

Dear Envision 2040 Task Force Members:

At the July, 2009 Envision 2040 Task Force meeting, many questions were expressed about San Jose's park lands compared to other cities, nationally, regionally and locally. The tables that follow the result of a month's worth of data mining among the general and strategic plans of cities throughout the nation. All sources are available.

Sometimes data from one source did not match another source precisely. Data was from multiple years in the past decade were used; parklands were acquired and populations grew. Conclusions about San Jose's competitive position are unaffected by these minor deviations.

Sincerely,
Jean Dresden

Park Acres Standards Used for Fees in Local Communities

San Jose is modestly below average with 3.0 acres. This is below San Jose's goal of 3.5 acres per 1000 for neighborhood serving parkland. Park staff shared at July Envision 2040 Task Force meeting that this fee level usually achieves a net rate of 1.5 acres per thousand due to the cost of developing the parks.

Table 1.

Park Acres Standards Used for Fees in Local Communities

<u>Santa Clara County</u>		<u>San Mateo County (cont.)</u>	
Campbell - a	3.0	Foster City - a	5.0
Mountain View - a	3.0	Menlo Park - a	5.0
Palo Alto (new) - b	5.0	Millbrae - a	5.0
San Jose - d	3.0	Mtn. View - a	3.0
Sunnyvale (new) - c	3.0	Pacifica - a	5.0
<u>San Mateo County</u>		San Bruno - a	4.5
Belmont - a	5.0	San Carlos - a	2.5
Brisbane - a	4.5	San Mateo - a	2.0
Daly City - a	3.0	So. S.F. - a	3.0
East Palo Alto - a	3.0	Average	3.8

- Sources:
- a: Sunnyvale Baseline Financial Analysis July 2008
 - b: Palo Alto Council minutes 6-2-08
 - c: San Jose Mercury, July 29, 2009
 - d: San Jose PDO/PIO ordinance

Most Dense U.S. Cities: Park Acres Per Thousand Residents

When compared to the most dense cities in the United States, San Jose's park acreage is in the bottom third beating only New York, Chicago and Miami. San Jose is not high density city and the data was appended to the report. San's Jose's acreage number includes County Parks and Open Space Authority lands bur not Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge.

Table 3.

Ten Most Populous U.S. Cities : Park Acreage per Thousand Residents

	<u>Neighborhood Serving</u>		<u>City Serving Parkland</u>	<u>All agencies</u>	<u>School (if included) -c</u>	<u>MOU</u>
	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>City owned</u>			
New York City	1.5	Manhattan > 1.5	3.6	4.6	0.0	
Los Angeles	3.6	1.0	4.0	8.2	0.0	
Chicago	-	0.9	2.7	4.0	<< 0.2	yes
Houston	3.6	2.3	19.9	30.4	0.0	
Phoenix	-	1.7	26.1	27.2	0.0	
Philadelphia	-	-	7.0	7.5	0.0	
San Antonio	-	1.5	13.8	14.5	0.0	
Dallas	-	1 park/5000	17.9	17.9	-	
San Diego	2.8	2.2	31.1	36.0	0.2	yes
San Jose	1.5a	1.6b	3.6	5.1	1.4	a few - d

Sources: Compiled from General and Strategic Plans

Notes:

- a. Goal for San Jose's city owned land. Schools expected to provide additional 2.0 acres per thousand.
- b. Includes portions of regional parks and trails
- c. School Acres reported if city claims credit for park/neighborhood serving.
- d. For San Jose only a few MOUs are in place but all public K-8 schools are included as park land.

Eight Major West Coast Cities: Acres Per Thousand Residents

Among eight major west coast cities, only Sacramento and San Jose are dependent upon school acreage as park land. Both report using portions of regional parks and trails in calculations of neighborhood serving parklands. Other cities either do not include or do not report.

San Jose has the lowest goal of city-owned neighborhood parkland. San Jose's total parkland from all agencies is lowest among these 8 cities. Nearly all cities report the importance of parks nearby. Sacramento reports preference for adding to existing parks. San Francisco reports land acquisition goals as part of specific plans, connectivity and wildlife corridors and walking time: 5 minutes to a tot lot and 10 minutes to other amenities. Seattle's goals are village specific and related to density formulas.

Major U.S. Cities: Park Acres Per Thousand Residents.

San Jose is 47th of 54 Cities for city-owned park acres per thousand. Some of the other low acreage cities are served by other agencies, such as Washinton DC and Chicago. When park acreage from other agencies are added to San Jose's city-owned lands, San Jose moves to 44th place. Since the largest acreages are much different from the smallest, the median is a better measure than average. The median city-owned acreage is 9.7 acres per thousand.

Table 6.

Major U.S. Cities: Park Acres Per Thousand Residents.

City owned lands only. Includes Major Parks.

	<u>Acres/1000</u>		<u>Acres/1000</u>
Albuquerque	63.0	Mesa, AZ	5.9
Arlington TX	12.9	Miami	3.1
Atlanta	8.8	Milwaukee	16.3
Austin	25.4	Minneapolis	14.3
Baltimore	7.6	Nashville	18.0
Boston	4.0	New York	3.6
Chicago	2.7	Oakland	5.2
Cincinnati	20.5	Oklahoma City	27.8
Cleveland	5.4	Omaha	26.2
Colorado Springs	23.1	Philadelphia	7.3
Columbus	14.5	Phoneix	26.2
Dallas	17.9	Pittsburgh	8.7
Denver	13.1	Portland, OR	19.6
Detroit	6.5	Sacramento	8.0
El Paso	3.1	San Antonio	13.8
Fort Worth	17.8	San Diego	31.1
Fresno	3.5	San Francisco	5.2
Honolulu	5.9	San Jose	3.7
Houston	9.9	Seattle	10.5
Indianapolis	13.7	St. Louis	8.7
Jacksonville	96.7	Tampa	9.4
Kansas City, MO	26.5	Toledo	7.2
Las Vegas	5.7	Tucson	5.5
Long Beach	5.8	Tulsa	15.6
Los Angeles	4.0	Virginia Beach	10.5
Louisville	21.3	Washington DC	1.7
Memphis	7.2	Wichita	12.2
		Average = 14.3	
		Median = 9.7	

Source: Center for Park Excellence, Trust for Public Land, FY 2005