# CHAPTER 5 RECREATION

#### 5.1 **DEFINITION**

Recreation in the Arroyo Seco has an extensive history dating back to 1884 and the then famous Switzer's Camp. Current active and passive recreational use of the Arroyo Seco is substantial. Coordinating the balance between natural preservation and these recreational uses in the park is vital to the long-term integrity of the park. This chapter seeks to set criteria by which recreational use can successfully exist in a manner which protects the natural ecosystem of the Arroyo Seco.

This chapter is organized as follows:

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5.6.1 General Guidelines



Figure 5-1 Disc golf course in the Hahamongna Watershed Park is a popular recreational institution.



Figure 5-2 Many different types of active recreation share the facilities in the Central Arroyo Seco.

# 5.2 MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS

Multi-purpose fields are large open grass (turf) areas that can be used for a variety of uses including but not limited to active recreational sports, staging area for events, large group gatherings, temporary RV parking, and model airplane/glider flying.

#### **5.2.1** General Guidelines

- 1. Multi-purpose fields will utilize a resilient turf hybrid customized to withstand the rigors of high recreational use; and to protect groundwater will use minimal amounts of water, fertilizers, and pesticides..
- 2. Multi-purpose play fields will be designed with a public restroom in the near vicinity. Sports equipment storage shall comply with the City's Park Equipment Storage Facilities Policy in Appendix F.
- 3. Multi-purpose fields will be used for their intended primary use. The use of a multi-purpose field for parking shall be the exception rather than the norm and shall not damage the turf's ability to recover.
- 4. Multi-purpose fields shall have controlled access on at least two sides to accommodate field access by autos, equipment, and trucks.
- 5. Multi-purpose fields will have an adequate, water-conserving irrigation system that provides good head-to-head coverage.
- 6. There shall be no permanent seating around the perimeter of a multi-purpose field with the exception of historic structures.



Figure 5-3 Soccer is a popular active sport that is regularly scheduled on the multi-purpose fields of Arroyo Seco.

- 7. The perimeter of a multi-purpose field shall be protected from vehicles and trucks entering the field.
- 8. Where fields are grouped, at least one field will be supplied with electrical power for public gatherings, which complies with City code requirements.
- 9. Permanent or temporary lights are not allowed on multi-purpose fields.

# **5.2.2** Exceptions (To Standards)

- 1. Diamond #1 at Brookside Park is a baseball stadium (Jackie Robinson Baseball Stadium) where permanent seating exists and shall be restored.
- 2. The use of temporary lights in fields in the Central Arroyo sub-area is subject to the approval of the Recreation and Parks Commission.
- 3. Improvements to or the augmentation to existing permanent field lighting in the Central Arroyo sub-area are subject to the approval of the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Design Commission, and they shall be reviewed by appropriate environmental specialists for impacts on Arroyo ecosystems.

#### 5.3 SPORTS COURTS AND SPECIAL FACILITIES

Athletic sports courts and several unique recreational facilities exist and are planned in the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. These include: tennis courts, a volleyball court, and a horseshoe court.

#### **5.3.1** General Guidelines

- 1. Lighted facilities should be limited to designated high-use areas in the Central Arroyo sub-area and shall be subject to environmental evaluation and approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Design Commission.
- 2. All sports courts and special facilities shall be designed to maximize ease of maintenance and for long-term durability.
- 3. Improvements to sports courts and special facilities shall be made under the regulation and industry standard for the sport the court/facility is serving.
- 4. ADA accessibility shall be provided where feasible to all sports courts and special facilities.
- 5. Improvements to sports courts and special facilities shall be of the highest quality craftsmanship and utilize the highest quality materials.

# **5.3.2** Unique Settings

# **TENNIS COURTS**

- 1. Heavy-duty nylon nets shall be used.
- 2. A drinking fountain with the capability to fill sports bottles shall be in close proximity of the tennis courts.
- 3. Fencing improvements shall be vinyl-coated fencing in black or forest



Figure 5-4 The lighted tennis courts at Brookside Park provide an important nighttime recreational opportunity.

- green where screening is not needed; where screening on fence is needed, screening shall be forest green and meet the industry standard for this sport.
- 4. Landscaping for screening around the perimeter of the tennis courts is required and shall not interfere with play on the court.



Figure 5-5 Volleyball courts in Brookside Park.

# VOLLEYBALL COURTS

- 1. The volleyball courts shall be regulation-size.
- 2. Permanent poles for nets shall be provided on the court; permit holders can use personal net or rent net from Recreation Department.
- 3. Court surface shall not be more than six inches lower than its surroundings.

# HORSESHOE COURT

- 1. Horseshoe courts shall use wooden backstops painted forest green.
- 2. The primary surface material shall be native soil or decomposed granite (DG), but grass is also allowed.
- 3. The iron stake area shall be native soil or DG to withstand the weight of the horseshoes when thrown.

#### 5.4 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

The Arroyo Seco Plan calls for traditional children's play areas as well as "environmental play areas." Traditional play areas will have play equipment selected and installed. The environmental play areas will use natural materials in a confined space where children can learn and play.

#### **5.4.1** General Guidelines

- 1. Children's play areas shall be safe, durable, and practical to maintain and replace.
- 2. Children's play areas shall be creative, attractive, and not distract from the surrounding park ambiance.
- 3. All children's play areas shall incorporate nearby perimeter seating.
- 4. The use of natural colors appropriate to the Arroyo shall be used for the color palette for all manufactured play equipment.
- 5. The use of natural materials is strongly encouraged in all areas and required in the upper and lower Arroyo Seco.



 $Figure \ 5\text{-}6 \qquad Children's \ play \ areas \ must \ be \ able \ to \ with stand \ high \ use.$ 

# **5.4.2** Unique Settings

# TRADITIONAL CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

- 1. Play equipment colors: Color samples shall be submitted to the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Design Commission for approval prior to installation.
- 2. Use of artifical play surfaces shall be kept to a minimum. Natural materials, i.e., "Fibar" is encouraged.
- 3. Play areas and equipment shall meet current ADA standards.
- 4. The largest play equipment area in Brookside Park shall be especially innovative, take advantage of park topography, and be reviewed by the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Design Commission.

# CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL PLAY AREA

Natural materials shall be used to create innovative, active, fun, and playing and climbing areas for children.

#### 5.5 RECREATIONAL COURSES AND RANGES

A number of historical courses and ranges exist in the Arroyo Seco that have greatly contributed to the heritage of the City and the sports they represent. These recreational courses and ranges include archery, golf, par courses, the casting pond, and disc golf.

#### **5.5.1** General Guidelines

- 1. All recreational courses and ranges shall be designed to maximize ease of maintenance and provide long-term durability.
- 2. Improvements to the recreational courses and ranges in the Arroyo Seco shall be made under the regulation and industry standard for the sport the course/range is serving.
- 3. ADA accessibility shall be provided where feasible to all recreational courses and ranges.
- 4. Improvements to recreational courses and ranges shall be of the highest quality craftsmanship and utilize the highest quality materials.

# **5.5.2** Unique Settings

# **ARCHERY**

- 1. A construction detail for targets will be established.
- 2. Targets will utilize hay bales.
- 3. Trails and shooting lanes will be clearly marked; a large map of the range will provided at a central location.
- 4. The range will be landscaped utilizing plant species from the plant community it is within.
- 5. Permanent physical barriers as well as a signage program will keep other recreational users of the range separated from targets and shooting lanes and shall be reviewed by the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Design Commission.
- 6. The designated seat for the archery range is shown in Section 11.5.

# $\operatorname{GOLF}$

- 1. Golf courses shall be designed to conserve water.
- 2. Improvements to golf course landscaping shall comprise a complete native/drought-tolerant landscape.
- 3. Improvements to the perimeter fencing of the golf course shall be of quality materials and be compatible with the materials and setting of the Arroyo Seco.

# PAR COURSES

- 1. Par course stations shall be of natural, permeable materials.
- 2. Par course stations shall include signage at each station indicating a map of the overall par course circuit.
- 3. Par course stations shall not interfere with other park uses.
- 4. Par course equipment shall be attractive, well designed, and suitable for the Arroyo Seco identity and setting.





Figure 5-7 Physical fitness stations in Brookside Park should be safe and durable. Golf courses are encouraged to use plant palettes that are native and drought tolerant

# **DISC GOLF**

- 1. Baskets will be placed to minimize conflicts with other park users, vegetation, and wildlife.
- 2. A comprehensive plan for the disc golf course in the Oak Grove area of Hahamongna will be prepared by a qualified professional and reviewed by the Design Commission.
- 3. The historical elements of the existing disc golf course in the Oak Grove area of Hahamongna will be incorporated into the new course where feasible.
- 4. Each hole will have two sleeve locations for a variety of play and to mitigate any impacts to surrounding trees and vegetation.
- 5. The designated seat for the disc golf course is shown in Section 11.5.





Figure 5-8 Disc golf course in the Oak Grove area of Hahamongna Watershed Park.

# 5.6 LAKES AND PONDS

These design guidelines have been prepared for all new permanent lakes and ponds in the Arroyo Seco as well as for the existing casting pond.

# **5.6.1** General Guidelines

- 1. All lakes and ponds shall be designed to maximize ease of maintenance and provide long-term durability.
- 2. ADA accessibility shall be provided where feasible to all lakes and ponds.
- 3. Improvements to lakes and ponds shall be of the highest quality craftsmanship and utilize the highest quality of materials.
- 4. All water bodies shall be evaluated by appropriate experts.
- 5. Lakes shall be designed to minimize loss of water.

# **CASTING POND**

- 1. The casting pond in the Lower Arroyo Seco shall have a pond designed to hold water no more than 18 inches in depth.
- 2. The casting pond shall be improved and incorporate the following design guidelines:
  - The asphalt surrounding the pond will be removed and replaced with a permeable, sturdy surface that drains well and resists the elements.
  - The surface of the pond will be replaced with a material that holds water and is suitable to the Arroyo and holds water.
  - The drainage system for the pond will be improved to resolve the existing problems.
  - The aeration of the pond and collection of debris will be improved.
  - The shape and configuration of the pond should provide a more natural shape and setting.



Figure 5-9 Casting Pond in the Lower Arroyo Seco.