

4.5 Parks & Recreation

4.5.1 Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies

Performance Standard

The City's adopted Conservation/Open Space Element of its General Plan (2003) specifies a goal of three acres of open space area for 1,000 population, consistent with the Quimby Act. Municipal code sections (adopted pursuant to Government Code 66477) also set standards and a formula for dedication of park land through subdivision.

Inventory of Existing Facilities/Personnel

The primary recreational open space for the City is currently provided by City owned, operated, and managed parks. These parks presently represent about 2.54 acres per 1,000 population. The parks and open space are:

Holt Park: This park is located at the center of the City and consists of 4.13 acres encompassing one full city block. The park site is also the location of the City Hall and the Fire Department. It is a well maintained, spacious, and centrally located park utilized for a variety of functions.

Ralph Samaha Park: This park is located between 6th and 7th Streets, east of Holtville Avenue. Adjacent to this open space park is a City pool and City library. The park consists of 4.13 acres and comprises approximately 70% of a city block. The primary function of this park is to allow for active sporting activities such as baseball, football, and soccer.

Mack Park: This park is located north of 7th Street and east of the middle school and consists of approximately 5.7 acres. The park serves both as a recreational family park, as well as a sports arena park, primarily for baseball games.

The City's parks department budget essentially provides for the turf and building contract maintenance of the three City-owned local parks. Currently, the City's 13.96 acres are maintained by a Parks Maintenance Crewleader (1), and a Maintenance Worker I (1) who also runs the street sweeper every other week for four days.

The swimming pool is open when school ends for the summer and remains open until Labor Day. The City's Water Clerk arranges for lifeguards to work as part time employees at the pool. A Public Works Maintenance Worker II maintains the pool water, chemicals, and pumps. The Little League and Babe Ruth Leagues (non-profits) and a soccer league, organize their own sports activities. The City ballfields are reserved by others for use when not in use by the leagues.

Inventory of Approved Facilities/Personnel

The City has discussed the feasibility of constructing a skateboard park. The minimum size of the park would be 10,000 square feet. No particular site or funding source has yet been identified for this facility. Holt Park is slated for new playground equipment and Mack Park will likely receive a playground renovation and equipment, with the possible installation of a water park. In addition, the City would like to assume control of Earl Walker Park, which was previously a County park. Earl

Walker Park is located immediately adjacent to Evan Hewes Highway, between the highway and Alamo River. It is a small, open space park primarily utilized for overnight camping, and as a way-stop for highway travelers. The park is constructed on land leased from the railroad and the City is trying to purchase this land and preserve the park. The City is also planning to develop the New River Wetlands Project which will construct new wetlands and implement pollution control measures to improve the water quality of water discharged from the New River into the Salton Sea. The New River Wetlands Project will also improve habitat for species of plants, fish, and other wildlife, and will provide a place for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and bird watching.

There is no need for additional personnel to meet existing demand for park maintenance and services.

Year 2020 Demand for Facilities/Personnel

Based on a ratio of three acres for every 1,000 population, the Year 2020 demand would require an additional 11 acres of parkland in order to maintain the City's existing parkland performance standard.

For each additional seven acres of city parkland, an additional employee would be required. Based on this ratio, 1.5 additional employees or contract workers would be needed to maintain the City's park maintenance performance standard for Year 2020. Each additional seven acres of park area would require an additional park maintenance worker.

The Holtville General Plan (2003) includes a program for the preparation of a program to prepare an Alamo River Corridor Master Plan. This Master Plan will include plans for a new Alamo River hiking trail that will be implemented when lands surrounding the Alamo River are annexed to the City.

4.5.2 Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) has \$240,000 programmed for playground equipment for Holt Park. Improvements are being funded through a grant obtained by the State Land and Water Conservation Fund. In addition, approximately \$130,000 is budgeted annually for maintenance and operation of Holtville's parks and recreation facilities.

Revenue sources currently utilized by the City for parkland and maintenance include the general fund, developer parkland dedication or in-lieu fees, and user fees. Additional park financing will come from CDBG funds, grants, and donations. General fund and user fees fund recreation classes.

Development impact fees for new development are charged on a per-unit or square footage basis by land use type and are summarized in **Table 4.5-1**. Development impact fees for parks and recreation facilities reflect the different costs associated with different residential uses, but may not fully offset the costs incurred by the City to provide and maintain public parks. In the past, development impact fees were not frequently reviewed. The City plans to review development impact fees annually beginning FY 2005-2006.

Additional park acreage will be dedicated to the City as a condition of the approval of property subdivisions consistent with the General Plan requirement for dedication of 3.0 acres per 1,000 population or payment of an in-lieu fee (per the Quimby Act). The additional tax base resulting from development of subdivided land will yield additional revenue for funding of additional City employees to operate and maintain parkland.

Table 4.5-1
Development Impact Fee Schedule
Parks

Land Use	Park Fees
<i>Residential (per dwelling unit)</i>	
Single-family/duplex	\$88
Multifamily	\$65
Mobile Home	\$68

Source: City of Holtville, 2004.

4.5.3 Cost Avoidance Opportunities

The City has entered into a joint-use agreement with the Holtville Unified School District for the high school swim team to use the City swimming pool. The swim team helped fund the construction of the pool. This shared facility allowed the City and the school district to avoid incurring the cost of directly providing the facility.

The City recently applied for CDBG funding for a new Community Facility Center. The Center is a 6900 square foot hall with a kitchen, conference rooms, basketball courts, etc. There is an opportunity to share the construction and maintenance costs of this facility with the Holtville Unified School District.

4.5.4 Opportunities for Rate Restructuring

The City is revisiting its fee schedule for parks and recreation services to assure cost recovery of maintenance and operations expenditures.

4.5.5 Opportunities for Shared Facilities

The City has entered into a joint-use agreement with the Holtville Unified School District for the high school swim team to use the City swimming pool. Recently, the City applied for CDBG funding for a new Community Facility Center. The Center is a 6900 square foot hall with a kitchen, conference rooms, basketball courts, etc. There is an opportunity to share the construction and maintenance costs of this facility with the Holtville Unified School District.

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