

The State Subdivision Map Act, Section 66477 (The Quimby Act) allows the legislative body of a city or county, by ordinance to require the dedication of land and the payment of fees in-lieu of or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition of approval for a final tract map or parcel map.



### Los Angeles County Proposition A

In 1992, a general election established the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the purpose of improving the safety of recreational areas and acquiring, restoring and preserving open space resources. This proposition allows a public agency or non-profit organization to receive funds in support of this purpose. The funds are authorized as grants on a competitive basis.



## Federal and State Parks and Open Space Standards

The City's supply of parks, playgrounds, and open space is subject to various jurisdictional regulations. On the Federal level, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) sets the minimum standard of 2.5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. On the State level, the California Department of Parks and Recreation sets forth the standard of 3.0 acres of park space per 1,000 residents.

## City Municipal Code

Section 17.20.030 of the City Municipal Code requires the dedication of land or the payment of fees in lieu of land, which is based on a minimum of three (3) acres of useable park area per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision. The amount and location of land, or the fee to be paid, should bear a reasonable relationship to the use of the park and recreational facilities by the future residents of a subdivision.

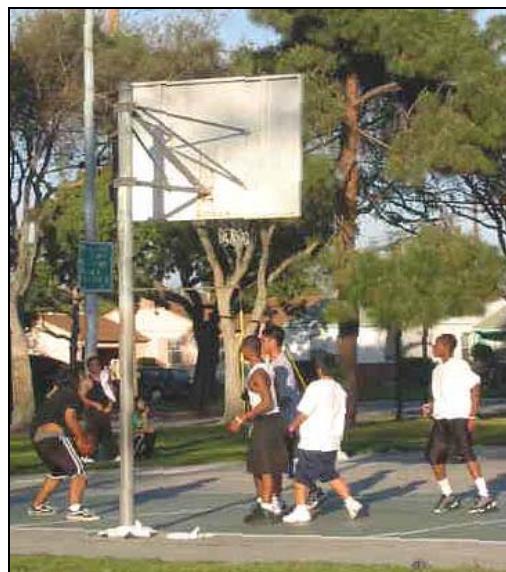
## Existing Conditions

### Existing Parks and Recreation Resources

Similar to many cities in the Los Angeles County, Gardena is a totally developed community and therefore has limited opportunities to expand its parks and recreation resources. Gardena has six parks, one community center, one municipal pool, one parkette and two gymnasiums. The largest of the City parks is Rowley Park and Gymnasium. It occupies 18.7 acres of land and is located at the northeast quadrant of the City. The smallest of the City parks is Harvard Parkette and it is only 0.15 acres. Besides providing open space in the City, the parks and community buildings are also used by the Gardena Recreation and Human

Services Department for hosting of various recreational and after-school programs.

In addition to man-made parks, there is a natural willows wetland in the City that could also serve open space and recreational needs. The willows wetland is a protected natural habitat that occupies eight acres of land in the far southeast portion of the City. It is currently gated, and access is allowed only through guided tours.



There are several regional recreation and park facilities in close proximity to the City and are open to Gardena residents. To the east of the City is the Rosecrans Recreation Center, to the northeast is Helen Keller Park, to the west is Alondra Park and Golf Course, and to the north is Chester L. Washington Golf Course. These facilities offer a wide range of park and recreational amenities including basketball courts, baseball/soccer fields, volleyball court, golf course, lake fishing, playgrounds, as well as picnic and barbecue areas. All City parks and recreation facilities are presented in Table OS-1, and all City parks and possible joint-use schools are shown in Figure OS-1.



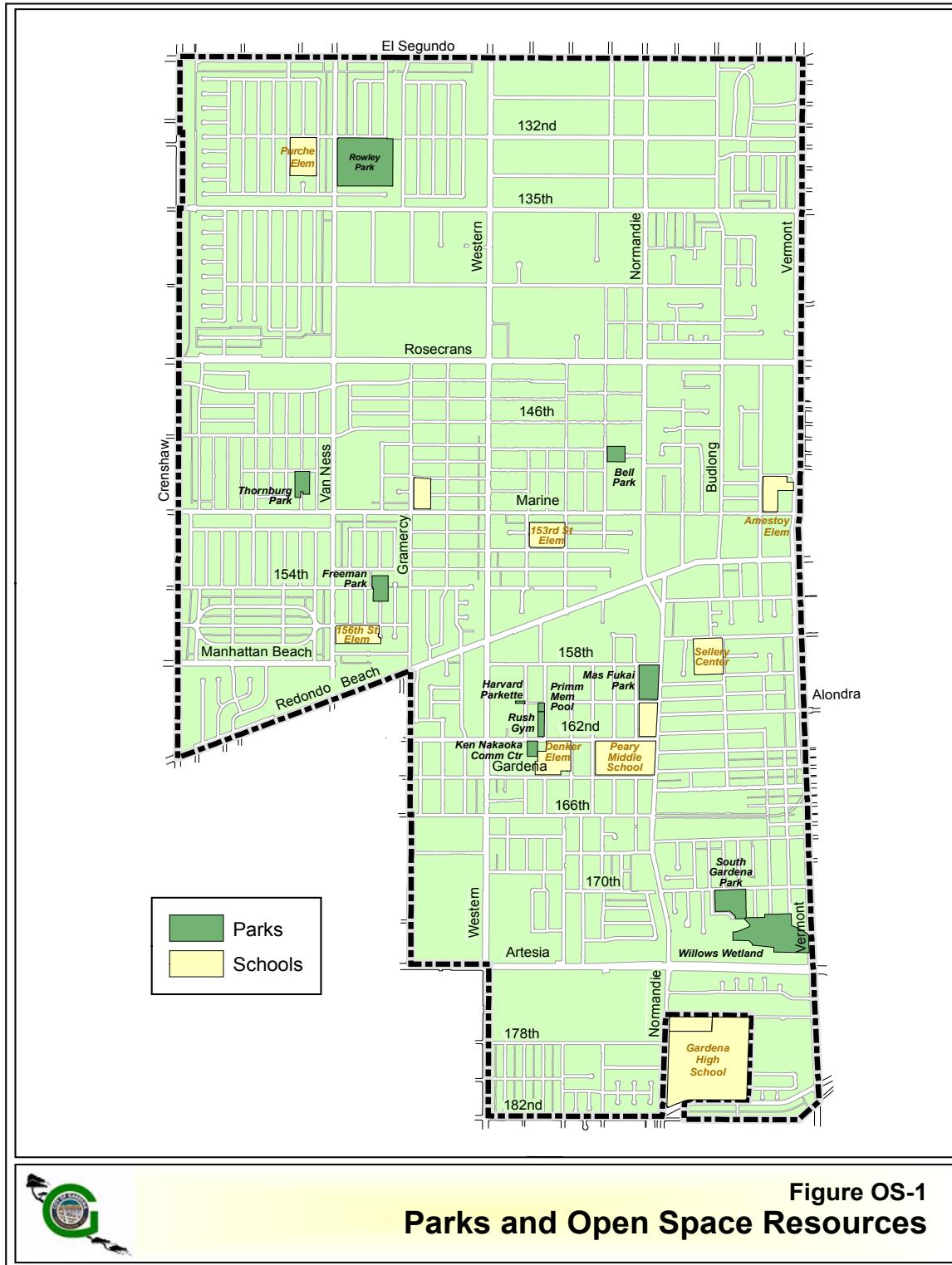
**Table OS-1**  
**Parks and Recreational Facilities in Gardena**

Park Name	Location	Acres	Amenities
Bell Park	14708 S. Halldale Ave.	1.9	Recreation building, classroom, ball diamond, basketball court, handball court, 2 picnic shelters, 2 playground equipment areas, multi-purpose field.
Freeman Park	2100 W. 154 <sup>th</sup> Place	3.0	2 classrooms, ball diamond, basketball court, picnic shelter, playing field, playground equipment, multi-purpose field, tennis court.
Harvard Parkette	160 <sup>th</sup> St/Harvard Blvd.	0.15	Playground equipment, picnic area.
Ken Nakaoka Community Center	1670 W. 162 <sup>nd</sup> St.		6 meeting rooms, auditorium, kitchen, stage.
Mas Fukai Park	15800 S. Brighton Ave.	4.9	3 classrooms, 2 ball diamonds, 2 basketball courts, handball court, picnic shelter, and playground equipment.
Primm Memorial Pool	1650 W. 160 <sup>th</sup> St.		1 swimming pool
Rowley Park & Gym	13220 S. Van Ness Ave	18.7	Auditorium, weight room, 2 classrooms, kitchen, handball court, gymnasium, 4 ball diamonds, 2 basketball courts, 4 tennis courts, 2 picnic shelters, 2 playground equipment areas, wading pool.
Rush Gymnasium	1651 W. 162 <sup>nd</sup> St.		One gymnasium, 3 basketball courts.
South Gardena Park	1200 W. 170 <sup>th</sup> St.	6.8	1 playground, 1 ball diamond, 1 soccer field, 4 tennis courts, 1 picnic area, 1 meeting room, 2 basketball courts.
Thornburg Park	2320 W. 149 <sup>th</sup> St.	2.5	Recreation building, classroom, ball diamond, multi-purpose field, 2 basketball courts, handball court, 2 picnic shelters, playground area, horseshoe pitch, tumbling room.
Willows Wetland	North of Artesia Blvd. and west of Vermont Ave.	8.0	Walking paths, side walks.

Source: City of Gardena Recreation and Human Services Department



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## Goals and Policies

### **OS Goal 1    Maintain and upgrade the existing parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of all residents.**

#### **Policies**

*OS 1.1: Maintain City parks in a clean, functional, safe and attractive condition at all times.*



*OS 1.2: Encourage joint-use agreements with LAUSD to use schoolyard playgrounds and ball fields for public parks during non-school hours.*

*OS 1.3: Encourage adequate funding and capital improvement program to promote the ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation of City facilities.*

*OS 1.4: Encourage joint recreational use with Los Angeles County.*

*OS 1.5: Require annual review of recreational programs to respond to changing needs of the community.*



*OS 1.6: Provide adequate parking for all parks and recreation facilities in the City.*

*OS 1.7: Promote creative financing mechanisms to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreation programs, such as State grant funds, park in-lieu fees, and public private partnerships.*



**OS Goal 2 Increase the City's supply and quality of parkland, open space, and recreational programs.**

### Policies

*OS 2.1: Maintain a list of sites in the City (vacant, underutilized, nonconforming uses, utility right of ways), with potential for future purchase, donation, or consolidation and future potential development as parks, particularly in the northeast quadrant of the City.*

*OS 2.2: Promote the expansion of the Civic Center complex to provide green open space for the community to gather.*



*OS 2.3: Encourage the conversion of utility easements and right of ways to multi-purpose parkland, trails and bicycle routes (i.e., the Southern California Edison right-of-way between Artesia Boulevard and 178<sup>th</sup> Street,*

*storm channel side roads, and Vermont Avenue median strips).*

*OS 2.4: Preserve the Willows Wetland as a trail-oriented City park and passive natural open space with limited access to guided tours, volunteer activities, and educational programs.*

*OS 2.5: Expand the City's bicycle route plan and integrate the routes with other local and regional bike routes.*

