

Greenways

PSCU-P-11 Develop a system of natural corridors and greenways, consistent with the Parks and Open Space diagram (Figure 5-1).

These corridors will have biking and walking trails offering recreational opportunities and links between neighborhoods, parks, and Downtown. The system of corridors will include waterway corridors as well as linear landscaped corridors to create natural gateways, parkways or buffer areas. More specifically, this system is envisioned to include:

- Greenway corridor along the St. Johns River, including broader areas to the northwest to accommodate open space areas, large group picnic facilities, a nature center, or other uses;
- Greenway corridors along Mill, Packwood and Cameron Creeks, and segments of other waterways, with sufficient width to protect riparian habitat and accommodate a multi-use trail;
- A landscaped corridor on both sides of Highway 198 providing a scenic gateway into Visalia from the west; and
- A landscaped buffer zone or parkway along Shirk Road separating industrial from residential areas, and a greenway along Road 148 marking

the eastern edge of the City, both accommodating a multi-use trail.

PSCU-P-12 The City shall establish a scenic corridor setback along the West 198 Highway corridor. The setback shall measure at least 200 feet from the north and south sides of the Highway 198 right of way between Road 86 and 1/4-mile west of Akers Street. The northerly setback shall follow the Mill Creek alignment as depicted in the Land Use Diagram.

The lands in the identified setback area shall be acquired and dedicated for open space uses in perpetuity by the City through market value purchases, dedications by affected property owners, transfers of development rights, or other means.

The acquisition and maintenance of the scenic corridor will require significant and ongoing City investment. At the same time, there will be significant increases in potential income to the City in the form of impact fees from urban development on lands near the West 198 Scenic Corridor that were not previously designated for urban development prior to the adoption of this General Plan. Proceeds from the impact fee program from these lands and from other development within the City will need to be commensurate with the cost of acquiring land and creating open space amenities for the West 198 Scenic Corridor. As such, the City's existing development



Greenway corridors along waterways will have sufficient width to protect riparian habitat and accommodate a multi-use trail.

impact fee program as it relates to parks and open space facilities shall be reviewed and updated to reflect this additional land acquisition commitment upon adoption of this General Plan.

Park Design and Improvements

PSCU-P-13 Improve existing parks to support a high quality of life in older parts of the City.

Where amenities like covered picnic areas, shade trees, ball fields and courts are lacking, they will be added over time according to the schedule established in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (for details, see Policy PSCU-P-1).

PSCU-P-14 Design parks to enhance neighborhood character and minimize negative impacts.

- Locate neighborhood parks with local or collector street frontages on at least three sides, and sidewalks and crossings designed for safe and easy pedestrian access.
- Where a neighborhood park is part of a neighborhood node, it should be designed to promote visual connections and pedestrian movement between the park and adjacent uses such as schools and commercial uses.

PSCU-P-15 Provide lighted facilities for tennis, basketball or other recreational facilities and

along pathways in order to extend usable hours.

Lighting should be energy-efficient and designed to minimize light pollution.

PSCU-P-16 Provide at least one community center in each of the City's four neighborhood quadrants. Use existing and new community center facilities to provide multicultural programs and teen recreation activities, and provide space for meetings and classes. Community centers should be designed with community input, including guidance from a cross-section of user groups.

Visalia currently operates five community centers as well as the Visalia Senior Center; none are in the City's Northwest or Southwest quadrants.

PSCU-P-17 Utilize and expand the Senior Center as Visalia's primary facility for recreation programs for seniors.

PSCU-P-18 Establish a wayfinding system for parks, bikeways and trails, with consistent, recognizable and pedestrian-scale signage.

PSCU-P-19 Continue to work closely with Tulare County to ensure that Mooney Grove and Cutler regional parks are operated, maintained, and enhanced.