

# CHAPTER VIII

## RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### **GOALS:**

*Brisbane will be a place where...*

*Recreational opportunities and facilities allow residents and businesses to join together for play, health and learning;*

*Academic, recreational and artistic education and guidance of the young is valued;*

*Residents and businesses share resources and assist one another; and*

*Residents and families with special needs are supported.*



**RECREATION COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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## CHAPTER VIII

# RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Some call Brisbane 'The City That Grew Out of the Depression.' But many of us call it, 'The City With A Heart.' We've had a lot of dissension here, but to me it reminds me of a big family. In most big families, the brothers and sisters argue, but when the chips are down, they have a heart."

Dorothy Radoff  
City Historian

*A Spirit of Independence<sup>(1)</sup>*

Recreation and Community Services are very important to the Brisbane Community. It is through interaction and participation in recreational programs, community events and volunteer activities that members of the community get to know each other and share a common purpose.

By providing and assisting other providers to offer quality programs, by encouraging and supporting volunteer activities and by meeting special needs, the City establishes an environment that expresses concern for the well-being, education and safety of its citizens.

This chapter has several components: It examines the community's needs for recreational and educational facilities; it establishes policies to provide such facilities; and it identifies special needs that must be addressed, including those of seniors and youth.

### VIII.1 RECREATIONAL /EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

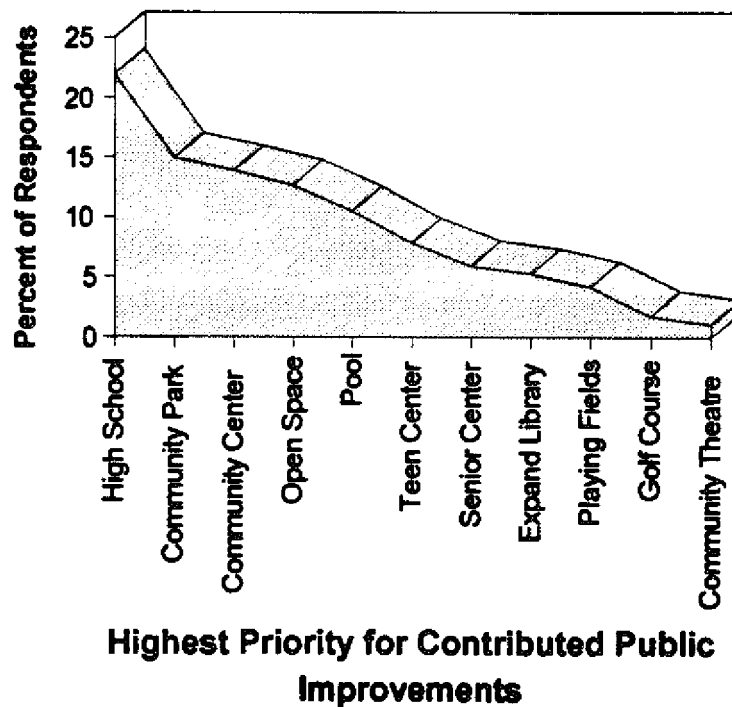
#### Recreational Facilities

The City, although surrounded by vast open space for outdoor recreation, owns very few facilities where active recreation can take place. In fact, the playground and adjacent tennis court at Kids 'n Things Children's Center, the Marina and its fitness course and fishing piers, Firth Park and the Brisbane Community Center are the City's only holdings.<sup>(2)</sup> Under a joint use agreement with the Brisbane School District, the City is allowed to use the District's youth baseball and multipurpose playing fields and junior high school gymnasium. The City also rents land for a softball field at Sierra Point. As part of the Northeast Ridge conditions of approval, funds have been deposited for new recreational facilities, although operation of the facilities will be dependent on the City's ability to budget for annual operating costs. The challenge during this General Plan period will be to maintain and improve existing facilities and to maximize opportunities to add new facilities.

As a part of the General Plan alternatives survey, respondents were asked to state their preferences for public facilities that could be donated to the community. Figure VIII-A illustrates the voter responses. The top choices were a high school, a community park and a community center. Some progress has already been made toward obtaining a community park and a community center, both of which are generally considered "passive" recreational facilities, available for classes or gatherings rather than for basketball or team efforts. A public community center has been approved on the Northeast Ridge, the development of a community park at the Old County Road site is currently underway and a fund has been established for a swimming pool. A City Council subcommittee is studying the City's facility needs and potential locations.

**FIGURE VIII-A**

**Response to Voter Survey**



**Policy 94**      **Facilitate a public process to set priorities and establish the ability to operate active and passive recreational facilities.**

**Policy 95**      **Provide recreational facilities that accommodate community activities, meet national standards, are accessible in accordance with State and National standards, and contain the necessary components for multiple uses and community enjoyment.**

*Program 95a: Prepare a list of public facilities available for community uses, the hours they are open to the public, and the requirements for use. Periodically update and distribute the facility list throughout the community.*

**Policy 96**      **Condition, as appropriate, new developments to construct, maintain or provide for new recreational facilities, amenities and opportunities.**

**Policy 96.1**    **Consider adopting a policy to require a percentage set aside for art as part of any development project.**

**Policy 97**      **Encourage the development of private sector recreational facilities, such as commercial playing fields, bowling alleys, health clubs, performing arts facilities and theaters.**

**Policy 98**      **Maximize the extended use of existing public facilities for year-round and evening activities.**

**Policy 99**      **For all recreational facilities, consider the inclusion of restrooms, drinking fountains, pay phones, security lighting, adequate parking, storage, facilities for trash recycling and, where appropriate, food preparation and/or vending/concession facilities.**

**Policy 100**    **Investigate opportunities for joint public-private development of commercial recreational facilities.**

*Program 100a: Develop a needs analysis for recreational facilities including a study of various means of funding the acquisition, as well as the operation and maintenance of the facilities.*

*Program 100b: Consider a recreation impact fee program for all new development.*

*Program 100c: Encourage new commercial development and renovation to include shower and locker room facilities in order to promote employees' physical fitness, encourage use of public and private recreational opportunities in the community, and reduce dependence on the automobile for transportation..*

*Program 100d: Discuss with the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, YWCA or other non-profit youth agency the feasibility of a youth activity center to serve Brisbane and other neighboring cities.*

### **Educational Facilities**

Brisbane has two neighborhood schools: Brisbane Elementary School, built in the 1930s, serves 532 school children from kindergarten to fifth grade and Lipman Middle School serves 180 sixth to eighth grade students from both Brisbane Elementary and Panorama Elementary, located in Daly City. The local schools are strongly supported by volunteers, service clubs, parents groups (the Brisbane/Lipman School Community Club), the Brisbane Educational Support Team (B.E.S.T.) and the general population. When students graduate from Lipman, they attend - one of the high schools in the Jefferson Union High School District or go to private schools. The distance to and lack of community identification with these schools often makes the transition to high school difficult. The General Plan alternatives survey results showed a high school in Brisbane to be of the highest priority to respondents. Also, post-secondary educational facilities like UCSF on the vacant Baylands were supported by 64% of those surveyed.

**Policy 101      Maintain the neighborhood school concept for all children, from kindergarten through high school in Brisbane.**

**Policy 102      Encourage development of post-secondary educational facilities in Brisbane.**

**Policy 103      Work collaboratively with the Brisbane School District to provide neighborhood schooling and comprehensive services for children and their families and the general public.**

*Program103a: Establish a City Council subcommittee to work jointly with the Brisbane Elementary School District and the Jefferson High School District and other entities to determine the feasibility of and make recommendations regarding a high school in Brisbane.*

*Program 103b: Establish a City Council subcommittee to promote and encourage educational facilities to locate in Brisbane.*

*Program103c: Develop a program to require impact and mitigation fees from developers, as appropriate, for constructing and/or operating a local high school.*



*Program 103d: Continue and expand joint use of facilities with the Brisbane School District and encourage and assist the District, as feasible, in upgrading the conditions of school grounds and multi-use spaces.*

*Program 103e: Consider a Joint Powers Agreement or other appropriate arrangement with the Brisbane School District, in order to develop, maintain and program recreational facilities.*

*Program 103f: Develop and implement with the Brisbane School District a program for year-round and evening use of public recreational facilities.*

## **VIII.2 RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

The City of Brisbane has taken a leadership role in providing recreational and community programming. However, as discussed above, the facilities currently available are very limited. The General Plan alternatives survey showed that citizens desired more active recreation, such as a pool, playing fields, golf course and community theatre. However, these choices for active recreation, as reflected in the survey, were secondary to the desire for a high school, community park and community center.

Existing recreational and community programming has evolved with collaborative and responsive input from residents, the School District and businesses. Programs for children and seniors are a priority, as are community-wide events which bring the residents and families together in celebration.

### **Programs and Events**

- Policy 104** Provide all businesses and residents, especially youth and seniors, with a variety of enjoyable social, leisure, recreational, cultural and artistic opportunities that are accessible, affordable, safe, uncrowded and physically attractive.
- Policy 105** Consider public needs in the creation and design of recreational, artistic, cultural, environmental, educational and civic programs.
- Policy 106** Assist children in determining where their interests and talents lie.
- Policy 107** Provide children with environments in which they can be successful and recognized.
- Policy 108** Develop programs which nurture self esteem, inspire academic excellence, encourage physical and emotional growth and unleash creativity.

*Program 108a: Conduct an annual public hearing on recreational, artistic, cultural, environmental, educational and civic programming in order to obtain public input.*

*Program 108b: Provide adults with the opportunity for active recreation and team sports competition through the adult sport leagues.*

*Program 108c: Organize special events, including fun runs, volleyball and tennis tournaments.*

*Program 108d: Provide special interest classes, workshops and seminars, such as nutrition, exercise, dance, health, etc.*

*Program 108e: Coordinate, plan, organize and supervise special community events.*

*Program 108f: Publish, in conjunction with the City Council, a quarterly newsletter of City services, information and events.*

### **Pre-School and School-Age Activities**

**Policy 109 Collaborate with the Brisbane School District in developing elementary and junior high age recreation programs which encourage strong and vital physical conditioning, teach sports, provide opportunities for league competition, inspire artistic creativity, provide opportunities for performances and exhibits, and enrich cultural experiences and encourage civic awareness and service.**

*Program 109a: Provide a comprehensive recreation program for preschool and school-age youth, which includes sports instruction, recreational activities, and social and artistic classes.*

*Program 109b: Provide school-age youth with special activities during school vacations, holidays, and other breaks which provide for artistic, physical, academic and social growth.*

*Program 109c: Consider providing youth special interest programs, including artists in residence, sports coaching and education enrichment.*

*Program 109d. Continue to support the pre-school age childcare programs and the school-age before and after school care programs at Brisbane Elementary School.*

*Program 109e: Work with the School District to develop additional transportation for students who participate in after school programs so that all students have the opportunity to participate.*

### **Seniors' Activities**

Senior Citizens in Brisbane are a valuable community resource, and they are respected for their knowledge, history and community contributions. The 1990 Census shows that 9.4% of all persons living in Brisbane are 65 years and older, and another 11.9% are 62-65 years old. Many seniors live in one-person households, which make up one-third of all households in Brisbane. Of these, 22% include a member - over the age of 65.<sup>(3)</sup>

#### **Policy 110    Include seniors in the on-going development and delivery of specialized programs.**

*Program 110a: Sponsor a periodic recreation and social needs survey of senior citizens to investigate the range of needs and interests in the senior community.*

*Program 110b: Organize social and cultural outings and provide transportation for senior citizens.*

*Program 110c: Provide a local referral program that provides information on educational, economic, recreational, nutritional and social opportunities for seniors and work with service clubs, churches, and the community to collaboratively provide specific services, assistance and support.*

*Program 110d: Provide financial and physical (meeting space and transportation) assistance to promote the continued independent operation of the Brisbane Senior Club.*

*Program 110e: Encourage and offer programs that foster opportunities for intergenerational, cultural and ethnic exchanges between seniors and children.*

*Program 110f: Investigate the development of a facility that provides dedicated time for expanded senior programming.*

*Program 110g: Provide recreational programs that appeal to a wide range of interests for Brisbane seniors.*

### **Teen Activities**

Teens between the ages of 12 and 19 are recognized as this community's young adults and comprise 5.9% of Brisbane's population.

**Policy 111     Develop and offer artistic, cultural, recreational and social programs to meet the special needs of teens.**

**Policy 112     Provide recreational and social opportunities for Brisbane teens to meet teens from surrounding communities.**

*Program 112a: Consider the creation of a Youth Advisory Council composed of a representative cross-section of teenagers.*

*Program 112b: Provide a local information and referral program for teens regarding after school and summer employment, crisis counseling, educational, recreational, artistic and social opportunities, and work with service clubs, churches and the community to provide assistance, guidance and support.*

*Program 112c: Provide a variety of paid and volunteer after school and summer job opportunities for teens.*

*Program 112d: Investigate and develop a facility that provides dedicated time for teen programming.*

*Program 112e: Consider amendments to the requirements for qualifications to serve as a Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commissioner to allow teens to apply for appointment to the Commission.*

### **Marina Activities**

**Policy 113     Enhance and promote the recreational opportunities of the Marina facilities and the shoreline.**

*Program 113a: Consider new recreational and educational programs to encourage and enhance opportunities for residents to more fully utilize the amenities of the Marina and shoreline.*

## **VIII.3 SPECIAL NEEDS**

Brisbane retains the most important characteristic of a small town: its willingness to help a neighbor in need. While in larger cities the government performs this service, in Brisbane, many residents see themselves as primarily responsible. In keeping with this

spirit, the City government views its role as a partner with volunteers in the community offering its organization and leadership so that the needs of children, teens, and seniors can be collaboratively addressed.

**Policy 114 Promote and encourage volunteer efforts of neighbors, friends, families, churches, and services clubs to serve the needs of the community.**

*Program 114a: Serve as a liaison to service clubs, churches, families, etc., regarding events, services or conflict resolution and by facilitating ongoing forums for the planning and coordination of community events and activities*

*Program 114b: Collaborate with community service organizations when appropriate, such as by co-sponsoring events, to enhance the service they provide to residents.*

**Childcare**

In 1990, 20% of all residents in Brisbane were under the age of 18. Brisbane wishes to be a community which promotes children's well-being and recognizes their special needs. The spirit of Brisbane has always nurtured and supported its youth. The community's commitment is reflected in the old African proverb, "It takes an entire village to raise a child."

More than two-thirds of the women and three-fourths of the men in Brisbane are in the labor force. Of the children who live with one or both parents, it is estimated that 65% have no parent at home during the work day. For children under 6 years of age, this statistic is 57%. It is estimated that 12.8% of the children under 18 years of age in Brisbane are living below the poverty level. These statistics indicate that many children are without needed resources, supervision or guidance. Clearly, the City, businesses, schools, churches, service clubs and other organizations need to be committed to providing childcare alternatives for children when their parent or parents are at work.

**Policy 115 Encourage the efficient use of school facilities and grounds for before and after school and vacation programs to serve the school-age population, pre-school programming and the community at large.**

*Program 115a: Investigate available programs that provide opportunities for affordable childcare for low-income families and provide this information to the public.*

*Program 115b: Provide information to assist childcare providers to establish facilities and obtain licenses.*

*Program 115c: Investigate provisions for drop-in, after-school recreation opportunities for youth.*

*Program 115d: Establish a local information and referral service for parents seeking licensed childcare information.*

*Program 115e: Work with the School District to promote the use of school impact fees for childcare facilities/services.*

### **Residents with Mobility and Self Care Limitations, the Frail Elderly and the Disabled**

As stated above in the section entitled "Senior Activities," the 1990 Census shows that 9.4% of all persons living in Brisbane are 65 years and older, and another 11.9% are between 62 and 65 years old. Many seniors live in one-person households, which make up one-third of all households in Brisbane. Of these, 22% are over the age of 65. Thus, the proportion of persons over 65 years of age among those living alone is twice that of the proportion of persons over 65 years of age among the entire population. While the majority of people below the poverty level were between 18 and 64 years of age, there was a disproportionate number of 65-74 year olds below the poverty level compared to the general population. The Census data also shows that approximately 11% of persons ages 16-64 years have mobility/self care limitations. Approximately 40% of those age 65 years old or older have mobility/self-care limitations.

**Policy 116     Recognize the special needs of the frail elderly, the disabled and their caregivers by promoting activities that foster independence, support and understanding.**

**Policy 117     Develop recreational, social, nutritional, security, cultural and artistic programs, in consultation with the frail elderly and the disabled, which promote independent living.**

*Program 117a: Provide local information and referral for the frail elderly and the disabled that assists them in accessing County and community services for food, shelter, transportation, personal assistance, and nutritional or other special needs.*

*Program 117b: Work jointly with volunteers, service clubs, churches, families and the community to collaborate on ways to provide services, assistance and support to those with special needs.*

*Program 117c: Provide local information and referrals that support the families and caregivers of the frail elderly and the disabled.*

*Program 117d: Provide opportunities for intergenerational and able/disabled activities and exchanges.*

*Program 117e: Expand police programs to check on the welfare of the frail elderly and the disabled*

*Program 117f: Develop programs to enhance safety and security for those with special needs.*

## FOOTNOTES

1. H1-1, p. 46
2. See OS-1 for an inventory of recreational/open space resources, including ownership of such resources in the planning area.
3. See Housing Element for information on housing needs and programs for seniors.