



PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



City of Bishop Master Plan

The master plan has arisen from the conviction that parks and recreational services are a fundamental service of the City of Bishop California. It represents a comprehensive planning process to determine ways recreational and leisure services can be efficiently and effectively delivered to the citizens of Bishop and Inyo County. It is a plan of action for the next several years that addresses management, parks, facilities, and programming.

Recent statistics indicate the following trends:

- 75% of citizens will want more recreational and leisure services.
- 91% of public recreation departments will experience an increase demand for older population programs.
- 77.3% of public recreation departments will experience pressure to increase revenue-producing facilities, programs and events.
- 78.1% of departments will increase cooperative agreements, e.g. school systems, youth organizations, Chamber of Commerce, civic and private organizations, etc.

This document serves as guide to build on the “2002-2006 Park and Recreation Master Plan.” The goal is to create a successful master planning process to insure safe, secure facilities that reflect the broad scope of recreation and leisure opportunities, nationwide trends and citizen input.

Long range plans include the purchase of 42 acres of land, from the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, currently leased and maintained by the City of Bishop. The appropriate addition of facilities and amenities to address increased needs for ball fields, as well as, indoor recreational and leisure space will address current and future needs of the Bishop community.

With City Council approval and support, the Bishop Citizens will benefit from improved facilities, high quality programs, services, and collaborate community outcomes.

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Keith Caldwell, Community Services Director

David Grah, Public Works Director

Ray Seguine, Fire Chief

Kathleen Sheehan, Police Chief

Peter Tracy, City Attorney

City of Bishop

Parks and Recreation

Mission Statement

To offer and promote recreational, educational and volunteer opportunities in a fun, safe, well-maintained environment to persons of all ages, thereby promoting good health, teamwork and accentuating a positive quality of life.

FACILITY ASSESSMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE 2002-2006 MASTER PLAN

PLAYGROUNDS

There are two developed playground areas in the Bishop City Park. One is primarily designed for ages 2-5 and located in the front of park immediately west of the Aquatic Complex. The second larger playground is located north of the lake in the back section of the park. This area is primarily designed for ages 5-12.

These playgrounds have received appropriate upgrades to meet current American with Disabilities Act, (ADA), as well as, State and Federal guidelines. Specifically, a slide in the larger playground was replaced with another type of equipment (mirror). "Fall zone" areas have been modified to meet current standards and replacement of old or worn pieces on both playgrounds have done.

Safety inspections by a certified and licensed playground professional are done annually and daily inspections are made by park staff to insure the safety of all playground equipment.

AQUATIC FACILITY

The aquatic facility has received major renovations through State Grant Proposition 40 funds. Upgrades include new solar covers (\$6,000), pool heater (\$12,000), sand filter (\$8,000) and pool re-plastering (\$113,000).

The only remaining structural improvement is the waterslide. At this point, the current slide meets code. Staff will begin to budget for a replacement within the next 5 years.

Minor renovations in the lock rooms will be part of the annual park maintenance plan.

Citizen demand for a year round aquatic facility continues to be of interest.

TENNIS COURTS

The tennis courts did not receive any new renovations within the past 5 years.

Currently, courts 1-4 (upper) are playable and in good condition. Minor “scratches” and surface layer paint has been washed away. These courts will continue to receive minor repairs until long term solution is achieved.

Courts 5-8 (lower) are unplayable and unsafe for recreational activities. Temporary solutions will be discussed, but at this time funding is limited. Potential grant opportunities for rubberized asphalt concrete surfacing will be considered.

ATHLETIC FIELDS

All four of the athletic fields are currently being used for softball, baseball and soccer. Youth organizations, adults and Bishop Union High School utilize the fields year round. The last field renovation was 1999-2000. The last budgeted improvement was 2000-2001, for \$70,000, which included new chain link fencing, new dugouts and shade, and safety netting for the first three fields.

Since that time park staff has done an outstanding job of field repair and maintenance to provide safe, playable conditions.

With increased usage and limited lighted field space, additional or upgraded athletic fields will be part of the new master planning process.

GAZEBO, PICNIC AREAS AND BANDSTAND

The gazebo and picnic areas continue to be heavily utilized throughout the year. Repairs and replacement of existing planks on the gazebo are a priority, as they pose a safety concern, (nails and splinters). The original columns of the main structure need painting.

The group picnic pavilion has not been painted or renovated in the past twenty years. A local civic organization provided material and labor for the existing facility and City staff will approach this organization to determine interest.

The bandstand is in need of painting and some minor repair. Citizens have requested additional lighting in the bandstand area during Summer Concerts in the Park.

With increased demand for fee oriented picnic areas, continued discussion and planning is advised.

LANDSCAPING/BENCHES/REST AREAS/WALKWAYS

Park staff has done an outstanding job with landscape areas within the park. The maintenance of safe manicured fields are recognized and appreciated by visitors and user groups.

Benches, trash receptacles and drinking fountains have been evaluated and some targeted for replacement, some for repair and some are appropriate to remain. These items will become part of the lifecycle replacement program and budgeted through annual operating dollars.

Pruning of trees continues annually as some cottonwood trees pose safety considerations.

PLANNING PROCESS

The City of Bishop Master Plan was developed from the theoretical to the specific in that it begins with planning principles and ends with a list of priority recommendations to be undertaken by the Recreation Commission and the City of Bishop Community Services Department.

Planning Process Methodology

Planning & Principles – Theory
Existing System

Public Input
Results

>>>> ANALYSIS

Specific Actions/ Recommendations

MANAGEMENT

The recommendations of the City of Bishop Master Plan are made under two broad headings: (1) Management; and (2) Parks and Facilities.

Management Issues:

Although organized sports continue to be the most popular activities within the park, a recognized trend in citizen's expectations of park and recreational services has evolved in Bishop California. There is a departure from the long-standing demand for only sports. The public is requesting leisure opportunities and facilities that offer family oriented activities,

workplace relief programs, physical fitness/wellness programs, therapeutic programs, and extensive arts and environmental education services for a variety of age groups.

As the City of Bishop population ages, traditional leisure programs and facilities will change. Already there is increasing demand from middle and senior age groups for more services. The changing attitudes, values and lifestyles are strongly influencing the demand for leisure opportunities. These changes include an increased interest in:

- out of doors activities
- natural environment
- physical an emotional well being
- arts
- social/non-competitive activities

Below is a summary of the Recreation Commissions recommendations. Several have time schedules, funding source and cost.

<u>Recommendations</u>	<u>Time Schedule</u>	<u>Funding Source/ Cost Estimate</u>
Administration		
• Create mission statement	Complete	
• Improve morale	On-going	All achieved within annual operating budget (A.O. Budget)
• Budget	On-going	
• Increase revenue by 10%	1 year	
• Enhance public info. process	1 year	
• Develop joint use agreements	On-going	
• Enhance volunteerism	On-going	
• Create SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)		
Budget		
• Develop budget based goals	On-going	
• Develop capital projects based on 2007-2017 Master Plan	On-going	
• Increase involvement of staff In budget process	On-going	

Revenue

- Update fees and charges policy 6 months
- Enhance public/ private partnerships On-going

Personnel

- Enhance employee education/
skill development opportunities On-going A.O. Budget

Safety

- Update safety inspection process On-going
- ADA compliance On-going
- Maintain insurance compliance
with all allied organizations On-going

Security

- Create a Security Plan 1 year

Public Information/Marketing

- Enhance Public Information Plan On-going
- Enhance image On-going
- Enhance City website 1 year

Volunteer Program

- Develop Volunteer Plan
opportunities/ incentives
and handbook On-going A. O. Budget

Planning

- Develop public involvement process On-going
- Implement the 10 Year Master Plan On-going Grants

Maintenance

- Develop a Maintenance Plan On-going
- Create Preventative and Lifecycle 1 year Budget/Capital
- Replacement plan

Programming

- | | | |
|---|----------|--------------|
| • Diversify program services | On-going | |
| • Enhance environmental & natural resource programs | On-going | ↑ |
| • Develop program evaluation system | On-going | |
| • Increase multi-generational programs | On-going | A. O. Budget |
| • Develop summer programming for children | 6 months | |
| • Create skateboard and biking clinics | 6 months | ↓ |

PARKS AND FACILITIES

The City of Bishop is seriously deficient in park land. Currently, the City owns appropriately 1.3 park acres and leases approximately 43 acres from the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Many of the existing structures are showing the stress of overuse and age.

In view of this current situation and the magnitude of projected demand, the following recommendations are made. All should be implemented within ten (10) years to achieve the goal of keeping abreast of growing demand for park and recreational services in Bishop California. Some, however, are more urgent than others and should be undertaken first.

This is indicated by using a priority rating. "Priority 1" is the most urgent and should be undertaken immediately. Where possible, a budget planning figure has been given. Recommendations for parks and facilities are listed under three headings:

- **General Recommendations**
- **Property Acquisition**
- **Development**

General Recommendations

- Repair existing facilities that conform to the master plan.
Priority: 1
Budget:
- Develop a total graphic signage system for the park.
Priority: 1 and on-going
Budget:
- Develop a Park design and Maintenance Standards Manual to guide site development and maintenance of the park system.

Priority: 1 and on-going
Budget:

Property Acquisition

- Acquire leased City of Bishop Park land, (approximately 43 acres), from the Department of Water and Power.

Priority: 1

Development

Phase I

- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Tennis Courts
- Soccer Fields
- Football Fields
- Maintenance Building
- Restroom and Concession Areas
- Walking Path
- Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Access to Recreational Facilities

Phase II

- Community Center/Indoor pool
- Garden Area
- Performing Arts Center
- Dog Park
- Stream Mitigation
- Frisbee Golf Area

Programming

The City of Bishop offers programs in two (2) ways: Directly and Indirectly.

- Directly we operate programs at the city park and school facilities that consist of organized instruction, free play, competition, club, special, leadership training and outreach.
- Indirectly we provide (rental, use) within the city park for youth and adult organizations, as well as, individuals to facilitate sporting activities, arts and crafts shows, concerts, special events and passive play.

The City of Bishop will respond to the community needs by providing a variety of recreational services to all citizens. These services should contribute to the general well being of all Bishop Citizens and enrich their quality of life.

Program Recommendations

- Develop an evaluation system for all programs and services offered.
- Create accountability for program needs and budget request.
- Allow opportunity for participant and citizen input.
- Assurance that goals are synonymous with community needs.
- Goal setting and constructive staff self-appraisal.
- Increase summer programs for children and youth.
- Provide instructional clinics for skate park participants.
- Increase program services for special populations.
- Increase program services so they are multi-generational and family-oriented.
- Develop fitness/wellness programs for all personal fitness levels.
- Create a program area for the City of Bishop website.
- Create on-line registration opportunities.
- Create interpretive programming opportunities.
- Partner with Schools and Business's and Youth Sports Organizations to provide joint programming opportunities.
- Encourage partnerships, when possible, with State (County Fairgrounds), County (Millpond, Arts), and local (Chamber of Commerce, Civic Organizations and Community Organizations).
- Encourage grants and sponsorships when possible.
- Increase opportunities to partner with Mammoth Mountain Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

Goals

The only way to be effective in the complex business of delivering recreational services to the community is to work within a systematic, interrelated, goal-oriented framework.

The following goals are recommended for functional delivery of services. Specific objectives and actions steps need to be developed by the staff.

Comprehensive Services:

- To administer a well balanced recreational services delivery program.

- To keep the programs and services offered in line with current trends and best practices.
- To plan, organize direct, coordinate and centralize the City of Bishop recreational services so that the Mission and Goals can be achieved effectively and economically.
- To continually provide a high level of services that will insure safe recreational and leisure environments.
- To preserve and improve the physical appearance and functional quality of all parks, areas and facilities.
- To provide a clean, orderly, safe and attractive grounds and structures in accordance with their intended use through an efficient maintenance system.
- To provide skilled measurable leadership working with and through personnel and other resources.
- To implement energy savings procedures and energy control systems for lighting, heating/air-conditioning, vehicle fuel consumption, solar panels, etc.
- To provide the opportunity for a broad spectrum of programs, activities and services relative to the needs and desires of the total community regardless of age, sex, race, origin, beliefs, economic status or challenged abilities.

Community Needs:

- To continually assess the needs of the community through an organized input system.
- To be sensitive to the needs of the arts and cultural resources community.
- To support, recruit, and assist citizens who will work cooperatively in providing environmental, recreational services.

Fiscal Control:

- To use tax and revenue dollars in such a manner that cost are minimized while benefits are maximized.
- To develop and manage a responsible budget which provides sufficient staff, improvements, equipment, supplies and storage for a quality operation.
- To optimize use of available funds through efficient budgeting procedures.

Communication and Public Relations

- To continue to develop comprehensive public information system for positive contacts with volunteers, special interest, media and the general citizenry.
- To continually communicate through an open information system.
- To conduct an on-going public awareness program to promote good communication with the public, special interest groups, associations and advisory committees.