

POLICY STATEMENT
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

The following Statement of Policy was approved and adopted as amended by order of the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing held on May 16, 1960 in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Riverside County Court House, Riverside, California.

Presented here by permission of Edward H. Walker, Parks Superintendent, Riverside County Parks Department.

The function of the Riverside County Parks Department is to prepare recommendations for considered approval by the Board of Supervisors, to acquire, protect, develop and interpret for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the people of Riverside County, a well balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational and historic importance. These areas shall be held in trust in the County Park System as portions of Riverside County's natural and historic heritage.

To these ends, the Board of Supervisors aware of the cultural, educational, esthetic and recreational needs of the people, sets general policy for the guidance of the Parks Superintendent and those concerned in the administration, protection and development of the County Park System. In determining these policies, the Board of Supervisors is cognizant of the interest and need of the people of Riverside County.

A continuing review of County Park policies should be made in order to keep them consistent with park and recreational trends, public needs, financing and to see that the aims which led to the establishment of various County Parks are maintained.

CRITERIA FOR COUNTY PARKS

All County parks should be classified into one of the following three categories:

1. Scenic Parks
2. Recreational Areas
3. Historic Sites

This classification should be dictated by the major use of the County park under consideration, with full knowledge that there would be overlapping qualifications in many cases.

The following criteria should apply to all County parks:

1. They should possess outstanding qualities of landscape, special park and recreational values, or features of special natural and historical significance that make their preservation and use a matter of county-wide concern.
2. They should be on a scale worthy of inclusion in the County Park system.
3. They should be unified and complete areas with logical boundaries.

SCENIC PARKS

Scenic Parks are areas of outstanding natural significance, where the major values are geological, botanical or zoological. The purpose of a scenic park is directed primarily toward the preservation of its outstanding natural features. Developments should be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment in a manner consistent with the preservation of the natural values. Uses for which developments may be made are: camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, riding, etc., involving no major modification of their lands, forests or waters; and without extensive introduction of artificial features such as playgrounds, golf courses, swimming pools and other forms of recreational developments that are primarily of urban character.

HISTORIC SITES

Historic sites are units or areas established to preserve objects or locations of historic events, representative of Riverside County history.

RECREATIONAL AREAS

A county park and recreational area should be comparatively large, accessible, of county rather than local importance, with county-wide drawing power and capable of providing adequate non-urban recreational activities--such as, camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, etc., are the primary reason for operating the areas.

Geographical distribution and relationship to concentrations of population should be important factors in the selection of recreational areas.

EMPHASIS - ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

With the inauguration of a master plan of County Parks, emphasis in the allocation of funds, should quite properly be given to acquisition. The acquisition program is vital to the County Park program and should continue commensurate with the needs of a growing population. However, in proceeding through a master plan, development should not be forgotten. Insofar as available funds will permit, public use of acquired areas should be made possible as soon as practicable, if only on a minimum basis.

PURPOSE OF EACH PARK UNIT

An analysis of each unit in the County Park system shall be made by the Parks department. This should indicate the various park values embraced in the area, the relationships between them and priorities. A statement of purpose or objective embodying these factors shall be prepared; and when adopted by the Board of Supervisors, this shall become the guiding principle for development, administration and interpretation of the County Park unit, and the basis for the master plan of that area.

FEES AND CHARGES

A nominal use fee shall be charged in every County Park area where facilities are available and where the Board of Supervisors deems such a fee practicable.

