

The General Plan Land Use Diagram illustrates three options for sites for new post-secondary education facilities to support the economic development strategy discussed in the Economic Development Element.

## GUIDING POLICIES

- PSCF-G-4 *Support efforts to provide superior public and private educational opportunities for all segments of the population.*
- PSCF-G-5 *Place schools at the core of new neighborhoods and co-locate parks and school sites where possible.*
- PSCF-G-6 *Advocate the development of post-secondary education institutions.*

## IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

- PSCF-I-19 Cooperate with local school districts to ensure that educational facilities with sufficient permanent capacity are constructed to meet the needs of current and projected student enrollment and required infrastructure is constructed when needed.
- PSCF-I-20 Amend the Subdivision Ordinance to require reservation of school sites, as shown on the General Plan Land Use Diagram, for school district acquisition for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed five years.
- PSCF-I-21 Establish zoning and development incentives for developers who provide sites to accommodate higher education institutions.

## 5.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities are the network of public and private institutions that support the civic and social needs of the population. They offer a variety of recreational, artistic, and educational programs and special events. New community facilities are not specifically sited on the General Plan Land Use Diagram. Small-scale facilities are appropriately sited as integral parts of neighborhoods and communities, while existing larger-scale facilities are generally depicted as public/semi-public land use, as appropriate.



Porterville Heritage Center

Other types of important social and community services, such as child day care and elder care, are provided by the private sector and Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency.

These facilities in Porterville can be grouped into the following categories:

- *Community Centers.* These facilities are designed to meet the needs of the population for civic meetings, recreational activities, social gatherings, and cultural events. These facilities may be located in Community Parks.
- *Museums and Galleries.* These facilities house scientific and historical exhibits or offer space for artistic performances and presentations. The Porterville Historical Museum was founded in 1965 and is housed in the former Southern Pacific depot, constructed in 1913. The Zalud House, a historic site built in 1891, is also open to the public.
- *Civic Buildings.* This category of community facilities includes City and County administrative and public buildings. City Hall is currently located at 291 N. Main Street. The Tulare County Courts system is currently maintains a courthouse at 87 East Morton Avenue, Porterville. Plans are underway to expand and relocate the courthouse.
- *Libraries.* These facilities house literary, artistic, and reference materials for public use and circulation. The City of Porterville owns and maintains two public library facilities that provide library resources for residents and businesses within the community. Porterville City Library is a member of the San Joaquin Valley Library System, a library consortium. Member libraries are integrated into a common patron database which provides a common computer system platform, technical support, and facilitates the sharing of collection materials within the San Joaquin Valley. Libraries are located at 41 W. Thurman Avenue and at 256 E. Orange Avenue. Porterville's Library Board of Trustees meets monthly and serves as an advisory body to the Porterville City Council.
- *Medical Facilities.* This category of community facilities includes hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and medical offices. In 2005 Sierra View District Hospital, handled more than 46,000 visits and admitted about 8,700 patients.<sup>1</sup> The Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency provides social services to residents in need of assistance throughout Tulare County. Porterville is served by the Imperial Ambulance District and other private ambulance services.

## GUIDING POLICIES

- PSCF-G-7 *Support the development of public and cultural facilities to enhance community identity and meet the civic and social needs of the community.*
- PSCF-G-8 *Ensure that community centers provide sufficient space to conduct civic meetings, recreational programs, and social activities to meet the needs of Porterville's citizens.*
- PSCF-G-9 *Achieve and maintain library services that provide adequate and accessible informational, recreational and research materials in a variety of formats for all ages and for a culturally diverse population.*

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<sup>1</sup> Sierra View District Hospital. <http://www.sierra-view.com/About%20SVDH.htm>. April 9, 2007.



PSCF-G-10 *Promote the development of medical facilities in Porterville to serve a local and regional population.*

## **IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES**

PSCF-I-22 Amend the Subdivision Ordinance to require reservation of community facility sites in new neighborhoods for a reasonable period of time.

PSCF-I-23 Maintain a minimum ratio of 1.2 square feet of community center space per resident.

PSCF-I-24 Locate new Community Centers, to be operated by the Porterville Parks and Leisure Services Department, in neighborhood centers, Downtown or within or adjacent to parks.

PSCF-I-25 Support the Youth Services Foundation's efforts to identify and evaluate recreational, social, and cultural activities and facilities for youth in the community.

PSCF-I-26 Support the development of a range of cultural and arts facilities throughout the City, including museums, performing art centers, shared cultural spaces, and art exhibition spaces, working in partnership with non-profit organizations, the school districts, and the private sector.

PSCF-I-27 Cooperate with the Porterville Art Association to promote visual arts in the Porterville area through workshops, educational programs, art exhibits, and other appropriate activities.

PSCF-I-28 Explore the long term demand and feasibility of developing a regional-scale performing arts center or museum facility in downtown Porterville.

PSCF-I-29 Expand library facilities to achieve a standard of 0.5 to 1.0 square feet of public library space per capita with a goal of providing up to date facilities fully capable of supporting state-of-the-art technology in library services.

*Expansion options may include, but are not limited to:*

- *Construction or expansion of Downtown Library;*
- *Mobile libraries to augment library services; and/or*
- *Other satellite facilities.*

PSCF-I-30 Work with health care providers to maintain a full range of health care facilities and services designed to meet regional and community needs.

PSCF-I-31 Support public, private, and non-profit service providers to create and expand opportunities for safe, affordable, and quality child care facilities and services, and more opportunities for elder care facilities, programs, and services.

PSCF-I-32 Enforce code requirements to ensure accessibility for disabled persons to all buildings offering health and social services, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.