

## 6. Open Space and Recreation

### *Background*

*The City-owned and maintained Martin Luther King, Jr. Park is centrally located within the neighborhood on Sheridan Avenue and West Street. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-cultural Center is located immediately adjacent to the park and shares a parking lot. The 3.3-acre park is currently improved with perimeter lighting, irrigated turf, a softball practice field, a barbeque area, picnic tables, play equipment, a paved basketball court, and the small shared parking area. Recently, a memorial ornamental garden area to honor a local civic leader was dedicated within the Park. The Park serves as a playground for the children utilizing the MLK Center after-school program as well as the toddlers attending the Shasta County Office of Education Preschool operating out of the Center. Neighborhood residents are among the most common park users. During the neighborhood planning meetings, a general opinion was expressed that the Park might better serve the neighborhood with the addition of new features. To determine the extent of current park usage, a park survey was made available for 60 days at the Center as well as distributed door-to-door in the neighborhood. On November 29, 2001, a public meeting was held at the Center to discuss the park, potential improvements, and other issues related to use of the Center facilities. Information gathered through these two forums indicated that additional amenities were desired by the neighborhood. Suggested improvements include a children's water play area; a perimeter walking path; additional benches; and additional landscaping to provide shaded areas.*

*The City recently initiated a long-range, City-wide park master planning process directed to analyze and plan for current and future park and recreational needs throughout the community. Connection of the MLK, Jr. Park facility to an extension of a City-wide recreational trail system down the Linden Canyon is anticipated at some point in the future.*

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### **Objective REC-1:**

**High Priority**

#### **Develop a neighborhood-based master plan for the MLK, Jr. Park.**

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### **Action Steps**

- Work with City park planners and neighborhood residents to determine park improvements most desired by neighborhood. Consideration should be given to expanding the park's size so as to accommodate other desirable features. (RRA, RHD, RCS, OWN, RES, MLKC, MNA)
  - Involve the neighborhood youth in the designing of the park plan. (RRA, RHD, RCS, OWN, RES, MLKC, MNA)
  - Develop volunteer and community service partners willing to assist with park improvements and park maintenance. (RRA, RHD, RCS, OTH, OWN, RES, MLKC, MNA)
  - Identify and secure funding for desired improvements. (RRA, RHD, RCS, OTH, MLKC, MNA)
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**Objective REC-2:**

**Medium Priority**

**Involve the neighborhood in the planning and implementation of recreational programs offered at the MLK, Jr. Center.**

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**Action Steps**

- Solicit neighborhood participation in planning all Center events. (MLKC, RES)
  - Provide opportunities at all Center events for a diverse population, both ethnically and by age, to enjoy and participate in. (MLKC, RES)
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**Objective REC-3:**

**Medium Priority**

**Increase the resident representation on the Shasta County Multi-Cultural Center Board of Directors.**

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**Action Steps**

- Conduct outreach to educate the neighborhood residents about the Center, its function, and opportunities for individual participation on the Board. (MLKC, RES)