The Housing Element also contains objectives for meeting housing rehabilitation loans, down payment assistance, and loans for first-time homeowners and emergency grants.

Table 4. Other Housing Objectives by Income Level

TYPE OF OBJECTIVE	VERY LOW INCOME	LOW INCOME	MODERATE INCOME	TOTAL
Single Family Rehab Program	8**	50	50	108
Mortgage Assistance Loans	11	41	1	53
Mobile Home Grants**	19	5		24
Emergency Grants*	29			29
TOTAL:	67	96	52	214

* This program is only for very low-income households
** These units contain affordability restrictions

The **Parks, Recreation and Trails Element** of the General Plan guides future development of parks, recreational facilities, multi-use trails, bikeways and open space areas for city residents. In FY2003-04, construction of two community parks was begun, as described below. Funding for these parks include a citywide assessment approved by Palmdale voters, State Prop 40 funds, park development and drainage impact fees and State grant money. The two parks are scheduled for completion in 2005.

- Eastside Aquatics Park. This 33-acre site located on the City's east side will contain a swimming pool, recreation building, open play fields, aquatic center with lazy river, water slides and zero entry pool.

- Marie Kerr Park Expansion. This 40-acre site will contain a swimming pool, four men's and four women's ball fields, recreation building and amphitheatre.

According to the standards established in the Parks, Recreation and Trails Element of three acres of active parkland per thousand of population, the City currently needs 399 acres of parkland. After construction of the two above-mentioned park sites, the City's parkland will total 266 acres, still 133 acres short of meeting this goal. The City owns 89 acres of undeveloped community and neighborhood parkland that will someday be developed. In addition, large-scale planned communities have been required to develop park sites as part of their development plans. It should be noted that as the City's population increases, so will the need for active park acreage.

Amendment of the Parks, Recreation & Trails Element. In addition, an amendment was adopted for the Parks, Recreation and Trails Element in order to keep the information current and reflect current conditions. Those changes included the following:

(a) To delete references to the park fee voucher program that is no longer in effect;

(b) To combine the bikeway and multi-use trails plans into one new color exhibit;

(c) To combine five exhibits depicting city park sites, park planning areas, and other public and private recreational facilities onto one new color exhibit;

(d) To designate new bikeway and trail linkages along Amargosa Creek, Columbia Way/Avenue M, and around the A.V. Mall on Avenue O-8;

(e) To describe existing developed and planned park sites and programs;

(f) To update information on private recreational facilities within the community; and

(g) To update the description of how the City is doing in meeting its goals for providing parkland and open space.

Policies contained in the **Community Design Element** shape the City's overall form and appearance. By continually striving to meet the policies contained in the Element, improvements can be seen throughout the City in its functional and aesthetic quality. Establishing and maintaining high development standards is a significant way in which the Community Design Element can be implemented.

This year, the City completed the first of a planned series of façade improvements for older commercial business areas. Improvements included a new and cohesive design for businesses along Palmdale Boulevard at 3rd Street East, as well as new signage and building lights. A new parking lot with lighting and a trash enclosure were constructed to provide much needed parking and security, resulting in a significant improvement to this business area. Future phases for this program have been identified and will be implemented as funding becomes available.

Consistent with the Community Design Element, several upgrades were adopted by the City Council for all new residential development during the fiscal year. The standards now require block walls be constructed within single-family subdivisions rather than wood fences and the minimum lot width has been increased by five feet in order to provide more space between homes and to improve livability in neighborhoods. In addition, long walls on all sides of the structure must be broken up by the use of offsets, shadow lines, façade treatments or other similar means. Other enhancements for new residential development were also adopted.

The **Environmental Resources Element** provides a basis to evaluate existing resources and plan for their protection. The Element establishes policies concerning conservation, preservation and managed use of air, water, open space and hillsides, biological ecosystems, and historical and/or energy resources. Implementation of this Element is accomplished primarily through the environmental review process. The City complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including requirements established by the California Department of Fish and Game for all projects. In April 2004, the City Council adopted an amendment to the Environmental Resources Element in order to update information and expand on conservation efforts. The amendment included the following:

1. Modify Policy ER1.1.3 to recognize that the City has developed and adopted a multi-use trails plan under the Parks, Recreation and Trails Element.

2. Modify Policy ER1.1.4 to reflect that the City has adopted a Hillside Management Ordinance regulating development in hillside areas and to promote its continued implementation.

3. References to the South Coast Air Quality Management District should be updated throughout the Element to reflect the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, which now has jurisdiction in Palmdale. Also, in 1997 a portion of the Southeast Desert Air Basin was renamed the Mojave Desert Air Basin; therefore, this change has been reflected throughout the Element.

4. Add Policy ER1.2.3, which discourages property owners from placing buildings and walls or planting vegetation that has the potential to obscure views along adopted scenic highways.

5. Add Policy ER7.1.7 to promote community recognition, understanding and enjoyment of its unique historical resources and to identify these resources through the use of landmark designation plaques, directional signage, self-guided tours, school curriculum and programs, and events.

6. Add Policy ER7.1.8 in order to prevent inappropriate modification of historic landmark properties that contribute significantly to the community's cultural heritage.

7. Update Policy ER5.1.1 to reflect current methods of reducing vehicle trips such as teleconferencing, distance learning, company-sponsored ride share and alternative fuel vehicle programs developed under the County's Congestion Management Program, and promoting the use of the Metro Link train as a means of reducing vehicle trips to help attain air quality standards.

8. Adoption of an area plan rather than a specific plan under Policy ER6.2.1 for the quarry district within Littlerock Wash in order to promote reclamation planning in this area.

9. Update Section 3 Implementation to reflect the change in jurisdiction to the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, as well as adoption of the Parks, Recreation and Trails Element and Community Design Element of the General Plan.

10. Modify the list of potential historic structures in Table ER-1 as shown to reflect changes due to demolitions, additional potentially historical structures or to update current use of structures.

11. Update the data contained in Table ER-3 regarding the number of air quality violations per year over the past five years.

12. Update Exhibit ER 1-A Farmland Categories to reflect current boundaries in accordance with the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

Future Efforts to Implement the General Plan

In the upcoming year, the City of Palmdale will begin the process of updating its General Plan Master EIR. As a result of this effort and workshops previously held before the Planning Commission, it is anticipated that updates to the General Plan Land Use, Circulation and Community Design Elements may be initiated next fiscal year.

Attachment 1: List of General Plan Amendments Approved Since 1993

Element	Amendments
Land Use (21 Amendments)	**GPA 93-2** corrected mapping and text errors; **GPA 94-2** adopted policies for the development of the College Park Palmdale property; **GPA 94-3** clarified policies regarding the location of parks and other public facilities and corrected land use mapping errors; **GPA 94-4** revised land uses at 14 locations throughout the City and clarified text regarding mobile home parks; **GPA 95-1** modified the land use designation on undeveloped industrial land; **GPA 95-2** modified the land use designation on a one-acre property to accommodate a mortuary; **GPA 96-1** changed the land use map and text to reflect the Downtown Revitalization Plan; **GPA 96-2** added a policy regarding development on the east side and reduced the development density within that area; **GPA 96-4** assigned land use designations to most areas which had previously been designated as SD; **GPA 97-4A through D** modified 15± acres on Avenue S at 45th Street East from SFR-3 to OC for development of a Kaiser Permanente facility, 28± acres from DC and CC to PF along both sides of Sierra Highway near Avenue Q-6, and .37 acres on 10th Street East at Avenue Q-10 from MR to PF for a public parking; **GPA 98-2** amended policies to accommodate the College Park Palmdale Specific Plan; **GPA 98-3** approved land use map and policies consistent with the Avenue S Area Plan and repealed the Palmdale Park South Specific Plan; **GPA 98-4** modified 160 acres from Harris Specific Plan to SFR-3 and OC, modified six acres on 5th Street East at Avenue R-5 from MFR to IND and repealed the Rancho Valley Specific Plan; and **GPA 99-1 A through M** reduced the number of potential new multiple family housing units in the City in response to a moratorium on development of three or more units; **GPA 99-2 A & B** amended 13± acres from SFR-3 to CC for development of a 33-acre community retail shopping center at 47th Street East and Avenue S and 83± acres from BP to IND at the southwest corner of Division Street and Avenue O; **GPA 00-02 A through C** amended 4.5 acres from OC and CM to PF and .55 acres from SFR-3 to NC to reflect developed conditions; **GPA 02-01A&B** amended 40 ac. From SFR1 to OS and 33 ac. From SP4 to OS to construct two voter-approved park sites; and **GPA 03-02** amended 2.5 acres from OS to RC adjacent to the A.V. Country Club. **GPA 03-04A** amended 10 acres from NC to SFR-3; **GPA 03-04B** amended 13.65 acres from RC to CC; **GPA 03-07** amended 15.23 acres from SFR-3 to CC.
Circulation (4 Amendments)	**GPA 93-2** corrected the right-of-way designation for 6th Street East; **GPA 94-3** corrected errors on the circulation map; **GPA 95-3** updated the circulation map and adopted street cross-sections; and **GPA 97-1** changed the designation on certain roadway segments throughout the City.
Public Services (4 Amendments)	**GPA 93-2** eliminated a reference to adoption of the Hazardous Waste Management Plan as an element of the General Plan; **GPA 94-3** updated information regarding schools; and **GPA 97-3** provided policies regarding telecommunication facilities. **GPA 04-05** was an update of the Public Services Element.
Housing (5 Amendments)	**GPA 93-2** revised programs which related to transitional housing and emergency shelters; **GPA 94-6** updated the status of housing programs and established a "senior housing target area" downtown; **GPA 96-3** represented an overall update to the element, updating housing programs and demographic and development statistics; and **GPA 00-01**, update of the General Plan Housing Element for the planning period 2000-2005. **GPA 04-04** minor amendment to the Housing Element.
Safety (2 Amendments)	One Amendment: **GPA 93-2** added a policy regarding development near hazardous waste facilities. **GPA 04-01** was an update of the Safety Element.
Environmental Resources (3 Amendments)	**GPA 93-3** provided clarification for Policy ER6.2.1, which dealt with sand and gravel extraction; and **GPA 98-3** amended the list of designated scenic highways to include the Antelope Valley Freeway south of Rayburn Road. **GPA 04-01** was an update of the Environmental Resources Element.
Parks, Recreation & Trails - adopted 3/9/94 (2 Amendments)	**GPA 96-6** updated the multi-use trail and bikeway plans. **GPA 03-06** updated the Parks, Recreation & Trails Element.
Community Design - adopted 12/24/94 (1 Amendment)	**GPA 97-2** modified community design policies for industrial development.
Noise (1 Amendment)	**GPA 04-04** was an update of the Noise Element.