

5 PARKS, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND UTILITIES

This element presents Visalia's policies and programs for the development and maintenance of parks, schools, and other fundamental building blocks for new neighborhoods to be built over the next two decades. As presented in the Land Use Element, new neighborhoods are designed to protect and enhance community assets, including small town character and a strong sense of community. Policies in this chapter also reinforce the linkages between schools and parks envisioned in the Transportation Element, with roadways, bikeways, trails, safe routes to schools and pedestrian facilities. Finally, this chapter presents objectives and policies for the fire and police services, water supply and conservation, wastewater and solid waste collection, treatment and disposal, and utilities that are essential to support urban development.

5.1 PARKS AND RECREATION

Neighborhood and community parks are an important component of the Visalia 2030 General Plan, as both recreational and aesthetic resources that contribute to the City's character, and environmental resources supporting the stormwater management system through joint use. Visalia is committed to creating and maintaining a park system that meets citizens' recreational needs, maximizes landscapes endowed by the natural environment, and contributes to the City's quality of life. The Parks, Schools, Community Facilities and Utilities Element serves

as a guide for park planning and development documents prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Park Classifications

The City provides its residents with several types of parks and facilities. Almost all park land described here is owned by the City or another public body and used for public recreational purposes. Some small parks are maintained by local landscaping and lighting districts, and parks owned by the County but within the City limits are also included. Several parks also serve as water detention basins, consistent with the joint use concept noted above. Park types are classified as follows:

- *Pocket Park.* A park typically between one-half and two acres in size intended to serve the needs of a specific neighborhood within a half-mile radius.
- *Neighborhood Park.* A park typically 2 to 5 acres in size which provide basic recreation activities for one or more neighborhoods. The service area ranges from a half- to one-mile radius. These parks may include facilities such as children's playgrounds, picnic tables, benches, and walkways. Many neighborhood parks are planned adjacent to new schools, and actual neighborhood park sizes may be as large as 10 acres depending on neighborhood size and need.



Visalia is committed to creating and maintaining a park system that meets citizens' recreational needs, maximizes landscapes endowed by the natural environment, and contributes to quality of life.

- *Community Park.* A park typically ranging from 5 to 12 acres in size or larger, depending on the needs of the quadrant. Community parks are intended to serve the recreational needs of a larger area of the city, especially those living or working within a two-mile radius. These parks may include facilities such as sport fields, exercise courses, recreation buildings, and restrooms. Other facilities may include community centers, swimming pools, tennis courts, and concession stands.
- *Large City Park.* A park generally larger than 40 acres in size intended to serve the recreational needs of all city residents and to create opportunities for contact with the natural environment. These parks may include a concentration of sports fields, golf courses, and areas for picnicking and passive enjoyment of open space.
- *Natural Corridors and Greenways.* A network of greenways of varying size intended to serve the recreational needs of city residents. These parks may include facilities such as bikeways, walkways, and riding trails, and are primarily developed along the City's waterways.

Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

Visalia's current inventory of parks and recreation facilities is listed in **Table 5-1**. **Figure 5-1** maps their location in the Study Area. Pocket and neighborhood parks are dispersed throughout city neighborhoods; Currently, Visalia has 23 neighborhood parks, ranging in size from 1.9-acre Crestwood Park to 17-acre Sunset Park, as well as numerous pocket parks under two acres. Four community parks provide a fuller

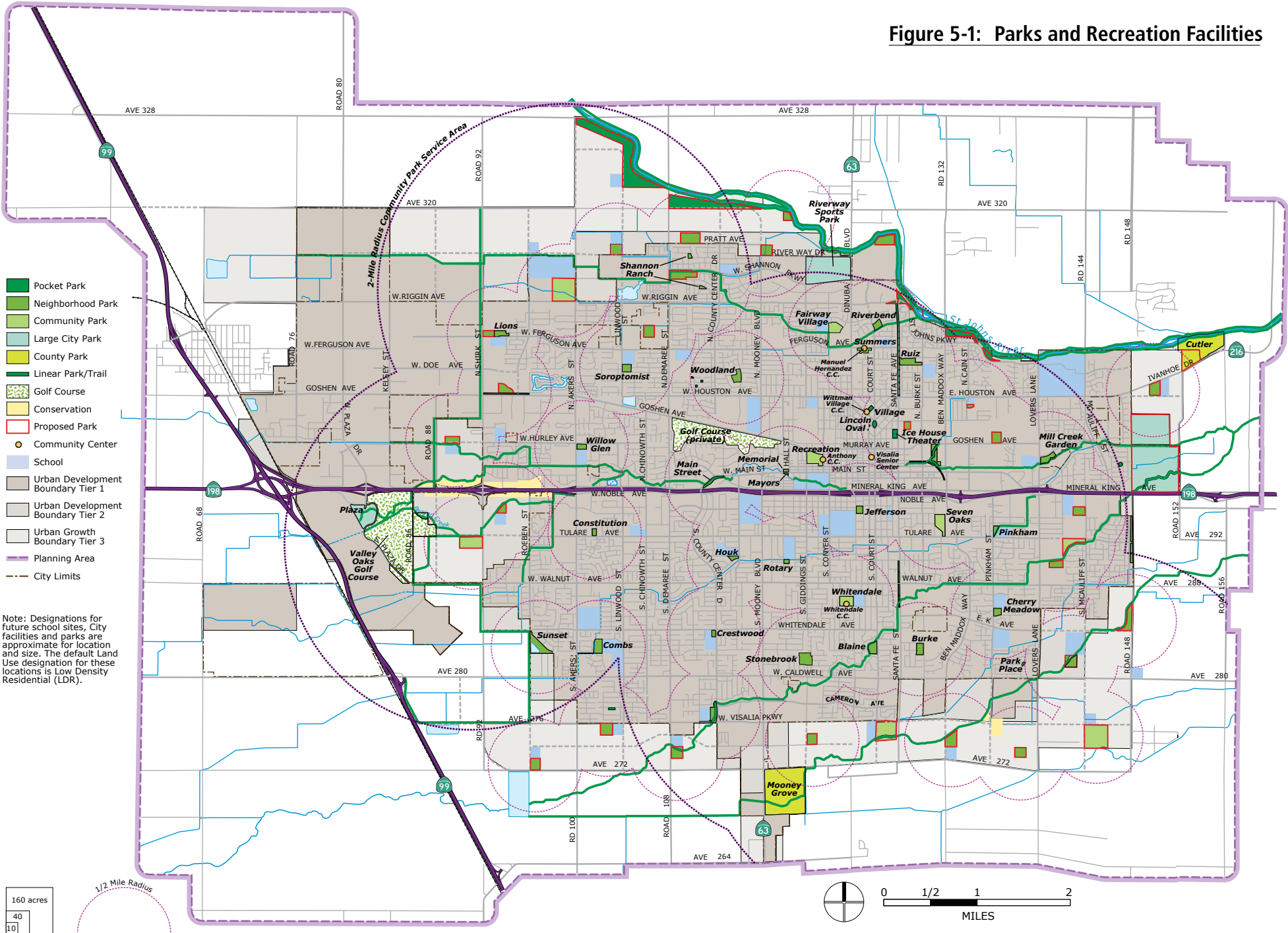
range of community amenities or are co-located with community centers and range from approximately 9 to 14 acres. Three larger facilities, Plaza Park, Mooney Grove Park, and Riverway Sports Park, are located at the periphery. The St. Johns Riverway forms much of the northern edge of the City. Altogether, there are approximately 640 acres of park land within the City. Tulare County's Cutler Park provides another 50 acres at the east edge of the Planning Area, while Plaza Park Golf Course provides specialized recreation for a fee; neither of these is counted as park acreage. With a 2010 population of 124,400 residents, the City has a ratio of 5.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Park Demand and Proposed Park Land

The City's park standard for neighborhood and community parks in this General Plan is 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents. These parks should be distributed based on the definitions of each park type and following the Parks and Recreation Facilities diagram (**Figure 5-1**.) The buildout of the General Plan Land Use Diagram would result in approximately 85,000 new residents in Visalia, with a total population of about 210,000. To meet the General Plan parks standard, this additional population would require an additional 430 acres of parkland.

The General Plan provides approximately 625 acres of new park land. Of this park land, 430 acres would be new usable City parks, or 5.0 acres per 1,000 new residents. The Plan provides a roughly equal amount of neighborhood and community park land, with 163 and 157 acres respectively. In addition, a new large city park on the east side is proposed. New park land along the St. Johns River, expansion of parkland at

Figure 5-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities



- █ Pocket Park
- █ Neighborhood Park
- █ Community Park
- █ Large City Park
- █ County Park
- █ Linear Park/Trail
- █ Golf Course
- █ Conservation
- █ Proposed Park
- Community Center
- School
- Urban Development Boundary Tier 1
- Urban Development Boundary Tier 2
- Urban Growth Boundary Tier 3
- ▬ Planning Area
- ▬ City Limits

Note: Designations for future school sites, City facilities and parks are approximate for location and size. The default Land Use designation for these locations is Low Density Residential (LDR).

160 acres
40
10

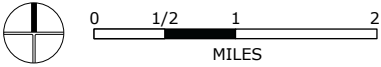
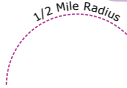


Table 5-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

<i>Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Neighborhood Parks		Community Parks		Other Parkland³	
Blain Park	7.1	Fairview Village Park	8.9	Cutler Park ¹	50.4
Burke Park	6.0	Recreation Park	13.6	Valley Oaks Golf Course	191
Cherry Meadow Park	4.0	Seven Oaks Park	11.9	SUBTOTAL OTHER PARKS	241
Combs Park	8.4	Whitendale Park	8.8	PARKS ACREAGE	885
Constitution Park	2.2	SUBTOTAL COMMUNITY PARKS	43	COUNTED TOWARD PARKS STANDARD	637
Crestwood Park	1.9	Large City Parks		(1) County Parks.	
Houk Park	2.4	Mooney Grove Park ¹	137	(2) Only half of the pocket park acreage is counted toward the overall parkland standard (acres per 1,000 residents).	
Ice House Park	2.7	Plaza Park	40.4	(3) Outside of City and/or limited use. Not counted toward parkland standard.	
Jefferson Park	3.6	Riverway Sports Park (Ph. 1 and 2)	83.0	<i>Source: City of Visalia, 2010</i>	
Lions Park	4.0	SUBTOTAL LARGE CITY PARKS	261		
Mill Creek Garden	7.0	Pocket Parks²			
Perry Family Park	3.5	Community Campus	0.5		
Pinkham Park	2.4	Fieldstone Oaks 1-4	0.8		
River Bend Park	4.2	Fox Wood 5	1.6		
Rotary Park	2.5	Lincoln Oval Park	1.6		
Alejandro Ruiz Park	8.6	Mayor's Park	0.4		
Soroptimist Park	4.3	Memorial Park	1.1		
Stonebrook Park	10.8	Park Place	0.8		
Summers Park	3.7	Shannon Ranch 1 Park	0.9		
Sunset Park	17.0	Shannon Ranch 2 Park	1.2		
West Main Park ¹	4.9	Village Park	1.3		
Willow Glen Park	3.7	West Park 1 and 2	1.0		
Woodland Park	5.4	Willow Creek	1.3		
SUBTOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	120	SUBTOTAL MINI-PARKS	12		

Table 5-2: Parks Acreage and Parks Ratio

<i>Park Type</i>	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Existing</i>	<i>Preferred Plan</i>	
City Park Land			
Neighborhood Parks ¹	127	163	283
Community Parks	43	157	200
Large City Parks ²	261	110	371
Usable Linear Parks ³	207	–	207
SUBTOTAL	637	430	1,061
POPULATION	124,400	85,200	209,500
PARKS RATIO	5.1	5.0	5.1
Additional Park Land			
Large City Parks ²	0	109	109
St. Johns Riverway and Trails ³	0	161	161
Cutler Park (County)	50	27	77
Civic Center Parks	–	8	8
Additional Pocket Parks	6	–	–
TOTAL	694	625	1,307

(1) Only about one half of the pocket park acreage is assumed to meet the design criteria of Policy PSCU-P-8 and count toward the overall parkland standard.

(2) Only half of the future park on east edge of City is counted toward the parkland standard because this facility also will be used for groundwater recharge.

(3) Proposed additional park land along St. Johns River is estimated to be appropriate as a regional effort.

Sources: City of Visalia, 2012; Dyett & Bhatia, 2012.



High-quality, accessible neighborhood parks are the foundation of the General Plan open space system.

the County's Cutler Park, and creation of the new Civic Center parks would be realized outside of the City's general park land acquisition and development process. Altogether, the Preferred Plan would result in an increased provision of park space per resident, further underlining the city's natural character as a community with high quality recreational amenities and living environments. **Table 5-2** summarizes existing and proposed park calculations.

While Visalia's current parkland meets the overall General Plan standard, there are areas of the City that are not within walking distance of a park, as indicated by the ½-mile radii shown around each neighborhood park on **Figure 5-1**. Ideally, every residence should be within a quarter-mile walk of a neighborhood park. Residential areas that are not within walking distance of a park with usable recreation space should be viewed as priorities for potential infill park development. This need is particularly acute in some of the older neighborhoods.

Citywide Parks and Open Space System

The General Plan creates the foundation for an enhanced open space network through conservation of existing open spaces and natural waterways, improvements to existing recreation and park facilities, and provision of new pocket, neighborhood, and community parks in newly developing areas, linked together by trails and greenways. The Plan was informed by the feedback received from the community about concepts presented at community workshops, and by the desire to make open space a key element of the city and accessible to all Visalians. The Plan establishes a system of parks and open spaces composed of a range of environments and amenities:

plazas and local playgrounds; neighborhood parks, community parks and recreation facilities; waterway trails and greenways.

Neighborhood and Pocket Parks

High-quality, accessible neighborhood parks are the foundation of the General Plan open space system. Parks are to be part of the nucleus of new neighborhoods, near to schools and walkable commercial areas. They should not be located on major roadways, should have housing directly facing them, and should be within a reasonable walk of most residents in new neighborhoods. Even closer to home for many residents will be small pocket parks or play lots, dispersed throughout Visalia's new neighborhoods. New small parks Downtown and elsewhere, including a new Civic Center Park, will provide open space in higher-density environments.

The General Plan also guides the City to make improvements to existing parks, to support a high quality of life in older parts of town. Where amenities like covered picnic areas, shade trees, ball fields and courts are lacking, they will be added over time. Infill development will help contribute to funding of these improvements, as well as creation of new small public parks and play areas.

Community Parks

Community parks may provide spacious areas for passive enjoyment or group gatherings, special attractions or natural features, and recreation facilities like sports fields and swimming pools. The General Plan features new community parks in the southeast (three) northwest (two) and southwest (one), supporting new development in those areas. The community

parks should enhance Visalia's recreation amenities and connections to natural features including creeks and oak groves. Community parks may be located next to schools and bikeways/trails, to take advantage of synergies and provide hubs of recreational activity. One new, 12-acre community park is planned as the main open space for East Downtown, with a natural waterway as a major focal point.

Large City Parks

One large park will mark the primary entrance to the city from each direction: Plaza Park to the west, the Sports Park to the north; Mooney Grove Park to the south; and a new park at the city's eastern edge. These parks each have a distinct character, and all are meant to draw residents from across the city.

Natural Corridors and Greenways

Waterway corridors, with enhanced habitat and new biking and walking trails, are a defining feature of the open space system. Visalia's restored streams and channels will provide additional recreational opportunities throughout the city, as well as critical habitat and storm drainage. Natural corridors will provide new links between neighborhoods, parks, and Downtown, and provide a new way of experiencing the city and understanding its natural setting. The St. Johns River will continue to mark the city's northern edge, and the preserved open spaces, playgrounds, parks and trails along its southern edge will be expanded and improved. The General Plan's system of natural corridors is based on the Waterways and Trails Master Plan, adopted in March 2010, which outlines goals, policies, design standards, and implementation strategies for the development of a multipurpose trail system along Visalia's primary community waterways.

Other linear landscaped corridors are established to create natural gateways, parkways, or buffer areas. A landscaped buffer zone or parkway, primarily along Shirk Road, will separate industrial development from residential neighborhoods on the west side of Visalia. A greenway along Road 148 will mark the eastern edge of the city. A natural buffer along both sides of Highway 198 at the western entrance into Visalia will preserve the gateway experience that residents have come to treasure while allowing development to take place beyond. This concept builds on direction to the Parks and Recreation Commission from City Council in 2010, following much community discussion of the desired character of the West 198 corridor. West of Shirk Road, the natural corridor would extend from the Highway to Mill Creek, and be linked with development of the waterway trails system.

Community Gardens

Community gardens are a source of fresh produce as well as learning opportunities. A Visalia Community Gardens program could help identify sites, secure insurance and provide water. Both Chapter 2: Land Use and Chapter 6: Open Space & Conservation include policies to facilitate community gardens in Visalia.

Planning Principles

Parks in New Neighborhoods

The development of the parks system will be central to integrating park and recreation facilities programming with the overall physical planning for new neighborhoods in Visalia. Pathways connecting parks to each other and to creeks, neighborhoods and public access points should be generous to accommodate



The Riverway Sports Park will be one of four large City parks, including one future park at the east edge of Visalia. (Top)

The St. Johns River will continue to mark the city's northern edge, with playgrounds, parks and trails will be expanded and improved. (Bottom)



Community centers house education and recreation programs and rooms for community meetings and events.

a variety of uses. Planting systems will be developed that utilize low water use, native materials that are low maintenance and require minimal fertilization, if any at all. Turf should be used only to accommodate desired recreational uses. The physical designs of the park and open space systems for Visalia should create a unique image and recreational space for the community.

Parks with Infill Development

As discussed in Chapter 2, the General Plan builds on the community's interest in supporting infill development. Many existing parks lack amenities that are required for new parks, and infill development provides the opportunity for reinvestment in existing infrastructure with contributions to funding for park and public facility improvements in existing neighborhoods.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Following General Plan adoption, a new Visalia Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan will be prepared as a guiding blueprint for the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the public. In conjunction with the General Plan, this Master Plan will ensure the cohesive development of a parks and open space system that upholds the standards and goals set forth in the General Plan. The Master Plan will include a range of programs for all ages and interests, and detail the future relationship between parks, schools, and shared facilities, with an emphasis on joint use potential.

Community Centers and Recreation Programs

The City operates five community centers, including the Visalia Senior Center. The community centers are home to arts, education, and recreation programs and provide rooms for community meetings and events. The community centers are shown on **Figure 5-1**. Programs include aquatics; youth sports; summer camps; a variety of youth enrichment activities; and classes for adults. Three of the community centers—Anthony, Hernandez, and Whitendale—are in City parks.

The Visalia Police Athletic League (PAL) was established in 1991 with the aim of building positive relationships between youth and police officers through recreational programs and activities. All programs are free, and efforts are made to reach “at-risk” youth. The Center is located at 701 East Race Avenue. Other opportunities for youth recreation are provided by the YMCA of Visalia and the Boys & Girls Club of Tulare County, which have adjacent facilities at 211 and 215 West Tulare Avenue.

Each of these recreation facilities is shown in **Table 5-3**. The General Plan reaffirms the City's commitment to providing and enhancing recreation programs and enrichment activities for all members of the community, as described in the policies below.

Table 5-3: Community Centers and Recreation Facilities

Name	Address
Community Centers	
Anthony Community Center	345 N. Jacob St.
Manuel Hernandez Community Center	247 W. Ferguson Ave.
Visalia Senior Center	310 N. Locust St.
Whitendale Community Center	630 W. Beech St.
Wittman Village Community Center	315 W. Pearl St.
Other Recreation Facilities	
PAL Center	701 East Race Ave.
Boys & Girls Club	215 West Tulare Ave.
YMCA of Tulare County	211 West Tulare Ave.

Sources: City of Visalia, 2012; Dyett & Bhatia, 2012.

Objectives

- PSCU-0-1** Design parks and recreation facilities that will enhance community identity and serve the recreation and social needs of Visalians of all ages, economic situations and physical abilities.
- PSCU-0-2** Continue to develop and expand special recreation amenities and programs for teens, senior citizens, and ethnic populations.
- PSCU-0-3** Ensure that a wide variety of quality sports and aquatics opportunities, including Sports Tourism, are available to the community.

PSCU-0-4 Emphasize health and wellness programs in light of childhood obesity and Type II diabetes challenges in the City and County.

PSCU-0-5 Continue Visalia’s strong volunteer program by expanding meaningful opportunities for community service in Parks and Recreation Department programs.

PSCU-0-6 *Maximize opportunities for joint use of public land and facilities involving schools, stormwater ponding basins and other areas under public jurisdiction suitable for recreation.

Policies

Park System Planning

- PSCU-P-1** Prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to implement Park policies in this General Plan. The Plan should include:
 - An assessment of existing and future recreational needs, including the needs of specific user groups and the needs of older areas of the community as well as those in new neighborhoods;
 - An assessment of opportunities for joint-use of City-owned stormwater detention basins on a year-round or seasonal basis, including priorities, access, improvement needs, security and cost-sharing arrangements;

- Involvement of teens in design of teen programs and seniors in programs serving them;
- A comprehensive program for providing facilities and recreational activities for identified needs, developed in consultation with VUSD and others involved in recreation programs, including joint-use opportunities with VUSD and other school districts and COS, and joint-use opportunities with City facilities, such as detention basins;
- Proposals for coordinating affordable child care with the City's recreation programs;
- Detailed design, construction and maintenance standards for parks and community centers and aquatic facilities emphasizing universal accessibility and barrier-free design, durability, low maintenance, and low water use;
- A program for retrofitting existing facilities to remove barriers to handicapped users over time;
- An action plan to define priorities, responsibilities and scheduling; and
- A comprehensive financing strategy for park and recreation facilities, including but not limited to the Park Acquisition and Development Fee, Recreation Program Fee policies, including provisions for

fee reductions, scholarships and sponsorships, and marketing, including recreation as part of the City's overall economic development plan.

- PSCU-P-2** Strive to achieve and maintain a citywide standard of at least five acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents.

Credits for pocket parks can be granted under the Park Acquisition and Development Fee Program, subject to the design review criteria of Policy PSCU-P-8. These credits may be on a less than 1:1 basis.

- PSCU-P-3** Reserve land and develop parks and public open spaces and recreation facilities consistent with designated Parks and Open Space land on the Land Use Diagram.

This designation is intended to cover existing and proposed new neighborhood, community, and regional parks; recreations centers; golf courses; multi-use paths and trails; and other open space areas.

- PSCU-P-4** Create one large new park at the City's eastern edge to enhance the City's eastern gateway along Highway 198, ensure separation between communities, and provide ample recreation space for the larger area.

PSCU-P-5 Create new community parks in the Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast quadrants, consistent with the Parks and Open Space diagram and the following planning guidelines:

- Size: 5-12 acres or more; and
- Facilities to be provided: large children's play area, reserved picnic facilities, open play fields, community building, bicycle parking, and off-street parking. They also may include tennis courts, outdoor concert areas or other special facilities based on neighborhood needs and community input.

Community parks provide spacious areas for passive enjoyment or group gatherings, special attractions, and recreation facilities, including sports fields and swimming pools. A "heritage farm" and a habitat preserve are examples of special facilities that could be incorporated into community parks.

PSCU-P-6 Create a high-quality, accessible neighborhood park system based on the needs of the surrounding community, the Parks and Open Space diagram and the following planning guidelines:

- Size: 2 to 5 acres; and
- Facilities to be provided: open lawn area, small picnic area, paths, bicycle parking, play equipment for children, backstop, multi-use courts, drinking fountain, landscaping.

Neighborhood parks are to be part of the nucleus of both existing and new neighborhoods, near, adjacent to, or co-located with schools and walkable commercial areas. Some are linked to the system of natural corridors and greenways. Neighborhood parks should not be located on major roadways, should have housing directly facing them, and should be within a ten-minute walk of most residents in new neighborhoods. Park designs should reflect residents input from community meetings held during the parking planning process.

PSCU-P-7 Promote development of small pocket parks or play lots dispersed throughout new neighborhoods and in existing neighborhoods, where needed, on a voluntary basis in coordination with new infill development, consistent with the following planning guidelines:

- Size: 0.5 to 2 acres; and
- Facilities: the specific features of pocket parks should address the anticipated needs of nearby residents and/or workers. In a residential environment, the needs of small children and seniors should be emphasized. In mixed-use or commercial areas, lunchtime use by office workers and shoppers should be facilitated.



Neighborhood parks are part of the nucleus of neighborhoods. Some are linked to the system of natural corridors and greenways. (Top)

Park designs should reflect residents' input from community meetings. (Bottom)

POCKET PARK DESIGN CRITERIA AND DEVELOPER GUIDELINES

- Pocket parks may be considered as an alternative to or replacement of a neighborhood park only where providing a typical neighborhood park is impractical or not achievable, such as in infill areas or as part of small development projects. The specific features of pocket parks should address the anticipated needs of nearby residents and/or workers.
 - In a residential environment, the needs of small children and seniors should be emphasized.
 - In mixed-use or commercial areas, lunchtime use by office workers and shoppers should be facilitated.
- The costs of developing a pocket park as part of new development can be reimbursed through the formation of a Lighting and Landscaping District, the formation of which may be a condition of approval for a project. Reimbursable costs include all park improvements, including hard and soft costs but not including street improvements, and reimbursement shall be based on a detailed cost estimate submitted with the project plans.
- A developer wishing to include a pocket park is responsible for design and construction that meet City standards and for providing a legal mechanism for long-term maintenance of the park at no cost to the City.
- Land for pocket parks is to be dedicated to the City.

Pocket parks are especially valuable in medium- and higher-density residential areas and in developed neighborhoods with a shortage of parkland.

- PSCU-P-8** Establish design review criteria for allowing pocket parks (parks less than 2 acres) and linear parks to be counted toward meeting the neighborhood and community parkland standard of this General Plan.

These criteria may include minimum park size and the types of amenities and facilities, specified in a schedule of credits (the percentage of the acreage standard met) up to a maximum of 100 percent. Provisions for funding park maintenance through a landscape and lighting district also will have to be met as a condition of receiving a pocket park credit. Pocket parks are not a substitute for neighborhood parks with playing fields and facilities for active recreation although they do meet a community need.

Funding and Parkland Dedication Requirements

- PSCU-P-9** Continue to implement a Park Acquisition and Development Fee Program updated to be consistent with this General Plan, including the following:

- Land and fees received shall support a standard of five acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents and provide park and recreation facilities serving the

neighborhood quadrant in which the contributing development occurs;

- A portion of the fees collected are to be used for community-wide recreation facilities;
- Dedicated park land meeting specified criteria for community parks, neighborhood parks and pocket parks may be provided at the City's discretion, in lieu of fees, or earn fee credits (the City will not accept undevelopable, unusable land); and
- Fee credits may also be given for storm drainage basins designed and built for dual recreational use, but these credits may be on a less than 1:1 basis depending on the amenities and facilities provided and their availability throughout the year.

Storm drainage basins can be under water and not available for public use three to four months a year; they also are difficult to maintain and turf is usually in poor condition compared to turf on year-round playing fields. For these reasons, full fee credit will not be granted.

- PSCU-P-10** Adopt and implement parkland dedication requirements for all subdivisions, consistent with the Quimby Act and Policy PSCU-P-2. This requirement will be integrated with the City's Park Acquisition Development Fee Program.

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 multi-cultural 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.

Mooney Grove and Cutler Parks provide important large park areas for Visalia residents, and act as gateways to the City.

- PSCU-P-20** Promote private-sector and joint public-private development of commercial recreation facilities for league softball, indoor swimming, and golf, and other recreation uses that are available to the public for a fee or on a limited basis.

Commercial recreation facilities will not be counted toward the City's parkland acreage standard because they are not publicly accessible for all residents.

- PSCU-P-21** Review cooperative agreements with public and private sector groups that use parks, and update them as needed to ensure that public needs are being met and City costs are fully covered.

- PSCU-P-22** Require private open space and recreational facilities in large-scale multi-family residential developments to meet a portion of resident recreation, except in Downtown and East Downtown.

Private open space and private recreation facilities, however, will not be counted toward the citywide parkland standard or Quimby Act requirements.

Park Design

- PSCU-P-23** Review park and recreation facilities demand and use through periodic surveys. Park amenities, recreation programs,

QUALITIES OF INNOVATIVE PARK DESIGN

As the City prepares the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, some of the qualities of innovative park design that have proven successful in peer communities could guide the planning effort.

- Synthesize landscape design with input from other relevant contributors, including civil engineers and hydrologists, educators and daycare providers, police officers and experts in crime prevention through environmental design.
- Alter topography to create interesting and visually appealing spaces and forms.
- Where waterways pass through a park or form a park edge, use the feature as a key design influence and focus of restoration, and strive to provide views and contact between the park and waterway.
- Reflect the agricultural and horticultural heritage of the site or area.
- Connect with surrounding areas in a way that encourages expanded pedestrian activity, and emphasize active uses that foster public health.
- Create a diverse series of individual places that respond to the needs of a broad range of park users, from youth to the elderly.
- Create places that engage the senses, such as water features, moving installations, and small departures from the expected.
- Use sustainable design practices, and highlight these as opportunities for learning.



Joint-use opportunities exist to pair parks with other City facilities. Dual-use park/detention basins will follow standards to ensure that slopes and equipment do not preclude recreational use.



The General Plan is expected to support a total population of approximately 210,000 in 2030, including an estimated 17,690 new students.

proximity and means of transportation should all be addressed.

PSCU-P-24 Promote innovative park design that responds to neighborhood needs and user groups.

See the Qualities of Innovative Park Design sidebar.

PSCU-P-25 Provide shade in parks by using arbors and other landscaping techniques.

In Visalia's climate, shade is a critical factor in making parks usable year-round.

Shared Use

PSCU-P-26 Encourage cooperative agreements with the City and the Kaweah Water Conservation District, levee districts, irrigation companies, school district, College of the Sequoias, Southern California Edison Company and other public agencies and utilities to explore innovative recreation open space facilities throughout the Visalia planning area.

PSCU-P-27 Develop standards for recreation use on dual purpose park/pond sites to ensure that slopes and pumping equipment do not preclude recreation use and maintenance.

PSCU-P-28 Investigate opportunities to locate emergency services substations (police, fire, etc.) adjacent to park sites.

PSCU-P-29 Offer nature study programs to increase community awareness of open space opportunities and habitat enhancement in City parks and along community waterways.

PSCU-P-30 Incorporate barrier-free design in all new recreation and sports facilities, and renovate existing facilities to remove barriers to handicapped users.

Implementation and Fundraising

PSCU-P-31 Continue to work with the Visalia Parks and Recreation Foundation and other foundations and grant sources to provide funding for conservation, open space, parks and recreation.

PSCU-P-32 Seek to ensure that Visalia receives its full share of federal and state grant funds including matching and competitive grants by regularly exploring all relevant funding possibilities.

State and federal grant programs and prospects will change over the General Plan period an eternal vigilance is the best way to capitalize on these funding opportunities.

PSCU-P-33 Explore an "Adopt-a-Park" concept with industry, service clubs, and citizens. Identify interested corporations, clubs, or individuals and create an action plan tailored to fit the adopting organization's budget and interest.

Table 5-4: Schools and Enrollment, Visalia Unified School District

<i>School</i>	<i>2013 Enrollment</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>2013 Enrollment</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>2013 Enrollment</i>
Elementary Schools (K-6)		Middle Schools (7-8)		VUSD ENROLLMENT WITHIN PLANNING AREA²	
Annie R. Mitchell	739	Divisadero	937	Tulare County Programs	
Conyer	438	Green Acres	1,271	University Prep (9-12)	116
Cottonwood Creek	686	La Joya	1,046	La Sierra (7-12)	306
Crestwood	628	Valley Oak	917	Court/Community Schools	500
Crowley	609	SUBTOTAL MIDDLE	4,171	TCOE ENROLLMENT³	
Elbow Creek ¹	494	High Schools (9-12)		(1) School located outside Planning Area.	
Fairview	587	El Diamante	1,895	(2) Not including students at schools outside Planning Area.	
Four Creeks	679	Golden West	1,628	(3) County schools also draw students from outside the Planning Area.	
Golden Oak	545	Mt. Whitney	1,593	<i>Sources: Visalia Unified School District, 2013; Dyett & Bhatia, 2013.</i>	
Goshen ¹	692	Redwood	2,066		
Highland	531	SUBTOTAL HIGH	7,531		
Houston	577	Educational Options Schools			
Hurley	601	Adult School			
Ivanhoe ¹	625	Charter Alternative (6-12)	80		
Linwood	680	Charter Home School ¹ (K-8)	68		
Manuel F. Hernandez	792	River Bend	70		
Mineral King	675	Sequoia	349		
Mountain View	586	Visalia Charter Ind. Study	538		
Oak Grove	613	Visalia Technical Ed. Center	131		
Pinkham	514	Other (K-6)	357		
Royal Oaks	555	Other (7-8)	115		
Shannon Ranch	675	Other (9-12)	258		
Veva Blunt	601	SUBTOTAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS	1,966		
Washington	322				
Willow Glen	570				
SUBTOTAL ELEMENTARY	15,014				

5.2 SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Providing adequate, flexible school sites is another key objective of the General Plan. New sites for elementary, middle and high schools are recommended and discussed in this section. In general, school sites are co-located with a park or a convenience shopping area to create a walkable hub of neighborhood life. This section also covers higher education in Visalia, and the goal of supporting expansion of higher education and job training facilities as an educational and economic development priority. Consideration of other community facilities—community centers, cultural venues, civic buildings, libraries, and medical facilities—concludes the section.

Public Schools

Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) provides public education from Kindergarten through 12th Grade in the Planning Area and nearby rural areas. The District includes 24 elementary schools, four middle schools, four traditional high schools, and

alternative education programs. Three of the district’s elementary schools are outside the Planning Area, but students from these outlying areas attend middle and high school in Visalia. Altogether, about 26,100 students attend Visalia public schools in the Planning Area, including about 14,820 elementary students, 3,950 middle school students, 7,280 high school students, and 1,740 students in special programs. Public schools and enrollment are detailed in Table 5-4.

Existing School Capacity

VUSD’s *School Facilities Needs Analysis* (2009) and *Level 1 Developer Fee Justification Study* (2010) concluded that when state guidelines for counting portable classrooms and assuming class size are considered, the District’s current facilities are over-capacity by approximately 8,600 students, a condition that is made possible by using portables, converting special purpose rooms, and other strategies.¹ Measure G, passed by area voters in 1999, provided \$42.5 million for school construction and modernization and

Table 5-5: Student Generation and School Size Assumptions

School Type	Household Type ¹		Students per School	Acres per School
	Single Family	Multi-Family		
Elementary	0.448	0.144	650	10
Middle	0.092	0.017	900	22
High School	0.156	0.025	1800	60

(1) A 5.5% vacancy rate is assumed, meaning that the number of projected households is slightly smaller than the number of new housing units.

Sources: VUSD School Facility Needs Analysis, 2010, Dyett & Bhatia, 2012.

¹ Visalia Unified School District, *Level 1 Developer Fee Justification Study*, 2010.

Table 5-6: Student Population and School Demand at General Plan Buildout

Level	New Students			New Schools	New Acres Needed
	Pipeline	Preferred Plan	Total		
Elementary	2,460	9,100	11,560	17	170
Middle	490	1,790	2,280	2	44
High School	830	3,020	3,850	2	120
TOTAL	3,780	13,910	17,690	21	334

Sources: Visalia Unified School District; Dyett & Bhatia, 2012.



The Golden West school campus is a model for future campuses in the northwest and southeast.

land acquisition. The bond measure supported the construction of Visalia’s fourth comprehensive high school, El Diamante, modernization projects at several existing schools, and four new elementary schools, all completed between 2002 and 2008. The need for new schools to accommodate growth continues.

Projected Enrollment

Buildout of the General Plan will result in the addition of 32,150 housing units, including housing already in the pipeline, supporting a total population of 210,000 in 2030. This growth is projected to result in an estimated 17,690 new students and the need for 17 new elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools, using the School District’s student generation rates and school size standards, summarized in Table 5-5. The number of students added for each school type represents a significant increase (almost 70 percent) over current levels. The new schools will require about 334 acres, based on District standards of 10 acres per elementary school, 22 acres per middle school, and 60 acres per high school. New student and school land demand calculations are detailed in Table 5-6.

Planned Facilities

Currently, VUSD owns eight undeveloped parcels where five new elementary schools, two new middle schools and a new high school are planned. The General Plan identifies a need for a total of 21 new schools, including 17 new elementary schools, two middle, and two high schools, as shown on Figure 5-2, to accommodate projected growth through 2030. Elementary schools are distributed throughout the city, and act as key focal points of new neighborhoods, providing local gathering and community space, as well as additional park and recreation opportunities. A joint middle and high school location is planned at the northwest intersection of Riggin Avenue and Akers Street in the northwest portion of the City, while an additional middle school is planned in tandem with an elementary school at K Avenue and McAuliff Street in the southeast. An additional high school is also planned in the southeast, generally southeast of Santa Fe Avenue and Caldwell Avenue. Specific locations may change depending on a variety of factors, including land availability, infrastructure needs, and financing.

Specialized School Facilities

Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) provides educational options for students and families who want or require an alternative to a traditional school setting. As of 2010, approximately 1,400 students, or five percent of total enrollment, were in alternative or special education programs at seven special facilities or in classrooms at traditional schools. Educational options include charter schools, adult and continuation schools, a school focusing on technical skills, a school for students with exceptional needs, and a school that provides support for home-schooling.

The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) also offers specialized education programs, including a college preparatory high school offered in partnership with College of the Sequoias; a vocational school; and school programs for students in detention. TCOE schools enroll approximately 920 students in Visalia, though some of these come from outside the Planning Area.

Pre-School and Child Care

Visalia is served by a variety of pre-schools and day-care centers in addition to in-home child care providers. Six Child Development Centers in Visalia operated by the Tulare County Office of Education follow national Head Start performance standards. State-funded pre-school programs for income-qualified families are located at ten public elementary schools as well as the Visalia Adult School. Some classrooms are reserved for children with special development needs. The Child Development Centers enroll about 250 children in Visalia, while VUSD pre-school classes currently have capacity for 408 children. The

remainder of Visalia's daycare and pre-school programs are operated by churches, institutions, non-profit organizations, and private companies or individuals.

CHILD CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency's 2008 Child Care Needs Assessment finds that Visalia has the capacity to provide subsidized child care for 5,037 children, in 2,186 homes and 273 facilities. There is an estimated unmet need for subsidized child care for 573 children, or 16 percent of the total need. This unmet need will grow over time. (By comparison, 48 percent of subsidized child care need is found to be unmet in Tulare County as a whole.) Affordable and high-quality child care options are limited for infants; for children with special needs; and for parents who work non-traditional hours. To address these general and specific shortages, the Needs Assessment makes several recommendations, including the following:

- Approach industry to demonstrate how child care benefits the bottom line;
- Create opportunities for collaboration between non-profits, school districts and city recreation departments;
- Look into local revenues such as sales tax and developer fees to help fund the development of additional child care centers;
- Look at under-used public buildings as a way of developing additional child care centers.²

² Tulare County Child Care Planning Council. Child Care Needs Assessment. 2008.



Visalia is home to the central campus of College of the Sequoias, whose enrollment is projected to grow to 20,000 by 2030. (Top)

Small-scale community centers are appropriately sited as integral parts of neighborhoods and communities. (Bottom)

Private Schools

Visalia is currently home to five private or parochial schools: Central Valley Christian, Visalia Christian, George McCann Memorial Catholic, St. Paul's, and Grace Christian. Together, these schools enroll approximately 2,500 students. Private schools will continue to play an important role in the educational spectrum. New private schools may be expected to develop on land designated for other uses.

Higher Education

College of the Sequoias

College of the Sequoias (COS), a division of the Community Colleges of California, provides public post-secondary education in Tulare County. Its 62-acre main campus is located on South Mooney Boulevard in Visalia. COS enrolled 13,620 students in the fall semester of 2009, an increase of 3,200 students or 29 percent in ten years.

The College's Educational Master Plan provides a growth framework involving the Visalia campus and satellite campuses in Tulare and Hanford. General Education classes are to be offered at the Tulare and Hanford campuses, as well as the Visalia campus, while key programs in child development, nursing, and fine arts would continue to be based in Visalia. The College projects that enrollment on the main Visalia campus will grow to 15,000 by 2012, 17,000 by 2020, and 20,000 by 2030, matching added educational capacity. Measure I, passed by Visalia voters in 2008, provided \$28 million for upgrades to the Visalia campus, to be matched by \$47 million in state funding. A new Nursing Building and new gym were built in 2009 and 2010. In addition to these new facilities, the College aims to improve access by add-

ing bicycle lanes and racks; increasing public transportation access; providing an inter-campus shuttle; and increasing the parking supply.

College of the Sequoias recognizes its role in supporting economic growth of Tulare and Kings Counties. It is a priority of COS to improve the alignment between certificate and degree requirements and job opportunities. COS sees the General Plan update process as a potential source of information on emerging industries and economic development strategies, which can help the College plan for meeting demand.³

Other Colleges and Universities

Five private, multi-campus institutions currently have local facilities in Visalia. These are the University of Phoenix; Brandman University; Fresno Pacific University; San Joaquin Valley College; and Milan Institute. The first three of these offer advanced degrees or degree completion in a range of fields, notably business, nursing, and education-related specialties, and cater to working adults. The latter two emphasize career training and certification.

Four-Year Higher Education in Visalia

Throughout the General Plan Update process there has been broad support in the community for seeking to attract or foster the development of a new four-year university. Such a university would provide a key regional center for learning, business incubation and research, and employment. While a specific site for a four-year campus is not shown on the General Plan map, criteria for evaluating a potential proposal, such

³ College of the Sequoias, Visalia General Plan Update Service Provider Form, 2010.

as site access, are provided to guide future decision-makers.

At the same time, existing higher education programs are supported, and the General Plan supports efforts to enhance the relationship between schools and the City around them. In particular, the Plan envisions College of the Sequoias acting as the hub of a higher-intensity mixed-use district or campus village, with supporting businesses and housing.

Community Facilities

Community facilities are the network of public and private institutions that support the civic and social needs of the population. They offer a variety of recreational, artistic, and educational programs and special events. New community facilities are not specifically sited on the General Plan Land Use Diagram. Small-scale facilities are appropriately sited as integral parts of neighborhoods and communities, while existing larger-scale facilities are generally depicted as public/semi-public land use, as appropriate. Community facilities in Visalia can be grouped into the following categories:

Community Centers

These facilities are designed to meet the needs of the population for civic meetings, recreational activities, social gatherings, and cultural events. Visalia currently operates four general community centers, three of which are associated with parks, and one senior center (see [Table 5-3](#).)

Civic Buildings

This category of community facilities includes City and County administrative and public buildings.

City Hall is currently located in three buildings on East and West Acequia Avenue and Oak Street. The City is planning to develop a new Civic Center in the East Downtown area. Visalia is the County seat for Tulare County, whose offices and courts are located at the Tulare County Civic Center at Mooney Boulevard and West Main Street, and at the Tulare County Government Plaza, at the south end of the Mooney Boulevard corridor opposite Mooney Grove Park.

Libraries

Libraries house literary, artistic, and reference materials for public use and circulation. Tulare County Library serves the Planning Area from its main branch downtown at 200 West Oak Avenue.

Visual and Performing Arts Venues

These facilities house scientific and historical exhibits or offer space for artistic performances and presentations. Visalia features a strong nucleus of arts venues. The Fox Theater is home of Tulare County Symphony and hosts concerts, lectures, and other events. Imagine U Interactive Children's Museum may also construct a new home in East Downtown. Other local visual and performing arts venues include the Enchanted Playhouse Theater, Ice House Theater, and the College of the Sequoias' theater and art gallery.

Medical Facilities

Medical facilities include hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and medical offices. Kaweah Delta Health Care District (KDHC) is the primary provider of medical services in Visalia. Most services are provided at the downtown Medical Center. Significant expansion is planned over the next



Kaweah Delta Health Care District (KDHC) plans significant expansion of its downtown hospital over the next 20 years. (Top)

Community Services & Employment Training (CSET) helps to prepare youth and adults for jobs. (Bottom)



The City should study the potential highest and best use for the current City Hall buildings that would be vacated with relocation and consolidation at a new Civic Center. (Top)

The central library should remain an attractive and vibrant Downtown destination. (Bottom)

20 years. KDHCD also has a West Campus, at West Cypress and Akers, anchored by the affiliated Sequoia Regional Cancer Center, and a South Campus, located on Court Street between Tulare and Walnut avenues, which provides long-term and urgent care. The District owns 100 acres of undeveloped land in the Southeast area, of which it anticipates developing about 70 acres for medical facilities in the future.

Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) provides primary and specialty medical care services to residents of the County regardless of their ability to pay. The Department operates a Health Care Center at 2611 North Dinuba Boulevard in Visalia. The County also operates an outpatient mental health clinic for adults at 3300 South Fairway in Visalia. For children’s mental health services, the Department contracts with Visalia Youth Services, at 109 Northwest 2nd Street.

Social and Community Services

Other types of important social and community services are provided by Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency and an array of non-profits. These include employment assistance sites operated by Community Services & Employment Training, Inc. (CSET); emergency shelters, transitional housing, and day centers provided by Visalia Rescue Mission and Good News Center; and food pantries and distribution sites operated by Visalia Emergency Aid Council and Food Link for Tulare County.

Objectives

PSCU-O-7 Support efforts to provide superior educational opportunities for all members of the community.

PSCU-O-8 Place elementary schools at the core of neighborhoods and co-locate schools with parks and neighborhood commercial areas.

PSCU-O-9 Coordinate the location of school sites in the community with the school district in an effort to assist the School District in providing school facilities at the optimum location and in a timely manner.

PSCU-O-10 Promote the development of higher education and workforce development facilities and programs in Visalia.

PSCU-O-11 Facilitate the location of day care centers (children, youth, and senior) and private preschools to provide facilities for year-round care.

PSCU-O-12 Provide high quality government facilities and services to the general public.

PSCU-O-13 Continue to emphasize the location of public facilities in the Core Area.

Policies

PSCU-P-34 Coordinate land use and development with school location and site design, working with the Visalia Unified School District and other districts to ensure that adequate facilities are available and integrated with neighborhoods.

PSCU-P-35 Work with Visalia Unified School District and the Tulare County Office of

Education to establish School District boundaries that are coterminous with the City's Urban Growth Boundary.

PSCU-P-36 Work with Visalia Unified School District and other area schools to provide comprehensive local government outreach to students.

PSCU-P-37 Work with Visalia Unified School District and the Tulare County Office of Education to locate additional continuation schools and other special programs.

PSCU-P-38 Continue to encourage school multi-purpose facilities and open space for community uses to maximize their utilization.

PSCU-P-39 Promote the location and development of vocational and trade schools and alternative and continuing education programs such as Visalia Charter Independent Study.

PSCU-P-40 Continue to develop cooperative agreements with COS and the Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) that ensure recreational open space lands and facilities are available for community use.

PSCU-P-41 Study the potential highest and best use for the current City Hall East and West buildings and other City facilities that would be vacated with relocation and consolidation at a new Civic Center.

PSCU-P-42 Work with Tulare County Library to ensure that the central library remains an attractive and vibrant Downtown destination.

PSCU-P-43 Continue to plan for the creation of a Civic Center in East Downtown, and promote the location and expansion of City, Tulare County, and other government offices in the Core Area.

PSCU-P-44 Support efforts to involve youth in leadership and job training programs.

5.3 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Water Supply and Conservation

This section presents guiding and implementing policies to maintain and enhance sufficient water resources to sustain the City's quality of life and support existing and future residential, commercial and industrial development. The policy framework for this section builds on the City's Water Conservation Program, the recently completed Urban Water Management Plan, the Groundwater Management Plan, and the City's involvement with the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWM) program and also on the City's Stormwater Master Plan and Management Program and the Waterways and Trails Master Plan.



Joint-use opportunities exist to pair parks with other City facilities. Dual-use park/detention basins will follow standards to ensure that slopes and equipment do not preclude recreational use. (Top)

Visalia's natural waterways are a unique and treasured resource of the city. Careful management of waterways in the Planning Area is a policy priority. (Bottom)

Existing Water Supply and Demand

WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Water is primarily distributed by California Water Service Company (Cal Water); in addition, there is at least one mutual water district located within city limits. Cal Water's 75 active supply wells in the Visalia District extract groundwater from the Kaweah Groundwater Sub-basin and distribute it over approximately 519 miles of pipeline. The Cal Water system includes two elevated 300,000 gallon storage tanks, an ion exchange treatment plant, four granular activated carbon filter plants and one nitrate blending facility. These facilities are in place to provide Cal Water's customers with safe drinking water of a quality and quantity to meet State and Federal drinking water standards.

Cal Water operates as a private utility with rates to its customers set and regulated by the California Public Utility Commission. Cal Water's drinking water must meet standards set by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the California Safe Drinking Water Act. The Act authorizes the California Department of Public Health to protect the public from contaminants in drinking water by establishing maximum contaminant levels that are at least as stringent as those developed by the U.S. EPA. Cal Water operates within these federal and State requirements and must meet reporting and operating requirements as regulated by the California Department of Public Health.

EXISTING DEMAND

The system serves an estimated population of 134,410 which could grow to 214,930 by 2030 according to the adopted *California Water Service Company, 2010 Urban Water Management Plan - Visalia District*

(UWMP). Cal Water estimates it is serving 39,377 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in 2010. Recent estimates of demand yield an estimate of 29,221 acre-feet pumped per year for 2010.

Water Quality

The quality of the groundwater that underlies the City is excellent for domestic and agricultural uses. This is due to the typically abundant snowmelt that originates in the Sierra Nevada. However, the 2005 Water Supply and Facilities Master Plan for the Visalia District documents several constituents of concern in groundwater in the area, including nitrate, volatile organic compound (VOCs) MTBE (gasoline oxygenate); DBCP (pesticide used until 1977); and pentachlorophenol (a wood preservative).

Because these constituents have been found in the area and have caused shutdown of some wells, the Water Supply and Facilities Master Plan recommends not drilling new wells within one-half mile of wells that have been affected in the past. More specifically, the Master Plan recommends that Cal Water not drill wells within certain sections of land.

Planned Capacity and Future Water Demand

According to the UWMP, Cal Water has an estimated capacity to pump 100,829 acre-feet per year in 2010, all from groundwater. Pumping capacity at this level will continue to keep up with demand requirements through 2030 and beyond (in fact, the UWMP's planning horizon is the year 2040). While the groundwater basin is currently unadjudicated, the groundwater basin must be shared by many users, so Cal Water assumes realistic available supply to be equal to projected demand. Cal Water's estimates

Table 5-7: Estimated Water Demand by Land Use Type, 2010, 2020, 2030

<i>Customer Type</i>	<i>Actual Number of Customers 2010</i>	<i>Actual Annual Demand 2010 (Acre-feet)</i>	<i>Projected Number of Customers 2020</i>	<i>Projected Annual Demand 2020 (Acre-feet)</i>	<i>Projected Number of Customers 2030</i>	<i>Projected Annual Demand 2030 (Acre-feet)</i>
Single Family Residential	34,634	19,407	44,477	24,725	55,561	31,344
Multi Family Residential	474	1,205	562	2,394	702	3,035
Commercial	3,420	5,898	3,901	4,426	4,348	5,007
Industrial	63	269	73	463	82	530
Government	747	2404	953	2,289	1,190	2,902
Other	39	39	59	145	74	184
TOTAL	39,377	29,221	50,024	34,443	61,956	43,002
WITH LOSSES		31,762		37,390		46,706

Source: California Water Service Company, 2011

also indicate a relatively uniform growth rate, from 29,221 acre-feet in 2010 to 43,002 acre-feet per year by the year 2030. When estimated water losses are taken into account, total water use is estimated to grow from 31,762 acre-feet in 2010 to 46,706 acre-feet in 2030. Table 5-7 shows the annual estimated demand for the mix of uses in the Cal Water System for the years 2010, 2020, and 2030.

As shown in Table 5-7, Cal Water projects 57 percent more service connections in 2030 compared to 2010, with overall demand expected to be 47 percent higher than 2010. Recent legislation requires a 20 percent reduction by 2020. Water conservation targets are covered below.

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

The City and Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWCD) have a mutual interest in restoring

and maintaining groundwater supplies and controlling flood water. The City, KDWCD, and other agencies in the area work together in the efficient handling and importation of surface water for the purpose of recharging the Kaweah Subbasin's groundwater. This effort helps offset declines in groundwater elevations. This practice should continue at increased levels.

Additionally, the City of Visalia has implemented a Groundwater Overdraft Mitigation Ordinance, which imposes a groundwater mitigation fee on new development and a groundwater impact fee on all residential, commercial, and industrial water suppliers. These fees are used by the City to construct and improve groundwater recharge facilities and to purchase water for groundwater recharge. As an example, the City purchased and recharged over 6,000 acre-feet of water in 2010. Recharge efforts are coordinated by the City with KDWCD and local irrigation districts.

Future Supply Issues

Cal Water expects that groundwater will continue to remain the primary water source through 2040, and concludes that it will be able to supply its customers' full demand in the future, serving a projected service area population of 263,110 in 2040. However, because of overdraft conditions in the Kaweah sub-basin, additional supplies will need to be pursued. An analysis of alternative supplies is currently being performed. Some potential supply issues are described below.

There are a number of inactive wells in the Visalia District because of both mechanical problems and quality degradation of the underground supply. As the City considers future development that will increase water demand, especially for infill areas of the City, the inability to drill new deep wells within the sections of land where ground water quality is a concern will need to be taken into account. Larger transmission pipelines, with remote large volume deep wells, or construction of a surface water treatment plant are two alternatives that may need to be evaluated, in-lieu of drilling new wells within the restricted areas.

The Kaweah Subbasin is considered to be in an overdraft condition on an average long term basis. The UWMP indicates groundwater elevations have declined up to 50 feet over a 20-year period. **Figure 5-3** shows the downward trend in groundwater depths for the Cal Water System.

The total storage capacity of the subbasin is estimated to be 15.4 million acre-feet to a depth of 300 feet and 107 million acre-feet to the base of fresh groundwater. Natural recharge is estimated to be 62,400 acre feet

on an annual basis. Artificial recharge was not determined for all entities, but through its overdraft mitigation efforts, the City recharged 6,000 acre-feet in 2010. According to Cal Water, there is approximately 572,000 acre feet applied water recharge into the sub-basin. Subsurface inflow was not determined. Annual urban and agricultural extraction is estimated to be 58,800 acre feet and 699,000 acre feet respectively. Based on past groundwater level data and recharge rates, the basin's water supply is expected to continue to fluctuate. However, as population continues to grow, and farming practices continue at the current rate, groundwater levels will decline unless recharge is increased.

This increase in depth to groundwater is not just a municipal supply issue. Reductions in available surface water supplies to the region have occurred as a result of recent court actions to protect Delta Smelt and Winter Run Salmon. It is anticipated that these actions will reduce supplies to the region by 15 to 20 percent of historic volumes. As irrigation surface water supplies shrink, irrigation practices will become more dependent on groundwater pumping. Groundwater levels in Visalia and the surrounding areas in all directions are expected to be affected negatively.

Water Conservation

The City has adopted numerous policies to reduce water demand through conservation and other means and to increase surface water imports to the City and surrounding areas. These include the Groundwater Recharge Fee, Groundwater Impact Fee, Groundwater Mitigation Fee, and the Water Conservation Ordinance.

Figure 5-3: Groundwater Depth



Source: California Water Service Company, 2011

Senate Bill 7, passed in 2009, requires a 20 percent reduction in urban per capita water use in California by December 31, 2020, with an interim 10 percent reduction by 2015. The law requires urban retail suppliers, such as Cal Water, to develop targets to reduce urban water use accordingly, based on one of four methods. For the Visalia District, Cal Water intends to enter a regional alliance with other water providers in the Tulare Lake hydrologic region. The District-specific targets for Visalia are 219 gallons per

capita per day (gpcd) in 2015 and 194 gpcd in 2020, amounting to six and 16 percent reductions from current water use.

Cal Water’s water conservation program covers residential water use, large landscape water use, public information, and school education. Cal Water recently completed the process of converting its non-metered flat rate costumers to metered service connections. Additionally, the City has adopted the State-mandated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. As over 60 percent of municipal water is



Surface water treatment and delivery may become necessary over time as ground water depths increase. (Top)

Recycling of treated wastewater for groundwater recharge, irrigation and landscaping is a part of the City's plan to reduce its demand for water. (Bottom)

used for landscaping, reducing landscape irrigation is critical to reducing Visalia's overall water demand.

Recycled Water

The City is also developing a recycled water system at its wastewater treatment facility. Currently, the City plans to use recycled water for irrigation of City facilities, including Plaza Park and Valley Oaks Golf Course, and to trade much of the recycled water with a local irrigation district in exchange for upstream water to be used for groundwater recharge. Future phases of the recycled water system could greatly expand the use of recycled water and directly affect reductions in groundwater pumping for irrigation of landscaping.

Surface Water Use

Treated surface water used for municipal purposes is generally more expensive to deliver than groundwater pumped from a deep well, and Cal Water does not currently use surface water as a supply source for Visalia customers. However, surface water treatment and delivery is one of the best ways to directly reduce groundwater pumping and therefore reduce the groundwater overdraft this area is experiencing. This alternative may become necessary over time as ground water depths increase. A large water treatment plant would affect Cal Water's distribution system with the need for larger transmission mains, which are presently not in the distribution system. Also, a reliable and steady surface water supply would be an additional challenge.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

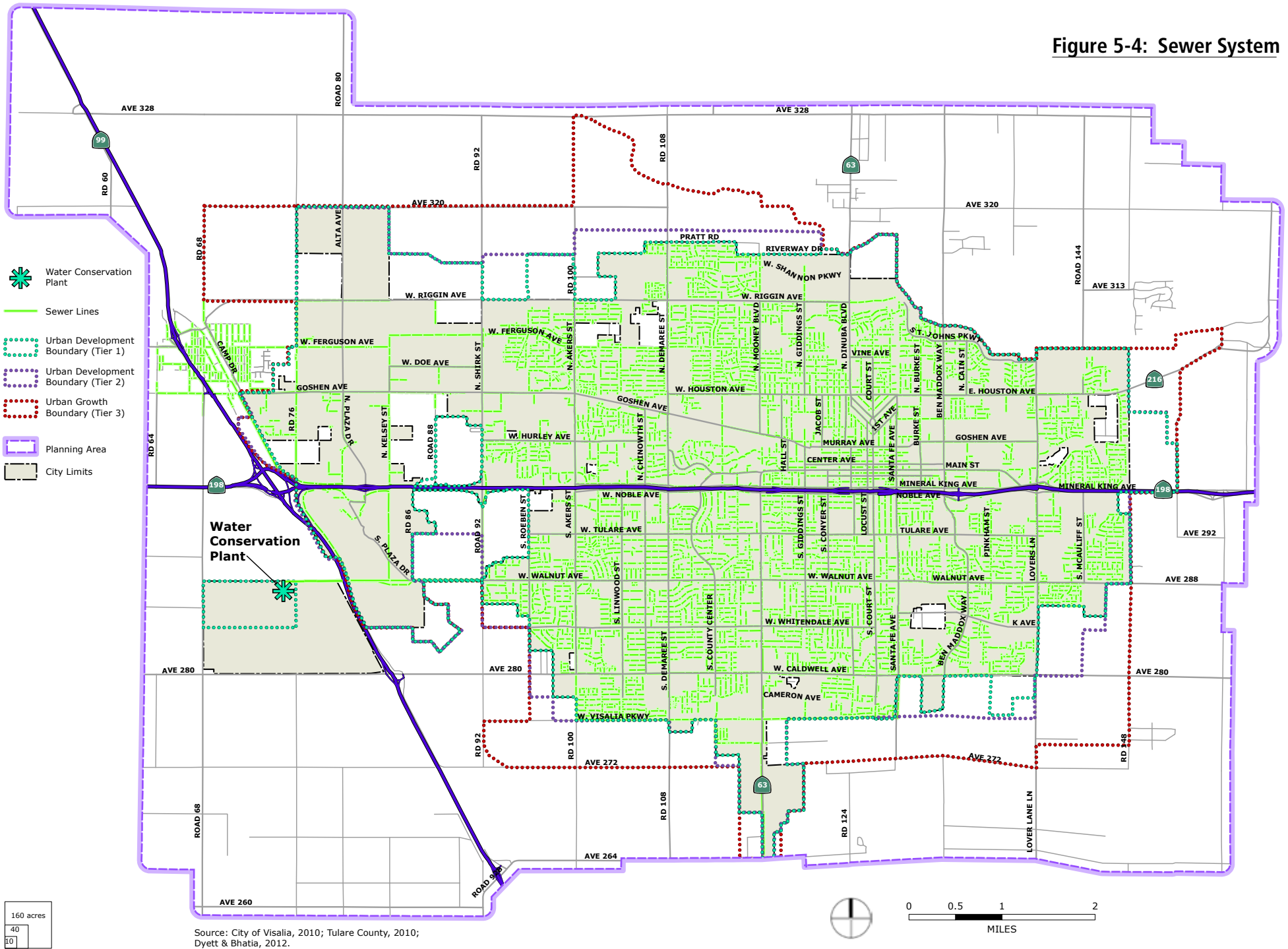
Existing Wastewater Treatment Capacity

The City owns and operates a Water Conservation Plant (WCP), located west of Highway 99 and south of Highway 198. As of 2010, the plant operates at an average daily flow of 13 million gallons per day with effluent treated to a secondary treatment level, disinfected then discharged into Mill Creek and/or stored in basins owned by the City. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) order limits the WCP discharge to an average flow of 20 million gallons per day, which is 2 million gallons per day below the rated capacity of the existing treatment plant. The capacity of the plant could be expanded further to 26 million gallons per day. These capacity levels will require further evaluation based on the needs of projected development.

To avoid RWQCB limitations on ammonia concentration in discharge, which are expected to become more stringent in the future, the City plans to divert plant discharge to City-owned Basin No. 4. Basin 4 is a 160-acre settling basin located several miles west of the WCP. The City also plans an upgrade to the WCP's wastewater treatment processes, including de-nitrification of plant effluent. A limitation on nitrogen concentration in the WCP discharge for disposal by percolation is expected to be imposed in the near future.

As described above, recycling and reuse of the WCP effluent is a part of the City's plan to reduce its demand for water. The City intends to upgrade the Visalia Water Conservation Plant to produce recycled water suitable for the identified reuses in conformance with State regulation.

Figure 5-4: Sewer System



Source: City of Visalia, 2010; Tulare County, 2010; Dyett & Bhatia, 2012.



Visalia's storm drainage system relies on detention basins and several retention basins to slow and divert storm water for larger storms.

Sewer Collection System

The Sewer System Master Plan for the City, completed in 1994, divided the system into eight service areas based on existing and proposed sewer trunklines and on the growth pattern established by the previous General Plan. The City has used this information to aid in the development of its Capital Improvement Program for sanitary sewer facilities in subsequent years, and has also updated the Plan based on more recent analysis of growth. **Figure 5-4** displays the current sewer collection system. The Plan will need to be adjusted to match the Land Use Diagram of this General Plan.

Updates may include analysis of the need to upgrade the collection system in areas proposed for higher density. Downtown has been a recent focus in this regard, with modeling and analysis done using proposed higher population densities. Other areas that are proposed for higher densities will need to be analyzed in a similar manner.

Storm Drainage

In the Planning Area, storm and urban runoff drainage is provided by natural rivers and watercourses, irrigation ditches, storage reservoirs, and discharge locations. Components of the drainage system on private property, or within private drainage easements, are maintained by the underlying property owner or other private party. The City's Storm Water Master Plan, from 1994, identified seven waterways as well as the Goshen Drain that convey storm water toward the southwest into a number of large basins on the west side of the city. **Figure 5-5** shows the City's storm drainage system.

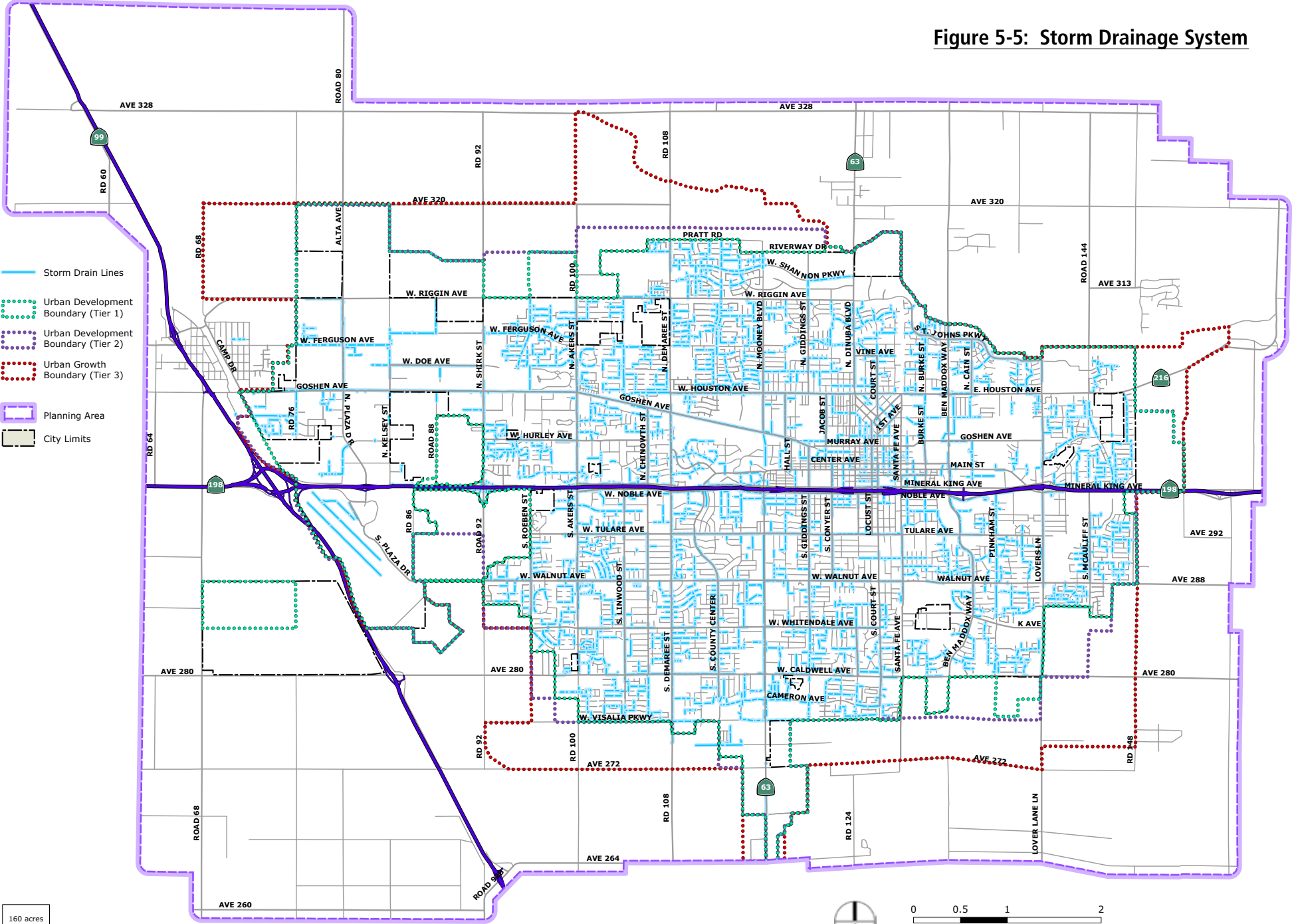
The planned system takes street and lot drainage into a storm drain pipeline system that is directed generally by gravity and augmented with lift pumps toward the main drain system. The system relies on detention basins and several retention basins to slow and divert storm water for larger storms. This allows the creeks and ditches to convey storm water both during and after a storm and permits the existing creek and ditch system to handle larger storms than would otherwise be the case. The creeks and ditches used for storm water also convey irrigation flows, a shared use system that is managed based on formal agreements between the City and irrigation agencies and companies.

The adopted Storm Water Master Plan indicates direct connection of many storm drain pipelines to creeks and ditches. Because of flat topography, the direct discharge concept in many cases has not been practical and therefore has not been implemented to the extent proposed. Currently, the City has a goal of not allowing direct new connection to creeks and ditches, with limited exceptions.

Groundwater Recharge

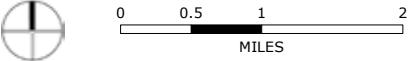
The City and the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District continue to develop ways to increase groundwater recharge capabilities. These efforts include use of the City's existing storm water basins as surface water layoff basins for groundwater recharge. Shared use of facilities including creeks and ditches in the City, as well as upstream and downstream basins, are proposed for dual use to the benefit of both groundwater recharge and storm water protection.

Figure 5-5: Storm Drainage System



160 acres
40
10

Source: City of Visalia, 2010; Tulare County, 2010; Dyett & Bhatia, 2012.



Low Impact Development

New development has the potential to cause erosion sediment and surface water run-off that will enter the City's storm drainage system. As the City expands, more area is made impervious, and urban runoff increases. In order to minimize these impacts, General Plan policies focus on requiring future development projects to minimize runoff into the City's drainage system, and establish development fees from development projects in order to pay for the construction and maintenance of the drainage system, and to increase the use of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques.

Electricity and Gas

Utilities such as electricity; natural gas; telecommunications including wireless communications, telephone, and internet; and cable television are considered common elements of contemporary life. It is necessary to ensure these services are available and adequate to meet the demands of all Visalia's residents and businesses. Southern California Edison provides electric service to Visalia residents. The electrical facilities network includes both overhead and underground lines, with new development required to install underground service lines. Natural gas service is primarily provided by the Southern California Gas Company. There are three major companies that provide communications services in Visalia: AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon. Comcast is the primary cable television and internet provider.

Solid Waste Management and Recycling

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

The City of Visalia provides refuse collection for residential customers and many commercial customers, and contracts with Sunset Waste Systems to provide recyclable material processing. Various private haulers provide refuse, recycling, and green waste to the remainder of the commercial accounts, construction sites and other cleanup jobs.

The City provides split containers for residential trash and recycling, and green waste containers for residential green waste and compostable materials. The City also actively encourages commercial recycling and provides refuse, green waste and recycling bins or boxes to the commercial accounts it services. As of 2006, Visalia also has a construction and demolition debris recycling and reuse plan requirement. The City recently inaugurated a household compost collection program.

Regionally, the Tulare County Resource Management Agency manages solid waste disposal, including household hazardous waste disposal, electronics recycling, tire recovery, yard waste recycling, metal recycling and appliance recovery programs. The county landfills approximately 300,000 tons of waste per year, equivalent to about five pounds per person per day, at three landfills, including the Visalia Landfill northwest of Visalia.

Waste Reduction

In 1989, Assembly Bill 939, the Integrated Waste Management Act (IWMA), was passed, requiring jurisdictions to meet solid waste diversion goals of 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000. In 2009, AB

Table 5-8: Waste and Recyclables Collected by the City of Visalia

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Waste Tonnage Collected</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>PPD¹</i>
2009	70,844	123,670	3.1
2008	72,917	120,958	3.3
2007	79,614	117,138	3.7
2006	81,758	110,488	4.1

(1) Calculated as pounds of waste per year/365/population.

Source: City of Visalia, 2010

737 amended the Act to require CalRecycle to adopt programs to increase statewide diversion to 75 percent by 2020. AB 737 also addresses recycling in the largely under-served commercial sector.

The Consolidated Waste Management Authority (CWMA) manages waste diversion activities for eight local area members including Tulare County and Visalia. In 2008 the CWMA achieved a rate of 5.2 pounds per person per day (PPD) of landfilled waste, and in 2009 lowered it even further to 4.4 PPD, significantly lower than the base rate of 6.2 PPD that would be required under the IWMA. The City of Visalia’s waste collection efforts have resulted in greater waste diversion than in the CWMA overall, as shown in **Table 5-8**.

Future Demand

If the generation rate were to remain constant at 3.1 pounds per person per day, City of Visalia customers would generate 325 tons of solid waste per day, or 118,810 tons per year. This does not account for waste collected by contractors. However, it should be seen as a high estimate, in light of the waste reduction trend shown in **Table 5-8**.

Objectives

Water Conservation

PSCU-0-14 Provide for long-range community water needs by adopting best management practices for water use, conservation, groundwater recharge and wastewater and stormwater management.

PSCU-0-15 Preserve groundwater resources.

Wastewater

PSCU-0-16 Ensure that adequate wastewater collection, treatment, recycling and disposal facilities are provided in a timely fashion to serve existing and future needs.

Solid Waste

PSCU-0-17 Manage solid waste such that City needs are met, opportunities for waste reduction and recycling are maximized, and high-quality service is provided.



Continue to develop and implement projects that address groundwater overdraft mitigation. The City recharged 6,000 acre-feet of water in 2010. As population continues to grow, groundwater levels will decline unless recharge is increased.

PSCU-O-18 Achieve and maintain the State’s solid waste management goals.

Policies

Water Conservation

PSCU-P-45 Continue to improve and expand the City’s Water Conservation Program, consistent with the Urban Water Management Plan as appropriate, including an active public outreach component and an online presence. The program should provide information and links to additional resources on water-efficient plumbing fixtures and planting and irrigation methods, and the development of safe and effective gray water systems. It should also maintain an up-to-date list of incentive programs.

Gray water is generally defined as untreated household waste water from bath tubs, showers, sinks, and washing machines. Gray water may be used for toilet flushing and landscaping of non-edible plants, conserving potable water resources. The most current State Plumbing Code allows single-fixture gray water systems to be installed without permits.

PSCU-P-46 Continue the City’s active role in regional and local water management planning, building on partnerships with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and participation in the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWM)

in implementing the Urban Water Management Plan and the Groundwater Management Plan. Continue to develop and implement projects that address groundwater overdraft mitigation and support additional groundwater recharge, using funds generated from the Water Resources Management and Groundwater Overdraft Mitigation Fee Ordinance and other sources. Projects may include but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of surface water rights and surface water supplies;
- Development of groundwater recharge programs and facilities;
- Reconfiguration of stormwater facilities designed to retain as much stormwater as possible within and near the City;
- Enhancement of cooperative programs with local water management agencies and companies; and
- Development of more extensive recycled water delivery systems in support of the Urban Water Management Plan.

Groundwater management, as defined by the California Department of Water Resources, is the planned and coordinated monitoring, operation, and administration of a groundwater basin or portion of a groundwater basin with the goal of long-

term sustainability of the resource. Groundwater management is conducted at the local agency level. Additional actions may be taken by local governments, such as enactment of groundwater ordinances, which the City has already done. The State's role is to provide technical and financial assistance to local agencies for their groundwater management efforts. Additional guidance on this topic is in the Urban Water Management Plan.

PSCU-P-47 Adopt and implement a Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance for new and/or refurbished development that exceeds mandated sizes, and ensure that all new City parks, streetscapes, and landscaped areas conform to the Ordinance's requirements. The Ordinance should include provisions to optimize outdoor water use by:

- Promoting appropriate use of plants and landscaping;
- Establishing limitations on use of turf including size of turf areas and use of cool-season turf such as Fescue grasses, with exceptions for specified uses (e.g., recreation playing fields, golf courses, and parks);
- Establishing water budgets and penalties for exceeding them;
- Requiring automatic irrigation systems and schedules, including controllers that incorporate weather-

based or other self-adjusting technology;

- Promoting the use of recycled water; and
- Minimizing overspray and runoff.

The Ordinance will be tailored to Visalia's needs, using the State's Model Ordinance, which the City has adopted, as a guide. It will apply to new construction and rehabilitation landscapes for public agency projects; private development projects with landscape areas of 2,500 square feet or greater that require permit, plan check or design review; and homeowner-installed projects with landscape areas of 5,000 square feet or greater that require permit, plan check or design review. The Ordinance also will include standard conditions of approval that would apply to new discretionary development approvals to improve water efficiency for existing landscapes of greater than one acre and to prevent runoff from existing landscapes due to overspray or similar conditions.

PSCU-P-48 Implement a program of irrigation water use analyses, irrigation surveys, irrigation audits or similar techniques using available technology to evaluate water use in existing City parks and landscape areas, and undertake improvements to reduce water use to a level that does not exceed the Maximum Applied Water Allowance as calculated under the Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance under Policy CO-P-3.



Visalia will continue to develop and expand the City's water recycling capacity to produce water suitable for landscape and crop irrigation.

PSCU-P-49 Establish a program to reduce water use in municipal buildings and allow use of recycled water (treated wastewater) in buildings and irrigation, as feasible and appropriate.

This program will include developing a schedule and budget for the retrofit of City buildings and irrigation systems with water conservation features and dual pumping where viable for use of recycled water.

PSCU-P-50 Require that industrial development projects submit plans for water recycling and conservation and demonstrate how water use will meet requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System during the plan review process.

PSCU-P-51 Ensure that City building plan inspectors are adequately prepared to implement the requirements of the California Green Building Code (CalGreen), including mandatory low-water-use plumbing and water meters.

PSCU-P-52 Continue development of a conveyance system to allow for the reuse of treated wastewater for groundwater recharge, irrigation for farmland, ornamental landscaping, and golf courses, and expand the use of recycled water with a "purple pipe" delivery system, to the greatest extent feasible.

PSCU-P-53 Continue to support the Tulare County Environmental Health Division in protecting groundwater by promoting responsible use, storage and disposal of household hazardous materials.

Household hazardous materials, if improperly disposed of, may infiltrate the groundwater system and impair water quality.

Wastewater

PSCU-P-54 Continue to develop and expand the City's water recycling capacity to produce water suitable for landscape and crop irrigation and trade with agricultural water users in exchange for water for groundwater recharge. Promote the development of a purple-pipe recycled water distribution system..

This policy will help reduce potable water supply needs by allowing use of recycled water for appropriate uses (e.g. landscape, irrigation) now being supplied by potable water.

PSCU-P-55 Periodically review and update development impact fees, wastewater connection charges, groundwater mitigation fees, and monthly service charges to ensure that adequate funds are collected to operate and maintain existing facilities and to construct new facilities.

PSCU-P-56 In partnership with County, State and federal agencies, work to prevent illegal wastewater and chemical disposal.

General Utilities

PSCU-P-57 Update the Water Conservation Plant Master Plan, Sewer System Master Plan, and any other specific Master Plans related to infrastructure development to ensure that existing levels of service can be maintained for proposed land uses and development densities.

PSCU-P-58 Coordinate urban growth management planning with public and private utilities. Develop and carry out an infrastructure and public services assessment during annexation reviews to determine infrastructure needs, feasibility, timing, and financing.

PSCU-P-59 Implement public facility master plans through various funding mechanisms including assessment districts, user fees, development impact fees, reimbursement agreements and/or other mechanisms which provide for equitable distribution of development costs.

Storm Drainage

PSCU-P-60 Require new developments to incorporate flood water detention basins into project designs where consistent with the Stormwater Master Plan and the Groundwater Recharge Plan.

Stormwater drainage basins can provide groundwater recharge, and may be combined with recreational uses. Additional policies for drainage basins designed for recreational use are provided in the Parks and Open Space section, which follows.

PSCU-P-61 Control urban and stormwater runoff, and point and non-point discharge of pollutants. As part of the City's Stormwater Management Program, adopt and implement a Stormwater Management Ordinance to minimize stormwater runoff rates and volumes, control water pollution, and maximize groundwater recharge. New development will be required to include Low Impact Development features that reduce impermeable surface areas and increase infiltration.

Such features may include, but are not limited to:

- Canopy trees or shrubs to absorb rainwater;
- Grading that lengthens flow paths over permeable surfaces and increases runoff travel time to reduce the peak hour flow rate;
- Partially removing curbs and gutters from parking areas where appropriate to allow stormwater sheet flow into vegetated areas;
- Use of permeable paving in parking lots and other areas characterized by significant impervious surfaces;



New development will be required to include Low Impact Development features that reduce impermeable surface areas and increase infiltration.

- On-site stormwater detention, use of bioswales and bioretention basins to facilitate infiltration; and
- Integrated or subsurface water retention facilities to capture rainwater for use in landscape irrigation and other non-potable uses.

PSCU-P-62 Update the Stormwater Master Plan to provide site-appropriate solutions that protect surface water quality in Planning Area waterways and correspond to the approach directed by the Stormwater Management Program.

Solid Waste

PSCU-P-63 Periodically evaluate the City’s solid waste management system to ensure that operations are as cost-effective as feasible.

PSCU-P-64 Develop a quadrant transfer station for the Southwest part of the City.

PSCU-P-65 Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing program for all City departments.

The program will include, but not be limited to, using post-consumer recycled paper and other recycled materials in all City operations; giving priority to vendors who provide and use recycled products; and evaluating the use of tire-derived products in public works projects.

PSCU-P-66 Continue to achieve the State waste reduction standard established for the Consolidated Waste Management Authority, and establish a more stringent local standard based on recent waste reduction trends.

Waste produced in Visalia has decreased from 4.1 to 3.1 pounds per day between 2006 and 2009. As waste management habits continue to change, and as green waste and construction waste programs expand, the City should be able to continue to make gains in waste reduction.

PSCU-P-67 Promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting to Visalia residents and business as an important way to conserve limited natural resources.

PSCU-P-68 Maintain and expand the Recycling and Source Reduction Program to serve all customer types, and to be provided by all waste collection service providers.

PSCU-P-69 Maintain and expand innovative solid waste service and programs including the City’s green waste program, the construction and demolition debris recycling and reuse program, and the food waste composting program.

PSCU-P-70 Continue the City’s partnership with the Tulare County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program and support the proper disposal of hazardous household waste and waste oil through public edu-

cation, the disposal facility, and collection services.

The City operates and staffs the HHW facility located at the Corporation Yard.

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