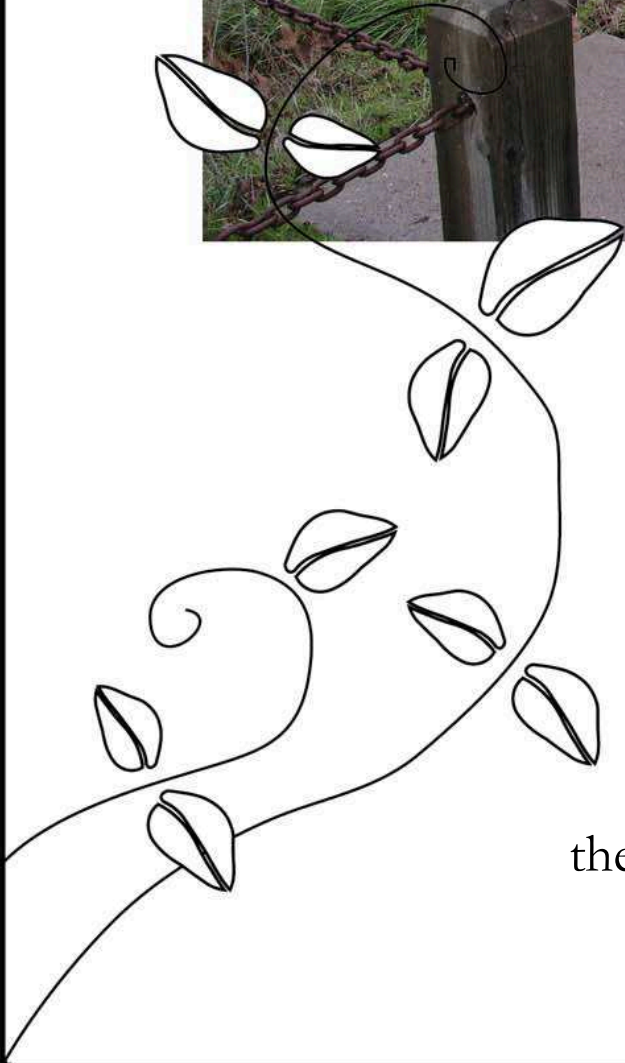




North Laguna Creek Wildlife Area



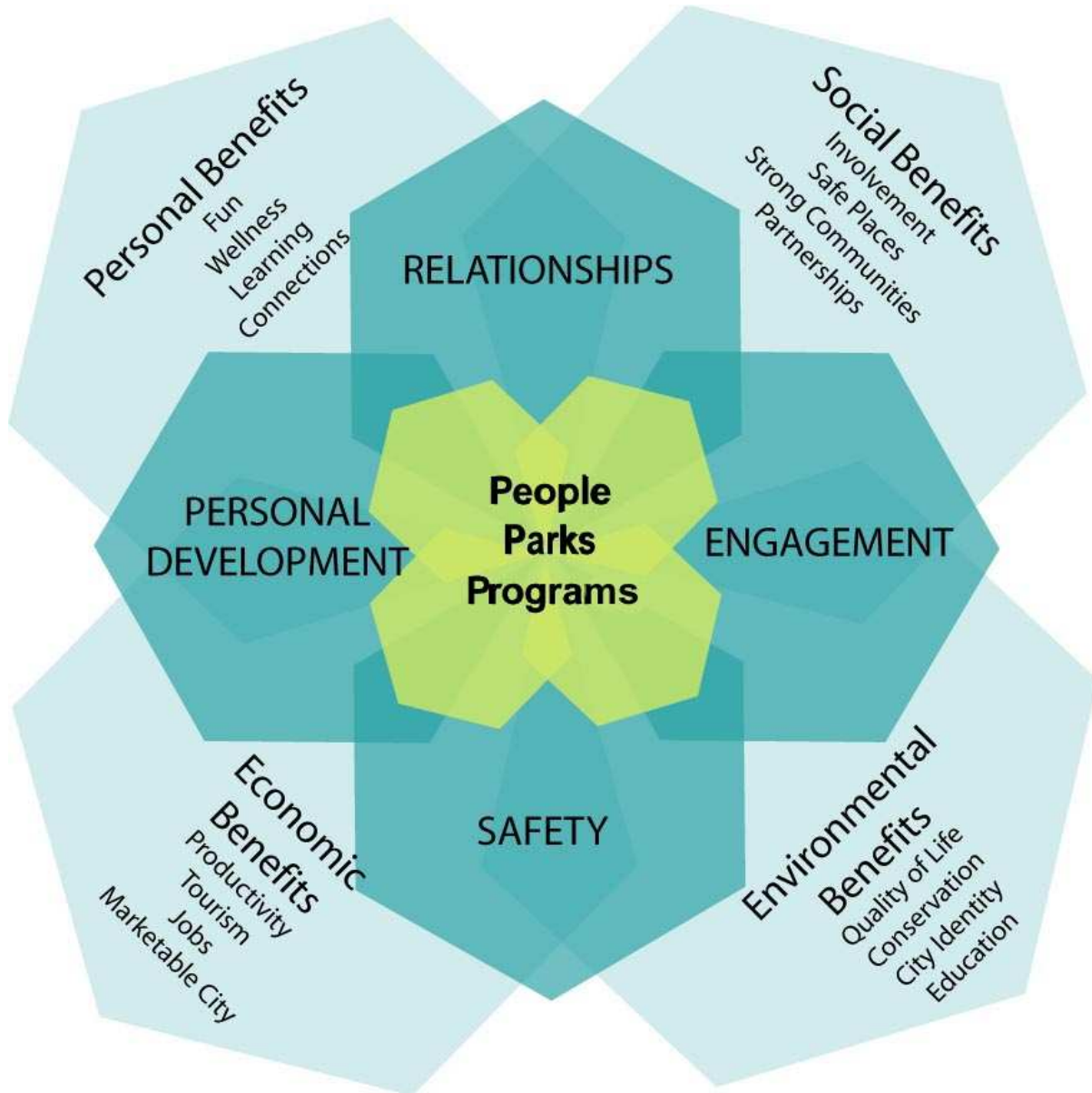
# preface

“In all things of nature,  
there is something of the marvelous.”

~Aristotle

## PREFACE

Sacramento has a growing future. *People* who come here will want and need places, *parks*, and *programs* that foster growth and development of the total human being by providing for *personal development*, positive *relationships, engagement* with their community, and physical and psychological *safety*. The human assets of Sacramento are rich and diverse, and include the people who live, learn, work, and play in California's Capital City.



Foundational Elements of Human Growth and Development Model

Four foundational elements of a model for Human Growth and Development are at the center of all that the Department of Parks and Recreation does. The Department uses this model as the foundation, or “true north,” for program development and service delivery. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as the “road map” for the future of parks and recreation services in Sacramento, the primary directional reference point oriented to these primary themes:

1. *Promoting Human Growth and Development* (or developing the City’s “Human Assets”) by providing for *Engagement, Safety, Relationships, and Personal Development*
2. *Protecting the City’s Green Infrastructure*
3. *Optimizing the Experience of Living Through People, Parks, and Programs*

From Sacramento’s parks and recreation system, the City receives significant personal, social, environmental, and economic benefits. The many unique physical assets and programs of the parks and recreation system form the *green and social “infrastructure”* of a vital, livable City. Our river corridors and other waterways, urban forest, parks, trails, bikeways, community centers, swimming pools, sports fields, golf courses, nature areas, and outdoor event venues all provide places for people to gather, celebrate, learn, connect, grow, relax, renew, and stay active. Great cities also provide people with access to the natural world close to where they live or work, and protect natural ecosystems.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan considers the many opportunities and challenges facing a city in times of growth. It was developed primarily to:

- Demonstrate the many essential personal, social, environmental and economic benefits provided by Parks and Recreation Services;
- Establish policies to guide decision making by City staff and officials regarding Parks and Recreation Services; and
- Chart the growth, direction, priorities, and agenda for the Department through the first decade of the new millennium.

Through the end of the current decade, our residents and visitors should expect many noticeable and positive results from implementation of this Master Plan, contingent on the availability of resources. The City will need the support of business, resident, and worker populations to secure these resources and therefore a bright future for Parks and Recreation Services and Sacramento’s quality of life.

The implementation of this Master Plan will be noticeable to City residents and visitors from actions that:

- Secure **new funding sources** for parks and recreation services;
- Bring more **special events** to Sacramento;
- Meet user expectations for quality **maintenance** of safe, clean, usable, and sustainable parks;
- Develop and maintain the **Sacramento Riverfront** and **American River Parkway**;
- Add more miles to a regional **trails and bikeways** system;
- Provide more ways to get **public information** about services with expanded **outreach** to ethnic communities;
- Improve **customer responsiveness and efficiency** in facility reservation and class registration;

- Expand opportunities for **volunteers** and City-Community-School **partnerships**;
- Continue investments in priority services and access for **persons with disabilities, seniors, and youth** (for youth: sports and after-school/pre-school programs);
- Improve **safety** at parks and recreation programs;
- Develop and maintain new and improved **neighborhood, community, and regional parks**;
- Incorporate **urban plazas/pocket parks** (“**Small Public Places**”) into specified infill areas where development densities are planned to increase or in park deficient neighborhoods where no large vacant parcels exist;
- Build **special interest facilities** at new or existing parks (such as community gardens, skateboard parks, and dog parks);
- Build new or expand existing **Community Centers**;
- Preserve more public **open space** with **passive recreation** uses;
- Rehabilitate **infrastructure** in the City’s parks and recreation system to protect the capital investment;
- Provide additional safe, clean **restrooms** at parks and recreation facilities;
- Use **technology** for greater management efficiency and public access to information and Department services;
- Protect and enhance **natural resources**;
- Develop and invest in **employees** dedicated to excellent public service;
- Ensure that **sustainability** concerns are incorporated into the City’s decision making process and daily activities/operations; and
- Continue to create/enhance parks, open space, and facilities that contribute to the **health and wellness** of the community.

James L. Combs  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2005

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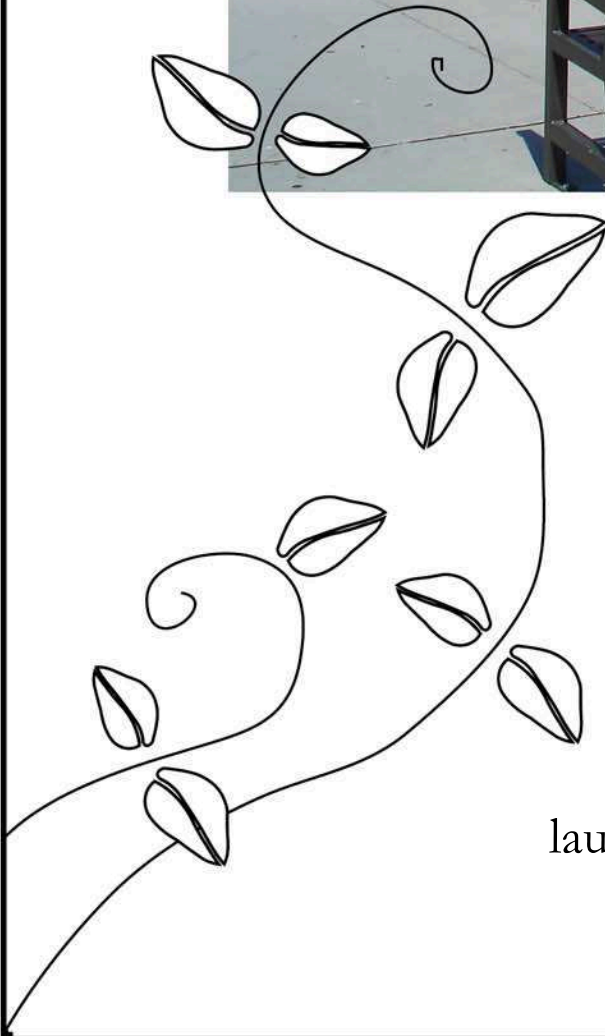


Hummingbird Park

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“Nature along with play and  
laughter will endlessly feed the soul.”

~B.M.W.



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