

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS ELEMENT

5.0 GOALS

1. Improve the Community's livability, aesthetics and desirability through "green" space.
2. Provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities.

5.1 PURPOSE

The Parks, Open Space and Trails Element focuses on providing passive and active open space areas for recreation opportunities, a sense of openness and to improve the aesthetics of the community. This element identifies existing and proposed parks, open spaces and trails that have enhanced and will further improve the City's livability.

5.2 EXISTING CHARACTER

Eloy's residents place a high value on open space. Additional parks, open space and trails will be necessary, both from a community aesthetics and livability standpoint and to satisfy the existing objectives of the General Plan. Surrounding open vistas, native desert and mountains provide a scenic backdrop for the City and its residents. While Eloy has grown slowly and steadily over the past twenty years, the City has not seen the development of much park land or open space for its citizens.

Development has added new homes (site built and manufactured) to the community. However, the necessary increases to park and recreational facilities and open space have not kept pace. The City of Eloy is providing park and open space at a ratio of only 1.4 acres per 1,000 persons. National standards recommend 3.0 acres per 1,000 persons. These standards also recommend the same ratio for open space that exists for parks. While many communities do not usually achieve these national standards, they typically exhibit much higher ratio of parks and open space per population than the City of Eloy as illustrated below.

POST-1: LOS for Other Communities

<u>Community</u>	<u>Open Space / Park Level of Service</u>
Marana	98 acres / 1000 people
Sahuarita	12.1 acres / 1000 people
Flagstaff	11 acres / 1000 people
Florence	1 - 3 acres / 1000 people

(Information obtained from each communities respective General Plan)

The City of Eloy owns and maintains nine park facilities and two community centers comprising 17.3 acres. The Grande Valley and Robson Ranch Golf Courses are both approximately 175 acres, and are privately owned and operated. They are, however, both open to the public.

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS ELEMENT

5.0 GOALS

5.1 PURPOSE

5.2 EXISTING CHARACTER



PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

The City of Eloy continues to review and approve large and complex development proposals. The low level of service for both park and open space acreage may be enhanced by attaching stipulations to development approvals which require the provision and possible dedication of parks and open space areas. The Parks, Open Space and Trails Element provides a basis for the City to outline goals and criteria by which development proposals may be reviewed in order to satisfy the City's needed park, open space and recreation facilities.

5.3 DISCUSSION

Parks, Open Space and Trails

To date, the City of Eloy has not adopted Park and Open Space standards. However, assuming that the City adopts a standard near 3.0-acres per 1,000 population, a total of 31.1 acres of developed park acreage should be provided based on a year 2000 population of 10,375 residents. The current increase in population to an approximate 19,005 people has been due in large part to the increase in prison population. The prison population does not generate increased need for additional park and open space. That being said, development and expansion of existing park and open space areas within the city helps increase the livability and desirability of a community.

Currently, a total of 17.3 acres of park and open space has been provided within the City. When Eloy is completely built-out with an estimated population of 1.2 million people, a total of 3,300 acres of City parks and open space should be provided. In addition, the Picacho Peak State Park provides an 3,747 acres of static park and open space area.

Pinal County has adopted an Open Space and Trails Master Plan in which are maps detailing approximate proposed locations for trails, open space, areas of historical and social resources to preserve. Those trails, as they relate to the City of Eloy, and other areas of historical and social importance within the City and Planning Area should be incorporated into the objectives of the City.

Regional Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Facilities

Ironwood Forest National Monument

A large portion of the Ironwood Forest National Monument is located within the southwestern portion of the Planning Area. The Ironwood Forest National Monument is an approximate 129,000-acre area (25,400 acres of which are located within the Planning Area) established by a Presidential Proclamation on June 8, 2000, to protect objects of ecological and cultural resource interest in their Sonoran Desert environment. The landscape of the Ironwood Forest National Monument exhibits rich, drought-adapted vegetation of the Sonoran Desert. Extensive stands of Ironwood, Palo Verde, and Saguaro are prevalent throughout the Monument.

5.3 DISCUSSION

Parks, Open Space and Trails



Central (Main Street) Park

Regional Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Facilities

Ironwood Forest National Monument

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

The Monument also includes rugged mountain ranges, including Silver Bell Mountains. The locations of archeological resources are remote and many miles from the study area. The Monument contains objects of scientific biological, geological, and archeological interest throughout its desert environment.

Picacho Peak State Park

Picacho Peak State Park was identified for acquisition by the State Parks Board in 1958. Over the next 10 years, multiple feasibility studies were conducted and development plans created. Finally, in 1968, the State Park was officially opened to the public, when the Arizona Legislature granted approval. In 1970, the State legislature authorized the purchase of an additional 2,760 acres from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to be added to the park. As of the 1990's, the park consisted of a total 3,747 acres of land.

Picacho Peak has been used in the past as a landmark due to its unique shape, as recorded in the 1700's as part of the Anza Trail. In 1848, the Mormon Battalion constructed a wagon road through the Pass. Picacho Peak is also the site of a Civil War battle, the largest within Arizona (see Section 1.2).

Casa Grande Mountain Natural Resource and Trail Park

Much of the Casa Grande Mountains are owned by the City of Casa Grande and incorporate an approximately 1,100 acre area devoted to trails and outdoor recreation. Currently, there is a proposal to include another area as joint-use. The Federal Government (Specifically the Arizona Army National Guard) owns an 800-acre parcel of land on the west side of the mountain and is used for training purposes. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management also owns a parcel approximately 80-acres in size. The City of Casa Grande is working to acquire, through transfer, the BLM parcel, and has extended an offer of "Joint-Use" with the Army who responded favorably. Parcels of land on the east side of the mountain are made up, largely, by private land holdings.

Picacho Reservoir

The Picacho Reservoir lies in the northeast portion of the planning area, and in addition to its function as a reservoir, it serves as a primary habitat for nesting waterfowl in the winter. The reservoir is known as a Blue Heron rookery and is a stopover site for migratory birds, including the Glossy Ibis and Pelican.

Picacho Peak State Park



Casa Grande Mountain Natural Resource and Trail Park

Picacho Reservoir

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

Proposed Park and Recreation Facilities

Irrigation Canal Trail System

The Central Main Canal, Santa Rosa Canal, and Florence-Casa Grande Canal are agricultural canals that traverse the study area, providing water for irrigation of primarily cotton in the Santa Cruz Valley. The canal rights-of-way provide a wide, level strip, which could be suitable for multi-purpose trail (walking, bicycling, and/or equestrian). However, discussions with the irrigation districts would need to take place.

The Santa Rosa Canal provides the greatest value for a trail system because of its passage through the center of Eloy. As conversion of land from agriculture to urban land use continues, the canal corridor becomes even more valuable as a recreation amenity. The Parks and Open Space Plan identifies not only the Santa Rosa but also the Casa Grande and Central Main canals for inclusion within a linked multi-purpose trail system. Negotiation with the Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District (CAIDD) and other affected landowners will be necessary to implement this trail and should be initiated by the City as soon as possible.

Multi-Purpose Urban Trail System

The street, utility, and railroad rights-of-way provide opportunities to add multi-purpose trails serving walking, bicycling, and equestrian modes of transportation. The potential locations for multi-purpose trails include Frontier Street (south side), Sunshine Boulevard (west side), Toltec Highway (east side), Battaglia Road (north side), Hannah and Milligan Roads (south side), SR-87 and Sunland Gin Road (west side) with design to be determined as part of a Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan. In addition, the El Paso Natural Gas pipeline that passes through the City from northwest to southeast is also identified for a multi-purpose trail, reaching from Battaglia Drive to the Casa Grande Canal.

Growth Area Park Development

As new development occurs, developers within each section of land will be required to collectively provide the recommended level of service for improved park land. The land requirement will increase or decrease based on the residential density and the mix of uses proposed for each development.

Frontier Street Linear Park

The wide rights-of-way of Frontier Street (100') and the Union Pacific Railroad (200') in Downtown Eloy are the setting for the Frontier Street Linear Park. The linear park could extend approximately one-third of a mile from Sunshine Boulevard to Myers Street as a welcoming, open space for downtown patrons and visitors. The Linear Park could include the proposed Frontier Street urban multi-purpose trail, a mini-park, and parking area that also serves the businesses along Frontier Street.

Proposed Park and Recreation Facilities

Irrigation Canal Trail System

Multi-Purpose Urban Trail System



Growth Area Park Development

Frontier Street Linear Park

PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

Downtown Mini-Parks and Plazas

Revitalization of Eloy's Downtown provides an opportunity to incorporate small parks and plazas as gathering places and rest stops for shoppers. Vacant parcels should be sought for land lease or purchase and improved consistent with the plans of the Downtown Main Street Office.

Ironwood Forest Trailhead and Campground

The Parks, Open Space and Trails Map identifies the opportunity to site a trailhead and campground adjacent to the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Providing additional supportive access and amenities enhances visitation to this newly created open space resource.

The open space, park, and trails identified above establish a broad-based recreation system for the City of Eloy. The incremental development of these facilities will allow Eloy to meet the recommended park standards included within this General Plan, and provide greater access to open space consistent with the objectives of this Element.

5.4 OBJECTIVES

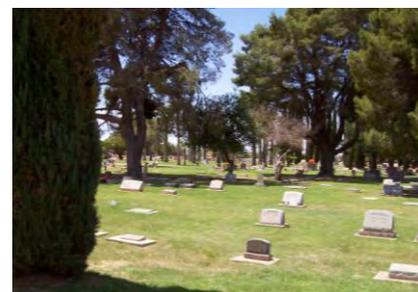
Objectives provide the City with direction for planning, reviewing, siting and designing future parks and open space acreage, and facilities. Specific objectives include:

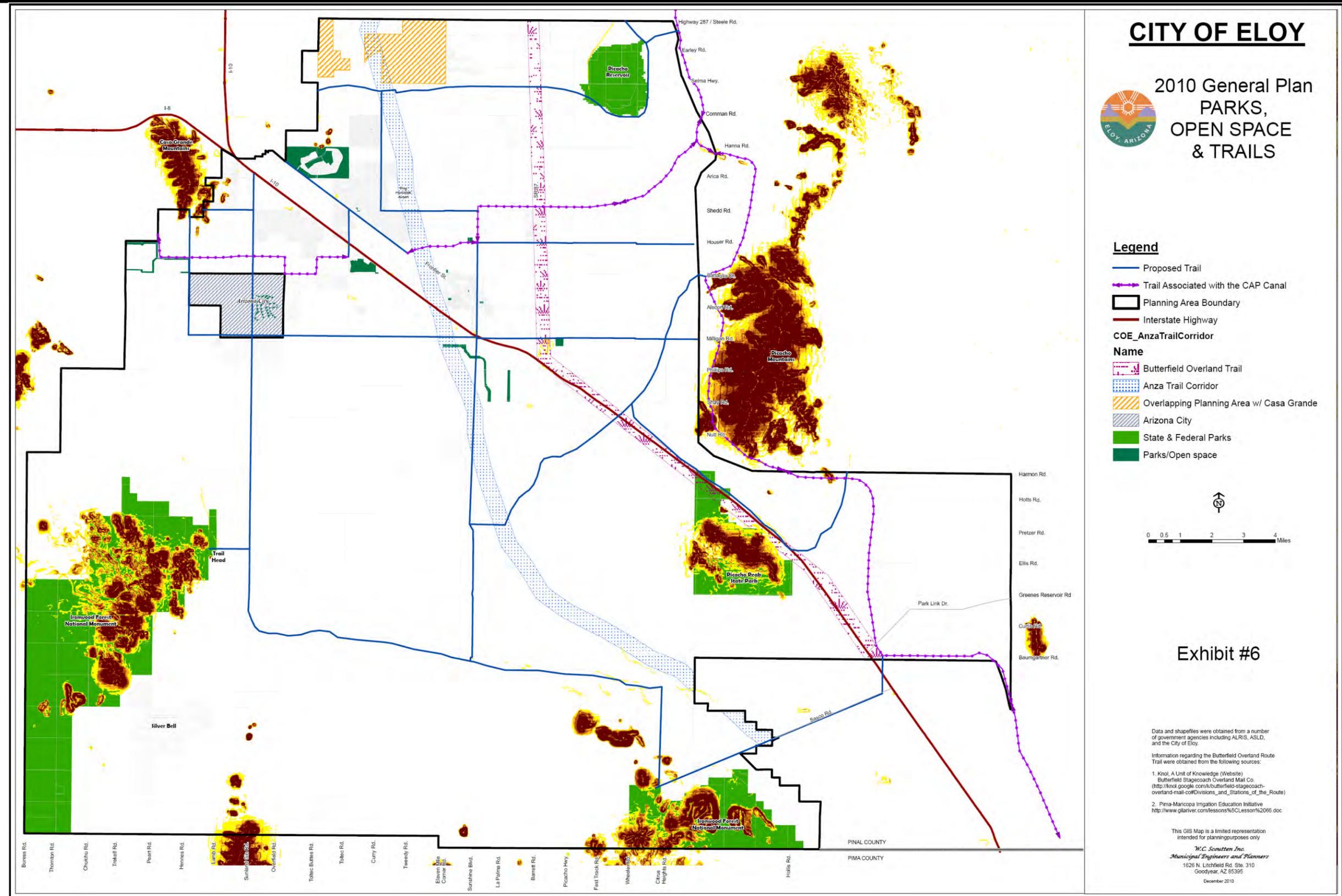
1. Develop a plan for a connected system of open space areas that protect and conserve natural, physical, cultural, and social resources.
2. Develop a multi-use trail system that provides connectivity throughout the city, to recreational areas, parks, and coordinates with County trails within the Planning Area.
3. Develop regional parks within the City that provide a balance of passive and active recreational opportunities for City residents and visitors.
4. Research and develop park, open space and trail standards for residential and non-residential developments.
5. Research, draft and adopt park and open space policies to require open space and recreation area developments and/or dedications from developers, and that would help preserve natural and social resources.
6. Develop a more comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan that will examine these corridors

Downtown Mini-Parks and Plazas

Ironwood Forest Trailhead and Campground

5.4 OBJECTIVES





PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

POST-2: Existing Parks, Facilities, Location, & Classification	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Existing Parks</u>	<u>Size (Acres)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Description</u>
	Mini-Park 2,500 sf to 2 acres	Anita Park	0.2	W. 8 th & Phoenix	Picnic Area	Address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs
		Maddox Park	0.3	N. Meyers Blvd & Curiel	Grass area, playground equipment, and picnic area	
		Toltec Park	0.4	Golden St. and Shedd Rd.	Picnic area, playground, sand volleyball and half-court basketball	
		Central (Main Street) Park	1.2	7 th St & Main St.	Grass field, park benches and gazebo	
		Toltec Senior Community Park	0.7	Shedd & Shira Roads	Community meeting room, picnic area, shuffleboard	
		North Toltec Park	0.5	Shedd Rd. & Frontier St.	Picnic area, half-court basketball, playground equipment	
		Sunland Visitor Center Park	2.0	West side of Camelot St. north of Coolidge Ave.	Museum Restoration Project	
	Neighborhood Park 2 to 10 acres	Shumway (North) Park	3.2	14 th St. & Madison	Baseball, concession stands, playground, picnic area, and basketball court	Serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood
		Trekell Park / Troy Thomas C.C.	4.3	Madison St. / Lincoln St. & 3 rd Place	Baseball field, playground, picnic area, tetherball, swings, playground, restrooms, and basketball court, 5,800 s.f. community center with kitchen, restrooms, multi-purpose room, game and arts/crafts rooms, and Parks and Recreation Department offices	
Jones Park		4.5	Tryon St. & 2 nd St	Ball fields, concession stands, basketball court, sand volleyball, swings, playground, picnic area, swimming pool, restrooms and skate park		
Regional Park Up to 50 acres					Focus is on meeting community needs	
Natural Resource Areas	Picacho Peak State Park	3,747	Located generally on the south side of I-10 & west of Hollis Rd.	Visitor center, gift store, hiking trails, playground, campground (with or without electric), picnic areas, ramadas, grills, dump station, restrooms, and showers.	Preserves significant natural resources for open space and visual aesthetics/ buffering	
	Ironwood National Monument	25,400 w/in the Planning Area	Along south and west Planning Area Boundary	Primitive Camping, Trails, Hiking		
	Picacho Reservoir	2,360	NE of Cornman & Picacho Hwy.	Fishing, bird watching, hiking		
Greenways, Trails and Multi-use Paths					Linkages for parks and open space within the community	
TOTAL		17.3				