
Greater Vallejo Recreation District

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE: Introduction
POLICY NUMBER: 0000

History: The Greater Vallejo Recreation District is a public service agency created by the people through the use of a government structure for the purpose of providing recreational facilities and programs and conserving the recreational resources of the area.

In 1935, the Vallejo Planning Commission took as one of its first major responsibilities the task of studying recreation opportunities in Vallejo. The Vallejo Recreation Commission began active operation on January 1, 1937. The first chairman was John Alltucker and the Commission included Mrs. Charles A. Hicks, Elsa Widenmann, Julia Beede, Luther Gibson, Ernie Wichels and Opal Ralston.

As the result of an election by the people on July 14, 1944, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District was formed and went into operation in 1945. The first District advisory board members appointed were: Oscar E. Setterquist, chairman; Stanley L. Lathen, W. W. Neil, John Alltucker, Marie T. Dunklee, Frank O. Bell and Hubert Hilton.

On December 11, 1958, the Board of Directors unanimously passed a joint resolution to bring the District under the provisions of Chapter 4 of the Public Resources Code, thereby raising the tax limit from 25 cents to 50 cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation; however, a change to the taxing ability of the District through passage of Proposition 13 in June 1978 eliminated the tax rate previously utilized.

Today, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who are appointed for four-year terms. Three members are appointed by the Vallejo City Council and two members are nominated by the supervisors of Districts 1 and 2 and approved by the Solano County Board of Supervisors.

In 2004, having celebrated its sixtieth anniversary of service to the community, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District encompasses over 65 square miles and includes 1,061 acres of land, 345 acres of which are developed park lands, and recreational/cultural facilities of diverse use, type and location throughout the City of Vallejo.

Mission Statement: Building community and enhancing quality of life through people, parks, and programs.

Goal: The goal of the District is to help enrich and fulfill the lives of the citizens through the provision of facilities and programs that will provide and enhance creative, wholesome and imaginative leisure-time living patterns.

Objectives: The Greater Vallejo Recreation District strives to meet its goal by means of achieving the following objectives:

- Adopting a well-considered overall plan of recreation facilities for the entire community;
- Acquiring and reserving land for recreation facilities;
- Complying with space standards for recreation facilities and acquiring land, even though the limited financial resources of the recreation agency oblige it to delay complete development, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities;
- Dedicating and holding inviolate in perpetuity the lands of recreation sites, whether they be playgrounds, parks or specialized facilities, and protecting these lands against invasion by inappropriate uses;
- Accompanying the preparation of the comprehensive Master Plan, with financial planning for the acquisition, design, development, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities;
- Keeping the location, size and design of facilities flexible in order that they may be readily adaptable to the changing requirements of the population it serves;
- Relating activities to the physical, mental, social and emotional characteristics of the people to be served;
- Reflecting the community's customs, traditions, interests and unique characteristics and resources;
- Planning and organizing, whenever possible, to encourage family participation;
- Fostering activities for children and youth that will provide a basis for their recreation later on as adults;
- Encouraging participants to share extensively in planning, conducting and evaluating their recreation experiences;
- Introducing activities that individuals may continue on their own;
- Utilizing all recreation resources in and out of the community, including the appreciative use of areas of natural beauty and places of historical and cultural significance;
- Including activities co-sponsored with other agencies, and cooperating with community organizations in appropriate programs.

Description of Greater Vallejo Recreation District: Beginning at the common corner between Sonoma County, Napa County and Solano County, said common corner is the northwest corner of Vallejo Township in Solano County; thence east along the boundary between Napa and Solano Counties to an angle in the county boundary; thence northerly along said County boundary to the south line of Section 28, T.4N, R3W, MDM; thence east along the south line of said Section 28 and continuing along the south line of Section 27T4N, R3W, MDB, to the common corner between Green Valley, Benicia and Vallejo Townships; thence southeasterly, southwesterly, northwesterly and southwesterly along the boundary between Benicia and Vallejo Townships to the boundary between Contra Costa County and Solano County; thence westerly along the boundary between Contra Costa County and Solano County to the common corner between Contra Costa County, Marin County, Sonoma County and Solano County; thence northwesterly along the boundary between Sonoma County and Solano County to the place of beginning.

In 1988, GVRD boundaries were amended by the Sky Valley annexation which increased the District's boundaries by 548.36 acres, more or less, of regional open space (excluding golf course lands) which will be preserved in its natural state for recreation uses (i.e., trails, trailheads, general open space, grazing and vegetation management programs).