



Draft
El Dorado County
Parks and Trails Master Plan

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Acknowledgements

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

John Knight, District 1
Ray Nutting, District 2
James R. Sweeney, District 3
Ron Briggs, District 4
Norma Santiago, District 5

El Dorado County Planning Commission

Lou Rain, District 1
Dave Pratt, District 2
Tom Heflin, District 3
Walter Mathews, District 4
Alan Tolhurst, District 5

El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission

Guy Gertsch, District 1
Charles Callahan, District 2
Bob Smart, District 3
Jenifer Russo, District 4
Steve Yonker, District 5

El Dorado County Trails Advisory Committee

Carolyn Gilmore
Melba Leal
Randy Hackbarth
Michael Kenison
Jim McErlane
Lynn Murray
Lindell Price

Master Plan Advisory Committee

Dan Bolster, El Dorado County
Transportation Commission
Michael Kenison, Trails Advisory
Committee
Steve Youel, City of Placerville
Cheri Jaggars, El Dorado Irrigation District
Elena DeLacy, American River
Conservancy
Jeanne Harper, Community Economic
Development Association of Pollock
Pines
Tina Helm, Cameron Park CSD
Jerry Ledbetter, Backcountry Horsemen
Kathy Daniels, El Dorado County Office of
Education
Jeff Horn, Bureau of Land Management
Bob Smart, El Dorado County Parks and
Recreation Commission
Noah Rucker-Triplett, El Dorado County
Environmental Management
Eileen Crim, Trails Advocate
Lester Lubetkin, USDA Eldorado National
Forest
Carl Clark, Georgetown Divide Recreation
District
Keith Berry, Railroad Museum
Sandi Kukkola, El Dorado Hills CSD

El Dorado County Staff

Janet Postlewait, Principal Planner,
Department of Transportation

El Dorado County Residents

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Executive Summary

This is the first comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan to be prepared for the west slope area of El Dorado County.¹ As directed by the Parks and Recreation Element of the 2004 El Dorado County General Plan, this Master Plan has been developed to provide long term vision and direction for the planning, implementation, and management of west slope park and trail resources provided by El Dorado County for the benefit of residents and visitors.

The vision for parks and trails in El Dorado County is to offer access to a diverse selection of recreation opportunities that provide multiple benefits, including:

- Health and wellness for residents of all ages and abilities;
- Centers for community gathering and events;
- Enhanced sense of place and local identity;
- Protection for El Dorado County's unique natural and cultural resources; and
- Economic development associated with recreation based tourism and quality of life.

Development of this Master Plan provides an opportunity to influence the quality of life for current and future residents of El Dorado County. It is important that this opportunity not be lost during this time of economic uncertainty. There is an increasing appreciation for the role of parks and trails to provide recreational opportunities that support healthy lifestyles, increase property values, build community cohesiveness, and encourage geotourism along with its associated economic development. Parks and trails



Festival at Henningsen Lotus Park

¹ A separate planning process has been established for El Dorado County areas in the greater Tahoe Basin. Planning for parks and trails in these areas is a multi-agency effort in which the County works with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), the U.S. Forest Service, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and several special districts.

have the potential to become an important catalyst for El Dorado County to provide economic diversity in combination with the traditional development and resource extraction sectors. This Master Plan seeks to identify those park and trail projects and initiatives that will allow County residents and visitors to realize these benefits while being realistic about the uncertainty of traditional funding sources, such as property taxes and grants.

In order to provide flexibility in implementing the recommended projects and initiatives, priorities are identified in this Master Plan according to three tiers rather than specific implementation dates tied to a Capital Improvement Program. Tier 1 projects are those that have the highest priority because they address an immediate critical need, provide a strategic benefit, and/or are relatively simple to implement. Tier 2 projects are those that address less urgent needs, are dependent on Tier 1 projects for functionality, and/or have more complex issues associated with implementation. The remaining projects are classified as Tier 3. These projects are still important but provide less immediate or strategic value than Tier 1 or Tier 2 projects. Tier 1 projects should be implemented first, but the actual completion dates of projects will be influenced by the availability of fiscal and other resources.

The residents of El Dorado County have played a significant role in developing this Master Plan by providing their input on park and trail needs, as well as ideas for how to address the fiscal challenges. Throughout the process of developing this plan, residents repeatedly expressed a willingness to adjust their expectations consistent with the fiscal realities, but at the same time felt strongly that non-traditional ways of meeting park and trail needs should be leveraged wherever possible. These include making use of the abundant talents and energy of volunteers, partnering with other recreation providers, and building coalitions of those private businesses and community organizations that have a vested interest in park and trail resources. The County's ability to compete successfully for grants will be greatly enhanced by showing that these resources have been effectively leveraged to help implement the approved Master Plan projects.

An important objective of this Master Plan is to document the existing state of public park and trail resources in El Dorado County and to clarify the role of the County in planning, implementing, and managing individual resources. There are many other public and private recreation providers in El Dorado County, and the County's objective is to efficiently coordinate with these partners to meet the park and trail needs of residents and visitors alike. To this end, this Master Plan has a special focus on those areas where the County is the primary provider for parks and trails, while acknowledging the collaborative opportunities with special districts, local government, private businesses, state, and federal recreation providers. Working in cooperation with these regional partners, there is tremendous potential to make El Dorado County a world class recreation destination while preserving and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Implementation of the initiatives recommended in this Master Plan will take place over an extended period of time depending on available financial and other resources. It is essential that dedicated County parks and trails staff are available to provide strong leadership, coordinate the various initiatives, and leverage opportunities for collaboration. New ways of funding acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks and trails also need to be implemented consistent with the direction provided in the 2004 General Plan. These may include establishing community service districts to facilitate development of parks in underserved areas, and adoption of park development impact fees to provide parks and trails for new residents.

Over the course of implementing this Master Plan, it is possible that additional park or trail projects will be identified that were not anticipated. It is important that the planning, implementation, and management of all County park and trail initiatives proceeds in a manner that consistently provides for public safety, efficient use of public resources, high quality user experience, and resource protection. For this reason, this Master Plan provides an implementation framework that includes guidelines for the level of service to be provided, and standards for the physical design of new County parks and trails.

The Master Plan also includes criteria for evaluating feasibility of future projects so that valuable resources are expended only on projects that are first carefully examined and found to have a reasonable likelihood of success. In anticipation of future economic circumstances that may encourage new residential development, the Master Plan documents the aspects of the County's existing land development review process related to parks and trails and provides recommendations for how to improve this process.

A broad variety of initiatives and projects are identified in this Master Plan to help achieve the stated vision for parks and trails in El Dorado County. While there will be many challenges associated with implementing this vision, there is also tremendous motivation on the part of residents and regional partners to work with the County in making this vision a reality. This Parks and Trails Master Plan will serve as the road map to help keep all the participants coordinated and focused in making El Dorado County a leader in providing high quality parks and trails to enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike.

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1 Introduction



Cronan Ranch Regional Park

In 2004, a new General Plan for El Dorado County was adopted. Implementation measures in the General Plan called for development of a Parks Master Plan and an update of the Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan which was adopted in 1989 and amended in 1990. In 2008, the decision was made to combine these efforts as they related to County park and trail resources outside of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency area into a single, comprehensive planning document. The El Dorado County Parks and Trails

Master Plan is the resultant document and provides direction for both parks and trails, while replacing the earlier Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan.

1.1 *Scope of the Master Plan*

Plan Area

The Plan Area for this Parks and Trails Master Plan includes the portions of El Dorado County that are outside the jurisdiction of other entities providing similar parks and trails resources (Exhibit 1). These entities include various local special districts, the State of California, and federal land and recreation management agencies. However, the Master Plan also recognizes and encourages extensive collaboration with these agencies to optimize the value of all park and trail resources in El Dorado County for residents and visitors.

This Parks and Trails Master Plan does not specifically address the eastern El Dorado County areas in the greater Tahoe Basin because a separate planning process has been established for that region. Planning for parks and trails in these areas is a multi-agency effort in which the County works with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), the U.S. Forest Service, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and several special districts.

TRPA's **Lake Tahoe Regional Plan** (Regional Plan), which was adopted in 1987, establishes the basis for land use planning in the Basin. An update to the Regional Plan is in process and is expected to be completed in late 2012. TRPA has also adopted the **Environmental Improvement Program** (EIP) as an implementing tool for the Regional Plan. The EIP, last updated in 2009, identifies specific projects and programs in several key planning areas, including trails and recreation. TRPA has also prepared **The**

Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2010) which provides additional direction on trails and bikeway planning and implementation.

The CTC has a **Public Access and Recreation Program** which provides funding for trails and recreation projects that are consistent with TRPA’s EIP and the CTC’s own guidelines. The City of South Lake Tahoe also has its own **Parks and Recreation Master Plan** that specifically addresses the recreation needs of City residents. It was last updated in 1999 and focuses on the active park facilities needed by the resident population for sports and other active uses as well as facilities to serve the tourist population.

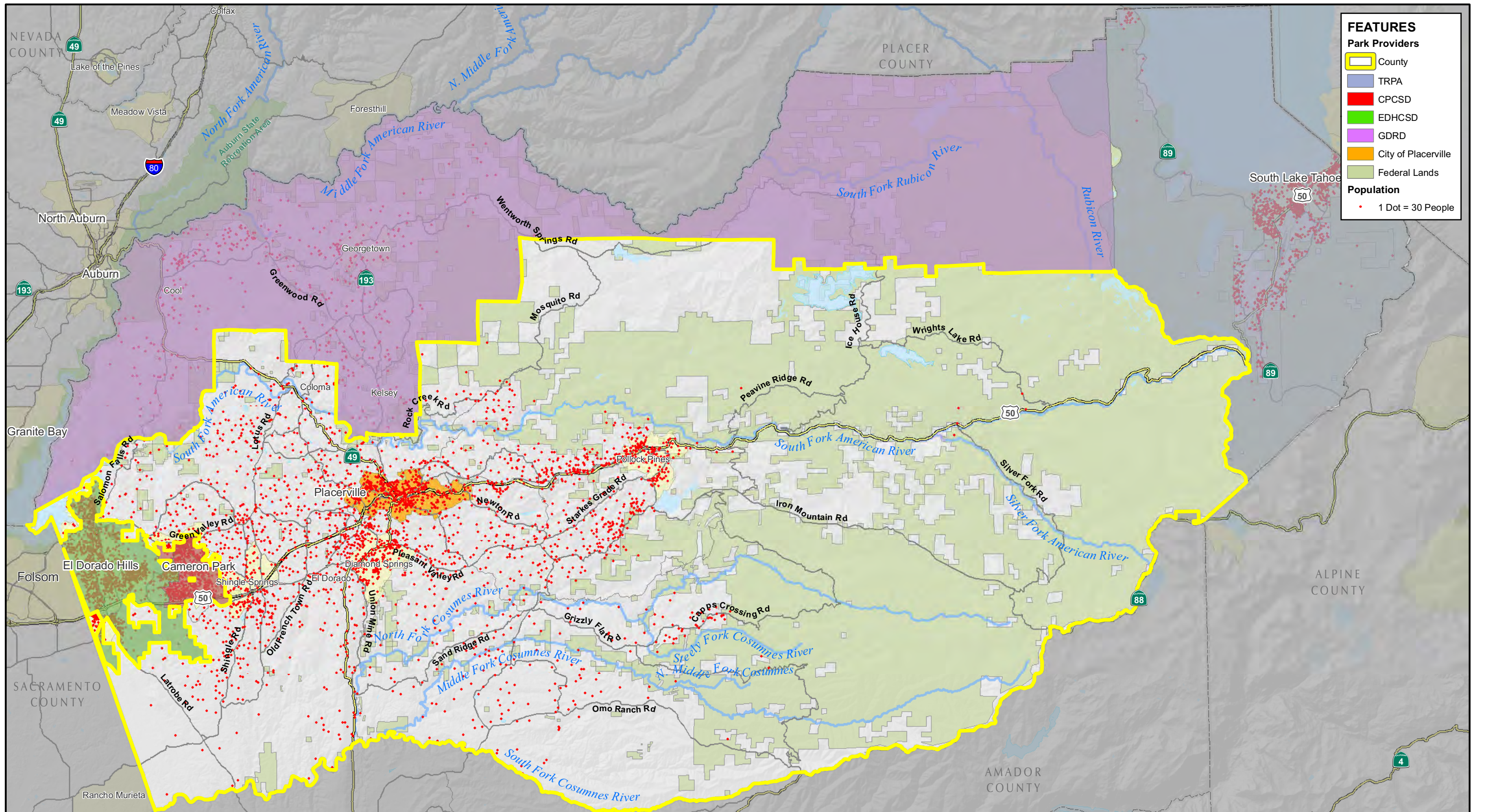
Purpose

The purpose of the El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan is to provide direction and implementation strategies to guide the acquisition, development, and operation of County-owned parks and trails in the Plan Area. It addresses parks and trails currently owned and/or operated by the County; the provision of parks and trails to serve areas not otherwise served by local park and trail providers; and opportunities to collaborate and assist other regional providers to enhance the availability and recreational value of parks and trails for residents and visitors.

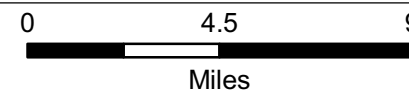
This Master Plan does not provide detailed planning or design for individual park or trail resources. Rather, it is concerned with how the overall system of parks and trails will be developed and managed to reflect the relative priorities and needs of the current and future County population. The Master Plan does recommend which parks and trails will need additional site-specific planning work, and describes the relative priority of completing these tasks.

1.2 Benefits of Parks and Trails

There are many ways in which parks and trails provide important benefits to the people of El Dorado County. These range from the quantifiable economic gains such as geotourism jobs and increased property values, to the quality of life improvements associated with regular exercise, access to the outdoors, and connections with community. Parks and trails provide benefits across a wide range of age groups and physical abilities, for County residents and visitors alike.



PARK PROVIDERS AND POPULATION IN EL DORADO COUNTY



Economic Value

El Dorado County has an exceptional array of unique natural and cultural resources that draw geotourists from all over the world. Regional parks and trails provide visitors with ways to access these resources and to enjoy them in a way that is safe and managed. The Coloma Valley, for example, attracts thousands of visitors each year to learn about California history, raft and kayak on the South Fork of the American River, hike local trails, and attend festivals and events. The substantial economic impact of these visitors is measured in the number of meals they buy at local restaurants, overnight stays in motels and inns, fuel and products purchased from merchants, and the jobs created to provide these goods and services.

Parks and trails also contribute to economic development by making communities more desirable as places to live, thus attracting new business investment and their prospective employees. Property and resale values are also typically higher in communities with access to park and trail resources.^{2,3} Another important, but less obvious, economic benefit accrues from having healthier communities with correspondingly lower rates of absenteeism from both work and school.

Health Value

The positive correlation between physical activity and health across all age and economic groups is documented in many studies. However, being physically active requires more than just motivation. Residents need access to activity-friendly environments in order to follow through on their exercise intentions.^{4,5} An activity-friendly environment makes it easier to choose to be active by providing safe, convenient, and enjoyable activity options.

The need for active recreation opportunities



Festival Vendors at Henningsen Lotus Park

² Nadel, Rebecca E. (2005). *Economic Impact of Parks, Rivers, Trails, and Greenways*. University of Michigan.

³ National Park Service (1995). *Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenway Corridor*. 1-2 -1-20.

⁴ Humpel, N., Owen, N., & Leslie, E. (2002). *Environmental factors associated with adults' participation in physical activity*. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 22, 188-199.

⁵ Owen, N., Humpel, N., Leslie, E., et al. (2004). *Understanding environmental influences on walking: Review and research agenda*. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 27, 67-76.

varies according to age group. People with limited driving ability, such as young children and seniors, need to be able to access recreation opportunities that are close by and appropriately designed for their abilities. According to the 2010 Census, over one-quarter of the population in the Plan Area is aged 60 or older, and approximately 16 percent are under the age of 16. To support healthy active lifestyles for these residents, some parks and trails need to be located close to their neighborhoods and offer a variety of activity options.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) identifies specific strategies to prevent obesity and associated health risks that include providing parks within 1/2 mile of residents, increasing miles of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and providing extracurricular access to physical activity through joint use agreements with schools.⁶ In another study, the CDC also found that creating and improving access to places for physical activity can result in a 25 percent increase in the number of people who exercise at least three times a week.⁷ The Health in All Policies Task Force, established in 2010 by the State of California, identified the importance of providing access to parks as activity centers and more pedestrian and bicycle opportunities to improve the health and create sustainable communities.⁸

Access to parks and trails also supports mental health, childhood development, and community cohesiveness. The value of these benefits is less easily quantified than reduced costs of medical care or absenteeism. However, they contribute significantly to the quality of life enjoyed by residents.

Natural and Cultural Resources

Parks and trails provide an opportunity to preserve El Dorado County's unique natural, historical, and cultural resources, while simultaneously providing residents and visitors with access to see and appreciate these resources. Preservation is accomplished by setting aside important resource areas for passive recreation use, sometimes adjacent to active use areas, and managing public access to protect resources from damage. Natural and cultural resources can form the focus of park and trail planning as a way to

⁶ Keener, D., Goodman, K., Lowry, A., Zaro, S., & Kettel Khan, L. (2009). *Recommended community strategies and measurements to prevent obesity in the United States: Implementation and measurement guide*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

⁷ *Creating or Improving Access to Places for Physical Activity is Strongly Recommended to Increase Physical Activity*. The Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Available at <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/pa/default.htm>

⁸ *Health in all Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council*, December, 2010. California Department of Public Health, University of California San Francisco.

sustain the landscape and the local heritage while creating recreation and geotourism opportunities that help sustain local businesses and communities. Parks and trails can also be designed to include interpretive elements to educate visitors about sensitive resources and increase public stewardship of the landscapes and history that make El Dorado County a unique and special place.

Recreation

The experience of leisure, fun, and relaxation is fundamental for a happy, balanced human existence. Recreation provides the opportunity for physical and mental renewal, discovery, positive challenge, and growth as an antidote to the stress of daily life to help people better handle the responsibilities of work, school, family, and relationships. Recreation is important for all age groups. The developmental value of recreation for children includes improved cognitive skills, self-esteem, collaboration, and imagination.⁹ Leisure activities can help older adults preserve mental and physical agility thus supporting extended independence and self-sufficiency. Providing positive recreation choices for teens and young adults can help redirect their energies from activities that put them at risk. The opportunity for families to recreate together also strengthens intergenerational connections.

Local Identity

Parks and trails provide an important building block for community identity in many ways. By providing common, public places for gathering and recreating residents have the opportunity to interact and build relationships. Community building also happens when people recognize their shared interest in the places that are important to them. Parks and trails provide a mechanism for celebrating the unique natural and cultural qualities that define a community and create its sense of place and a corresponding sense of belonging among residents. Parks and trails also provide places where people can interact in large and small groups, in organized or informal events to strengthen the collaborative spirit that generates social capital in the community.



Rafters at Chili Bar

⁹ PlayCore and Natural Learning Initiative. 2010. *Pathways for Play: Best Practices Guidelines*. Chattanooga, TN: PlayCore.

1.3 *Master Plan Process*

The process of preparing this Parks and Trails Master Plan began in 2008 with meetings with El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office staff to identify the scope and focus of the plan, as well as its relationship to the previously adopted Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan and park planning efforts of other regional park providers. The Parks and Recreation Commission, Trails Advisory Committee, and representatives from other park jurisdictions in the County also provide input on what the Plan should address and how best to involve the public in Plan preparation.

The next phases focused on developing demographic information about the County, preparing an inventory of existing parks and trails, and gathering public input about park and trail preferences and priorities. Other relevant planning information was also reviewed such as the County General Plan, park facilities master plans for other area recreation providers, and state, federal, and EID recreation planning documents.

The evaluation of existing conditions concluded with identifying the level of service provided by existing parks and trails, and maintenance resources currently committed to park and trail projects. A Needs Analysis was prepared summarizing the public input and assessment of existing resources. This information was presented for further public review and comment prior to preparation of implementation strategies for specific projects, park and trail planning and design standards, recommendations for the development review process, and a financing plan. The Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan was provided for public review and input was incorporated for the final plan.



Public meeting held in Greenwood

1.4 *Master Plan Organization*

The Parks and Trails Master Plan comprises nine chapters and several appendices in addition to this introductory chapter. Chapter 2 describes the many existing park and trail planning efforts that have already been undertaken by various public recreation providers serving El Dorado County residents and visitors. Chapter 3 includes the vision, goals, and policies for County parks and trails to expand upon those provided by the General Plan. Chapter 4 examines the demographic profile of the people living in El Dorado County looking at population trends that are related to parks and trails planning.

The next three chapters provide analysis related to existing parks and trails. Chapter 5 includes an inventory of County parks and trails as well as similar recreation resources owned and operated by other local recreation jurisdictions, the state, and federal

agencies. Chapter 6 evaluates the current level of service for parks based on the General Plan guidelines for acquisition and development, and discusses the types and availability of trails in the County. Chapter 7 describes existing operations and maintenance practices for County maintained parks and trails.

Chapter 8 details the many public input opportunities that were provided as part of this planning effort, including information about the specific activities and recommendations provided by the participants.

That input formed the basis for many of the needs identified in Chapter 9. Needs are identified for neighborhood, community and regional parks; specific types of recreation facilities; trails; and administrative considerations related to the County's ability to provide and manage parks and trails.

Chapter 10 proposes specific implementation strategies for addressing these needs. Chapter 10 also provides standards for park and trail planning and design, project feasibility criteria, recommendations for the development review process, and an assessment of the fiscal resources needed to implement this Plan.

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2 Planning Coordination



El Dorado Trail

This Parks and Trails Master Plan provides planning direction for County parks and trails consistent with guidance contained in the County’s General Plan and other local planning documents. The Parks and Trails Master Plan is intended to articulate specific strategies and additional policies as needed to implement and manage County parks and trails in a manner that is consistent with and complements the guidance put forth in these other plans.

2.1 El Dorado County

There are multiple plans that have been adopted by El Dorado County which contain guidance related in varying degrees to County parks and trails. This Master Plan is intended to complement, not replace, the direction in these plans, while providing comprehensive direction on the many aspects of planning, implementation, management, and operation of County parks and trails not otherwise addressed.

El Dorado County General Plan

El Dorado County adopted a General Plan in 2004, which includes several elements related to parks and recreation. These elements include numerous goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures that provide clarification of the County’s overarching vision and role in providing recreation amenities. The information is relevant to this planning process, particularly as it relates to coordination with the types of recreation resources provided by cities and community services districts in the County as well as the standards it establishes for recreation in the County.¹⁰

¹⁰ The relevant information is summarized and not presented in full detail. The full text of the El Dorado County General Plan may be found at the following web site: <http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/Planning/GeneralPlanAdopted.html>

The Parks and Recreation Element (Chapter 9) is the primary element that addresses the provision and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities, and trails to serve El Dorado County. The Conservation and Open Space Element (Chapter 7) deals with many aspects of natural resource management, including the conservation of open space for outdoor recreation.¹¹ The Land Use Element (Chapter 2) addresses the desired location and amount of open space (which may include parks, ball fields, or picnic areas) required to maintain the rural character of the County. The Transportation and Circulation Element (Chapter 3) includes policies regarding bicycle and pedestrian routes which may function as transportation as well as recreation features.

Parks and Recreation Element

The Parks and Recreation Element comprises three complementary goals that collectively address (1) acquisition and development of regional, community, and neighborhood parks; (2) provision of a trail system; (3) conservation and promotion of waterways for recreation; (4) coordination with other recreation providers; (5) funding; and (6) opportunities to increase tourism.

Goal 9.1: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Goal 9.1 with its supporting objectives and policies directs the County to provide adequate recreation opportunities and facilities including parks, trails, and resource-based recreation areas for the health and welfare of El Dorado County residents and visitors. Under Objective 9.1.1, the County shall assume primary responsibility for acquisition and development of regional parks, and shall assist with acquisition and development of neighborhood and community parks. Policies establish guidelines for minimum acres of park acquisition and development of park facilities by park type are also provided (Table 1).

¹¹ El Dorado County General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element, July 2004.

Table 1 – El Dorado County General Plan Guidelines for Acquisition and Development of Park Facilities

Park Types	Developed
Regional Parks	1.5 ac/1,000 population
Community Parks	1.5 ac/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2.0 ac/1,000 population
Specific Standards (Neighborhood and Community Parks)	
Cameron Park Community Services District	5.0 ac/1,000 population
El Dorado Hills Community Services District	5.0 ac/1,000 population
Planned Communities	5.0 ac/1,000 population

Neighborhood parks are identified as being within walking or biking distance of the residents they serve, generally 2 to 10 acres in size, and preferably located adjacent to schools. Typical improvements include play area, turf, and picnic facilities. Community parks and recreation facilities are intended to provide a focal point and gathering place for the larger community and range from 10 to 44 acres in size. They may include sports fields and courts, picnic facilities, play areas, a swimming pool, and a community center. Regional parks and recreation facilities shall incorporate natural features and serve a region involving more than one community. Size may range from 30 to 10,000 acres with the preferred size being several hundred acres. Facilities may include all those found at neighborhood and community parks, as well as special use facilities such as amphitheaters, trails, campgrounds, and interpretive centers.

Parkland dedication and in-lieu fees are to be directed toward purchase and funding of neighborhood and community parks. Land dedicated for park use under the Quimby Act must be suitable for active recreation uses, including appropriate access and topography, and free from other constraints that would prevent development.

Other policies encourage the County to support joint efforts with Community Services Districts (CSDs), cities, school districts, and independent recreation districts to provide parks and recreation facilities.

Under Objective 9.1.2, the County aims to provide a County-wide non-motorized, multi-purpose trail system with linkages to other proposed and existing local, state, and federal trail systems, including connections to parks, schools, and other destinations. The County will assume



responsibility for acquiring and developing, where possible, such trails outside of the boundaries of cities and other jurisdictions with park and recreation taxing authority. The El Dorado Trail/Pony Express Trail and trails connecting regional parks are identified as the County’s primary responsibility for establishment and maintenance. Other priority trails are those with historical associations or those that provide essential linkages.

Objective 9.1.3 calls for the incorporation of parks and trails in both urban and rural areas in recognition of the social, scenic, and economic importance of recreation and open space areas. Policies under this objective address the incorporation of parks and trails with rivers, lakes, and public lands; promoting the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails; and providing accessible park and trail facilities to those with disabilities.

Objective 9.1.4 directs the County to conserve and promote County rivers and waterways, particularly the South Fork of the American River, as recreational and economic assets. Policies identify the *River Management Plan, South Fork of the American River* as the implementation plan for river management policies, and call for support of acquisition of a public river access adjacent to Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

Objective 9.1.5 addresses coordinating recreation planning and development with other recreation agencies and districts to increase availability of recreation options. The formation of independent recreation districts is encouraged to facilitate the development of rural community and neighborhood parks.

Goal 9.2: Funding

Goal 9.2 addresses securing adequate and stable funding to implement a County-wide parks and recreation plan. Objective 9.2.1 acknowledges the various aspects of park implementation that need to be funded, including acquisition, development, maintenance and management.

Objective 9.2.2 and its related policies provide direction on the Quimby Act Implementation Ordinance, directing the use of dedicated land and fees in-lieu primarily to meet neighborhood parks needs, and to assist with meeting community park standards. The Parks Commission is also tasked with reviewing tentative subdivision maps of 50 or more parcels located outside the jurisdiction of special recreation or community services district, and providing recommendations to the Planning Commission on the appropriate provision of recreation services. Development projects that create new community or neighborhood parks are to provide mechanisms for the ongoing improvement, operation, and maintenance of these facilities unless they can be annexed to an existing special district or jurisdiction providing parks services.

The County commits to work with cities and special districts to acquire land for and develop neighborhood and community parks using the Quimby Act Implementing Ordinance and as funding allows. In addition, the County is to establish a development fee program applicable to all new development to fund acquisition and improvements for neighborhood, community, and regional parks beyond the park land acquisition requirements addressed by the Quimby Act. Development impact fees in effect as of 2011 for El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Park CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, and the City of Placerville are summarized below in Table 2.

Table 2 – Impact Fees for El Dorado County Parks Providers

Provider	Level of Service Standard (Acres per 1000 Persons)		Park Impact Fees			Fee Components	Comments
	Neighborhood & Community Parks	Regional Parks, Open Space	Single-Family	Multi-Family	Mobile Home		
Georgetown Divide Recreation District	3	2	\$4,245	\$3,508	\$4,170	For development of parks, community, and aquatic facilities, and multiple use trails; includes costs for fee administration.	Land dedication or in-lieu fees to be added
Cameron Park CSD	5	5	\$8,021	\$6,141	\$3,970	Includes land acquisition, park development, 11% of total cost for community center, aquatic facilities, and associated costs.	If land is provided, the value of the land is subtracted from impact fees.
City of Placerville	5	NA	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,320	Includes land acquisition, planning, and improvements for parks and trails.	2009 Master Plan recommended increase in fee to cover all components.
El Dorado Hills CSD	5	40.5	\$10,874	\$8,985	\$7,966	For development of parks, community center, aquatics, fee administration, and maintenance facilities.	Land dedication or in-lieu fees to be added

Further policies under Objective 9.2.2 direct the County to pursue ownership of Federal, State and other lands that are needed for public recreation use where such lands are not environmentally sensitive and are appropriate for public use.

Objective 9.2.3 and related policies direct the County to use a wide variety of funding sources, including grants, user fees, concession agreements, and donations to construct

facilities and support operations as feasible. Private sector development, operation, and maintenance of recreation facilities are also encouraged.

Goal 9.3: Recreation and Tourism

Goal 9.3 aims to increase opportunities to capitalize on County recreational resources by encouraging tourism and recreation based businesses and industries. Associated objectives and policies address the need to protect and maintain existing natural and cultural resources and those recreation businesses and industries that attract tourism. These include camping, skiing, tourist lodging, agriculture, water sports, the County fairgrounds, and special recreational and historical events. Policies also call for relocation of the El Dorado County Fairgrounds to a site that would better serve the projected population and potentially accommodate a regional sports complex.



El Dorado County Fair Entrance

Conservation and Open Space Element

The Conservation and Open Space Element Policy 7.3.5.3 states that the County Parks and Recreation Division shall use drought tolerant landscaping for all new parks and park improvement projects.

Policy 7.4.2.3, consistent with Policy 9.1.3.1 of the Parks and Recreation Element, states that low impact uses such as trails and linear parks may be provided within river and stream buffers if all applicable mitigation measures are incorporated into the design.

Policy 7.4.2.4 states the requirement to establish and manage wildlife habitat corridors within public parks and natural resource protection areas to allow for wildlife use. Recreational uses within these areas must be limited to those activities that do not require grading or vegetation removal.

Policy 7.6.1.1 calls for an Open Space land use designation on the General Plan land use map. The policy states that one of the purposes for this designation is to maintain areas of importance for outdoor recreation areas including areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value. This includes areas that are particularly suited for parks and recreation and areas that serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations.

Land Use Element

Land Use Element Objective 2.2.1 and its supporting policies call for an appropriate range of land use designations that distribute growth and development in a way that maintains the rural character of El Dorado County. Parks, trails, and open space are important components of achieving this objective.

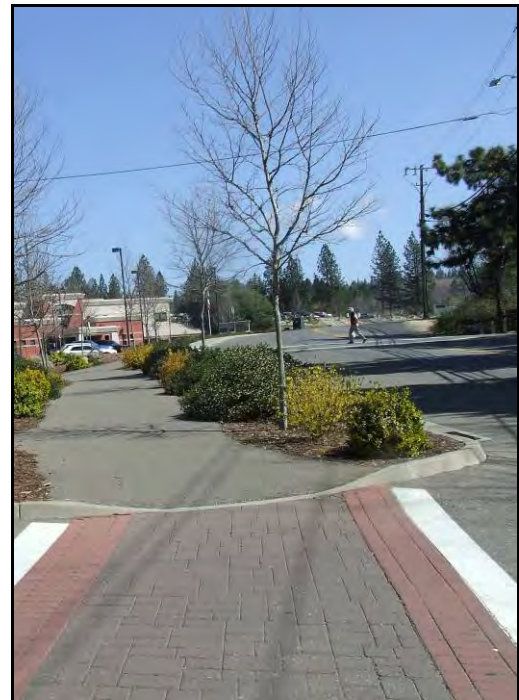
Land Use Element Policy 2.2.3.1 states that 30 percent of a planned development is to be dedicated to commonly-owned or publicly-dedicated open space land. This open space land can be developed for recreational purposes such as parks, ball fields, or picnic areas.

Land Use Element Policy 2.2.4.1 allows for more residential units than normal in a planned development if otherwise developable land is set aside for public benefit including open space, wildlife habitat areas, parks (in excess of that required by the Quimby Act Implementation Ordinance), ball fields, or other uses determined to be a legitimate public benefit.

Transportation and Circulation Element

The Transportation and Circulation Element identifies recreation related travel as one of the major sources of travel demand on the County's transportation system. This demand is generated by County residents as well as regional visitors heading to various recreation destinations in the County. It further identifies regional trails for hiking and equestrian use along with bicycle facilities and pathways for pedestrians as components of the County's non-motorized transportation system. Class I bikeways (facilities physically separated from a roadway and primarily designated for the use of bicycles) are recognized to provide both recreation and transportation benefits.

Goal TC-4 of the Transportation and Circulation Element is to provide a safe, continuous, and easily accessible non-motorized transportation system that facilitates the use of viable alternative transportation modes. Policy TC-4a specifically calls for bikeways to be developed that provide connections to recreational areas and parks of regional significance as well as along recreational routes. Policy TC-4h directs that public corridors such as utility easements and railroad rights-of-way



El Dorado Trail at Anderson Way, Placerville

should be put to multiple uses for trails, where possible. Policy TC-4i requires new development in communities to include bicycle/pedestrian connections to parks.

El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan

The **El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan (2010)** focuses on the transportation function of bicycle routes in the unincorporated County areas, including off-street trails that also have recreational value. This plan provides a conceptual layout for possible bicycle routes in El Dorado County to provide connectivity between cities and unincorporated areas, parks, schools, and recreation destinations.

El Dorado County River Management Plan

The **El Dorado County River Management Plan (2001)** deals exclusively with whitewater recreation activities on the South Fork of the American River from Chili Bar Dam to Salmon Falls Road. Implementation and management of whitewater recreation facilities are not addressed in this Master Plan due to the specialized nature of the activity and the existence of the River Management Plan to address that activity in a focused fashion. However, this Master Plan does examine the strategic role of whitewater and other river recreation activities and related facilities in the overall vision for parks and trails in El Dorado County.

El Dorado County Oak Woodland Management Plan

The **El Dorado County Oak Woodland Management Plan (2008)** calls for coordination between the planning of regional parks and preservation of oak woodlands. It notes that lands designated for recreation (e.g., Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park) help to maintain large expanses of oak woodland and it encourages connectivity between recreational facilities and oak woodland preservation areas.



Native Oaks at Cronan Ranch

Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Master Plan

The **Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC) Master Plan (2003)** describes alternative uses for the Sacramento-Placerville railway corridor that was purchased from the Southern Pacific Railway Corporation by the SPTC Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The agencies of the JPA are the counties of El Dorado and Sacramento, the City of Folsom, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District. The Master Plan identifies potential uses such as excursion trains, multiple use trails, and utility

easements, as well as strategies for environmental protection, safety, and fire prevention. Design and operational guidelines are also included. In 2009, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved the concept plan for the **El Dorado County Historical Railroad Park** to be located within the SPTC corridor at Oriental Street in the community of El Dorado as a satellite facility of the El Dorado County Museum and park site.

2.2 Other Relevant Planning Documents

Numerous other planning documents prepared and adopted by the local community services districts, cities, state, and federal agencies contain guidelines, policies, or proposals relevant to the parks and trails managed by these agencies in El Dorado County. It is the intention of El Dorado County that the planning and operation of County parks and trails resources should take into the consideration the resources provided by these regional partners to create an a comprehensive system of high quality recreation opportunities for all County residents and visitors.

City of Placerville

- The **Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009)** provides planning direction for the existing park and recreation resources of the City of Placerville and El Dorado County serving residents of Placerville and the surrounding unincorporated areas of El Dorado County. The unincorporated area addressed in this planning effort includes the communities of Coloma, Lotus, Gold Hill, Diamond Springs, Camino, Pollock Pines, and portions of Rescue. The plan provides specific guidance for the City and supporting analysis for the County to better understand how best to cooperatively manage and develop new parks and programs to meet the needs of the future population. The plan was adopted by the City of Placerville for aspects relating to City owned and/or operated parks. Analysis in the Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan related to County parks has been brought forward into the comprehensive analysis of County facilities and needs in this El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan.
- The **City of Placerville Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (2010)** provides a blueprint for the development of an ultimate bikeway system throughout the City, as well as providing for compliance with California Streets and Highways Code (sections 890-894.2), enabling the City to be eligible to apply for Bicycle Transportation Account funds. Since bicycling and pedestrian travel are the two primary modes of non-motorized travel in the City, the emphasis in this plan is on those non-motorized modes. Many of the facilities designed for these two modes are readily usable by other forms of non-motorized transportation, such as equestrians, wheelchair users, in-line skaters, and skateboarders, which also have

recreational value. The plan also identifies proposed routes to link parks and schools.

Sacramento Area Council of Governments

- The **SACOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Amended 2007)**, calls for the development of trail systems that provide necessary inter-jurisdictional bicycle and pedestrian connections. In addition the plan calls for improvement to the safety and aesthetics of bike and pedestrian ways by complimenting the plans and projects of the region. The SACOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan provides a conceptual layout for possible bicycle routes in El Dorado County.

Special Service Districts

- The **Cameron Park CSD Facilities Master Plan (2000)** examines existing park facilities, community needs, and projected growth within the CSD to provide a prioritized framework for future park acquisition, development, and operations. The plan also addresses open space preserves, recreation programming, and funding to implement plan recommendations.
- The **El Dorado Hills CSD Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2007)** provides a 15-year vision for how parks, facilities, and recreation programs will be managed in the CSD to respond to anticipated growth and changing recreation trends. The plan includes the vision and priorities of district residents, implementation strategies, and analysis of funding requirements. The plan also addresses open space and trails.
- The **Georgetown Divide Recreation District 20-Year Funding Master Plan (2008)** identifies the various land acquisition and capital projects the district hopes to implement and assigns costs and priorities to each. Operating costs and impact fee estimates are also included. The **Georgetown Divide Recreation District Park Nexus Fee Impact Study (2008)** establishes the basis for the development impact fee to be charged on new residential development within the District boundaries to be used for park and trails acquisition and development. El Dorado County collects these fees on behalf of GDRD through the development review process.
- The **Sly Park Recreation Area Master Plan (2003)** was prepared to provide the **El Dorado Irrigation District** with direction for the improvements, management, and protection of this popular recreation destination. The plan includes an analysis of park conditions, recommendations for new facilities, updates to existing facilities, and projected implementation costs. Visitors to Sly Park include many El Dorado County residents, as well as non-residents who enjoy multi-day stays.

Federal Agencies

- The Bureau of Land Management prepared **The South Fork American River: A Management Plan (2004)** to guide management activities on public BLM lands along the South Fork American River between Salmon Falls Bridge and Chili Bar Dam. The plan was developed through an extensive public consensus process and recognizes the partnership between the BLM, El Dorado County, and numerous other parties with interests along the river. Management guidelines and decisions are provided for an extensive range of issues including: trails, roads, biological and cultural resource protection, weed and fuels management, hunting, grazing, gold-seeking, camping, and commercial uses.
- The BLM also prepared **The Cronan Ranch: A Management Plan (2007)** to provide direction for public access and use of the 1,400-acre Cronan Ranch property located along the South Fork of the American River in El Dorado County. The vision for Cronan Ranch as described in the plan is “to preserve open space for public use and to restore and enhance plant and wildlife habitats. Reasonable public access to the river and the land will accommodate a wide range of uses including but not limited to recreational and educational experiences that are consistent with resource protection.” Specific management actions address natural and cultural resource protection, vehicle access, commercial uses, camping, trails, hunting, and recreational gold dredging.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service manages the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) according to planning direction provided by several documents and initiatives. The **Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan** was prepared in 1988 to provide comprehensive management direction for the ENF. However, it was only intended to address a 10 to 15 year planning period and is pending an update. Several interim planning initiatives have been undertaken to address specific aspects of managing the ENF. The **Business Plan for the Eldorado National Forest (2006)** provides information on financial resources and strategic direction for managing the diverse resources in the ENF for a broad range of stakeholders. The **Recreation Site Facility Master Planning** process carried out in 2007 focused on aligning the developed recreation sites with the unique characteristics of the ENF, in coordination with projected recreation demand, visitors’ expectations, and revenue opportunities. The **Eldorado National Forest Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management Project** was undertaken in 2008 to identify and designate off-highway vehicle routes in the ENF, while enhancing protection of habitat and aquatic, soil, air and cultural resources. In addition, the USFS publishes dozens of **Recreational Opportunity Guides** for particular forest activities and maps of specific campgrounds, trails, and destinations.

State of California

California State Parks manages and operates several major facilities that provide recreational resources for El Dorado County residents and visitors.



Marshall Gold Discovery SHP Picnic Area

- The **Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park General Plan** was prepared in 1979 to provide guidelines for management and development of the historic park located along the South Fork American River in the town of Coloma. The park is visited by over 300,000 people each year including many school groups, and features the Gold Discovery Museum, numerous historic buildings, extensive interpretive exhibits and programs, river access, hiking trails, and picnic areas.

- The **Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA)** includes 40 miles of primarily federal lands along the North and Middle Forks of the American River, and is managed by California State Parks under a service contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). In 2006, a cooperative process involving California State Parks and the BOR began in order to develop a new ASRA General Plan/Interim Resource Management Plan to replace the 1992 ASRA Interim Resource Management Plan with an approach that would meet the needs of both agencies. This planning process is temporarily on hold while issues related to funding and interagency land management are resolved.
- Planning direction for the **Folsom Lake State Recreation Area** and **Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park** is provided in a General Plan/Resource Management Plan which addresses the planning considerations of both California State Parks and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The California State Parks and Recreation Commission approved the General Plan in 2009. A separate decision by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation regarding approval of the Resource Management Plan is still pending. California State Parks recently initiated a project to develop a Trail Management Plan for the purpose of providing more focused direction on trails than is provided by the General Plan/Resource Management Plan.
- The **California Recreational Trails Plan** produced by California State Parks provides guidance for all California agencies and recreation providers that manage trails. The plan includes information on trail demand, funding, integration, and stewardship.

3 Vision, Goals and Policies

The following vision, goals, and policies expand on the guidance found in the El Dorado County General Plan for parks and trails. Their collective purpose is to provide direction for how parks and trails should be planned, operated, and maintained so that current and future decisions about these resources are consistent with the County’s long range vision for parks and trails.



Henningsen Lotus Park Group Picnic Area

3.1 Vision

The vision for parks and trails in El Dorado County is to offer access to a diverse selection of recreation opportunities that provide multiple benefits, including:

- Health and wellness for residents of all ages and abilities;
- Centers for community gathering and events;
- Enhanced sense of place and local identity;
- Protection for El Dorado County’s unique natural and cultural resources; and
- Economic development associated with recreation based tourism and quality of life.

3.2 Goals and Policies

The El Dorado County General Plan already provides goals with numerous objectives and policies that specifically address many aspects of 1) parks and recreation facilities including trails, 2) funding for parks and trails, and 3) the coordination of recreation and tourism. The following goals, objectives, and policies provide further direction related to other important aspects of park and trails in order to realize the County’s vision for these important public resources.

Goal 1: Health and Wellness

El Dorado County residents will have reasonable access to a variety of park and trail facilities to enhance their opportunities for physical, mental, and social health and well-being.

Objective 1.1: Park and Trail Locations

Park and trails facilities shall be located taking into consideration the potential to provide recreational



opportunities to underserved populations and to expand the diversity of recreational experiences available to County residents.

Policy 1.1.1 Areas with relatively high population density and no or minimal public park acreage should be priority locations for new neighborhood and community park development.

Policy 1.1.2 Some trails should be located to provide connections to neighborhoods or public places such as schools, parks, and civic areas to encourage residents to incorporate walking and cycling as a regular activity.

Policy 1.1.3 As new parks and trail are planned, consideration should be given to locating them in places that will provide access to diverse and unique recreation experiences.

Objective 1.2: Public Access

El Dorado County parks and trails will be designed and operated to provide maximum public access as feasible considering safety, sensitive natural resources, and other constraints.

Policy 1.2.1 To the extent possible, maximize the use of all County parks and trails by the physically handicapped and developmentally disabled as detailed in the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Policy 1.2.1 Parks and trails should be open at times that make it possible for people with diverse work and school schedules to utilize them.

Policy 1.2.3 Design of parks and trail should take into consideration the varying age-related physical abilities and interests of El Dorado County residents and provide a variety of appropriate improvements to encourage physical activity and social engagement.

Policy 1.2.4 The use of El Dorado County parks and trails for organized events, classes, and group activities that support the health of individuals and communities will be encouraged, with appropriate provision made for maintenance, safety, and capacity.



Henningsen Lotus Park beach picnic area

Goal 2: Community Building

Parks and trails are public places that provide opportunities for people to interact

with each other and/or share experiences that strengthen their sense of community and common interest.

Objective 2.1 Design Considerations

Parks and trails are designed as places to be shared with others in the community whether in group or solitary recreation recognizing the benefits to be enjoyed by all.

Policy 2.1.1 Neighborhood and community parks in particular should provide places to gather and connect with others on various scales from small family gatherings to larger group events. Regional parks may provide similar facilities depending on the nature of the park.

Policy 2.1.2 Public input should play an important role in the design of park and trail facilities to ensure that they adequately reflect the recreation values and preference of those who will use them.

Policy 2.1.3 Unique features or themes should be incorporated in park and trailhead design to give them an identity consistent with the local character and identity.



Pioneer Park Playground and Picnic Area

Objective 2.2 Stewardship

Residents take pride and ownership in County parks and trails as valued public places that enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Policy 2.2.1 Volunteerism in all aspects of park and trail planning, construction, maintenance, and operation should be encouraged as feasible to foster a stronger awareness of the common public purpose and value of these resources.

Policy 2.2.2 Local organizations and businesses should be encouraged to sponsor or adopt park or trail projects as way to contribute to their ongoing improvement.

Goal 3: Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a consideration in all aspects of park and trail planning, design, and operation.

Objective 3.1: Energy Efficiency

Reduce energy consumption and use of non-renewable energy resources.

- Policy 3.1.1 Track levels of energy consumption at County park facilities on a regular basis to establish a baseline against which to measure conservation success.
- Policy 3.1.2 Perform energy audits of park facilities to identify major energy uses and feasible conservation measures such as controls on lights and replacement of outmoded equipment.
- Policy 3.1.3 Identify opportunities for the cost-effective use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, at park facilities.
- Policy 3.1.4 Take advantage of incentives and rebates to help fund the purchase and implementation of energy-efficient equipment.

Objective 3.2: Air Quality

Reduce production of carbon emissions and air borne pollutants to limit production of greenhouse gases and protect air quality.

- Policy 3.2.1 Make sure all County park and trail maintenance vehicles and equipment are properly serviced and maintained to prevent excess fuel use and emissions.
- Policy 3.2.2 When replacing maintenance vehicles and equipment select appropriate models with optimal fuel efficiency and clean emissions.
- Policy 3.2.3 Examine patterns of vehicle use to minimize miles driven by staff for park and trail maintenance and operations.
- Policy 3.2.4 Use appropriate measures to control dust and air born pollutants generated by maintenance operations.

Objective 3.3: Recycled Materials

Utilize recycled materials as feasible to reduce the energy and resources used in material production.

- Policy 3.3.1 Include receptacles for material recycling in parks and trailheads.
- Policy 3.3.2 Encourage suppliers and contractors to provide alternative products and materials with recycled content.
- Policy 3.3.3 Identify opportunities to donate excess materials or unwanted equipment to others who can use them rather than throwing them away.
- Policy 3.3.5 Maximize use of composting to recycle green waste generated by park maintenance.

Policy 3.3.6 Giving preference to purchasing recycled products when costs and quality are equal.

Objective 3.4: Water Quality

Protect surface and ground water from contamination by harmful chemicals, sediment, and other pollutants.

Policy 3.4.1 Minimize the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides through proper care and irrigation of vegetation.

Policy 3.4.1 When fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are needed, use products that are environmentally safe and apply them per the manufacturer’s instructions.

Policy 3.4.1 Maintain vegetation along creek banks and control access to prevent erosion and associated sedimentation of the channel.

Policy 3.4.1 Design park facilities and trailheads to manage stormwater runoff to prevent discharge of pollutants directly into surface waters.



Grassy swale used to filter parking lot runoff

Objective 3.5: Water Conservation

Implement measures to maximize the efficient use of water and facilitate aquifer recharge.

Policy 3.5.1 Monitor levels of water consumption at County parks on a regular basis to establish a baseline against which to measure conservation success.

Policy 3.5.2 Perform water audits of facilities to identify major water uses and feasible conservation measures such as irrigation controls, flow constrictors, and replacement of outmoded equipment.

Policy 3.5.3 Make sure irrigation systems are maintained in good working order to prevent water loss through broken valves, pipes, or controllers.

Policy 3.5.4 Upgrade irrigation controllers to include weather sensors to automatically adjust irrigation requirements.

Policy 3.5.5 Adjust irrigation systems to eliminate overspray onto unplanted areas and to make sure plants with similar water needs are grouped in the same irrigation zones.

Objective 3.6: Structures and Facilities

Emphasize the use of sustainable building practices in all new structures and renovations.

Policy 3.6.1 Encourage building contractors to become familiar with this Sustainability Goal and to demonstrate how they will implement these goals for a given project.

Policy 3.6.2 Encourage County parks staff to stay up-to-date with new techniques, practices, and materials to support sustainability in all aspects of facility renovation and maintenance.

4 County Demographic Profile

In order to determine how well County parks and trails will be able to meet the needs of El Dorado County residents, it is important to understand the demographic characteristics of the current and projected future population.

4.1 *Data Sources*

This Master Plan uses demographic data from several sources. Information about the current and projected characteristics of El Dorado County’s population is available from the United States Census Bureau, the State of California Department of Finance (DOF), and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). The complete U.S. Census Survey is conducted every ten years and the last available set of complete data is from the 2000 survey. However, some data have been released for the 2010 Census and these have been used when available.¹²

Data from the U.S. Census are broken down by blocks, and can therefore be aggregated to investigate the demographics of people living in areas defined by specific geographic boundaries. For purposes of this population analysis, all the communities of the Plan Area that receive park services primarily from an entity other than El Dorado County are identified separately. These include the City of Placerville, the Georgetown Divide Recreation District, the El Dorado Hills CSD, and the Cameron Park CSD. The General Plan also recognizes three distinct rural communities: Camino/Pollock Pines, El Dorado/Diamond Springs, and Shingle Springs. These locales are also identified separately for purposed of examining population trends.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is produced by the Census Bureau based on data from an annual survey of 3 million households nationwide. The results of the ACS for El Dorado County, including all urban areas, are available for individual years or as a multiyear estimate. These include the 5-year 2005-2009 and 1-year 2009 ACS estimates.

SACOG provides demographic data to facilitate regional planning for the area that includes El Dorado County, and five other counties. The DOF also provide demographic data on a countywide basis to support state planning and budgeting.

¹² The 2010 Census data for California began to be released in March, 2011 and will continue to be released throughout 2011 and 2012.

4.2 Population Trends

The population of El Dorado County has grown continuously over the past decade and is anticipated to keep growing in the future, although annual growth rates have steadily declined from nearly 2.7 percent in 2000 to less than half a percent in 2009.¹³

The population of the entire County is estimated to have grown by approximately 16 percent from 156,299 people in 2000 to 181,058 people in 2010. Within the area of the County covered by this Master Plan (which excludes the TRPA communities) the population has increased by about 23 percent (Table 3).¹⁴ All areas of the County saw significant growth in the decade except the Tahoe area where the population declined by about 10 percent.

Table 3 – Plan Area Population Change 2000 to 2010

	2000	2010	Net Population Change	% Change
Cameron Park CSD	15,228	17,958	2,730	18%
Camino/Pollock Pines	9,214	9,450	236	3%
El Dorado/Diamond Springs	9,076	9,888	812	9%
El Dorado Hills CSD	21,144	37,279	16,135	76%
Georgetown Divide Recreation District	11,630	13,493	1,863	16%
City of Placerville	9,634	10,389	755	8%
Shingle Springs	3,663	3,909	246	7%
Rural West Slope El Dorado County	42,668	48,356	5,688	13%
Total Plan Area	122,257	150,722	28,465	23%
Served by Non-County Park Providers	57,636	79,119	21,483	37%
Served Only by EDC	64,621	71,603	6,982	11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2000 Census

Data on projected growth in El Dorado County were prepared in 2007 by the California Department of Finance (DOF). At that time the projected population for 2025 was 235,212 people. However, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is currently refining population projections as part of the regional Metropolitan

¹³ California Department of Finance (DOF) Demographic Research Unit E-5 City/County Population and Housing Estimates

¹⁴ US Census 2000 and 2010

Transportation Plan (MTP) update process, and has found that the 2007 DOF projections are 4-5% higher than current information would support. This more conservative projection, reflecting the recent economic downturn, would indicate a 2025 population for the County in the range of 225,083 people or about 44,000 more residents than lived in the County in 2010.¹⁵

Age

Table 4 and Table 5 show the population age distribution for the Plan Area as reported in the 2010 U.S. Census by age range and age group. These data indicate that the population of the more urbanized communities (Placerville, Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, and Shingle Springs) is more heavily weighted toward younger residents as compared to the communities with fewer services (Camino/Pollock Pines, El Dorado/Diamond Springs, the Georgetown Divide, and the remaining rural area). In the more urban communities, 30 percent of residents are under 20 years of age, and 36 percent are aged 20 to 50 years. The segment of the population for these corresponding age groups in the more remaining areas is 22 percent and 31 percent respectively. This reflects the general preference of working adults and families with children for living closer to urban centers to access schools, organized youth activities, employment, and community services. People 50 years of age and older account for only 34 percent of residents in these areas as compared to 46 percent in the less urbanized areas. In addition, the vast majority (75 percent) of older adults throughout the Plan Area are between 50 and 70 years of age. This group of people expects a much more active and diverse set of recreation opportunities than has traditionally been associated with the senior population.

¹⁵ SACOG, March, 2010, Draft Regional Growth Projections, Information Item #10-4-12C to the Government Relations and Public Affairs Committee

Table 4 – Percent Population by Age Range

	Age Range										
	< 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
Cameron Park CSD	6%	7%	8%	7%	11%	11%	15%	15%	10%	6%	4%
Camino/Pollock Pines	6%	6%	6%	6%	9%	10%	15%	18%	14%	7%	3%
El Dorado/Diamond Springs	5%	5%	6%	6%	10%	10%	12%	16%	12%	9%	9%
El Dorado Hills CSD	6%	9%	9%	8%	6%	11%	19%	16%	9%	4%	2%
Georgetown Divide Recreation District	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	15%	20%	15%	7%	3%
City of Placerville	6%	6%	6%	7%	14%	11%	12%	14%	10%	6%	7%
Shingle Springs	5%	6%	7%	7%	10%	9%	15%	20%	12%	6%	3%
Rural West Slope El Dorado County	4%	5%	6%	6%	8%	8%	15%	21%	16%	8%	4%
Total Plan Area	5%	6%	7%	7%	8%	10%	16%	18%	13%	6%	4%
Served by Non-County Park Providers	6%	7%	8%	8%	9%	10%	17%	16%	11%	5%	3%
Served Only by EDC	5%	5%	6%	6%	8%	8%	14%	19%	15%	8%	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Table 5 – Percent of Population by Age Groups

	Age Group		
	<20	20-	50+
Cameron Park CSD	28%	37%	35%
Camino/Pollock Pines	23%	35%	42%
El Dorado/Diamond Springs	23%	32%	45%
El Dorado Hills CSD	32%	36%	32%
Georgetown Divide Recreation District	22%	32%	46%
City of Placerville	25%	37%	38%
Shingle Springs	26%	34%	40%
Rural West Slope El Dorado County	22%	30%	48%
Total Plan Area	26%	34%	41%
Served by Others	28%	36%	36%
Served Only by EDC	23%	31%	46%

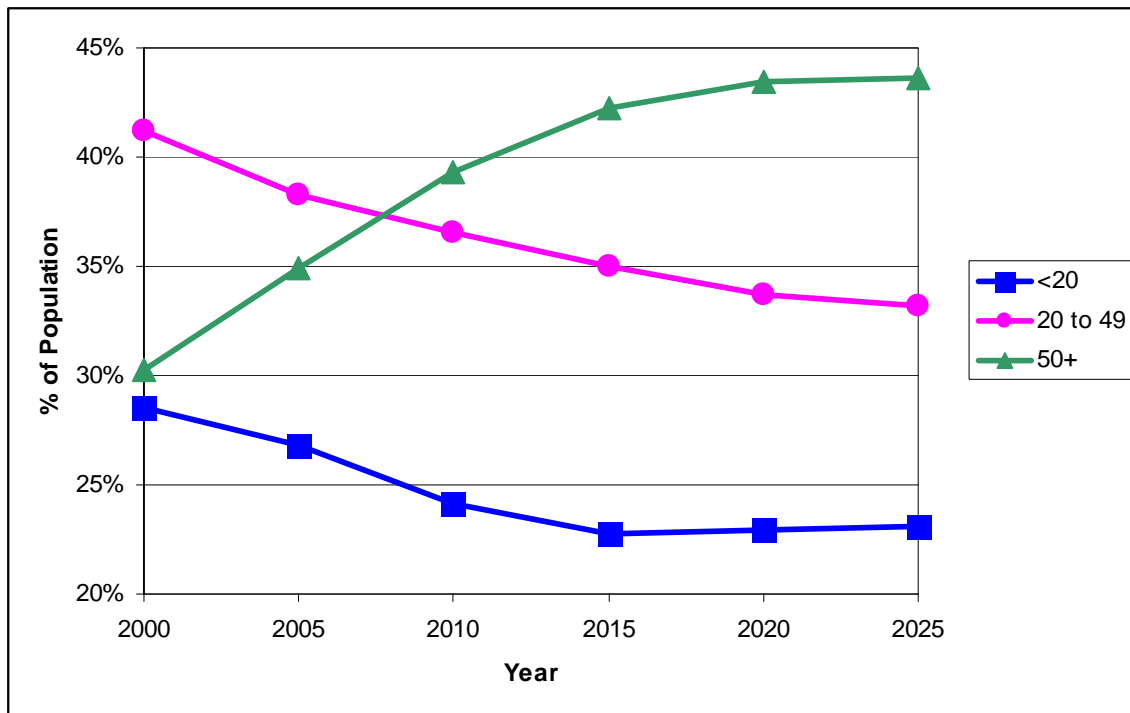
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Over the past decade, the proportion of the entire El Dorado County population made up of people 50 years of age and older has been steadily increasing. The 2000 Census identified 29 percent of the population in El Dorado County as youth under the age of

20, and 41 percent as adults ages 20 to 49. According to the 2010 Census, youths now comprise approximately 25 percent of the County’s population while 35 percent are ages 20 to 49. The reduction in numbers among these two age groups is reflected in the increase in people aged 50 and older from 30 percent of the population in 2000 to 40 percent in 2010.

Figure 1 shows the projected age composition of the population of the entire County over the next 15 years. This figure shows percentage of the population, not actual numbers. Thus, although one age group may decline as a percentage of the population the actual number of individuals in that category may still increase as the population grows. The percentage of working adults is expected to decline over time and then begin to level out, while the percentage of youth decreases until 2015, then starts slowly increasing. The most drastic change is the marked increase in the mature adult population over the next ten years. This projected increase in the mature adult population is the anticipated result of the continued aging of the “baby boomer” generation possibly combined with the desirability of El Dorado County as a retirement location.

Figure 1 – El Dorado County Projected Population Age Composition



Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050, Sacramento, CA, July, 2007.

Although the demand for facilities for youth activities, such as sports fields and play areas, will be steady, the demand for mature adult recreation facilities and programs

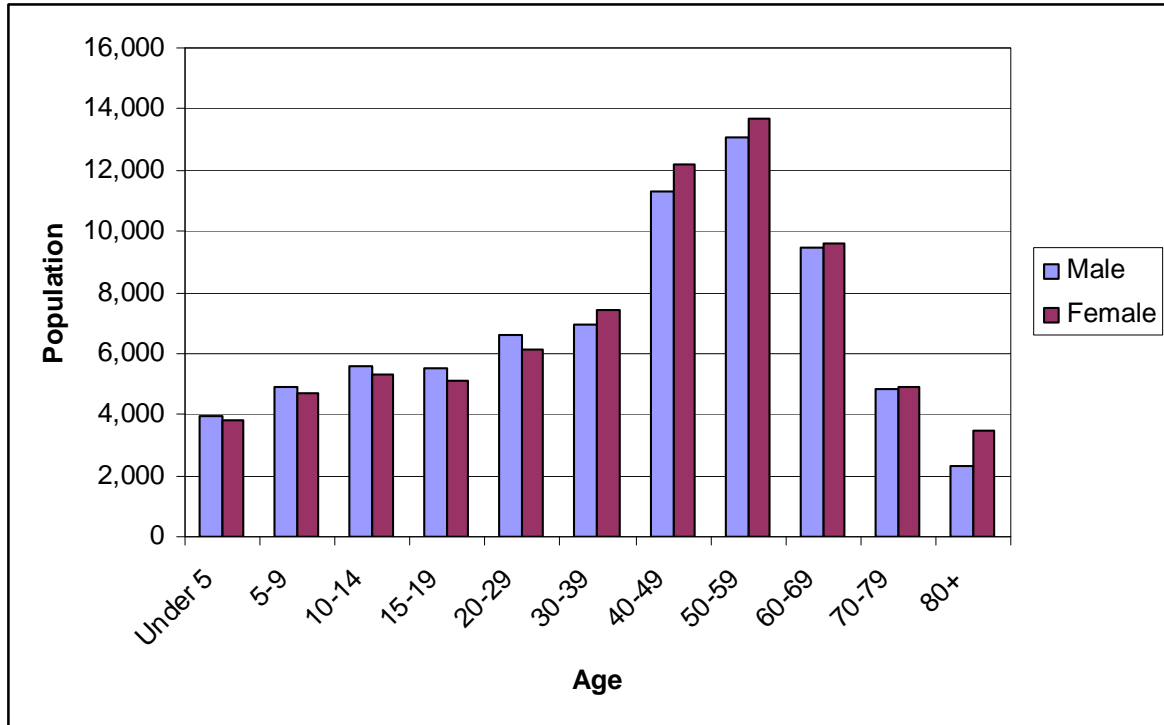
may increase more quickly as that segment of the population grows. In addition, an increasing number of mature adults are interested in using these same types of sports facilities, such as ball fields and gymnasiums. Mature adults over the age of 50 are often retired or semi-retired with free time and disposable income. Members of this age group are more active than people of a similar age in previous generations and are interested in a wide range of recreation opportunities. Many recent studies have also demonstrated the importance of maintaining both physical and mental flexibility and strength as one ages, as well as social connections. The mature adult community will likely be seeking age-appropriate activities and facilities to address these health needs. People often become socially isolated as they age and friends and family die. Continuing education and social programs to help people stay connected may become increasingly important to serve this increasing segment of the population.

Gender

About 49 percent of the Plan Area residents are males and 51 percent are female based on the 2010 Census data. Males tend to outnumber females in the younger age ranges, but around age 35 this relationship is reversed (Figure 2). While women do tend to outnumber men in the older age brackets, the numbers of men and women are nearly equal for the population aged 60 to 79 years old. Women have historically enjoyed longer life expectancy than men, but life-expectancy rates for women have fallen in recent years. These declines have been attributed to various factors such as stress-related health problems as women have moved into the workplace and assumed increasing financial responsibility in the family.

Providing recreation programs and activities targeted to women to reduce stress and increase wellness may help to offset these negative impacts. The County may wish to promote the use of parks and trails by this population in collaboration with community wellness organizations. Additionally, recent medical advances and societal changes have increased life expectancy for men due to better treatments for common ailments, such as heart disease, and an emphasis on improving diet and exercise. These two trends may combine to decrease the gender gap in the older population in the future. This suggests there may be an increased demand for the facilities that support activities and programs targeted to older men and older couples.

Figure 2 – Plan Area Population by Age and Gender



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Race and Ethnicity

Peoples’ preferences for recreational activities and feelings about nature are often influenced by their cultural heritage. For example, people from an ethnic tradition that values large, multi-generational families may desire more facilities that support large gatherings than people whose heritage focuses on the nuclear family or non-group activities. Both race and ethnicity may provide indications of cultural heritage and consequently these demographic factors are of interest in planning for future park and trail facilities.

Data from the 2010 Census indicate that 82 percent of Plan Area residents identify themselves as white (Table 6). Hispanic or Latino residents account for 10 percent of the population, Asian residents account for 3 percent of the population, as do those who identify themselves as multiracial. African Americans and Native Americans each represent 1 percent. The more urbanized areas of the Plan Area tend to have a greater degree of racial diversity than the more rural areas. Twenty-four percent of Placerville residents identify themselves as non-white, including 18 percent Hispanic or Latino and 3 percent multiracial. In El Dorado Hills, 23 percent of residents are non-white including 9 percent Hispanic or Latino and 9 percent Asian. The Georgetown Divide communities, Camino/Pollock Pines, and the remaining rural areas are slightly less diverse than the overall Plan Area.

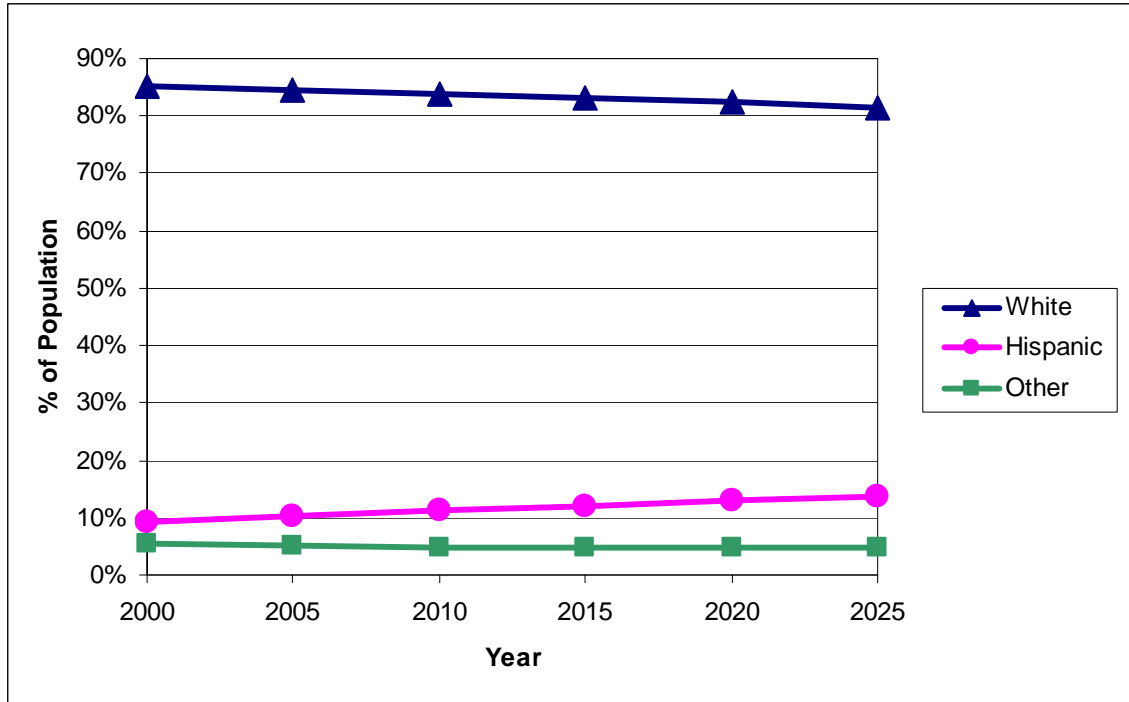
Table 6 – Plan Area Race/Ethnicity

	White	Hispanic or Latino	African American	Native American	Asian	Pacific Islander	Other Single Race	Multi-racial
Cameron Park CSD	82%	11%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	3%
Camino/Pollock Pines	85%	10%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	2%
El Dorado/Diamond Springs	82%	13%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	3%
El Dorado Hills CSD	77%	9%	2%	<1%	9%	<1%	<1%	3%
Georgetown Divide Recreation District	88%	7%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	3%
City of Placerville	76%	18%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	3%
Shingle Springs	82%	11%	<1%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	3%
Rural West Slope El Dorado County	86%	8%	<1%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	3%
Total Plan Area	82%	10%	1%	1%	3%	<1%	<1%	3%
Served by Others	80%	10%	1%	1%	5%	<1%	<1%	3%
Served Only by EDC	85%	9%	0%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

According to the DOF, the percentage of white residents in El Dorado County has been decreasing slowly over time as the Hispanic population grows (Figure 3). This trend is expected to continue at least over the next decade. Other race and ethnic groups are projected to maintain a consistent 5-6% of the population. These changes may correspond to increased demand for certain types of recreation facilities over time. This should be considered when evaluating the specific types of improvements to place in new parks.

Figure 3 – El Dorado County Projected Population Ethnicity



Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050, Sacramento, CA, July, 2007.

Language

Understanding language preference is important because it has implications for how well people will comprehend written and spoken information pertaining to park and trails facilities, usage, and events. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 90 percent of people in El Dorado County spoke only English. Of the 10 percent of the population who spoke other languages, 64 percent spoke Spanish (Table 7). Most of the people (83 percent) who speak a language other than English also speak English well or very well. Language data has not yet been released for the 2010 U.S. Census.

While the language spoken in the home may not necessarily be an individual’s preferred language, it does provide significant clues to how families and households communicate. English is by far the most common language in El Dorado County households; spoken in 90 percent of homes (Table 8). Spanish, which is spoken in just over 6 percent of homes, is the next most common language. In the remaining 4 percent of homes other non-English languages are spoken.

Another important aspect of household language is whether or not a household is considered linguistically isolated. A linguistically isolated household is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English or (2) speaks a non-English

language and speaks English "very well." In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English. ¹⁶ About 2 percent of the households in El Dorado County are linguistically isolated (Table 9). In these homes, Spanish and other Indo-European languages are the dominant languages. However, almost 67 percent of linguistically isolated homes are located in the city of South Lake Tahoe, which is outside of the Plan Area.

Table 7 – Languages Spoken by Population 5 years and Older

	% Population Speaking only English	Population Speaks a language other than English	Language Spoken by People who Speak Language Other than English			
			Spanish	Other Indo-European languages	Asian and Pacific Island languages	All other languages
El Dorado County	90%	14,894	64%	22%	12%	2%
Speak English less than "well"		2,476	85%	8%	6%	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Table 8 – Language Spoken in the Home

Language	El Dorado County
English	90%
Spanish	6%
Other Indo-European Language	2%
Asian and Pacific Islander	1%
Other Language	<1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

¹⁶U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, Matrices P19, P20, PCT13, and PCT14.

Table 9 – Linguistically Isolated Households

Language	El Dorado County
Spanish	782
Other Indo-European	170
Asian and Pacific Island	186
Other Language	10
Total Linguistically Isolated Households	1,148
Total Households	59,013
Linguistically Isolated Household as Percent of Total	2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Education

Education attainment is relevant to recreation planning for numerous reasons. These range from knowing what literacy level to use in preparing written materials to designing interpretive features and facilities that might be used for educational experiences. The 2000 Census reported that approximately 12 percent of the residents of El Dorado County over the age of 25 had not graduated from high school, and 23 percent had a bachelor’s degree or higher. However, the 2009 American Community Survey showed the number of County residents who had not graduated from high school reduced to only 6 percent, with 32 percent having a bachelor’s degree or higher. This dramatic increase in educational attainment may correlate in part with the significant professional and white-collar population growth over the last ten years in the communities of El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park, as well as better access to educational opportunities through internet based curricula.

Poverty Status and Income

Poverty and income status are important recreation planning considerations for several reasons. They reflect residents’ ability to pay fees to use facilities, purchase equipment that might be needed to participate in recreational activities, and travel to locations to utilize facilities. These economic data are also related to the ability of residents to pay assessments and/or make financial donations to support public parks and trails.

According to the 2000 Census, approximately 7 percent of the people living in El Dorado County were living in poverty (Table 10). Similar data for the 2010 Census are not available yet. The burden of poverty is disproportionately felt by children, of whom 8 percent live in poverty. Among children under 6 years old, over 9 percent lived in poverty. The likelihood of living in poverty is much greater for children living in families with a female householder and no husband. Over 21 percent of children under the age of 18 in such families lived in poverty, while over 36 percent of children 6 years old and

under in similar families lived in poverty. These County residents have a need for local access to free or very low-cost recreation experiences such as would be available in neighborhood parks or local trails. By contrast, the incidence of poverty among people 65 years and older was 5 percent, which was slightly less than the County overall.

Median household income varies greatly across the communities in El Dorado County (Table 11). Data from the American Communities Survey for the Census Defined Places (CDP) of Shingle Springs, Cameron Park, and El Dorado Hills show these communities having median household incomes greater than the overall County. The remaining communities within the Plan Area had median household incomes less than the County average, with the city of Placerville having the lowest.

Table 10 – Poverty Levels in El Dorado County

Population Segment	Below Poverty Level
Total Population	7.1%
Under 18 Years	8.0%
<i>Ina Married-couple Household</i>	4.3%
<i>Female Householder, No Husband</i>	21.1%
Under 6 Years	9.5%
<i>Ina Married-couple Household</i>	5.4%
<i>Female Householder, No Husband</i>	36.4%
65 Years or Older	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Table 11 – Median Household Income

	Median Income
El Dorado County	\$70,765
Cameron Park CDP	\$74,496
Diamond Springs CDP	\$50,560
El Dorado Hills CDP	\$118,991
Georgetown CDP	\$57,563
Placerville	\$48,493
Pollock Pines CDP	\$57,636
Shingle Springs CDP	\$83,889

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Communities Survey

5 Existing Park and Trail Resources

Parks and trails are provided for El Dorado County residents and visitors by a diverse array of recreation focused agencies and jurisdictions. Exhibit 2 shows the location of County parks, the boundaries of areas served by other recreation providers, and the locations of many non-County parks and recreation facilities. Exhibit 3 shows the location of the existing and proposed major regional trails including County, state, and federal trails. Many other public trails have been designated in the state and federal lands in El Dorado County as discussed below and listed in Appendices C and D. In addition, there are numerous undesignated local trails that are being used informally by residents. The focus of this Plan is to determine the County’s role in providing parks and trails, in coordination with these other recreation partners to optimize the value of recreation resources for residents and visitors. This chapter provides an overview of existing County park and trail resources, as well as those provided by the many agencies and jurisdictions that play an important role in providing parks and trails facilities.

5.1 *El Dorado County Parks and Trails*

El Dorado County is responsible for managing and maintaining six existing public recreation facilities and owns land targeted for three additional parks. A table listing these County facilities and the improvements at each park is included in Appendix A. County staff are responsible for management of facility rentals by the public for private events, community activities, and sports leagues. Several of the existing parks have internal pathways or trail networks, and similar features are planned at the proposed parks. There is one County owned and managed trail that is independent of a park site.

Existing County Parks

Henningsen Lotus Park, occupies 51 acres on the site of an old gravel mining operation in the Coloma-Lotus area. Henningsen Lotus Park is a community park facility containing a pavilion, Little League ball fields, softball fields, a regulation soccer field, a junior soccer field, individual picnic tables, a group picnic area, and restrooms. The park is adjacent to the South Fork of the American River, a very popular rafting and kayaking venue, and a boat launch area and beach are located on the downstream end of the



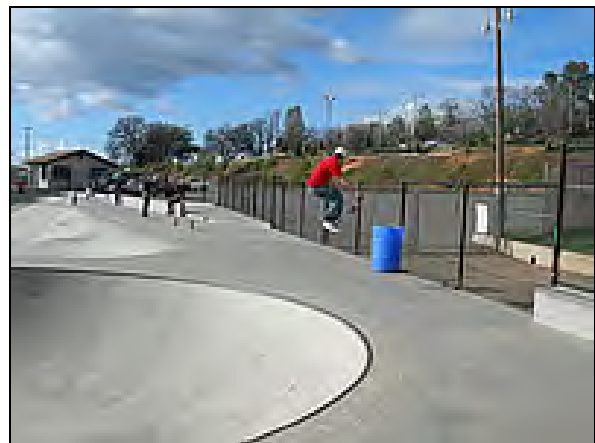
Henningsen Lotus Park

park. Paved paths throughout the park are popular with walkers and skaters. The ball fields are lighted, which allows night use of the facilities. The soccer fields are a particularly important resource, since they are the only public non-school fields available for league soccer play in the area that includes Placerville, Coloma-Lotus, and the Georgetown Divide. Parking is off-street. The park is heavily used during the summer season, and has been the site for regional music festivals. The soccer fields, ball fields, and pavilion may be leased for private use.

Pioneer Park is a 21-acre community park located in southern El Dorado County. The park has a full size Equestrian Arena that is host to a number of livestock events, horse shows, and other equestrian activities. A community center offers two meeting rooms and a food/snack bar service kitchen. In addition the facility contains a disc golf course, a soccer field, regulation size baseball field, play structures, picnic tables, and two parking lots.

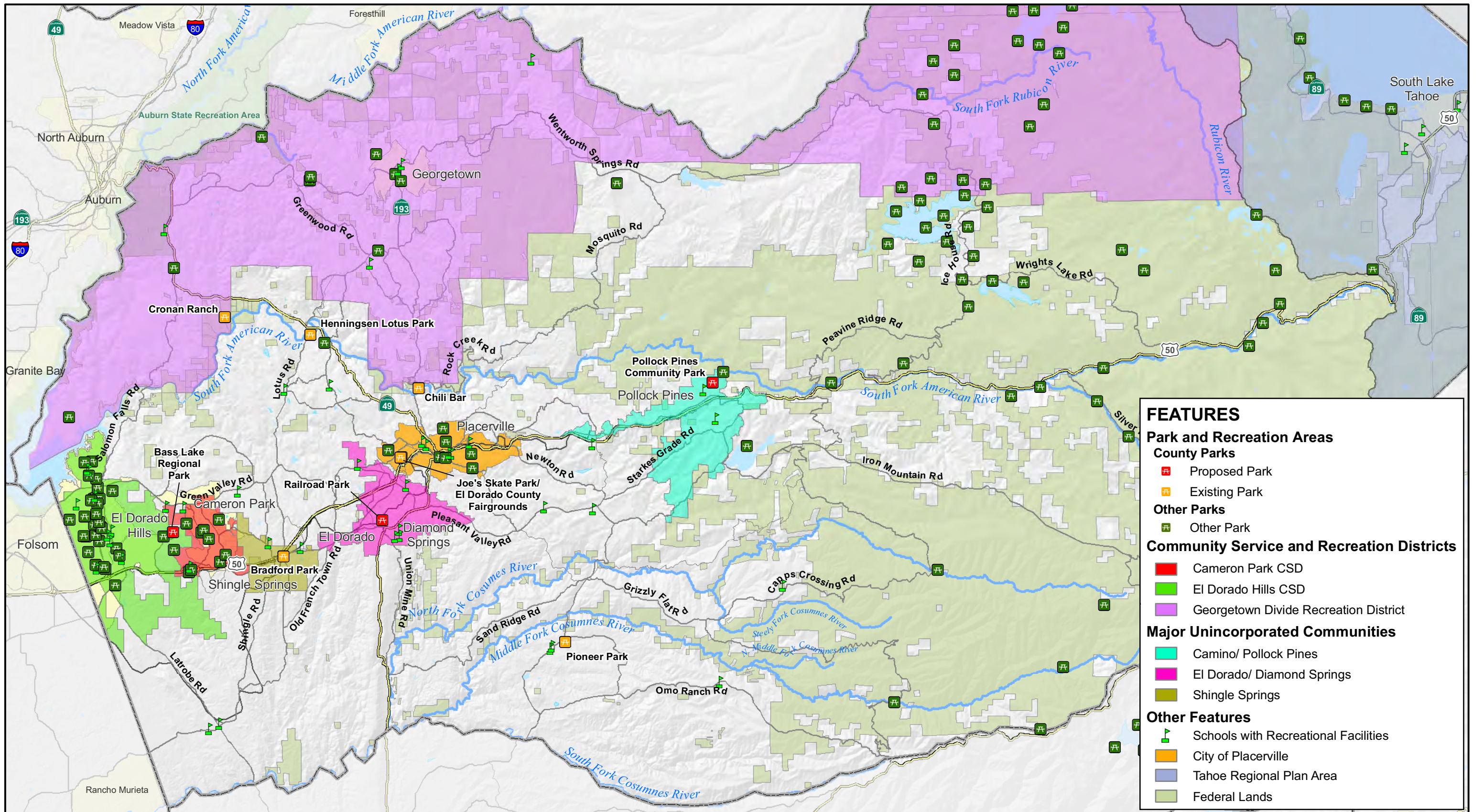
Bradford Park is a 5-acre neighborhood park that was originally built by the Lions Club and handed over to the County to own and operate. The park contains a large children's play area, a small sports field, a large covered picnic area, and an off-street parking lot.

Joe's Skate Park is located at El Dorado County Fairgrounds and is very popular with local skateboarders. It is an unsupervised skate park with a variety of challenging bowls and rail sections. The fenced 1-acre facility is open during the day and shares parking with the adjacent Fairgrounds.

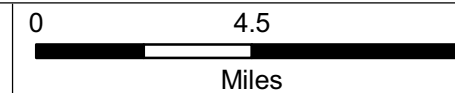


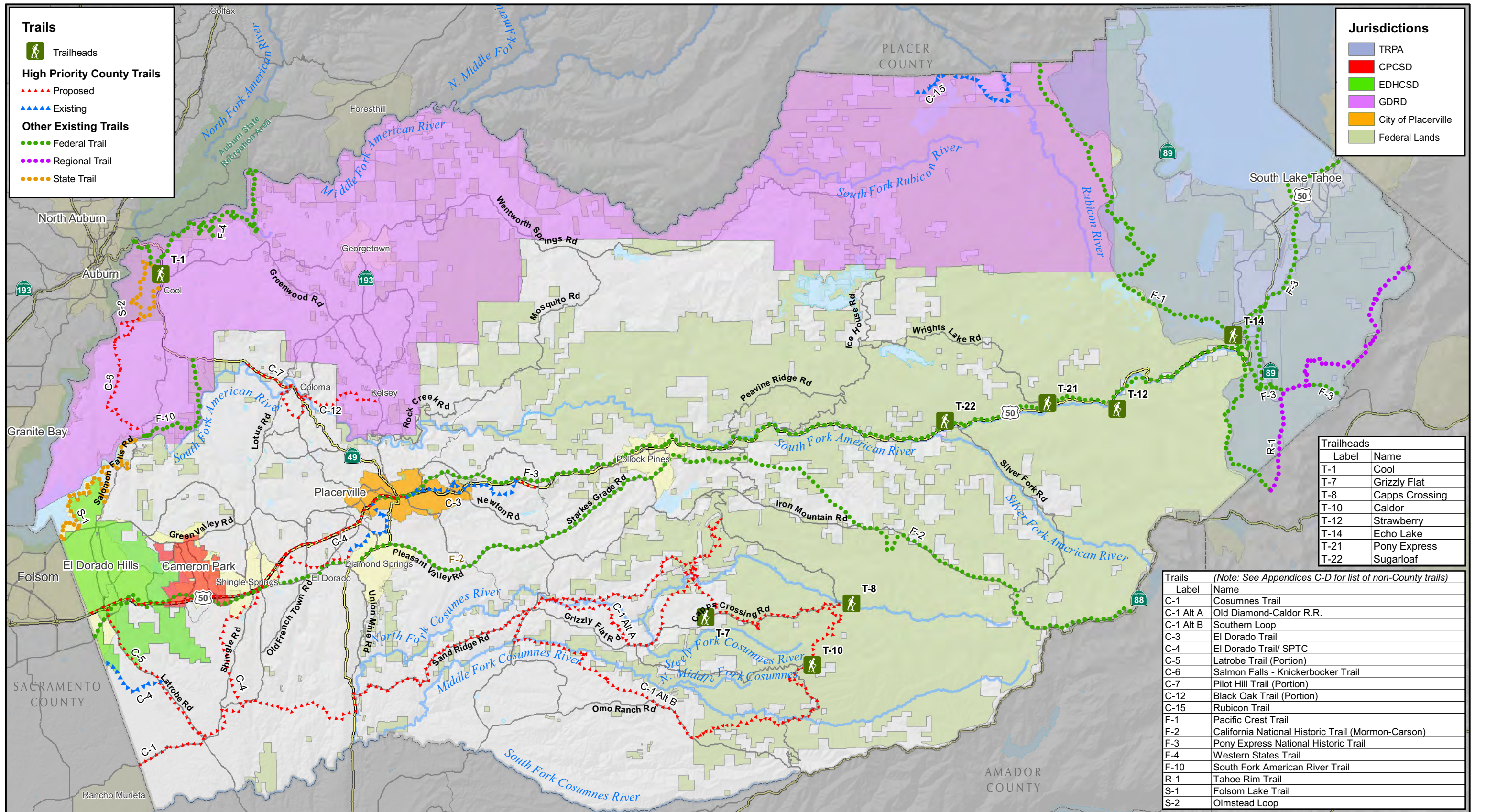
Joe's Skate Park in Placerville

Chili Bar is a rafting/kayaking put-in spot immediately downstream of the Highway 193 bridge over the South Fork of the American River. The site is approximately 16 acres and is owned by El Dorado County. The lower area is adjacent to the river and is operated for rafting activities by the American River Conservancy, under terms of a conservation easement. The upper level includes parking, various structures, and the site of a defunct mobile home park. Chili Bar is one of the most heavily used access points on the river. A store at Chili Bar has been open at various times in the past to sell supplies and snacks, but is not operated on a regular basis. Off-street parking and minimal day use facilities are also available. The park operates only during the rafting season, however, the county is exploring ways to expand visitation. These include possible renovation of the area previously occupied by the mobile home park to provide day use and possible overnight camping.



PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS IN EL DORADO COUNTY





Trails

- Trailheads
- High Priority County Trails**
 - Proposed
 - Existing
- Other Existing Trails**
 - Federal Trail
 - Regional Trail
 - State Trail

Jurisdictions

- TRPA
- CPCSD
- EDHCSD
- GDRD
- City of Placerville
- Federal Lands

Trailheads	
Label	Name
T-1	Cool
T-7	Grizzly Flat
T-8	Capps Crossing
T-10	Caldor
T-12	Strawberry
T-14	Echo Lake
T-21	Pony Express
T-22	Sugarloaf

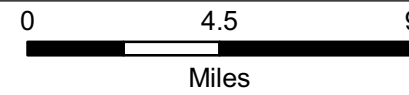
Trails	
Label	Name
C-1	Cosumnes Trail
C-1 Alt A	Old Diamond-Caldor R.R.
C-1 Alt B	Southern Loop
C-3	El Dorado Trail
C-4	El Dorado Trail/ SPTC
C-5	Latrobe Trail (Portion)
C-6	Salmon Falls - Knickerbocker Trail
C-7	Pilot Hill Trail (Portion)
C-12	Black Oak Trail (Portion)
C-15	Rubicon Trail
F-1	Pacific Crest Trail
F-2	California National Historic Trail (Mormon-Carson)
F-3	Pony Express National Historic Trail
F-4	Western States Trail
F-10	South Fork American River Trail
R-1	Tahoe Rim Trail
S-1	Folsom Lake Trail
S-2	Olmstead Loop

(Note: See Appendices C-D for list of non-County trails)

EL DORADO COUNTY TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS



EL DORADO COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN 2012



Drawn By: RJM
Date: 11/28/11

EXHIBIT 3

The 48-acre **El Dorado County Fairgrounds** are located in the western part of the City of Placerville. The fairgrounds are operated by the El Dorado County Fair Association under contract with El Dorado County. Attracting 65,000 visitors over its four day run each June, the fair also hosts a variety of events throughout the year including horse and dog shows, bingo, holiday events, and a monthly flea market. The grounds and facilities may be rented for private events. The El Dorado County Fairgrounds is also the home to the Imagination Theater, a local acting troupe.

Planned County Parks

Bass Lake Park comprises 40 acres of undeveloped county park land located between the communities of Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills. A master plan was developed for the land in 2001 to 2003 that include potential amenities such as a community center, group picnic areas, basketball courts, a baseball field, toddler play area, playground, soccer field, dog park, disc golf, outdoor classroom, nature interpretive area, and parking. However, the environmental review process for this project was not completed and the project has been on hold since 2003. The master plan will need to be revisited before improvements for this site are implemented to reflect changes in community needs and recreation trends.

El Dorado County has also master planned the **Pollock Pines Community Park**, with proposed amenities to include a baseball field, soccer field, basketball court, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, playground, restrooms, nature pavilion, trails, off-street parking, and an outdoor classroom amphitheater. The park site covers 26 acres at the end of Red Hook Trail north of U.S. 50 in the Pollock Pines community. However, construction of this park has been delayed due to budget constraints. Implementation of the project may require revisiting the master plan to reduce costs and phased construction.

The County owns a 62-acre portion of the **Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park** which is located in Pilot Hill. Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park is a 1,600-acre natural area that was acquired through the cooperative efforts of the American River Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management, and others. It is held in public trust to be used exclusively for recreation and wildlife conservation. The county has not yet developed conceptual plans for the county owned portion, but its uses will be similarly constrained by the terms of the easement.



Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park

Railroad Park is a 6.3 acre site located within the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor right-of-way in the community of El Dorado. Proposed improvements at this site include facilities to house El Dorado County Museum’s collection of railroad

artifacts, a section of operational track, and multiple use pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails. The County is actively seeking grant funding to implement this project, along with 2.2 miles of multiple use trail extending to Missouri Flat Road.

Existing County Trails

The **El Dorado Trail** is envisioned as ultimately traversing the length of El Dorado County from its western border to the Tahoe Basin. Several sections have been developed to date, through multiple projects undertaken by the County and the City of Placerville. Beginning in the community of Camino south of U.S. Highway 50 near the Carson Road exit, the improved gravel/dirt trail heads west 1.7 miles to the intersection with Los Trampas Drive. At this point, the trail changes to a paved Class I bike path and proceeds northwesterly over U.S. Highway 50 and westerly into Placerville. The paved trail is a continuous 4.6 mile off-road



El Dorado Trail Trailhead at Jacquier Road

facility except for a quarter mile section along Jacquier Road. A large County trailhead facility off of Jacquier Road provides amenities such as parking, restrooms, signage, and a small exercise/warm up area. In Placerville, at the transit station on Mosquito Road, the Class I bike path parallels Mosquito Road and passes under U.S. Highway 50 and continues parallel to Union Street about one-half mile until its terminus at Clay Street near Main Street. This section of trail includes a decomposed granite shoulder for equestrian use. The *City of Placerville Non-motorized Transportation Plan*¹⁷ shows the El Dorado Trail being extended to Bedford Street as a Class I bike path and then transitioning to an on-street Class III bike route and Class II bike lane through the downtown along Main Street. It is envisioned that pedestrians and equestrians would also be accommodated in this approximately 1 mile segment. The City of Placerville has been instrumental in working with the County in securing funding to implementation El Dorado Trail segments within the city limits.

The Class I bike path with a decomposed granite shoulder would resume at the intersection of Forni Road and Main Street, and proceed westerly about 1 mile to connect with an existing Class I segment that extends from Forni Road near Ray Lawyer

¹⁷ City of Placerville Non-motorized Transportation Plan, El Dorado County Transportation Commission, 2010.

Drive to Missouri Flat Road (2.7 miles). The El Dorado Trail then becomes an unimproved trail along an abandoned railroad track at Missouri Flat Road immediately south of Walmart and runs west approximately 1.75 miles to near Oriental Street.

Future westerly expansion of this trail system will take it to the Sacramento-El Dorado County border within the County-owned Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor. The trail is also planned to continue to the Tahoe Basin but the specific alignment has yet to be determined. A study identifying possible alignments for the segment from the existing terminus in Camino Heights to Pacific House was completed for the County in 2009.¹⁸ The remaining segment from Pacific House to Tahoe would follow the historic Pony Express Trail and the Sayles Canyon Trail to Echo Summit and a connection to South Lake Tahoe.¹⁹

The **Rubicon Trail** is a world-famous off-highway vehicle (OHV) route connecting the town of Georgetown in El Dorado County to Homewood on the west side of Lake Tahoe. In places the Rubicon Trail is a well-defined dirt road while other segments are characterized by challenging rock domes, ledges, and rock debris. The trail is used by thousands of OHV enthusiasts driving various 4-wheel drive and Jeep-type vehicles as well as hikers. There are two ways to access the trail from the west. One starts at Airport Flat Campground and extends easterly through the Wentworth Springs Campground to Ellis Creek. The second starts at the second Loon Lake Dam and intersects with the historic trail near Ellis Creek. The Rubicon Trail runs easterly to the Little Sluice Box-Spider Lake area and the Buck Island Reservoir area, and then turns northerly roughly following the Rubicon River to the El Dorado/Placer County line. Numerous tours, events, and volunteer work parties are organized annually by OHV user groups, including the Rubicon Trail Foundation and Friends of the Rubicon, to maintain the trail and provide education to users.

The Rubicon Trail is primarily located on Eldorado National Forest land within an old El Dorado County road easement. A survey was completed in 2009 and the trail location established in 2010. The Rubicon Oversight Committee, a diverse group of OHV enthusiasts, land owners, regulators, and County, state, and federal agencies, acts in an advisory capacity to the County Department of Transportation to help coordinate trail use, management, and planning. Efforts focus on user education and enforcement of trail regulations to protect the sensitive Sierra environment and provide a safe experience for visitors. The County is developing an Operations and Maintenance Plan

¹⁸ *Alternative Routes for the El Dorado Trail Extension*, Sierra Ecosystems Associates for El Dorado County Department of General Services, 2009

¹⁹ El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan, El Dorado County Transportation Commission, 2010.

that includes monitoring and management practices to address sedimentation and other water quality issues.

Future County Trails

The 1990 Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan for El Dorado County identified many potential trail corridors to be considered for future implementation. These corridors were envisioned to someday provide a comprehensive network of trails traveling east-west and north-south through the County, with connections to existing or proposed federal and state trails. The corridors are very conceptual and actual routes within the corridors have not been determined or evaluated for feasibility. Many of the corridors follow existing paved road alignments where adjacent terrain and property ownership present significant challenges for creating trails. These potential future corridors are addressed in more detail in the Needs Analysis in Chapter 10 of this Master Plan.

5.2 Local Parks and Trails Providers

El Dorado County residents and visitors enjoy access to a variety of recreation facilities and trails that are owned and operated by local park providers. In western El Dorado County, many neighborhood and community parks, recreation programs, and some trails are provided by the **City of Placerville**, the **El Dorado Hills Community Services District**, the **Cameron Park Community Services District**, the **Georgetown Divide Recreation District**, the **Rolling Hills Community Services District** and the **Cosumnes River Community Services District**. These facilities are intended primarily to serve the residents of these communities, but are generally open to all members of the public. Two additional special districts oversee limited private recreation opportunities that are available only to their residents. These are the **Holiday Lake Community Services District** and the **Cameron Estates Community Services District**.

Each of these entities undertakes its own comprehensive planning process to evaluate current and projected park and trail needs for its residents. For this reason, this Master Plan does not replicate these efforts but limits its focus to those areas of the western County not addressed by the planning efforts of these local park providers, as well as opportunities to collaborate with these entities on projects of mutual interest.

A list of park and trail facilities provided by these jurisdictions is provided in Appendix B.

5.3 Regional Parks and Trail Providers

El Dorado Irrigation District

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) provides water to over 100,000 residents of western El Dorado County via an extensive system of water storage, treatment, and

delivery facilities. EID also manages some of its facilities to provide a variety of recreation opportunities for County residents and visitors.

Located on U.S. Highway 50 south of the town of Pollock Pines, the **Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA)**, which is owned and operated by EID, is a popular camping and day-use destination centered on the 600-acre Jenkinson Lake. The SPRA experiences consistently heavy usage throughout the summer season, and offers multiple group and individual camping sites, day use areas, two boat ramps, boat rentals, meeting rooms, and fishing. Nine miles of unimproved hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking trails circle the lake and connect to some of the nearby ridges. A separate equestrian campground provides for horse camping and access to the equestrian trail system.



Sly Park picnic area

EID owns and/or operates a number of other recreation facilities along the U.S. Highway 50 and Highway 88 corridors. The **Forebay Reservoir**, located in Pollock Pines on Forebay Road, is owned and operated by EID provides daytime recreational opportunities, including, picnicking, fishing, and a walking trail. On the property, but across Forebay Road from the reservoir, are a senior center, a Little League ball field, and a number of horseshoe courts.

In 1999, as part of its acquisition of hydroelectric Project 184, EID obtained **Silver Lake** and **Caples Lake** from PG&E. The campgrounds and day use areas at and near both lakes are generally open from Memorial Day through October, depending on snow conditions. Facilities operated by EID at Silver Lake include the Ferguson Point Day Use Area, Sandy Cove Day Use Area, and Silver Lake West Campground; the USFS operates the Silver Lake East Campground. Just one mile north of Silver Lake, EID also operates the **Oyster Creek Rest Area**.

The Forest Service operates the Caples Lake campground and trailhead, while EID shares in operating and maintenance costs and upgrades. EID operates the **Woods Creek Fishing and Trail Access Area**, which is located one mile east of Caples Lake.

American River Conservancy

The American River Conservancy (ARC) is a non-profit community organization headquartered in Coloma that focuses on preserving natural areas and cultural resources in the American River and Cosumnes River watersheds. As part of this focus, ARC has had a significant role in acquiring land and establishing conservation easements

that allow public recreational use and trails. ARC operates an interpretive **Nature Center** in Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. Activities coordinated by ARC include environmental education programs, workshops, hikes, lectures, trail rides, activities for children and volunteer opportunities

The **Gold Hill-Wakamatsu Park** is another ARC project that provides unique recreational opportunities to County residents and visitors. ARC purchased the 272-acre site in 2010 using a combination of grants, donations, and loans. The focus of the effort is to preserve the cultural history associated with the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony, which was established on the site in 1869 as the first Japanese colony in America. The park is currently open to the public only through organized tours or special tours upon request. ARC is continuing to develop operational and improvement plans for the site. A recent public survey showed interest for a variety of features including non-motorized trails, restrooms, picnic areas, interpretive features and exhibits, demonstration farms, wetland restoration, and event facilities.

In 2008, ARC together with the BLM completed land acquisitions along the South Fork of the American River to establish a continuous trail from the Salmon Falls bridge to Cronan Ranch. The **South Fork American River Trail** was opened in 2010 as a multiple use trail for hikers and mountain bikes. Equestrian use is also allowed east of the Pine Hill Preserve. A bypass trail to provide a connection for equestrians around the preserve area is in the planning stages.

ARC has also acquired property which was added to Marshall Gold Discovery SHP to create a trail connecting Henningsen Lotus Park with the Monroe Ridge Trail in the SHP. Construction of this trail is pending State Parks budget and staff constraints.

Additionally, ARC has purchased property on Mt. Murphy north of Coloma, and this land has been added to the Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. ARC and State Parks plan to build a trail to Dutch Creek, a beautiful, cascading stream east of Mt. Murphy as State Parks staff and funding become available.

ARC is evaluating the feasibility of a trail connecting Magnolia Ranch Trailhead to Coloma. With this segment in place, there would be a continuous trail from Sutter's Fort in Sacramento to Sutter's Mill in Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. A key concern is providing a safe crossing over the State Route 49 bridge near Lotus Road due to the narrow shoulders and relatively high speed limits on that section of SR 49. Caltrans is considering a SR 49 seismic improvement project, which could potentially provide better pedestrian/bike access over the bridge. The grant application for the seismic retrofit is pending and is expected to be determined in spring 2012 for potential construction in 2016.

The pedestrian/bike improvements totaling \$4.25 million have been recommended to receive funding should the grant for the seismic retrofit be awarded.²⁰

5.4 Private Recreation Businesses

El Dorado County is also home to a wide variety of privately owned and operated recreational facilities and programs that are available to citizens and visitors. Outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, rafting, skiing, and horseback riding are a major component of western El Dorado County recreation. A number of private campgrounds operate throughout the western County including some in Coloma, Lotus, Placerville, Pollock Pines, and Shingle Springs. These campgrounds offer a range of experiences including cabin camping with organized activities on-site, RV camping, and traditional tent camping. River-oriented recreation is also a major source of tourism for El Dorado County with many rafting operators and guide services bringing thousands of visitors every year to enjoy the South Fork of the American River. Commercial guiding and jeep jamboree events on the Rubicon Trail provide additional recreational opportunities that attract international visitation to El Dorado County.

El Dorado County also has five 18-hole private golf courses and one 9-hole golf course. The 18-hole Apple Mountain Golf Resort is the only course that is open to the public.

5.5 State Parks and Trails

There are several other important regional recreation resources provided by the State of California for residents and visitors to El Dorado County. The Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, located partially within El Dorado County, provides water sports, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and camping recreation for the region. Folsom Lake is usually the take-out spot for rafters and kayakers departing from Chili Bar, Marshall Gold Discovery Historic State Park, Henningsen Lotus Park, and other sites upstream. Camping is available on Rattlesnake Bar, and a marina provides boat slips and storage on Brown's Ravine. Numerous ramps around the lake provide boat and personal watercraft access to the lake. A list of major trails at these facilities is included in Appendix C.

²⁰ The El Dorado County Transportation Commission has programmed \$500,000 of this total amount for the project. The balance would come from Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds.

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area also has an extensive trail system around the lake, which connects to regional trail systems upstream and downstream along the American River. Most of these trails are unpaved; however, just over the Sacramento County line, a paved trail follows the north bank of the American River through the town of Folsom and downstream to Lake Natoma, connecting into the American River Parkway trail system. Unpaved trails within the Placer County portion of the park follow the North Fork of the American River upstream to connect with the **Pioneer Express Trail**. Within El Dorado County, four unpaved trails run approximately 13 miles from the county line along the south shore of the lake to the Salmon Falls Bridge and continue north across the Rattlesnake Bar peninsula for approximately another 9 miles. This trail system connects at the Salmon Falls Bridge with the **South Fork American River Trail** which provides a connection upstream through the BLM’s Norton Ravine, Magnolia, and Cronan Ranch Management Areas.

Auburn State Recreation Area

Located in the canyons formed by the north and middle forks of the American River, the Auburn State Recreation Area covers 40 river miles in both Placer and El Dorado Counties. Over 100 miles of hiking and horse trails are located within the park. On the El Dorado County side of the canyon, visitors can access the **Olmsted Loop Trail, Auburn to Cool Trail, Pointed Rocks Trail** and the well-known **Western States Trail** from trailheads off of State Route 49 near the town of Cool. Over 100 miles long, the Western States Trail runs from Auburn to Tahoe and is the route for the Western States 100 Mile Endurance Run²¹ and the Tevis Cup, a 100-mile one-day equestrian endurance ride, held annually since 1955²². Approximately 19 miles of the Western States Trail are located within El Dorado County.



Olmsted Loop Trail in Auburn State Recreation Area

²¹ <http://ws100.com/home.html>

²² http://www.teviscup.org/the_ride/the_ride_inline.html.

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma is located on the site where James Marshall first discovered gold in 1848, sparking the California Gold Rush. The park, acquired by the State in 1942, encompasses much of the historic town of Coloma. It features numerous exhibits and historic structures including Marshall’s Monument, a recreation of Sutter’s Mill, Marshall’s Cabin, Pioneer Cemetery, a school house, and many other cabins and historic shops. Other facilities within the park include a museum/visitors’ center, an operating post-office, park headquarters, and the American River Conservancy’s Nature Center. Group and individual picnic tables are available for day use. The South Fork of the American River flows from east to west across the northern portion of the park, and boat put-in and take-out beaches are available for rafters and kayakers. There are approximately 5 miles of trails throughout the park, and numerous off-street parking lots provide for dispersed parking throughout the site. Several trails are located around the historic structures and museum and are easily accessible by most visitors. The **Monument Trail**, **Monroe Ridge Trail**, and **Discovery Trail** provide access to historical interpretive displays near the river, the James Marshall Monument, and the ridge above the James Marshall’s Monument with good views of the valley.



Marshall Monument in Coloma

5.6 Federal Parks and Trails

U.S. Forest Service

The Eldorado National Forest is managed by the U. S. Forest Service and offers numerous recreational opportunities including campgrounds, fishing, swimming, hiking trails, biking, equestrian trails, motorized trails, day use areas and campgrounds. Popular summertime destinations within the National Forest include **Union Valley** and **Ice House Reservoirs**, **Loon Lake**, **Silver Lake**, **Caples Lake**, **Wrights Lake**, **Horsetail Falls**, and the **Desolation Wilderness**. Winter activities, such as cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and snowmobiling, are within easy reach of County residents and attract many visitors from outside of the County every year. Recreation resources in the Eldorado National Forest are owned and operated by a variety of both public and private recreation providers.

Many designated and undesignated trails as well as unpaved and paved roads are available in the Eldorado National Forest. Trails can be found for a wide range of abilities from difficult to easy and support multiple uses. Popular trail destinations include the

Crystal Basin, the Desolation Wilderness, and areas between the north and middle forks of the American River and in the vicinity of Silver and Caples Lakes. The most well-known of these trails is probably the **Pacific Crest Trail (PCT)**. The Pacific Crest Trail runs from Mexico to Canada through California following some of the high ridges of the Sierra Nevada. It crosses into El Dorado County in the upper Truckee River valley north of Caples Lake near Meiss Lake then continues north past Little Round Top mountain and Benwood Meadow, crossing U.S. Highway 50 near Echo Summit. Continuing northward, the trail climbs the Talking Mountain-Becker Peak ridge, then descends to skirt Lower and Upper Echo Lakes before skirting the Desolation Wilderness near Aloha Lake. The trail enters Desolation Wilderness near Middle Velma Lake on the south and Lost Corner Mountain to the north and passes out of the County to the north near Sourdough Hill and Miller Meadows.

The **Crystal Basin Recreation Area**, located in the Eldorado National Forest and operated by the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD), encompasses 85,000 acres of pine and fir forests along the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Containing three reservoirs and numerous lakes and streams, the Crystal Basin's four seasons and varied terrain offer a range of outdoor recreational opportunities, including camping, fishing, boating, horseback riding, hiking, snow skiing, and biking.

Several popular destinations within **the Crystal Basin Recreation Area** provide access to trails within the Desolation Wilderness and other nearby areas. Wrights and Loon Lakes are popular camping and staging areas for forays into the Wilderness. Just south of Sly Park Recreation Area, **Fleming Meadows** contains approximately 9 miles of trails of varying difficulties. A selection of the designated trails available in the Sierra Nevada in El Dorado County is included in Appendix D.

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management also provides numerous recreation facilities in El Dorado County. Approximately 12 miles of unpaved trail are located within **Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park**, a 1,400-acre open space along the South Fork of the American River which was acquired for public use by the American River Conservancy, BLM, El Dorado County, and other partners. Trails range in degree of physical challenge and are open to mountain bicycles, hikers, and equestrians. The parking lot provides pull-through spaces for horse trailers and includes portable restrooms and directional signage. The park also includes the **Magnolia Ranch Trailhead** and the **Greenwood Creek River Access**, both in the Greenwood Management Area. The Magnolia Ranch Trailhead provides an extensive parking area for equestrian trailers and other visitors. The Greenwood Creek River Access provides parking for a public river put-in and take-out. Boaters must carry their equipment on a path down to and from the river.

The **Dave Moore Nature Area** is a BLM facility located on the South Fork of the American River two miles west of Coloma. It includes an accessible mile-long loop trail from the parking area to the river, passing through several habitats. Popular uses include hiking, biking, swimming, nature study, and bird watching. Equestrian use on the trail is not allowed.

The **Pine Hill Preserve** encompasses 4,042 acres in 5 non-contiguous units ranging in size from 222 acres to 2,999 acres. The preserve was established to protect habitat for eight rare plant species, several of which are found no where else in the world. BLM staff provide guided tours in the spring when the wildflowers are at their most spectacular. Hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian uses are allowed on existing trails. New trails may be developed in the future as long as alignments and usage do not adversely impact the preserve.

The BLM also holds custodial ownership of the 695-acre **Kanaka Valley**, a wildlife corridor that links federal and state public lands along the South Fork American River and the Pine Hill Preserve. The BLM is currently preparing a management plan that will identify specific recreation goals and uses. The public is allowed to access the property but design and development of a trail system is not expected to begin until 2013.²³ No motorized vehicles are allowed.

Trails on other BLM holdings on the South Fork of the American River include the **Red Shack Trail**, which connects State Route 49 to the river below Chili Bar, and a trail within the 233-acre **Wildman Hill** acquisition on the north side of river canyon. The trail descends steeply to the river from the trailhead on Highway 193.



Kanaka Valley Riparian Area

National Park Service

The National Park Service has designated two National Historic Trail (NHT) alignments that pass through El Dorado County. These are the **California National Historic Trail** and

²³ Jeff Horn, BLM Recreation Planner, Mother Lode Field Office, personal communication. August, 31, 2011.

the **Pony Express National Historic Trail**. The California Historic Trail is a route of approximately 5,700 miles including multiple routes and cutoffs, extending from Independence and Saint Joseph, Missouri, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, to various points in California and Oregon. The Pony Express National Historic Trail commemorates the route used to relay mail via horseback from Missouri to California before the advent of the telegraph.²⁴

In western El Dorado County both trails generally follow routes adjacent to the U.S. Highway 50 corridor to Mother Lode Drive and Pleasant Valley Road to the community of Diamond Springs. The Pony Express NHT then veers north to Placerville and generally follows U.S. Highway 50 to the Echo Lake area, where it splits into several spurs heading north towards Stateline and south to Highway 88. At Diamond Springs, the California NHT continues east generally following Pleasant Valley Road, Starkes Grade Road, and Sly Park Road to the Gold Ridge area. Here it veers southeast along Forest Service roads to Girard Mill Road until it intercepts and then follows Mormon Emigrant Trail to Highway 88. At Highway 88 it heads east for about 2 miles before heading south to follow the Carson Emigrant National Recreation Trail south of Silver Lake to the county border.

These trails are not expressly maintained by the National Park Service for recreational use. Where the trails pass through federal lands, as in the El Dorado National Forest, the federal land manager oversees recreational uses. These portions of both the Pony Express NHT and the California NHT are open for various types of public trail use. Remaining segments that traverse private property or occupy the same alignment as improved vehicular roads are typically not available for public use, unless public road improvements have included trail improvements in the corridor.

5.7 Schools

Many schools in the Plan Area make recreation facilities available for the use of County residents either on an informal basis or through formal joint use agreements with the local park districts or the City of Placerville. El Dorado County has periodically provided funding for recreation facility improvements at schools, but does not maintain on-going joint use agreements that provide for public access at school sites that are outside of the areas served by the local park providers.

²⁴ The National Trails System Act, P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009

5.8 *Recreation Programs and Activities*

The focus of this Master Plan is on recreation facilities rather than recreation programs, because El Dorado County recognizes that, in general, developing and providing recreation programs is most efficiently handled by local communities and organizations. Nevertheless, the County does offer certain programs in association with providing other services that have important recreational value. A great many other programs and events are offered by a diverse and extensive collection of community groups throughout the County. It is useful to understand the array of recreation activities available because there are important connections between having adequate facilities to house these programs, benefits to residents' quality of life, and the potential for recreation-based tourism as an economic resource.

El Dorado County

The **El Dorado County Library** provides ongoing programs and events for all age groups at the main library in Placerville and five branch locations. Programs include book discussion groups, children's storytelling, arts and crafts, movies, and other community events.

The **Senior Services Division** within the El Dorado County Department of Human Services offers a variety of senior activities on a regularly scheduled basis including ceramics, card groups, bingo, fitness classes, computer education, dance classes, quilting, pottery, and art classes. The programs are generally taught by volunteer instructors and provided on a donation basis. A variety of day trips are also offered including theater performances, festivals, and other tours. These trips feature chartered bus transportation, tickets, meals and an escort to handle the details. Fees for these activities are charged to the individual and collected by County staff. Federal funding supports a part-time Activities Coordinator. Most of the senior activities take place in County buildings, rented space, or in space donated by local churches. The Senior Nutrition Services also serve approximately 500 meals each day to County seniors, providing food as well as important socialization opportunities.

The **El Dorado County Historical Museum** is located next to the El Dorado County Fairgrounds in Placerville. The museum features exhibits, informative tours, a research house and gardens for visitors to enjoy. The museum seeks to be a valued historical resource for the community while representing the county's history in a current, accurate and engaging manner.

Other Public Program Providers

The **City of Placerville**, **El Dorado Hills CSD**, **Cameron Park CSD**, and **Georgetown Divide Recreation District** all offer an extensive array of fee-based recreation programs to local residents of all ages. Most programs are also open to non-residents. The programs are

developed and managed by professional staff in response to community demand and evolving recreation trends. Programs include adult and youth sports leagues, arts and crafts, martial arts, music, and various life enrichment classes. All four of these recreation program providers also maintain scholarship programs to support participation by disadvantaged youth.

Organized Sports

A number of private sports leagues operate in El Dorado County. Examples include the El Dorado Hills North, El Dorado Hill South, Georgetown Divide, and Snowline Little Leagues which organize T-Ball, Farm, Minor, and Major teams. The Sierra Gold, Gold Nugget, High Sierra, and Prospectors Soccer Clubs offers recreational and league play for ages 4 through 18. Placerville Girls Softball provides fast pitch team play for girls from ages 4 ½ through 18. The Placerville Prospectors Senior Softball offers league play for senior citizens in the area.

Football and cheer activities are coordinated by the Ponderosa Junior Bruins, Union Mine Junior Rattlers and Cheer, Golden Sierra Youth Football and Cheer, and El Dorado Junior Cougars Football and Cheer. Other organized sports activities are coordinated by the Sierra Storm Girls' Basketball Club, Gold Country Girls Softball Association, West Slope Youth Volleyball Club, the Special Olympics, and Hangtown Women's Tennis Club.



Clubs and Organizations

Many additional recreational opportunities are available for El Dorado County youth including the Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado County, 4-H Youth Development, Boy Scouts of America through the Golden Empire Council, and the Girl Scouts of America through the Heart of Central California Council. Various adult hobby clubs in the area include Bridge Club of the Foothills, Placerville Area Chess Club, Dogwood Garden Club, El Dorado Camera Club, El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society, and El Dorado Rod and Gun Club.

Community Events

El Dorado County has a wide variety of community events that are organized by private groups. Main Street associations promote their members' services and products through art walks, parades, and other seasonal events. Other non-profit organizations with the mission of educating the public on certain issues all host various events. Seasonal Farmer's Markets, music festivals, wine tastings, bingo, arts and crafts

workshops, and flea markets are just some of the events that are offered in El Dorado County throughout the year.

Special Interest

The **Cameron Park Rotary Community Observatory** is located adjacent to the Folsom Lake College El Dorado Center in Placerville. This facility, staffed by volunteer docents, is open free of charge and is fully accessible. The Observatory may also be reserved for special events by school and non-school groups interested in astronomy.

Imagination Theater and the **El Dorado Musical Theater** offer county residents live music, plays, and workshops throughout the year. These theaters serve as recreation for the citizens involved in productions as well as those who attend.

Agritourism

El Dorado County's rich agricultural heritage is the foundation for many popular recreation experiences enjoyed by residents and visitors. Organizations such as **El Dorado County Farm Trails**, **Apple Hill Growers Association**, and **El Dorado Winery Association**, as well as many local independent farms are direct selling their products to the public with focused marketing to advertise seasonal events, pick-your-own locations, themed meals, shuttle services, tours, and facility rentals for weddings and private events.

Historic Preservation

There are numerous organizations committed to preserving the historic resources of El Dorado County by creating interesting exhibits and events for residents and visitors to enjoy. The **Fountain-Tallman Museum**, located in Placerville is operated by the **El Dorado County Historical Society** and houses collections highlighting local history. Other groups, such as the **Clarksville Region Historical Society**, **Rescue Historical Society**, **El Dorado Western Railroad Foundation**, and **El Dorado County Pioneer Cemeteries Commission** provide tours and maps, develop collections, and host special community events to raise awareness and funding for preservation.

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6 Existing Level of Service

The method used to evaluate the existing level of parks and trails facility services provided by El Dorado County to Plan Area residents is to examine the amount of developed park land and the availability of specific types of facilities in relation to the number of people they serve.

6.1 Acres of Developed Park Land

The El Dorado County General Plan provides guidelines for how many acres of park land should be acquired and developed based on population. The guidelines recommend 5 acres of park land for every 1,000 people divided between regional, community, and neighborhood parks. The information in Table 12 shows the number of developed and undeveloped acres of park land in existing County parks and compares those numbers to the acreage required for the current population in the Plan Area to meet the General Plan guidelines under Policy 9.1.1.1. The current population of the Plan Area, defined as those areas of western El Dorado County that are not within the boundaries of a local parks provider, is 71,603 people.

Bradford Park is the only County owned and operated neighborhood park in the Plan Area. The deficit of neighborhood parks is 138 acres with respect to the General Plan guidelines.

There are 73 acres of developed community parks in the Plan Area, and an additional 26 acres of undeveloped community park land located in Pollock Pines. In order to meet the General Plan guideline of 107 acres of developed community park land to serve the current population, the 26 undeveloped acres will need to be improved and an additional 8 acres acquired and improved. Depending on how some of the 26 acres in Pollock Pines are improved, a portion of the land could function as and be credited as a neighborhood park.



Bradford Park

There are 57 acres of developed regional parks in the Plan Area, and an additional 115 acres of undeveloped regional park land. While this equates to a net surplus of 65 acres of regional park land, 50 of the undeveloped acres will need to be improved. In order to meet the General Plan guideline of 107 acres of developed regional park land to serve the current population, a portion of the 6 acres at the Railroad Park site could be

counted as a neighborhood park if improvements included appropriate facilities like play structures, picnic tables, and turf areas.

Table 12 – Existing Park Land Acquisition and Development

Plan Area Population: 71,603 ¹	General Plan Park Acreage Guidelines			
	Neighborhood Parks (2.0 ac /1,000)	Community Parks (1.5 ac /1,000)	Regional Parks (1.5 ac /1,000)	All Parks (5 ac /1,000)
Acres Needed for Area Served only by El Dorado County	143	107	107	358
Developed Park Land				
Henningsen-Lotus		51		51
Pioneer Park		21		21
Bradford Park	5			5
Joe's Skate Park		1		1
Chili Bar (lower)			9	9
El Dorado County Fairgrounds			48	48
Subtotal:	5	73	57	135
Undeveloped Park Land				
Chili Bar (upper)			7	7
Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park			62	62
Pollock Pines Community Park		26		26
Bass Lake Park			40	40
Railroad Park			6	6
Subtotal:	0	26	115	141
All Park Land				
Total Existing Acres	5	99	172	276
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	(138)	(8)	65	(82)

¹ Plan Area Population does not include people served by El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Parks CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, or the City of Placerville.

6.2 Facilities per Population

The number of specific recreation facilities needed, such as ball fields or play areas, is related to demand for the facilities and the number of people the facilities are designed to accommodate. Table 13 includes a list of common recreation facilities and the number of these facilities currently available in County parks. It also shows how many

people the facility would have to serve if no additional facilities are built based on the current population of the Plan Area. School facilities located at campuses that are not already in joint use agreements with local park providers are also listed. In practice, the existing facilities are not experiencing the level of use inferred by this analysis because many of the facilities are too far away to be reasonably accessible to many County residents. The use of school facilities, such as play areas, is significantly limited because they are not available when school is in session and/or may be located in secured yards that are locked on weekends or after school hours.

Table 13 - Existing Level of Service for Facilities by Population¹

Facility Type	Current # of Facilities in County Parks	Current Population per Facility	School Facilities Limited Access
Play Area	3	23,868	38
Tennis Court	0	NA	24
Outdoor Basketball Court	2	35,802	usually at least 1 per campus
Baseball Field	0	NA	6
Softball Field	2	35,802	6
Little League Baseball Field	2	35,802	24 various sizes
Soccer or Multi-use Field	6	11,934	34
Equestrian Arena	2	35,802	
Swimming Pool	0	NA	2
Gym/Multipurpose Room	0	NA	15
Meeting/Event Space	6	11,934	
Community Center	2	35,802	
Group Picnic Area	3	23,868	19 various types
Skateboard Park	1	71,603	
Disc Golf Course	1	71,603	
Amphitheater	0	NA	
Dog Park	0	NA	

¹ Population per Facility does not include people served by El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Parks CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, or the City of Placerville. Facilities provided by these jurisdictions to serve their residents are not included.

6.3 Trails

There are no quantitative guidelines established by the El Dorado County General Plan suggesting how many miles of trails are needed to serve the population. The General

Plan does recognize regional trails for hiking and equestrian use along with bicycle facilities and pathways for pedestrians as components of the County’s non-motorized transportation system that also have important recreational value.

In order to describe the existing level of service for trails it is useful to first clarify what is meant by the term “trail”. Many different types of features are included under the broad concept of trails, each with different and sometimes overlapping functional objectives and user expectations.

Nature Trails are usually unpaved and intended to serve hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, depending on constraints of terrain and environmental sensitivity. Nature trails typically provide ways to explore public natural areas and may be served by designated and/or improved trail heads. They function primarily as recreation features. As described in Chapter 6 (Existing Park and Trail Resources), there are many miles of natural trails in western El Dorado County, most of them owned and managed by other regional agencies whose mission includes public recreation. Most residents within the Plan Area can access a wide selection of natural trails within a one-half hour drive from their homes. There are over 100 miles of nature trails in the various BLM, state, and federal recreation areas in the County foothills and over 200 additional miles of nature trails in the Sierra.



Mountain biking

Park Paths are located within improved parks and may be paved or unpaved depending on the character of the park. They are intended primarily to provide recreational walking, skating, and/or leisure biking opportunities within the confines of the park. However, they may also function as segments in the neighborhood or community pedestrian/bicycle transportation network if they connect to designated pedestrian or bicycle routes. All three of the improved County parks include these types of paths. Typically, residents do not expect to have to drive more than a few miles to access this type of trail experience and would much prefer to be able walk or bike to the park.

Connectors are characterized by the function they serve in providing ways for people to move between neighborhoods and communities. They have both a recreation and transportation function, but for recreation purposes are typically separated from a vehicular route. They may be paved and/or unpaved, depending on their location and expected use. Connectors may function at the scale of a neighborhood, community,

and/or region. The El Dorado Trail is an example of a connector that functions at all three scales depending on location, and also functions as a nature trail in some areas.

Connectors provide alternative transportation options for people to get from home to schools, parks, and businesses without relying on an automobile particularly in the more urbanized communities. These are also very important recreation features especially for people who can't drive to a trailhead, such as children, people without cars, and the elderly who no longer drive. In the more rural areas of the Plan Area, such as the Georgetown Divide, these local connectors are also heavily used by equestrians. When people talk about wanting more access to trails for everyday exercise, these are often the types of facilities they have in mind. They are key to being able to develop Safe Routes to Schools and other features of Livable Communities.

There are very few connectors in the unincorporated Plan Area. In some neighborhoods, sidewalks provide for limited pedestrian access. Within the Georgetown Divide, an extensive network of informal trails through private property is used by residents to connect to neighborhoods, regional trails such as the Western States Trail, and U.S. Forest Service trails. These connectors also function as nature trails. The El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan identifies approximately 49 miles of new Class I bike paths for future development, with 17 miles as a top priority. These would all provide recreation value as well.

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7 Existing Operations and Maintenance

Multiple County departments are involved in the operation and maintenance of El Dorado County parks and trails. The Environmental Management Department oversees park operations including scheduling and reservations for park facilities. The Department of Transportation provides ongoing maintenance of the park and trail facilities, as well as coordination for capital projects. The Chief Administrative Office provides support for the various committees and commissions related to parks and trails, and acts as a liaison with the other departments and the community.

7.1 Park Operations

All requests to reserve County park facilities for private use or events are handled by the Environmental Management Department (EMD). This includes scheduling sports fields for recurring use during league seasons. Facilities currently available for reserved use include the sports fields and pavilion at Henningsen Lotus Park, the sports field and Community Center at Pioneer Park, and the multiuse field at Bradford Park. Picnic facilities at these three parks are normally available on a first come, first served basis but can be reserved through special arrangements. Environmental Management personnel collect and process the permits, insurance certificates, deposits, and fees required as part of the reservation process, and provide annual parking passes and onsite parking fee collection at Henningsen Lotus Park.

Staffing levels for park operations vary depending on public demand for reservations and events. In general, there are 2 seasonal full-time and 1 part-time Parks Operations Assistants at Henningsen Lotus Park who staff the collection booth and assist with other onsite park operations during the park season (May to early October). Development Technicians handle the reservations for the different parks, and the issuance of parking passes in addition to other full time duties. The portion of time spent on park tasks is approximately .70 percent of a full-time position. The River Recreation Supervisor allocates about .30 percent of a full-time position to supervise the parks staff during the parks season, while also continuing to oversee river recreation. Various EMD administrative personnel assist with depositing fees collected by the Park Operations Assistants. There are no regular operational tasks or staff currently associated with County trail facilities.

The Environmental Management Department also provides oversight of all river recreation and river permit compliance. The River Management Plan (RMP) provides direction on management of whitewater recreation on the popular South Fork of the

American River below Chili Bar Dam. The RMP addresses multiple issues related to environmental protection, user experience, and safety. Environmental Management personnel handle all coordination with commercial outfitters as well as registration for non-commercial boaters to ensure compliance with the RMP. They also provide staff support to the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), and provide an Annual River Use Report which describes level of use and status of water quality, safety, and funding.

7.2 Maintenance Staffing and Costs

Maintenance of the County's parks and trails is the responsibility of five full-time staff in the Grounds Unit of the Maintenance and Operations division in the Department of Transportation. They are overseen by a Grounds Superintendent. Staff includes a Supervising Grounds Maintenance Worker, three Senior Grounds Maintenance Workers, and one Grounds Maintenance Worker I. These individuals also maintain all County cemeteries, building grounds, and real property. In fiscal year 2009 – 2010 about 29 percent of their time was spent maintaining parks and trails. This equates to a staffing level of about 1.5 full-time people only for park and trail maintenance. Additional DOT staff time is required for administrative support of the maintenance staff.

Staff labor accounts for about 80 percent of the maintenance costs for County parks and trails. The remaining maintenance costs are for equipment, utilities, janitorial services, and contractor services.

DOT Grounds staff also utilize inmate workers from the County Jail and work program workers on a limited basis. For large projects the Growlersburg inmate crews are utilized. Matching staff with inmate labor is critical to making sure supervision is provided and maintenance objectives are met. Volunteers and contractors are not typically used for regular park or trail maintenance. Contractors may supplement regular staff as needed for projects requiring special skills or experience.

The resources required for maintaining the various County parks and trails varies widely by the type of facility and uses (Table 14). Henningsen Lotus Park is the County's largest and the most heavily used improved park. Approximately 45 percent of the annual maintenance budget is allocated to this park, but it has the lowest per acre maintenance cost. This is because the maintenance costs attributed to mobilization of the grounds crew and equipment is most efficiently utilized on larger sites. Pioneer Park requires about 26 percent of the annual maintenance budget, and about 11 percent is expended for



Young Equestrian at Pioneer Park Arena

Bradford Park. The Placerville Skate Park accounted for about 6 percent of maintenance costs over the fiscal period 2009 - 2011, however this is expected to decline to about 2 percent now that earlier maintenance issues have largely been addressed and the park is successfully being maintained on a regular weekly schedule. Maintenance for the SPTC/El Dorado Trail utilizes about 12 percent of the annual maintenance budget. Maintenance allocations for each facility may vary slightly from year to year depending on special projects or facility use.

Table 14 – Allocation of Maintenance Costs by Facility

Facility	Size	FY 09/10 and FY 10/11 Actual		FY 11/12 Estimated
		% of Total Maintenance Budget	Maintenance Cost /Yr	Maintenance Cost /Yr
Bradford Park	5 acres	11%	\$ 4,235/acre	\$ 5,030/acre
Henningsen Lotus Park	51 acres	45%	\$ 1,784/acre	\$ 1,947/acre
Pioneer Park	21 acres	26%	\$ 2,510/acre	\$ 3,107/acre
Placerville Skate Park	1 acres	6%	\$ 12,045/acre	\$ 5,330/acre
SPTC/El Dorado Trail	9 miles	12%	\$ 2,792/mile	\$ 3,222/mile

7.3 Maintenance Standards

Maintenance is provided on a regular basis at the County’s four improved parks: Henningsen Lotus Park, Pioneer Park, Bradford Park, and Placerville Skate Park, in addition to the SPTC/El Dorado Trail. The Placerville Skate Park is maintained weekly. Tasks include repairs to signs, concrete, fencing, and the water fountain, and trash and graffiti removal as needed. Both Bradford Park and Pioneer Park are visited two times each week for maintenance. Crews provide landscape and field maintenance, restroom cleaning, and any repairs needed to lights, equipment, picnic tables, play areas, barbecues, and hardscape. Henningsen Lotus is maintained three times each week with similar services, as well as stocking the information kiosk, collecting fees, and any additional maintenance tasks related to special events.

The SPTC/El Dorado Trail is maintained weekly for vegetation management, trash removal, cleanup at parking lots and trailheads, and any repairs as needed for bollards, kiosk, par course, benches, and other structures. Incidental maintenance is provided at unimproved sites (Chili Bar, Pollock Pines, and Bass Lake) as needed. No County maintenance is provided at Cronan Ranch. The Fairgrounds are maintained by the Fair Association.

The Grounds staff have identified their maintenance objective as providing safe, sanitary, and aesthetically pleasing landscaping and maintenance for all County parks

and trails. In order to evaluate how well parks and trails are maintained, three levels of service have been articulated by the maintenance staff.

High Level of Service

This is the desirable standard for the department, but resources are not always available to uniformly meet this goal. To meet this standard requires ongoing preventive maintenance and a regular schedule of equipment upgrade or replacement in keeping with life cycle expectations. This level of service is characterized by the following criteria.

- Citizen complaints are very infrequent.
- Areas are free of trash, weeds, and dead or stressed plants.
- Obstructions and hazards are non-existent during work hours.
- No substantial loss of water due to breakage.
- Facilities are visually appealing and manicured.
- Frequent site inspections.

Normal Level of Service

This is below the standard the Grounds unit is committed to providing, but is nevertheless safe, sanitary, and will sustain plant life. Characteristics of this level of service include:

- Citizen complaints infrequent but do occur.
- Hazards and complaints are generally responded to within 2-4 days.
- Minor debris and trash is removed during normal litter removal as scheduled.
- Increased water loss due to delays in breakage repair.
- Presentation of landscape is not always manicured and is less visually pleasing.
- Vegetation abatement to meet fire code.

Basic Level of Service

This is the least desirable level of service and is based on reacting to issues rather than issue prevention.

- Minor debris would be ignored and weed control would be handled as complaints were received.
- General aesthetics would be poor and plant material health would decline.
- Citizen complaints and hazards would be frequent. Response and prioritization would be based on safety, liability, and severity of situation.
- Water system failures would be frequent.
- Minimal number of site inspections.
- Minimal vegetation abatement.

Grounds staff are generally able to maintain County parks and trails between the “High” and “Normal” level of service depending on availability of staff, weather conditions, and extent of public use.

7.4 Technical Support

In addition to providing staff for park and trail maintenance, the Department of Transportation also provides technical staff with expertise to support various capital and maintenance projects. These services include engineering support, project management, planning, and preparation of environmental documents. The level of annual staffing committed for these services varies with project demand. These costs are captured either as part of an associated capital project or as an operational cost depending on the nature of the project and services provided.

7.5 Administration

The Chief Administrative Office provides staff support to various commissions and committees involved with parks and trail planning and implementation. This support includes scheduling meetings, reserving meeting rooms, documenting meeting minutes, providing the commissions/committees with information, and acting as a liaison between the commissions/committees, other County departments, and the community. The level of staffing required to provide this support is not yet determined since the support duties were only recently (July 2011) consolidated under the Chief Administrative Office, and commission/committee needs vary depending on the type and extent of issues being considered.

The **Parks and Recreation Commission** is a five-member commission. Each commissioner is appointed by a Supervisor for a four-year term to represent his or her Supervisorial District. The Commission oversees development and maintenance of recreational opportunities, working closely to retain as much local control and citizen involvement as possible.

The **Trails Advisory Committee** is a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission with special responsibility for biking, hiking, and equestrian trail implementation. The Trails Advisory Committee includes seven members who are residents of the County representing a variety of trail interests. They are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for a four-year term.

The **SPTC Oversight Committee** is another subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission and is advisory to the Trails Advisory Committee. Its seven members include three people from the Trails Advisory Committee, two representatives from the Western Railway Foundation, and two property owners with land along the Corridor.

The committee is tasked with management and planning of the Corridor, scheduling events, volunteer projects, conflict resolution, and types of use.

The **Rubicon Oversight Committee** includes OHV enthusiasts, land owners, regulators, and county, state, and federal agencies and acts in an advisory capacity to the County Department of Transportation to help coordinate trail use, user education, management, and planning.

The **Skatepark Advisory Committee** includes up to fifteen members appointed by the Board of Supervisors or Chief Administrative Officer for two-year terms. The committee focuses on operational and maintenance issues of the Placerville Skate Park including safety, skill levels using the park, public awareness, supervision, vandalism, park cleanup by skaters, fundraising and improvements.

Other administrative responsibilities related to County parks and trails include budgets, grants, and assessing subdivisions for park land dedication or fees in-lieu. The budget to address annual parks and trails maintenance, technical support, operations, and capital improvements is collectively prepared and managed by the Department of Transportation, Environmental Management, and the Chief Administrative Office. Each of these departments has responsibilities for the aspects of the budget related to the services they provide. Responsibility for identifying, preparing, and administering grants is also shared by the three departments, depending on the nature of the grant and the funding source. The dedication of park land or assessment of fees in-lieu is the responsibility of the Development Services Department as part of the development review process for subdivisions only. There is currently no park land dedication or in-lieu fee required for single-lot residential projects.

8 Public Input

El Dorado County residents played an integral role in the development of this Master Plan by providing input on parks and trails facility priorities, recreation preferences, operational matters, and funding issues. A variety of mechanisms were used to generate input including a series of workshops, surveys, and one-on-one interviews. This includes the input gathered as part of the process to develop the Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009), a collaborative effort of El Dorado County and the City of Placerville, which focused on park needs of City residents as well as those living in the unincorporated areas of Camino, Pollock Pines, Lotus, Cool, Coloma, Gold Hill, and portions of Rescue and Diamond Springs. A Master Plan Advisory Committee was also convened and met at several key points in the planning process to provide input and suggestions. The MPAC included representatives from numerous organizations and agencies with diverse interests related to parks and trails in El Dorado County. Contact information for the various agencies and organizations that provided input to this Plan is listed in Appendix E.



Community Members Provide Input at Workshop

8.1 Master Plan Advisory Committee

The Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) met on three separate occasions to provide suggestions and review progress at key points in the process. The first MPAC meeting was held on March 16, 2011. Members provided input on the ways in which their organizations could potentially collaborate with El Dorado County in meeting the parks and trail needs of County residents and visitors. They also provided suggestions for the public input meetings and were presented with the draft demographic, inventory, and level of service analyses for the Plan Area. The MPAC met again on May 11, 2011 to hear a summary of the input received at the four public workshops in April, and to which projects and needs should be priorities for implementation. The last MPAC meeting was held on December 19, 2011 to review the Draft Master Plan and to provide final recommendations. Agencies represented on the MPAC are listed in Table 15.

Table 15 – Master Plan Advisory Committee Participants

El Dorado National Forest	Bureau of Land Management
El Dorado Irrigation District	El Dorado County Transportation Commission
El Dorado Hills CSD	Cameron Park CSD
Georgetown Divide Recreation District	El Dorado County Office of Education
El Dorado County Environmental Management Department	Community Economic Development Association of Pollock Pines
City of Placerville	American River Conservancy
El Dorado County Parks Commission	Friends of El Dorado Trail
El Dorado Western Railway Foundation	El Dorado County Trails Advisory Committee

8.2 Trails Workshop

A workshop focused specifically on trail planning was held April 6, 2011, at the El Dorado County Planning Commission hearing room in Placerville. The meeting was attended by approximately 70 people, representing a diverse range of pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian interests. Numerous organizations interested in trails were represented, including:

- El Dorado Equestrian Trails Foundation
- Friends of El Dorado Trail
- Cool Cycling Club
- Backcountry Horsemen of California, Mother Lode Unit
- Divide Horsemen’s Association
- National Pony Express Association, California Division
- Placerville Spinal Cord Injury Support Group
- Foothill Riders Association

The workshop began with an overview of the El Dorado County General Plan elements that are driving the development of the Parks and Trails Master Plan and the various opportunities for public input that would be provided throughout the plan development and review process. The presentation also provided basic trail planning vocabulary, parameters for which types of trail resources will be the focus of this project, and an overview of how El Dorado County coordinates with other park and trail planning entities in the region.

Participants were provided with multiple opportunities to contribute their thoughts, priorities, and concerns about trails planning in El Dorado County.

Trails Vision Exercise

In the first exercise, attendees broke up into small groups and discussed the following questions. A summary of responses is provided for each question.

1. What is your vision for trails in El Dorado County? Think about types of trails, locations, and how they are used.
 - A connected network of high quality, appropriately designed multiple use trails that are classified and rated as to uses and difficulty
 - Trailheads are appropriately located and designed to safely support multiple users groups
 - The network includes both paved and unpaved, single and multi-track trails to meet needs of all user groups including pedestrians, equestrians, bicyclists, and handicapped users
 - Trails are managed for the safety of multiple user groups using a “park watch” approach e.g., a cooperative effort of trail agency staff, law enforcement, and trail users to encourage crime prevention
 - A reasonable number of trails are close to population centers
 - Trails provide access to natural areas

2. What role should El Dorado County have in implementing this vision?
 - Act as a “central hub” for coordinated, easy to find trail user education
 - Coordinate trail planning and implementation with other regional partners, such as the USFS and BLM, and private organizations
 - Acquire and develop trails with an emphasis on creating connections between existing trails
 - Improve existing trails to support multiple uses
 - Establish, post, and enforce rules
 - Resolve user conflicts
 - Establish design criteria for user safety and to eliminate crime
 - Make trail development a regional priority and support the planning vision
 - Coordinate acquisition of easements for access
 - Enforce trespass laws to preserve privacy and safety of property owners
 - Require developments to provide trail resources and easements
 - Enforce open space and trails vision from the General Plan and Trails Master Plan
 - Identify and provide funding
 - Develop volunteer opportunities and work with volunteer groups to resolve liability barriers
 - Preserve funding designated for open space and trails for these purposes
 - Provide information to the public on how open space and trail funding is used

3. Where should the resources needed to implement the trail vision come from?

- Fines
- Property tax
- Sales tax
- Special recreation tax
- Development fees
- Traffic mitigation fees
- Bicycle and dog license fees
- Trail head parking fees
- OHV sticker fees
- Vehicle registration fees
- Other use fees
- General Fund
- Grants from state and federal agencies
- Grants from special interest sources such as wellness and environmental organizations
- Volunteer groups
- Fund raising activities and events
- Memorial funds, endowments, and contributions

Trail Management and Design Exercise

For the second small group exercise, individuals assumed the identity of one of 6 fictitious trail users in order to brainstorm possible management and design solutions to two typical multiple use trail scenarios.

The first scenario involved a teen aged skateboarder; a mother walking with an infant in a sling, a toddler in a stroller, and another toddler on a tricycle; and a professional man commuting on a road bike. All were using the same 10-foot wide paved path in an urban area. The second scenario was set on a 5-foot wide unpaved path in an oak woodland and involved an elderly couple with mobility limitations; an equestrian and her new horse; and a mountain bike enthusiast. Participants examined a plan for each scenario showing the location and direction of travel for each of these users, time of day, weather conditions, and the physical setting. Then they discussed potential problems and ways to either avoid or address the problems using trail design, management, signage, education and any other creative ideas. Each participant represented the view of his/her assumed role as a way to better understand the diverse needs and perspectives among the trail using community.

The discussions increased awareness of the need for better education among all trail users to establish uniform rules for yielding, speed limits, and alerts. The discussions also underscored the need for signage to remind users of safety and etiquette, as well as to call out potential hazardous conditions such as blind curves and steep slopes.

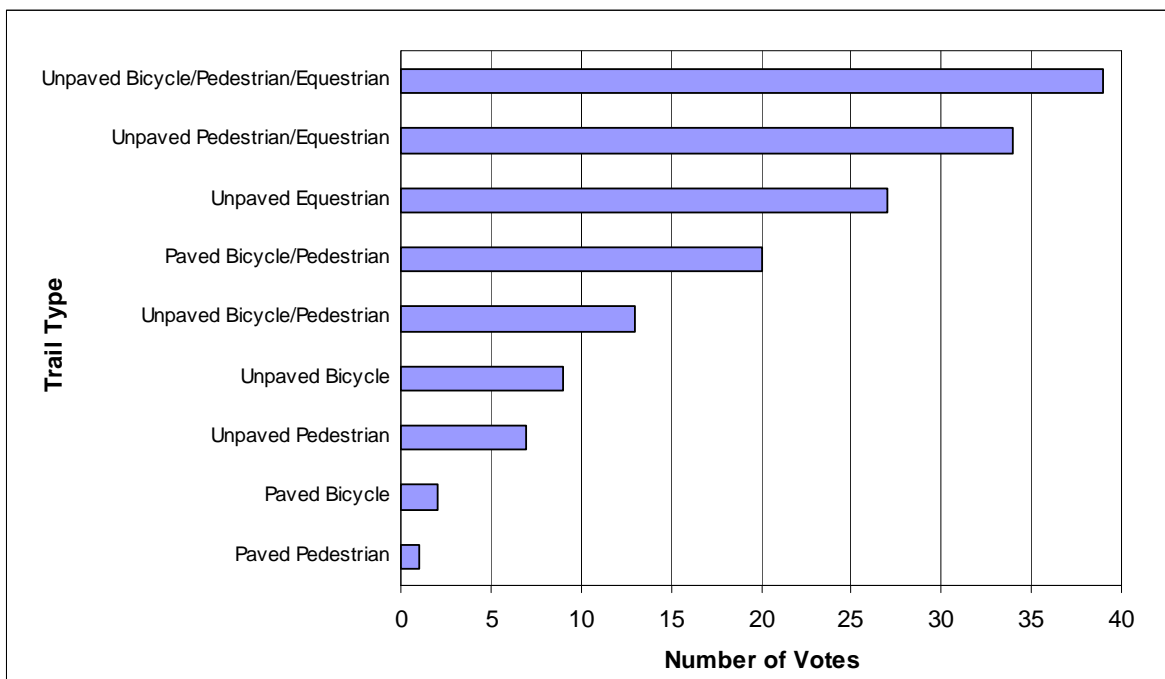
Several groups discussed possible strategies for enforcement, such as volunteer patrols or even cameras for key locations. The need for design standards based on anticipated uses was also reiterated to address line of sight, passing areas, cross slope, trail striping/markers, turnouts, slow zones, and alternate routes.

Trail Type Priorities

Participants were next asked to identify the types of trails they felt were most important for El Dorado County, taking into consideration everything they had learned in the discussions with their groups. Each individual was given a set of three differently colored adhesive dots, with each color representing either first, second, or third priority. They then placed the dots on a large poster under the categories representing the combination of trail type and usage they felt were most important.

The outcome of this “voting” is represented in Figure 4. Among workshop participants, there was a distinct preference for unpaved trails. The most popular type of trail was an unpaved trail that could be used by all three types of users, followed by an unpaved trail for just pedestrians and equestrians, then an unpaved trail for equestrian use only. Paved trails for bicycles and pedestrians were ranked fourth. However, subsequent discussion revealed that many of the participants, who had voted for the unpaved bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian trail option as a priority, would have been equally satisfied with an option that included a combination trail with a paved surface for pedestrians and bicyclists and an adjacent unpaved area for equestrians as part of the same alignment. The key outcome in this exercise is that most people preferred to optimize the use of trail corridors for the greatest possible variety of uses.

Figure 4 – Trail Type Priorities



Trail Locations

During the workshop, participants were also invited to provide suggestions for specific trail alignments. Working with a GIS application showing existing parks, trails, roads, water features, and other landmarks in El Dorado County several participants directed the consulting GIS analyst to add alignments in desired locations. Following the workshop, other suggested alignments were also provided via email to the project team. The Georgetown Recreation District also provided a series of maps developed by Divide trail user with recommendations for trails and staging areas.²⁵ Many of the proposed regional trails were the same or very similar to those already identified for future implementation in the 1990 Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan.

8.3 Parks Workshops

Three additional workshops were held to gather community input focused on parks. These were held in Pollock Pines (April 13, 2011), Diamond Springs (April 20, 2011) and Greenwood (April 27, 2011). Each meeting evolved into a unique public participation forum using different types of activities tailored to capture the localized interests of participants.

Pollock Pines Workshop

The workshop at the Pollock Pines/Camino Community Center was attended by nine people. Given the small number of attendees, the workshop was structured as an interactive discussion about park opportunities, issues, and priorities. The following ideas and concerns were expressed.

- Pollock Pines Community Church is considering developing a small park with picnic areas and play structures on church owned property that would available for community use. What other private/public partnerships are possible?
- The 10-acre EID parcel at Forebay Reservoir has 3-5 acres that are currently unimproved and which could be developed for additional passive recreation use such as trails, play structures, and picnic areas.
- There seems to be adequate space south of Pony Express Trail to construct a dedicated pedestrian/bicycle trail. The exact width of the right-of-way and private

²⁵ Many of the suggestions pertained to existing undesignated local trails and identified the need for neighborhood and community connectivity plans. These are discussed further in Chapter 9.

property boundaries would need to be researched. This would be an important non-motorized transportation route as well as a recreation resource.

- Providing a bicycle/pedestrian/equestrian connection from Pollock Pines to Sly Park would connect the commercial opportunities in town to the park visitors without increasing vehicle trips on the already crowded Sly Park Road. It would also be a valuable recreation resource for both the park visitors and Pollock Pines residents. The alignment would involve multiple property owners including the ENF.
- There is a lot of informal winter use at Fresh Pond with people parking at the old gas station. Perhaps a public/private snow park could be developed.
- The population of the area includes many retired people who already see the area as a “park”. They are primarily looking for places to get out and walk or enjoy other passive activities.
- The County-owned 26-acre site is projected to be very expensive to build as planned because of the terrain. Maybe it should only be used for trails, picnic areas, vault restrooms, etc. that aren’t so expensive to build. It could then also function as a place for travelers to pull off U.S. Highway 50 for an extended picnic break and draw people into town for shopping, gas, etc. Alternatively, could the County sell the parcel and use the proceeds for other projects in the area?
- The Eldorado National Forest is actively considering a different approach to improving facilities adjacent to populated areas such as Bridal Veil Picnic Area, versus wilderness areas, recognizing the greater demand for day use.
- People routinely walk the EID canal alignment in Pollock Pines. Is this a designated trail or if not, could it be? A possible route would be from the EID pump house along the canal to and around Forebay Reservoir to the managed recreation area and the proposed improved picnic area.
- Ecotourism is really important to the Pollock Pines economy. How can County park and trails initiatives support this?
- With so many retirees living in Pollock Pines, there is great potential to leverage volunteerism for park and trail projects, stewardship, patrols, and fundraising.

Diamond Springs Workshop

The Diamond Springs workshop at the Fire Department Volunteer Hall was attended by 15 people. In this workshop, the focus was on gathering input on the types of parks and facilities participants felt were most needed in the County, and on specific suggestions for improvements at the proposed Railroad Park.

Parks Master Plan Priorities

The workshop opened with a presentation on the El Dorado County General Plan elements that are driving the development of the Parks and Trails Master Plan and the various opportunities for public input that would be provided throughout the plan development and review process. The presentation also provided basic park planning vocabulary, parameters for which types of park resources will be the focus of this project, and an overview of how El Dorado County coordinates with other park and trail planning entities in the region. Group discussion during the presentation generated the following comments:

- El Dorado County should consider using some passive park areas for active uses where possible instead of buying more land.
- The County needs to commit to having a professional Parks Department to oversee planning and implementation of the General Plan park and trail goals.
- There are significant areas of development outside of the CSD service areas, notably Shingle Springs, Diamond Springs, Pollock Pines, and potentially El Dorado. These should be the priority focus areas for future park development.
- The review process for new developments needs to require adequate parks and trail facilities or fees in-lieu.
- El Dorado County needs to actively pursue joint use agreements with the schools. For many people, the schools function as the unofficial neighborhood park.
- The Bray Reservoir, an EID facility might be a good location for some trails and passive uses depending on safety and site conditions.
- Where equestrian trails pass parks, there should be properly designed areas accessible from the trail to dismount, hitch, and water horses so riders can enjoy the park and still watch their horses.

Participants then broke into three smaller groups and were tasked with discussing the relative merit of neighborhood, community, and regional parks, where they should be located, and why. A summary of responses follows.

Regional Parks

- We already have extensive National Forest land so more passive use Regional Parks are not such a priority.
- Linear parks as regional features would be a good way to provide access to the rivers. These might be accomplished as public/private projects with some people retaining private ownership of their property for recreation oriented businesses while providing public access.

- Regional Parks in remote areas are the least important because new parks need to be located near and focused on serving the local population centers on U.S. Highway 50.
- If Regional Parks are developed, they should be proximate to existing services to optimize economic value and minimize environmental impacts.
- Passive use oriented Regional Parks could be important for recreation based economic development since they are less expensive to maintain and might be a source of revenues from concessions, fees, events, etc.
- Regional Parks are very important because they provide an incentive to bring visitors to the area.
- Regional facilities are needed in El Dorado/Diamond Springs and Camino/Pollock Pines.

Community Parks

- Community Parks are difficult to create because they require more land acquisition in a single location than neighborhood parks. Many individual developments may not be large enough to be required to provide acreage for community parks. A funding mechanism for buying large parcels of land is needed.
- Community Parks are very important because they meet so many needs: sports fields, event facilities, etc.
- Facilities at Community Parks would help create a social focal point for communities that lack a cohesive identity.
- The Pleasant Valley Grange might be a possible location for a Community Park site.
- Access to any Community Parks is very important considering the anticipated level of traffic associated with group events and facilities.

Neighborhood Parks

- There is good potential to acquire land for neighborhood parks through the development review and approval process. However, how do we address areas that are already built out?
- Private/public partnerships should be used more to provide Neighborhood Park facilities.
- The County should focus more on land dedication and less on fees in-lieu in order to make sure Neighborhood Parks are actually located near new developments.
- Independent Recreation Districts should be considered as a way to manage and operate Neighborhood Parks.

Facilities

In order to identify what types of facilities participants felt are most needed, each individual was provided with 6 stick-on dots to cast as votes by placing them next to the desired facilities. The number of total votes received in each of the major categories is shown in Table 16 together with the votes cast for specific type of facilities in each category.

Table 16 – Facility Priorities (Diamond Springs Workshop)

Type of Facilities	Votes
Paths and Trails <i>Hiking Trails (6), Walkways in Parks (5), Equestrian Trails (5)</i> <i>Bike Routes/Trails (4)</i>	20
Sports Facilities <i>Basketball Court (5), Softball/Little League Field (3)</i> <i>Multiple use Field (3), Baseball Field (1), Tennis Court (1)</i>	13
Natural Areas <i>Native Plant Garden (6), Nature Area (4)</i>	10
Community Areas <i>Group Picnic Shelter (4), Community Meeting Room (3)</i> <i>Community Garden (1)</i>	8
Other <i>Shooting Range (5), Motor Sports (2), Croquet (1)</i>	8
Special Use Facilities <i>Equestrian Arena (2), Bandshell/Amphitheater (1)</i> <i>Bike Track Area (1), Bocce Ball Court (1), Skateboard Area (1)</i> <i>Workout Stations (1)</i>	7
Play Areas <i>Tot Lot (2), Informal Turf Play Area (2), Climbing Boulders/Web (1),</i> <i>Children’s’ Play Area (1)</i>	6

Railroad Park Design Exercise

Multiple ideas for improvements at the Railroad Park site were generated by each of the three groups. The groups were provided with a scaled plan of the parcel overlaid on an aerial photo and asked to suggest uses for and improvements to the site.

Group 1

The railroad is a defining feature of this part of the corridor and should be emphasized. However, multiple use trails should also be provided. There should be a trail head area with adequate parking for equestrian users. This site could also provide some of the neighborhood park features for the area since they do not have a neighborhood park. This would include restrooms, picnic area, play structure, possibly a small dog park, etc. The native oaks should also be preserved.

Group 2

An excursion train together with multiple use trails should be developed. Adequate parking will be needed, and there are concerns about traffic control and impacts on connecting roads. To bring more visitors, themes related to the railroad, such as gold mining, should also be reflected in a museum setting. The focus should be on revenue opportunities such as concessions, bike rentals, leasing the space for film productions, farmers' market, blacksmiths, crafts people, etc.

Group 3

In addition to the unique railroad opportunities, look for other topics to interpret to make it a more interesting destination. These could include Native American culture, gemology, etc. Non-trail related activities could include a farmers' market and a picnic area. Restrooms should be provided along with parking. There is potential for parking access issues especially if buses must be accommodated.

Greenwood Workshop

The workshop at the Greenwood Community Center was attended by 23 people. The meeting opened with the same presentation as was given at Diamond Springs, describing the El Dorado County General Plan elements related to the Parks and Trails Master Plan and the various opportunities for public input that would be provided throughout the plan development and review process. The presentation also provided basic park planning vocabulary, parameters for which types of park resources will be the focus of this project, and an overview of how El Dorado County coordinates with other park and trail planning entities in the region.

Parks Master Plan Priorities

Following the presentation, participants were organized into 4 groups asked to discuss the relative merit of neighborhood, community, and regional parks, where they should be located, and why. A summary of responses follows.

Regional Parks

- Regional Parks are very important. The County should think about linking regional parks using the trail network.
- Regional parks are the most important because we have opportunities to incorporate our many unique natural areas into such parks to attract recreation based tourism and revenues.
- Regional parks should have historic and/or scenic features to attract visitors, and should also be reasonably accessible.
- Regional parks can also be used as community parks by including features such as a Community Center or Amphitheater.

- More management and operational coordination is needed between County, state, and federal regional parks and trails regarding hours of uses, regulations, etc.
- We need the necessary transportation infrastructure to support access to regional parks if we expect to attract recreational tourism.
- Regional Parks are an important way to preserve large tracts of open space.
- Regional Parks should be adjacent to other large public open spaces to maximize resource value.
- A skate park should be developed as a regional facility to serve youth in the Lotus/Cool/Georgetown area.
- A regional arena for equestrian events and other uses would be an appropriate type of regional facility for El Dorado County.

Community Parks

- Each distinct community should have a Community Park because it helps to establish and create a sense of the local identity.
- A Community Park is needed in Cool.
- More community center type spaces are needed for classes, events, and activities. Perhaps underutilized or vacant buildings can be used instead of having to build new community centers.
- More information is needed about the range of community park facilities provided by all the park agencies in El Dorado County preferably at a single web site.
- Resources are needed to expand hours of operation for existing community park facilities.
- Community parks need to be close to people to reduce travel time.
- Community parks are very important and should have a selection of improvements to support active uses (e.g., tennis courts, ball fields, indoor gym/community center).

Neighborhood Parks

- In a rural area where so many people live on acreage, neighborhood parks are not as important as regional or community parks that provide more options for organized sports, special facilities, or access to natural areas.
- Parks should be located next to schools, libraries, and residential developments.
- The schools function as neighborhood parks in this area. Given the population density and cost to maintain and police neighborhood parks, they are not the most cost efficient option in District 4.

Park Budget Exercise

For this activity, each participant in a group was allocated an imaginary budget of \$1 million. Working together as a group and pooling their funds, participants were asked to make decisions as a group about how to spend the funds based on a list of potential

park development facilities. The “shopping list” of potential purchases included land, infrastructure improvements, and a wide variety of typical and special park facilities. In addition, each group was given a “bonus coupon” valued at another \$1 million towards their choice of expenditures, if they were in agreement with the funding mechanism used to generate the money. Consequently, each group had to discuss facility priorities as well as the desirability of various ways of generating funds, such as benefit assessment districts, taxes, grants, donations, etc.

Group 1

This group had a total of \$6 million to spend including a “bonus” of volunteer resources and labor valued at \$1 million, which they readily accepted. The group chose to purchase and improve 10 acres of land to create a small community park with a swimming pool, unpaved trails, dog park, multiple use arena, rest rooms, and stage. The suggested location was in central Garden Valley.

Group 2

This group started with \$5 million and accepted 5 acres of improved park land donated by a benefactor as their “bonus”. They spent their funds to acquire and improve another 4 acres of park land, to create a 9 acre active use park with play structures, two large soccer fields, three baseball fields, four covered group picnic areas, barbecues, bleachers, parking, unpaved multiple use trails, horseshoe pits, a dog park, disc golf course, and a small indoor gymnasium. No location was specified.

Group 3

Beginning with \$5 million, this group debated whether or not to accept the \$1 million “bonus” derived from a new property tax. The ultimately agreed they would accept the money if it came from a sales tax rather than a property tax. With their \$6 million they bought 5 acres worth of infrastructure improvements on land already owned by the County at Cronan Ranch. They then added facilities to the Cronan site including a play structure, two soccer fields, a restroom, three baseball fields, bleachers, two group picnic areas, three barbecue areas, disc golf course, and concessions building. They also added the following improvements to land at Henningsen Lotus Park: two tennis courts with lights for one court, one barbecue, small indoor gymnasium, dog park, skate park, and a white water park associated with the South Fork American River which passes through the park.

Group 4

The final group began with \$5 million and received a “bonus” of \$1 million from a Healthy Communities grant. The group decided to acquire unimproved land: 5 acres for a neighborhood park and 20 acres for a community park. They then bought some minimal facilities for these parks, including a restroom, three exercise stations, four covered group picnic areas, and four barbecue areas. They also bought 33 acres of open space for a regional nature park and 66 miles of unpaved multiple use trails. Three

water spray play features were bought for unspecified locations in Placerville, Cool, and Camino Three community gardens were purchased also for unspecified locations in Coloma/Lotus, Camino, and Cool. Finally, \$2 million was used for a white water park at Henningsen Lotus Park to include shore restoration, river clean-up, riparian protection, features, and river safety instruction.

Facilities

As was done at the Diamond Springs workshop, each individual was provided with 6 stick-on dots to cast as votes by placing them next to the desired facilities. The number of total votes received in each of the major categories is shown in Table 17 together with the votes cast for specific type of facilities in each category.

Table 17 – Facility Priorities (Greenwood Workshop)

Type of Facilities	Votes
Paths and Trails <i>Equestrian Trails (20, Bike Routes/Trails (12)</i> <i>Hiking Trails (7), Walkways in Parks (3)</i>	42
Other <i>White Water Park (13), New Road Garden Valley Park (10), Bike Skill Park (5),</i> <i>Indoor Gym (2)</i>	30
Sports Facilities <i>Basketball Court (9), Softball/Little League Field (4), Soccer Field/Adult (4), Soccer</i> <i>Field/Youth (2), Multiple use Field (1), Tennis Court (2), Field Lighting (1)</i>	23
Special Use Facilities <i>Swimming Pool (5), Equestrian Arena (4), Disk Golf (3),</i> <i>Bandshell/Amphitheater (2), Archery Range (2), Dog Park (1),</i> <i>Horseshoe Pits (1), Bocce Ball Court (1), Skateboard Area (1)</i>	20
Natural Areas <i>Interpretive Signs (3), Native Plant Garden (3), Nature Area (1)</i>	7
Community Areas <i>Community Garden (4), Group Picnic Shelter (2)</i>	6
Play Areas <i>Water Spray/Play Area (2), Climbing Boulders/Web (2), Children’s’ Play Area (1)</i>	5

8.4 Placerville Area Workshops and Surveys

As part of the process of developing this Master Plan, El Dorado County partnered with the City of Placerville in development of the Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009) which examined park needs in the City of Placerville as well as the surrounding communities of Camino/Pollok Pine, Diamond Springs, El Dorado, and Coloma/Lotus. Due to the lack of local parks and recreation programs in these

unincorporated communities, many residents turn to the City of Placerville to provide parks and recreation services. The intent of this partnership was to fold the input collected from these unincorporated communities into the planning process for this Master Plan, and to better understand how the County and City can work together to meet the collective recreation needs of their residents.

Several public input activities were undertaken for Placerville Area Plan. A written survey, which focused on park and recreation program users, was made available in both written and web format. A separate telephone survey was conducted to gauge overall community attitudes about parks and recreation among a representative sampling of plan area residents. Finally, two public workshops were also conducted.

Placerville Area Written/Web Survey

A variety of methods were used to distribute the written/web survey. It was included as an insert to City water bills; posted on the City and County web sites; made available at the County Library, Town Hall, recreation classes, and the Aquatic Center; and distributed at community meetings. A total of 161 responses were received. Approximately one-half of respondents were from the City of Placerville.

Participants were asked questions in three categories related to park facilities.

Table 18 shows the results of the questions asked about overall satisfaction with plan area parks which included Henningsen Lotus Park and Joe’s Skate Park as well as all the City of Placerville Parks. While responses to the questions were generally positive, the least positive responses concerned the quality and variety of facilities at the parks, and especially the number of parks. Respondents felt somewhat more positive about park locations, maintenance, and safety.

Table 18 - Overall Park and Recreation Experience

Survey Statement	Score ¹
1. The variety of facilities at the parks meets your recreational needs.	2.99
2. You are satisfied with the quality of the facilities in the parks.	2.97
3. The parks are conveniently located for you.	3.09
4. There are enough parks to meet your needs.	2.74
5. The parks are well-maintained.	3.01
6. It is safe for young people to play in the parks.	3.07

¹ Scoring from 4 (Strongly Agree) to 1 (Strongly Disagree)

The second part of the survey focused on park development and funding. About three-quarters of respondents agreed that the City and County should continue to utilize their general fund resources and existing assessments to pay for parks. Slightly more (77 percent) agreed that developers should pay to cover the cost of new parks for new

developments. An overwhelming majority (92 percent) favored the City and County aggressively pursuing funding through grants and contributions. About one-half of respondents (47 percent) would consider paying a new assessment or tax specifically for parks if they had the opportunity to approve the amount prior to implementation. Of those who did not agree with this statement, 25 percent were in opposition while 28 percent were unsure.

Questions relating to park visitation indicate that the parks are well-used (Table 19). Lion’s Park was the most heavily used, with 78 percent of respondents reporting they visit the park either often (34 percent) or occasionally (44 percent). Gold Bug Park and Henningsen Lotus Park were visited by about 65 percent of respondents. The other County park, Joe’s Skate Park was visited by 25% of respondents, which is quite high since it is only used for skateboarding.

Table 19 - Park Visitation

Park	% of Respondents Who Visit this Park
City of Placerville Parks	
Lions Park	78%
Gold Bug Park	65%
Benham Park	62%
Rotary Park	50%
Lumsden Park	38%
Orchard Hill Park	8%
El Dorado County Parks	
Henningsen Lotus Park	65%
Joe's Skate Park	25%

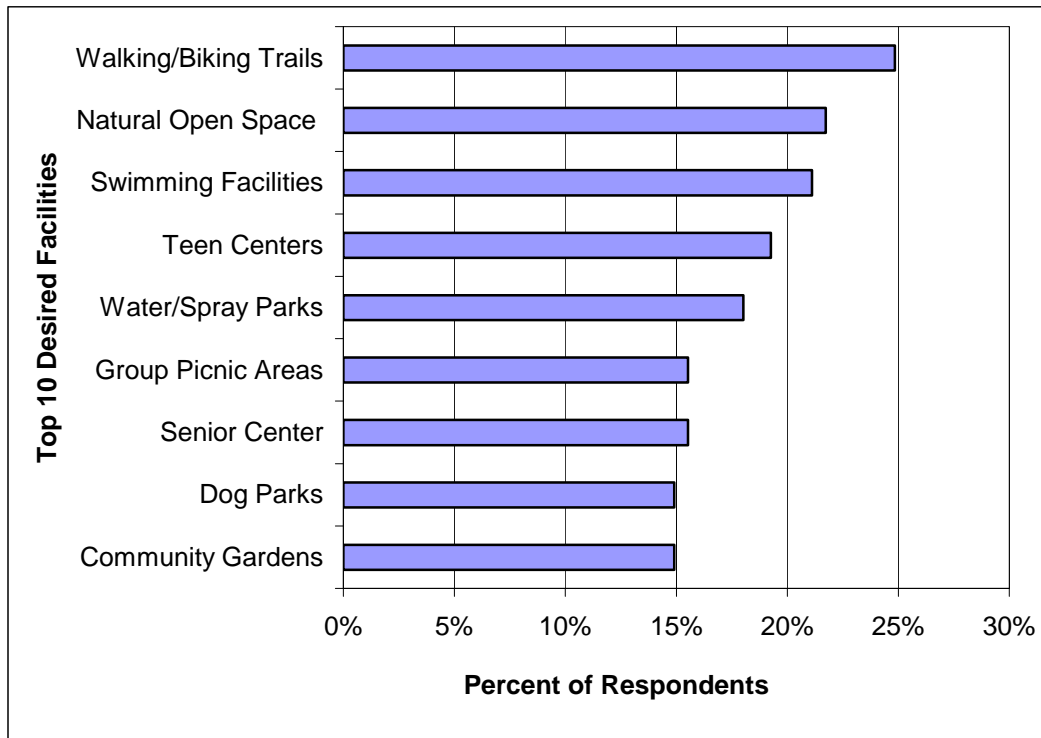
Very few people noted concerns about park conditions (Table 20). The majority of respondents who did note concerns were mostly concerned with safety after dark, except for Lions Park, where condition of the facilities was a greater concern. This is not surprising, considering the age of the park improvements and the heavy use the park receives. Concern over daytime safety was noted at Joe’s Skate Park and to a lesser extent at Lumsden Park. However, recent operational changes at the skate park have significantly addressed safety and cleanliness concerns. Respondents also noted some minor concern over cleanliness at Lions Park and Lumsden Park.

Table 20 - Respondent Concerns about Park Conditions

	Concern Expressed			
	Condition of Facilities	Daytime Safety	Safety After Dark	Cleanliness
City of Placerville Parks				
Gold Bug Park	1%	3%	8%	1%
Benham Park	2%	4%	12%	4%
Rotary Park	4%	2%	6%	2%
Lions Park	14%	2%	9%	7%
Lumsden Park	6%	6%	13%	7%
Orchard Hill Park	2%	1%	3%	1%
El Dorado County Parks				
Henningsen Lotus Park	1%	2%	6%	1%
Joe's Skate Park	4%	9%	13%	6%

When asked what additional park facilities were desired, the most commonly selected facilities were walking and biking trails, followed by natural open space areas, swimming facilities, and teen centers (Figure 5). Water/spray parks, group picnic areas, senior centers, dog parks, and community centers were also rated highly.

Figure 5 - Additional Park Facilities



Survey respondents covered a fairly diverse group of individuals. 64 percent of respondents were female. Ages spanned from under 10 to over 66, with the majority being in the 31 to 50 age bracket. Most respondents had children in their home, ranging in age from under 5 to 18 years old, with the greatest number of respondents having children between the ages of 6 and 10. About one-half (49 percent) of respondents were from Placerville with the remaining being from Diamond Springs (14 percent), Pollock Pines (9 percent), Coloma-Lotus (9 percent), and other unincorporated areas (19 percent).

Placerville Area Phone Survey

A randomized phone survey was conducted between July 21st and July 27th, 2008 to determine overall community attitudes towards plan area parks and programs. Only individuals who actually resided in the plan area were included in the survey. Approximately 3,700 calls were made to get the 384 completed interviews necessary to attain a 95 percent confidence level with a \pm 5.0 percent margin of error. Approximately one-half of respondents were from the City of Placerville.

The phone survey questions addressed the following topics.

- Overall satisfaction with parks in the plan area
- Frequency of park use in a typical year
- Participation in recreation programs or special events in the past three years
- Satisfaction with the recreation programs and special events
- Attitudes towards various park funding strategies

The majority of interviewees were satisfied with the recreation programs and parks available in the plan area, with responses that were slightly more positive than for the written survey (Table 21). The phone survey results showed equally positive results between parks and programs, with the most favorable response being for the quality of park maintenance.

Table 21 - Overall Satisfaction with Parks and Programs

Survey Statement	Score ¹
The variety of facilities at the parks meet your recreational needs.	3.1
You are satisfied with the quality of the facilities in the parks.	3.3
The parks are conveniently located for you.	3.3
There are enough parks to meet your needs.	3.3
The parks are well-maintained.	3.5
It is safe for young people to play in the parks.	3.2

¹ Scoring from 4 (Strongly Agree) to 1 (Strongly Disagree)

Park visitation was similar to the written survey in that Gold Bug Park, Henningsen Lotus Park, and Lions Park were the most popular parks. Nearly half of all respondents had visited these three parks in a typical year. For all parks, the percentage of interviewees who typically visit the park was lower than in the written survey. This is to be expected, since the phone survey reflects the experience of the entire plan area and the written survey is more indicative of the people who are routinely using the parks and programs. Nevertheless, all parks except Orchard Hill Park and Joe’s Skate Park had meaningful levels of visitation especially considering that the phone survey results predict visitation habits for the entire plan area population. Low visitation to Orchard Hill Park is consistent with its limited size and improvements. Low visitation to the Skate Park reflects the specialized nature of the facility and the very limited operating hours.

Table 22 - Park Visitation

Park	% of Respondents Who Visit this Park
City of Placerville Parks	
Gold Bug Park	50%
Lions Park	47%
Benham Park	39%
Rotary Park	31%
Lumsden Park	26%
Orchard Hill Park	4%
El Dorado County Parks	
Henningsen Lotus Park	48%
Joe's Skate Park	6%

Eighty to ninety percent of interviewees agreed that developers should pay for new parks, and that the City and County should strongly pursue grants and contributions, as well as continuing to use existing assessments and general fund allocations to pay for parks. A surprisingly high number (60 percent) of interviewees would be willing to consider a new assessment to fund parks, if they had the opportunity to approve the amount before it was implemented. This level of support is substantially higher than the response to the same question on the written survey (47 percent), which indicates support for such a strategy is not limited to the people who are using parks the most. This suggests that residents recognize the overall benefits of parks for the community, even if their personal use is infrequent.

The phone survey showed that 36 percent of plan area residents had participated in City recreation programs. The vast majority of program participants reported being either very satisfied (63 percent) or somewhat satisfied (34 percent). This suggests that the City is doing an excellent job of identifying popular programs and staffing them with quality instructors.

As with the written survey, about one-half (47 percent) of interviewees were from Placerville. The remainders were 24 percent from Pollock Pines, 8 percent from Diamond Springs, 6 percent from Coloma-Lotus, and 15 percent from other unincorporated areas. About one-third of those interviewed had children under 19 in their home, and 62 percent of those families had two or more children. The largest groups of respondents were aged 45 to 54 and 55 to 64. Those aged 45 and older represented a significant majority (71 percent); those aged 55 and older represented almost half (46 percent).

Placerville Area Public Workshops

Two public meetings were held on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 and Wednesday, August 20, 2008. Sixteen people attended the first meeting, and 21 people attended the second. All areas were represented in the workshops, with 57 percent of the attendees coming from Placerville, 27 percent from Diamond Springs, 5 percent from Coloma-Lotus, 3 percent from Pollock-Pines, and 8 percent from other unincorporated areas.

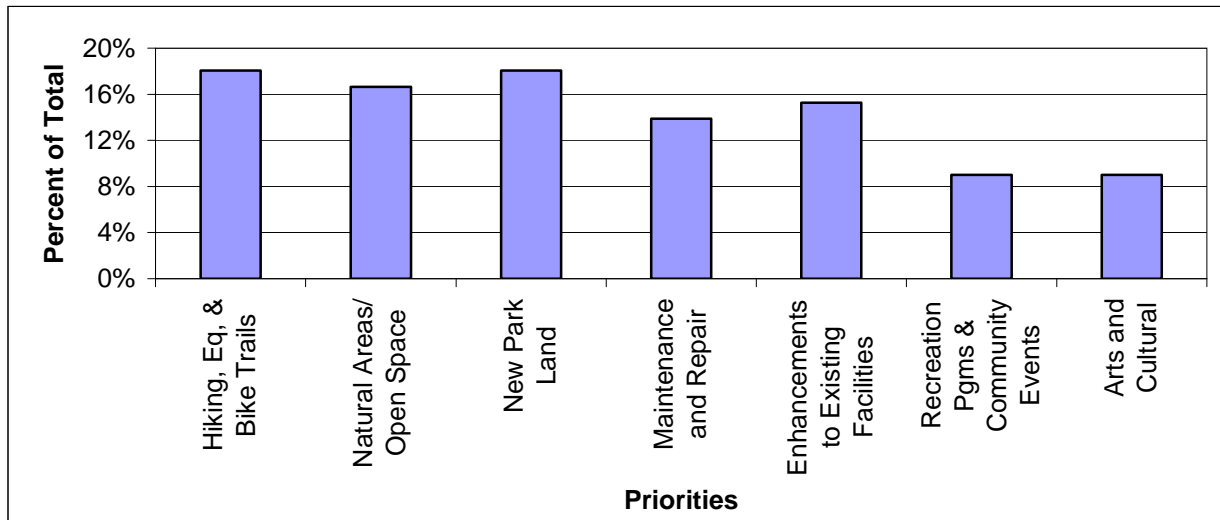


Placerville Workshop Participants

The meetings began with a slide-show presentation, followed by two activities in which participants voted for their favored programs and facilities. In the first exercise, attendees provided input on how limited resources should be allocated for parks and programs. Each was given four “gold nuggets” and asked to distribute them among seven pans representing different park and recreation priority areas. Park and recreation priority areas included new park land; enhancement to existing facilities; trails; natural areas/open space; arts/cultural facilities; maintenance; recreation programs; and a catch-all category for other priorities.

Combined results of the gold panning exercise from both workshops are shown in Figure 6. Hiking, equestrian and biking trails and new park land received the most votes. Natural open space areas were also popular. Arts and Cultural programs/events and recreation programs and community events scored the lowest. Given results of the surveys and comments provided in the workshops, this is more of a reflection of how successful existing programs and events already are, rather than a lack of interest or support for such services.

Figure 6 - Gold Panning Exercise Results



In the second activity participants placed colored dots next to desired programs and facilities. In both activities, attendees were allowed to vote multiple times for a single category.

Facilities that were rated most desirable included trails, habitat and creek restoration, aquatic facilities, a disc golf course, a dog park, and access to creeks. Other facilities receiving more than 10 spots included water/spray play areas, drinking fountains, a community garden, restrooms, other-equestrian facilities, basketball courts, and other/miscellaneous. Teen events, drama/theater programs, gardening classes, and swim lessons received more than 14 votes. Collectively, aquatics programs and sports programs also scored high. Additionally, art programs, after school and pre-school programs, senior programs, cooking classes and tai-chi/yoga received more than 10 votes.

Finally, during a visioning exercise, attendees broke into smaller groups and responded to three questions: 1) What did they like about existing parks and recreation facilities and programs, 2) What additions would they desire to existing parks and programs, and 3) What changes would they make to existing parks? Primary items that were noted as positive attributes in the existing parks and programs included general satisfaction with existing parks and programs, particularly the aquatics, trails, skate park, and disc golf; variety and diversity of program, including youth programs; availability of sports programs, fields and camps; and the general accessibility of facilities and programs.

Desired additions were varied. Responses that were repeated more than once included more pedestrian, bike, and equestrian trails and better trail network connectivity; more parks, both neighborhood and large regional facilities; more passive park areas and

open space; a dog park; expanding access to the pool and the aquatics program to year-round; and more land for future parks.

8.5 County Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings

Three meetings of the El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) were dedicated to gathering additional input on the Master Plan and providing updates on the process to the public. The first meeting, held on November 5, 2009 was convened as a joint meeting of the PRC and the Trails Advisory Committee. Representatives from other regional recreation providers were also in attendance. The focus of the meeting was to review the Master Plan process, identify key issue areas, and get suggestions on ways to increase public participation moving forward.

The second meeting was a joint meeting of the PRC and the El Dorado Planning Commission held on July 14, 2011. The focus of this meeting was to present the Draft Need Analysis which was based on findings from all the preceding public workshops, and analysis of demographics and existing facilities.

The final meeting was held on September 15, 2011 and included a presentation of the specific recommendations for park and trail facilities, maintenance, and administration. An overview of potential funding implementation strategies was also provided, along with information on the relationship of the development review process to future park and trail development.

9 Needs Analysis and Recommendations

The vision for parks and trails in El Dorado County is to offer access to a diverse selection of recreation opportunities that provide multiple benefits, including:

- Health and wellness for residents of all ages and abilities;
- Centers for community gathering and events;
- Enhanced sense of place and local identity;
- Protection for El Dorado County’s unique natural and cultural resources; and
- Economic development associated with recreation based tourism and quality of life.

There are many regional recreation partners involved in achieving this vision with El Dorado County, including the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, local cities, special districts, adjacent jurisdictions, and numerous volunteer recreation and resource advocacy groups. While El Dorado County residents enjoy access to many spectacular outdoor recreation opportunities, there are some significant recreation needs that are not currently being met. This Master Plan examines the role of El Dorado County in meeting these needs through development of specific County-owned and operated parks and trails facilities as well as strategic collaborations with these other regional partners.

9.1 Parks

Several needs related to neighborhood, community and regional parks were consistently identified throughout the process of gathering public input and analyzing existing parks. However, in order to develop realistic and effective strategies to address these needs it is essential to first examine the population distribution and consider how well existing park resources are meeting the General Plan guidelines.

Population Distribution in El Dorado County

Population density in the unincorporated parts of El Dorado County is quite variable. Even though the General Plan provides countywide guidelines for the acquisition and development of park lands by park type, the distribution of park facilities should have some correlation to the population and needs of the residents intended to be served by the facilities. The General Plan provides the following classification of community types within the County.

Community Region:

The General Plan defines Community Regions as “those areas which are appropriate for the highest intensity of self-sustaining compact urban-type development or suburban type development within the County.” Some Community Regions include or overlap with local jurisdictions. For purposes of park and trail planning, it is useful to recognize that public services, including parks and trails, are provided to residents living in Community Regions depending on local jurisdictions within the Community Region. Local jurisdictions located within Community Regions may include:

Incorporated City: Public services including parks and recreation are provided primarily by the city. Placerville and South Lake Tahoe are the two incorporated cities in El Dorado County.²⁶

Community Service District: Density and land use are comparable to a city, but public services including parks and recreation are provided by a Community Service District (CSD). There are two major CSDs in Eldorado County that provide park and recreation services: El Dorado Hills CSD and Cameron Park CSD.

Rural Community: The remaining community regions in El Dorado County are Camino/Pollock Pines, Diamond Springs, El Dorado, Shingle Springs, and the unincorporated areas surrounding the City of Placerville that have similar densities. Public services for these areas are primarily provided by the County.

Rural Center: The General Plan classifies “existing defined places which provide a focus of activity and goods and services to the surrounding areas” as Rural Centers. These are areas of higher density development located throughout the rural area of the County. Public services are generally provided by the County; however, the Georgetown Divide Recreation District (GDRD) has been established to provide park services to residents living within its boundaries. Rural Centers located in the GDRD include: Cool, Garden Valley, Greenwood, Georgetown, Kelsey, Volcano, and Pilot Hill. Other Rural Centers in El Dorado County include Coloma, Fairplay, Grey’s Corner, Grizzly Flat, Kyburz, Latrobe, Little Norway, Lotus, Mosquito, Mount Ralston, Pleasant Valley, Mt. Aukum, Nashville, Oak Hill, Phillips, Quintette, Rescue, Somerset, Strawberry, and Chrome Ridge.

Rural Region: All areas not included in a Community Region or Rural Center are classified as Rural Regions. In these areas there is limited availability of infrastructure

²⁶ Rural communities in the Tahoe Basin are not listed because they are addressed by the Regional Plan for the Tahoe Basin as adopted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

and public services, with an emphasis on preservation of agricultural and forest/timber land uses.

As seen from the community workshop input, the parks needs expressed by County residents vary significantly depending on where they live and the types of recreational activities they prefer.

Existing Types of County Parks

Another consideration in addressing park needs on a County-wide basis is the current classification of County-owned park acreage by park type. According to the General Plan, the County aims to provide a total of 5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, in the proportion of 2 acres of neighborhood parks, 1.5 acres of community parks, and 1.5 acres of regional parks.

Since the population of the County in the areas not served by another park provider is approximately 71,603 people, and the County currently owns a total of 276 acres of park land, there is a net park land deficit of about 82 acres. However, this deficit is not evenly spread across park types. The County owns 65 acres of regional park land in excess of the General Plan guidelines. The community park acreage is 8 acres less than the guidelines. The deficit of neighborhood park acreage is 138 acres. However, classification of park types is not exact: regional parks may function as community parks, and both of these may function as neighborhood parks, depending on location and types of features. For example, they would only function as neighborhood parks for those people living within walking or biking distance. Therefore, a meaningful evaluation of park land deficits does not look just at acres, but also take into account the location of existing parks, the types of facilities at each park, the area served by the park, and the recreation preferences of the residents who use the park.



Henningsen Lotus Park Picnic Area

Neighborhood Parks

Needs

Neighborhood parks are intended to be used primarily by people living within walking or biking distance, or approximately ½ mile for children. Bradford Park is the only County-operated neighborhood park and is located in Shingle Springs. Pioneer Park and Henningsen Lotus Park are both much larger County facilities, but they also function as

neighborhood parks for nearby residents in Somerset and the Coloma-Lotus areas respectively. The General Plan specifies that the County will assist with the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks

County residents living outside of the areas officially served by Placerville, El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Park CSD, Rolling Hills CSD, and Cosumnes River CSD have very limited access to neighborhood parks. While these residents do not have access to neighborhood parks, developing a new neighborhood park in a sparsely populated area provides much less benefit than developing the same park in an area with more residents. For example, the focus of the Georgetown Divide Recreation District is specifically on community parks rather than neighborhood parks because there is such a low residential density in the District. Neighborhood parks should be built in areas where the residential density warrants the investment. The emphasis for neighborhood park development should be in more densely populated Community Regions that lack such resources.

Another important consideration for neighborhood parks is the size of the park. While the General Plan guidelines establish a range of 2 to 10 acres for a neighborhood park, the cost per acre to develop and maintain a smaller neighborhood park is higher than for a larger neighborhood park. A larger park also provides more opportunities for a diverse range of facilities to meet the recreation needs of a broader range of residents. A balance needs to be achieved between these advantages of larger parks and the accessibility advantages of having more numerous smaller parks distributed throughout the community. If more people can walk or bike to a park, the potential need for parking and internal paths may be reduced.

In addition, as new urban and suburban residential development occurs within the County, new neighborhood parks should be built to serve these residents.

Recommendations

The following recommendations address the needs related to neighborhood park facilities.

NP1. Assist with Establishing Neighborhood Parks

Provide neighborhood parks in the more densely populated areas of the County not served by a community services or other special district. These areas are Diamond Springs, El Dorado, Shingle Springs, Camino/Pollock Pines, and the areas surrounding the City of Placerville. The need for neighborhood parks in these areas is already significant.

In addition, the El Dorado County General Plan Housing Element²⁷ identifies the need to provide affordable housing with adequate amenities and facilities, including proximity to parks. Both the General Plan Land Use and Housing Elements have designated the Diamond Springs and El Dorado areas as locations to absorb a significant portion of the County's Regional Housing Needs Allocation²⁸ for moderate and below moderate incomes. These areas also have the greatest impact on overutilization of parks in the City of Placerville.

NP1.A. Where parks are lacking in already developed areas, work with residents to identify potential neighborhood park sites as close by as is feasible. Acquire and improve these parcels through a combination of donations, volunteers, partnerships with other public agencies, grants, and CSD assessments. Ideally, at least four neighborhood parks totaling 20 acres would be located in the El Dorado/Diamond Springs area, and one additional 5 to 8-acre neighborhood park would be located in the Shingle Springs area. Neighborhood parks in the Camino/Pollock Pines area should also be considered particularly if the Pollock Pines Community Park is not developed.

NP1.B. Continue to require neighborhood park land dedication or fees-in-lieu as part of the residential development review process.

NP1.C. Work with residents to facilitate establishment of Community Service Districts with associated assessments to build, operate, and maintain neighborhood (and community) parks.

NP1.D. Establish joint use agreements with schools to secure public access to play areas, sports fields, and gymnasiums particularly in areas where vacant land for neighborhood park development is limited.

NP2. Implement Neighborhood Park Standards

Neighborhood parks should include facilities and improvements that will provide recreational opportunities for all age groups as well as families. There should also be a consistent level of improvement in each park, but with specific features designed to reflect the neighborhood needs and preferences. Neighborhood residents should have a role in selecting which improvements will be provided in their neighborhood park.

²⁷ El Dorado County 2008 Housing Element, Amended April 21, 2009.

²⁸ Consistent with state law (Government Code §65584), a Regional Housing Needs Plan (RHNP) was prepared and adopted by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). The Regional Housing Needs Allocation derives from the RHNP, which allocates, by jurisdiction, the "fair share" of the region's projected housing needs by household income group through 2013.

Standards for facilities and design of neighborhoods parks are provided in the Park Design Standards included in Chapter 11 of this Master Plan.

NP3. Neighborhood Park Access

Residents should be able to get to a neighborhood park by walking or biking along a safe, accessible route.

NP3.A. A pedestrian/bicycle access route providing direct, convenient connections to neighborhoods to parks should be required as a condition of approval for new residential developments.

NP3.B. Parks and schools in new developments should be located adjacent to each other to leverage access to shared resources including safe pedestrian/bicycle routes.

Community Parks

Needs

Community parks typically serve a much larger area than neighborhood parks because the type of improvements at community parks provides incentive for people to travel a greater distance to the park. Community parks may also function as neighborhood parks for people living nearby or as regional parks depending on the type of improvements. Per the General Plan's guidelines, the County aims to establish 1.5 acres of community park land per 1,000 people. This equates to 107 acres for the number of County residents currently living outside of the service areas of other recreation providers. The County currently owns 99 acres of community park land but only 73 acres have been improved.

The improved community park acreage comprises Pioneer Park, Henningsen Lotus Park, and Joe's Skate Park. The unimproved 26 acres are located in Camino/Pollock Pines, an area where population density warrants development of a community park facility. Approximately 34 acres of community park improvements are needed to meet the General Plan guideline. These improvements could be in part at the site already owned by the County and/or at other locations secured through partnerships and joint use agreements. In either scenario, the nature of the park improvements should reflect the current and projected recreation preferences of the residents who will use the parks.

The General Plan states that the County will assist with the acquisition and development of community parks. As mentioned above, the Georgetown Divide Recreation District has identified development of a community park in each of the Divide communities as one of its main objectives, and would welcome collaboration with the County to achieve this vision.

Recommendations

The following recommendations address the needs related to community parks.

CP1. Camino/Pollock Pines Community Park

- CP1.A. Identify which improvements preferred by Pollock Pines residents can be implemented at the Pollock Pines Community Park site for relatively low cost and/or with volunteer labor and donated resources. Recent input from the community focused on walking trails, picnic facilities, small play areas, interpretive information, and exercise stations
- CP1.B. Identify opportunities to collaborate with EID to add improvements to the Forebay Reservoir property to complement County park facilities
- CP1.C. Reconsider whether or not the major improvements that have been conceptually planned for the Pollock Pines Community Park site are the most cost effective way to spend recreation resources in the Pollock Pines community given the site topography and other constraints.
- CP1.D. Consider identifying other locations and/or existing facilities for sports fields and buildings that would be less expensive to develop and/or share through joint use agreements. Such approaches may be a faster and less expensive way to provide these resources to the community.

CP2. Assist Georgetown Divide Recreation District with Community Parks

- CP2.A. Complete the transfer of ownership of the Greenwood Community Center to the Georgetown Divide Recreation District. This would allow the District to make better use of the facility by extending rentals for local private business and family usage. Currently, the District is constrained from using the facility in this way because of County liability concerns.
- CP2.B. Look for opportunities to partner with Georgetown Divide Recreation District to implement improvements at the historic Bayley House site to provide community recreation resources for District residents at a location that also has regional value as an historic site.
- CP2.C. As the Georgetown Divide Recreation District moves forward with grants and other implementation efforts for development of community parks to serve its residents, identify the ways in which the County can encourage and facilitate these efforts.
- CP2.D. Continue to work with the Georgetown Divide Recreation District to allow easements for multiple use trails in the vicinity of the Georgetown Airport.

CP3. Henningsen Lotus Park Improvements

- CP3.A. Demand for the pavilion at Henningsen Lotus Park is often in excess of capacity. Constructing a second pavilion feature or at least another shade structure would increase the number of reservation based activities that

could be going on at once. Overall park carrying capacity as a function of available parking would still need to be maintained.

CP3.B. Georgetown Divide residents are interested in using Henningsen Lotus Park for local events and community festivals because there are no comparable facilities developed yet in District parks. However, coordination and planning for these events require dedicated County staff which is in short supply. GDRD staff could partner with County staff to share the burden of coordinating these events and reservations.

CP3.C. The community input process resulted in several other suggestions for possible future facilities at Henningsen Lotus Park, including tennis courts, a dog park, a small gymnasium, more barbecues, a spray play park, and a white water facility in conjunction with shoreline restoration. A build-out concept plan should be developed to identify which of these features should be added to the park, the cost to make the improvements, and potential funding sources.

CP4. Implement Community Park Standards

New community parks and improvements to existing community parks should be guided by consistent standards to assure comparable quality and functionality among community parks. Standards for facilities and design of community parks are provided in the Park Design Standards included in Chapter 11 of this Master Plan.

CP5. New Community Parks

As new residential development occurs, identify mechanisms to acquire, develop and maintain community park resources in proportion to the General Plan guidelines.

CP5.A. Continue to require land dedication or fees-in-lieu towards meeting the General Plan community park guidelines as part of the development review and entitlement process.

CP5.B. Support establishment of Community Service Districts with associated assessments to build, operate, and maintain community (and neighborhood) parks.

CP5.C. Encourage alternative ways to secure public access to the types of resources found at a community park through partnerships with private businesses and organizations.

Regional Parks

Needs

Regional parks are intended to serve a much larger area, and typically have unique or special features that may very well attract visitation from outside of the County.

Regional parks may also function as neighborhood or community parks depending on

the types of improvements provided. The County has been very successful in acquiring regional park land and currently has 172 acres, or 65 acres in excess of the General Plan guidelines. However, all of this land is not fully improved for recreation use. Another 50 acres would need to be improved to meet the guideline.

The regional park facilities with some recreation improvements are the El Dorado Fairgrounds and Chili Bar. There are also significant opportunities for additional improvements at these locations, which should be pursued in order to optimize the value of these existing recreation resources. The unimproved regional park acreage is located at Cronan Ranch (62 acres), the Bass Lake Regional Park site (40 acres), and the proposed Railroad Park (6 acres). Some portion of land at each of these sites should be considered for improvement to meet the regional park guidelines identified in the General Plan.



Chili Bar

Recommendations

The following recommendations address the needs related to regional park facilities.

RP1. El Dorado Fairgrounds

The El Dorado County Fairgrounds are owned by El Dorado County and operated by the El Dorado County Fair Association. Venues include the Placerville Speedway, Henningsen Equestrian Arena, Imagination Theater, and a wide variety of other indoor and outdoor event and meeting spaces. Facilities are available on a reserved rental basis and are heavily used for a diverse range of regional and community events.

The County received a grant of \$133,000 in 2003 to refurbish two ball fields for Girls’ Softball use located on Fairgrounds property near Ray Lawyer Drive. This grant must be utilized by 2014. A second grant for \$1.73 million was requested in 2010 to reconstruct and configure the historic Dub Walker American Legion regulation size baseball field in the Fairgrounds and create parking to serve all three fields. Field configuration as



El Dorado County Fairgrounds

proposed will also allow for regulation league and junior soccer fields to be laid out in the fields. The grant was not successful, but concept plans and the CEQA Initial Study have been completed. The ball fields are currently being used for staging race activities at the Fairgrounds, which have increased significantly since the original grants were submitted. If the conflicting demands for the space can be resolved, these ball fields should be completed and made available on a reservation basis similar to the fields at Pioneer Park and Henningsen Lotus Park to help meet the significant demand from local sports leagues for baseball fields, especially in the populous areas surrounding Placerville.

RP2. Chili Bar

The County has completed a preliminary concept study for potential day use and camping improvements at Chili Bar Park that would complement the existing rafting activities while extending recreational use. The next step in making this exceptional location available to more residents and visitors is to get additional public input and finalize a concept plan. With a final concept plan, a cost estimate for improvements as well as accurate operating revenues and expense projections could be developed. A CEQA environmental document would also need to be prepared. This information would provide the basis for the County to begin securing implementation grants from any number of state and federal sources, and potentially exploring public/private partnerships for operations and development.

RP3. Cronan Ranch

El Dorado County owns a 64-acre parcel within the greater 1,400 Cronan Ranch Plan located at the Pedro Hill Road entrance. There are various uses that could be implemented at this location that would provide recreation value to County residents and visitors without degrading the open space values of Cronan Ranch.

Community input gathered for this Master Plan suggested uses for this parcel including an equestrian arena, overnight camping, covered picnic area, restrooms, play structures, and disc golf. A concept plan needs to be developed for this parcel that identifies which uses are most appropriate for the site and provide the greatest value to local residents as well as visitors. With a concept plan in place, efforts to secure implementation resources and operational agreements can be pursued.



Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park

RP4. Bass Lake Regional Park

The County undertook a comprehensive planning effort in 2001 to 2003 to develop plans for the Bass Lake Regional Park. The proposed improvements include multiple lighted sports fields, picnic areas, a dog park, play areas, a community center, habitat areas, interpretive features, an outdoor classroom, and trails. During the EIR Notice of Preparation public scoping meeting in 2003 the community expressed concerns about the potential for the park as designed to adversely impact the neighbors and existing natural resource. A phased approach to the project was proposed, but has not moved forward due to budget and staffing issues.

The concept plan is now 10 years old, and needs to be revisited taking into consideration new residential developments, local parks, and road projects in the area. On a regional basis, there continues to be a need for both soccer and baseball fields but the relative value of the other proposed improvements should be reexamined to reflect anticipated demographics and recreation preferences. More passive uses such as trails and nature areas may have greater value as the El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park communities are becoming more densely developed. These types of uses would also have fewer environmental impacts and cost less to develop and maintain. As a phased approach, the plan should scale back development of the active use facilities to focus on those for which there is the greatest demand. These are also more likely to be facilities that are revenue generating and may be suitable for a public/private development and operation agreement.

RP5. Railroad Park

Planning for Railroad Park has been ongoing for several years. The County has approved a concept for the site including exhibit space for the El Dorado County Museum's collection of railroad artifacts, a section of operational track, and multiple use pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails. As part of this Master Plan process, residents of the El Dorado and Diamond Springs communities provided additional suggestions for what they would like to see at the site, including neighborhood park amenities such as a play structure and picnic area. The County is actively pursuing grants to implement this project. Significant community volunteer resources from groups such as the El Dorado Western Railway Foundation and the Friends of the El Dorado Trail will also be donated to help implement the park.

9.2 Recreation Facilities

Needs

In addition to looking at what types of parks are needed and where they should be located, it is also important to identify specific significant facilities that are lacking based on residents' recreation needs. The analysis of existing facilities in Chapter 7 (Existing

Level of Service) and input from the residents suggest there are several types of recreation facilities for which demand is exceeding availability. The need for access to these facilities is primarily to serve residents who live outside of the service areas of the other regional recreation partners, and who are largely relying on these other providers and schools for access to these facilities. The specific number of these facilities needed is based on an analysis of population and existing facilities as shown in Table 23.

The proposed guidelines are expressed in terms of how many people a single facility could be expected to serve based on local demand for that facility and recreation preferences. The guidelines were derived by looking at similar numbers used by other recreation providers in the County, notably the City of Placerville, El Dorado Hills CSD, and Cameron Park CSD and making adjustments to reflect community differences.

The purpose of identifying those specific types of recreation facilities that are in short supply with respect to demand is to make sure that these types of facilities are given priority in the planning and design of future parks, or enhancements to existing parks. Facilities should be located with consideration for proximity to expected users, compatibility with other park features and the neighborhood, site suitability, and opportunities to optimize existing infrastructure.

Table 23 - Facilities per Population Served¹

Facility Type	Current Facilities in County Parks	Current Population per Facility	Proposed Guideline		Current Facilities Needed	School Facilities
			Population per Facility	Number of Facilities		
Play Area	3	23,868	3,000	24	21	38
Tennis Court	0	NA	6,000	12	12	24
Outdoor Basketball Court	2	35,802	6,000	12	10	typ. at least 1 per campus
Baseball Field	0	NA	25,000	3	3	6
Softball Field	2	35,802	7,000	10	8	6
Little League Baseball Field	2	35,802	7,000	10	8	24 various sizes
Soccer or Multi-use Field	6	11,934	6,000	12	6	34
Equestrian Arena	2	35,802	20,000	4	2	
Swimming Pool	0	NA	45,000	1+	1 and expanded access to existing area pools	2 and additional capacity at City of Placerville pool
Gym/Multipurpose Room	0	NA	20,000	4	4	15
Meeting/Event Space	6	11,934	15,000	5	0	
Community Center	2	35,802	30,000	2	0	
Group Picnic Area	3	23,868	8,000	9	6	19 various types
Skateboard Park	1	71,603	45,000	2	1	
Disc Golf Course	1	71,603	45,000	2	1	
Amphitheater	0	NA	45,000	2	2	
Dog Park	0	NA	50,000	1	1	

¹ Population Served does not include people served by El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Parks CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, or the City of Placerville.

Recommendations

The following recommendations address the shortage of specific recreation facilities with suggested locations for construction.

RF1. Play Areas and Outdoor Basketball Courts

There are three play areas and two outdoor basketball courts at existing County parks. Most area schools have a play structure and outdoor basketball court, but access is

limited depending on the individual school and some residents are not sure if they are allowed to be on campus outside of school hours. Joint use agreements between the County and the schools should be put in place to clarify which play areas and courts may be used and when. All new County neighborhood and community parks should incorporate play areas, preferably designed for multiple ages and abilities, including play/exercise structures oriented to adults and seniors. Basketball courts may also be included depending on the needs of the community the park will serve.

RF2. Tennis Courts

None of the County neighborhood or community parks has any tennis courts. Approximately 11 courts are needed to serve the current population. The four area high schools have a total of 24 courts. These do not adequately address the need because they are heavily used by the schools and availability is limited. Most of the new tennis courts could be included in new neighborhood and community parks and several added to Henningsen Lotus Park.

RF3. Sports Fields

Baseball, softball, and Little League fields and multiple use/soccer fields are in very high demand. Lighted fields offer the opportunity to extend play into evening hours, but consideration needs to be given to potential impacts on adjacent residential areas. The privately organized sports leagues in the County are significant users of these facilities, together with residents who use them on an informal basis. Currently, the sports leagues secure access to facilities by reserving fields located in public parks and paying fees for use. Due to the shortage of park facilities, many teams are also working under similar fee-based arrangements with local schools to get access to their fields when the facilities are not reserved for school hours. Use arrangements may also include donated maintenance to address the increased level of use and security stipulations. School facilities are available only a fraction of the time that public park facilities are available since the schools need them for their own after school and weekend events. They are also not a substitute for multi-field complexes which are needed for tournament events.



Ballfield at Pioneer Park

The use of school fields is very helpful, and should be continued. However, the use terms typically must be re-negotiated every year. Planning and arranging for facility

access from season to season is highly unpredictable and a significant drain on the all-volunteer resources of these organizations. The County may be able to streamline the process through formal joint-use agreements. The County should also enter into long-term joint-use agreements with the schools in the Plan Area that are not already sharing facilities with other park providers. The County could then include school fields with other County park facilities in a comprehensive management and scheduling approach.

To help meet the need for additional fields it is recommended that the County pursue renovation of the 2 softball and 1 baseball field at the Fairgrounds, as noted above, providing the issues with Fairground race venue staging activities can be resolved. There is also property owned by the County Office of Education at the Folsom Lake College El Dorado Center in Placerville that has been designated for two baseball fields and a soccer field. Some basic improvements including fencing, a well and a restroom facility, have been completed at the site through an MOU between the County and the County Office of Education. Both of these sites are located near the population likely to be served by these facilities. They are in areas already utilized for public purposes and less likely to cause issues with homeowners over lighting and activities. Facilities in these locations would also help relieve pressure on Placerville area fields.

It will also be important to identify resources through grants, donations, and public/private partnerships to get additional sports facilities built that are suitable for league and tournament play. Such facilities are potentially important regional recreation features that could bring recreation based tourism spending to the County, and should include provisions for business concessions in the park.

RF4. Equestrian Arena

There are two equestrian arenas at County parks. One is located in the south county at Pioneer Park, and the other in Placerville at the Fairgrounds. There are also several pavilions at the Fairgrounds. There is also a very active and enthusiastic equestrian community on the Georgetown Divide. A third equestrian arena is needed to serve this area and could potentially function as a regional facility in conjunction with Cronan Ranch. Other options include partnering with California State Parks to locate an arena within the Auburn SRA in the vicinity of Northside School, or partnering with GDRD to locate an arena at the GDRD Regional Park in Greenwood.



Pioneer Park Equestrian Arena

RF5. Swimming Pool

None of the County parks has a swimming pool. County residents utilize pools owned and operated by the City of Placerville, the El Dorado Hills CSD, and the Cameron Park CSD. The El Dorado Hills CSD and Cameron Park CSD pools were designed with capacity for CSD residents. Only the Placerville Aquatic Center was built with capacity intended to serve non-residents. The County contributed \$300,000 to the project in recognition that it would serve residents of the unincorporated communities. The YMCA and swim leagues also use the pools at the three area high schools on a very limited basis during the summer months.

The main need for pool facilities expressed repeatedly during the community input process is that they are not available on a year-round basis. The City of Placerville Aquatic Center is heavily used by non-city residents in the summer, but closes mid-August. A collaborative group should be established comprising County and City representatives as well as members of the public to quantify the demand for extending the pool season, and the specific types of programs that should be offered in order to make the extended season cost-effective. Strategies for minimizing operational and staffing costs during an extended season should also be explored, as well as funding options.

RF6. Indoor Recreation and Event Space

Multi-purpose rooms, gymnasiums, and community centers provide the indoor spaces needed for meetings, weddings, family events, classes, and various indoor sports. Most areas of the County have access to limited space for small to medium meetings and events through County facilities and those provided by local organizations such as the Pollock Pines-Camino Community Center Association and the Diamond Springs/El Dorado Firefighters' Association. Options for larger indoor rental options are available at the Fairgrounds. However, there is still a need for additional community meeting space and multiple use/gymnasium space that can be used for basketball, classes, volleyball, and other indoor sports. There are no such facilities at County parks, but many of the area schools have multipurpose/gym spaces. These are very well-utilized by the schools and local recreation programs through joint use agreements. There is probably very little extra capacity that can be gleaned from these facilities. A new facility that included a gym or several large multi-purpose rooms would substantially meet this need. The population to be served by this facility includes the residents of the unincorporated communities surrounding the City of Placerville who currently rely on overtaxed City facilities. In order to reduce costs, it may be possible to identify an existing structure that is vacant or underutilized that can be retrofit to meet this need.

RF7. Group Picnic Areas

Group picnic areas are one of the most sought after facilities for a wide variety of family and community events. The three County group picnic areas are heavily used on a reservation fee basis and another five could potentially be used to meet demand. These could be located in existing parks, or included as improvements planned for Pollock Pines Park, Bass Lake Park, and Cronan Ranch.



Pioneer Park Covered Picnic Area

RF8. Skateboard Park

Joe’s Skate Park is a very popular amenity for area youths living in the area of Placerville, Diamond Springs, El Dorado and Shingle Springs. However, it is too far away to be used on a regular basis by youth living in the Georgetown Divide or Coloma/Lotus area, especially if they are too young to drive. A second skateboard park should be located in the Divide area, either in conjunction with future improvements at Henningsen Lotus Park or in cooperation with GDRD at one of the District’s park sites. The local skate community should play an active role in designing and securing funding for the project.



Placerville Skate Park

RF9. Disc Golf

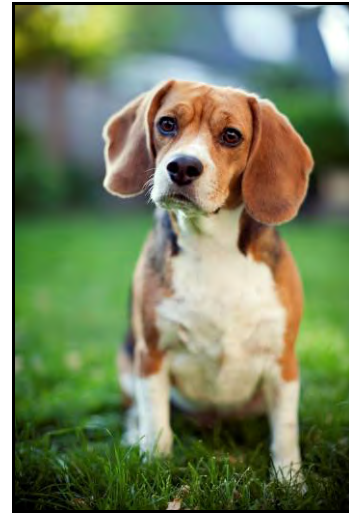
The disc golf course at Pioneer Park is one of the most consistently used features at the park. It is especially popular with older teens and young adults who perhaps are not interested or involved with organized team sports. A second disc golf course should be located in the Coloma/Lotus or Georgetown Divide area. This type of facility is easily integrated with a more natural area and could be suitable for Henningsen Lotus Park, Cronan Ranch, or one of the existing GDRD parks.

RF10. Amphitheater

An amphitheater was included in the Pollock Pines Community Park concept plan. Depending on design and construction costs, this is still a very good location for such a facility, with its proximity to the U.S. Highway 50 corridor and the popular Sly Park Recreation Area. It could have a regional as well as community appeal that would provide important economic benefits for the Camino/Pollock Pines area businesses by attracting visitors for performances and events.

RF11. Dog Park

While many County residents live on large rural parcels, those who live in the more densely developed communities along U.S. Highway 50 expressed a desire for a dog park where their pets could run safely off-leash. This type of facility would ideally be located adjacent to a pet-oriented business so that people could use the park when they come to shop, or within a park that provided other recreation choices. This would allow families to bring dogs and children to the park at part of a single outing.



9.3 Trails

Needs

There is tremendous demand for walking, biking, and equestrian trails among El Dorado County residents. Trails not only provide recreation, transportation, and wellness benefits for residents but they provide important incentives for expanded geotourism to the County and the associated economic benefits. Other economic benefits accrue as people and employers are motivated to relocate to more walkable/bikeable communities. Trails also provide a way for people to experience and appreciate the abundant natural resources that give the County its unique character, and potentially increase stewardship for these same resources.

The 1990 El Dorado County Hiking and Equestrian Trails Plan (1990 Plan) identified many potential regional trail corridors to connect population and recreation centers in the County. However, most are conceptual corridors following existing roads. Others are simply lines drawn on the plan suggesting possible routes to connect existing trail segments to create a meaningful regional network. The adopted goal of the 1990 Plan to establish a countywide trail system that integrates federal, state, county and local trails for public use remains relevant. However, since the feasibility of most of the various proposed 1990 corridors has not been evaluated, it is important to prioritize which corridors provide the greatest benefit and focus effort on these for initial study and implementation.

The 1990 plan also does not reflect some of the trail use trends of the last 20 years. These include: a much greater diversity of trail users such as mountain bikers; more emphasis on trails as an urban recreation amenity; and the increasing interest in the overlapping recreation and transportation uses of trails. Most notably, the plan does not address local trails, except to say that neighborhood plans should include local trails where possible. The trails component of this Master Plan is focused specifically on the

corridors identified in the 1990 plan that remain a priority today, and a broader view of trail needs as represented by the three functional types of trails characterized in Chapter 7: nature trails, park paths, and connectors.

Recommendations

The following recommendations address significant opportunities to improve the regional trail network and also provide access to a variety of functional trail experience.

TR1. El Dorado Trail

The completion of the El Dorado Trail from the County line to Camino as a Class I bike path with an equestrian side path is a clear priority from a transportation, recreation, and geotourism point of view. This will need to be accomplished in phases as already identified by the County in 2007.

- TR1.A. The alignment of the western portion of the El Dorado Trail from the Sacramento county line to Placerville is established by the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor Master Plan. This segment of the El Dorado Trail has tremendous geotourism potential because it could provide connectivity with the Folsom Bikeway and the American River Parkway, providing the millions of annual visitors to the American River Parkway with the opportunity to continue their cycling trip up into El Dorado County. Efforts to implement the unpaved pedestrian and equestrian access to this section of the trail should focus on grants and volunteer resources as relatively little improvement is needed to make much of the segment functional. Funding for the eventual development of a Class I bikeway in this corridor is addressed in the El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan. The El Dorado County Transportation Commission is continuing to partner with the County and the City of Placerville to identify funding sources for these Class I improvements. A grant for \$300,000 to complete approximately 1 mile of paved Class I trail from Lower Main Street/Forni Road to Ray Lawyer Drive is pending.
- TR1.B. An analysis of various alternative alignment options for the segment from Halcon Road to Pacific House was completed in 2009. The County should move forward with identifying the preferred alignment for this segment and begin working on securing implementation resources.
- TR1.C. Implementation of the eastern most segment of the El Dorado Trail from Pacific House to the City of South Lake Tahoe should continue to be pursued. While much of the trail already exists via various unpaved trails through the Eldorado National Forest, significant technical analysis is needed to identify the specific alignment, design, and acquisition details. The terrain may also limit the range of potential trail uses in certain areas.

TR1.D. A new bridge structure is needed at the location of the old Brockliss Bridge east of Pacific House to provide an essential connection for trail users at the gateway to the Eldorado National Forest. An Environmental Assessment for the proposed bridge was prepared about ten years ago, and will need to be updated to reflect current conditions before any construction may begin. As a significant link in the regional east west connection for trail enthusiasts, this project may be a good opportunity for private business sponsorship.

TR2. Pony Express National Historic Trail

The Pony Express National Historic Trail is regarded as a transportation feature by the Federal Highway Administration and is eligible for Transportation Equity funding. Assistance with design, signage, and promotion, as well as letters of support for grants are also available from the National Historic Trails division of the National Park Service. From Diamond Springs east to the City of South Lake Tahoe, the Pony Express National Historic Trail generally corresponds to the El Dorado Trail as described above, with minor variations and spurs in the Echo Lake area that veer southeast towards Highway 88. From Diamond Springs west to the County line, it generally follows U.S. Highway 50 towards Sacramento with a spur that terminates in Folsom. Providing some level of permanent pedestrian and biking facility along the alignment in this urbanized area could increase awareness and appreciation of the trail. The annual re-enactment of the Pony Express ride follows the historic route as much as possible, given modern day obstructions and traffic considerations. The Pony Express National Historic Trail is a significant draw for geotourism, and providing some level of permanent pedestrian and biking access along the alignment in the urbanized areas could increase awareness and appreciation of the trail. In order to bring more year-round attention to the Pony Express Trail, a comprehensive signage program should also be developed in coordination with the National Historic Trails division of the National Park Service.

TR3. Mormon-Carson Emigrant Trail

The trail known locally as the Mormon-Emigrant Trail is a segment in the California National Historic Trail. It follows rugged trails in the Eldorado National Forest as well as various unpaved and paved local and state routes. As with the Pony Express National Historic Trail, a comprehensive signage program should be developed in coordination with the National Historic Trails division of the National Park Service to increase its appeal as a trail destination and to increase awareness of its historical significance. There are also opportunities to provide pedestrian and biking access along the alignment in the urbanized areas. Key segments particularly in the vicinity of Sly Park Recreation Area and Pollock Pines should be identified for potential improvement to provide connections for residents and visitors.

TR4. Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plans

Residents are increasingly interested in being able to walk or bike to parks, schools, and community centers from their homes, and use the same trails for recreation. An example of this type of project is the Northside Trail that is to connect Auburn Lake Trails, Cool, and Northside Elementary School along Highway 193 and State Route 49. Residents also need ways to connect from their neighborhoods and communities to the regional trail network.

Plans identifying priority routes and development strategies for multiple use trails connecting neighborhoods to communities and the regional trails should be developed for each community in the unincorporated Plan Area. This focus on non-motorized local transportation and recreation options is a key element in the federal *Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities*.²⁹ As a participating agency, the Federal Highway Administration has developed a *Livability Initiative*, through which funding and support are available to plan for and implement such facilities.³⁰ These plans would compliment the El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan by focusing at the local level and including the needs of pedestrians and also equestrians where appropriate.



Auburn State Recreation Area Olmstead Loop Trail

For example, in the Georgetown Divide area, the planning exercise would identify the local informal trail network, and prioritize alignments to be secured with future public easements. Specific needs in this area identified during public input to this Master Plan include the possible extension of the Northside Trail east to Penobscot Road with the addition of shoulders for equestrian use. Alternatively, local trails could be developed south of Highway 193 to provide connections for the Penobscot

Road/Cherry Acres Road neighborhoods to Cool and to the Auburn State Recreation Area Olmstead Loop and trailhead.

There is also a need for similar non-motorized trails in the Camino/Pollock Pines community. One suggested route would be adjacent to Pony Express Trail, providing a

²⁹ EPA, “Partnership for Sustainable Communities: A Year of Progress for American Communities,” 2010. http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/partnership_year1.pdf. Accessed 04/08/2011

³⁰ FHWA, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/fag/>

safe non-motorized alternative through the commercial center. Another important trail would be one connecting Pollock Pines with the Sly Park Recreation Area. A third potential route would provide access to EID's Forebay recreation facilities, potentially utilizing easements along the canals. These are trails that would clearly serve local transportation and recreation function, while contributing to the livability of the community by reducing automobile trips.

Other communities that need these types of connections are Shingle Springs, El Dorado, and Diamond Springs. A grant was recently awarded to the El Dorado Transportation Commission to prepare the *Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Plan*. This will be an ideal format for identifying priority routes and development strategies for multiple use trails connecting neighborhoods and the community, and may provide useful information for subsequent planning efforts in the other Plan Area communities.

TR5. El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan

The El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan identifies specific routes for Class I bike paths to function as transportation connectors for the communities along the U.S. Highway 50 corridor. These trails will also provide recreation value and should be designed according to bikeway design standards contained in Caltrans Highway Design Manual Chapter 1000 - Bikeway Planning and Design, and with the safety of both the transportation and recreation users in mind. Implementation of these routes should be pursued consistent with the priorities identified in the bike plan. Adequate width should be provided where feasible to allow a parallel track for equestrian uses. Where equestrian use is allowed, appropriate access points and trailhead design should be provided.

TR6. Other Regional Connections

There is a need to provide other regional connectors to provide linkages for the south County, the Georgetown Divide communities, from the El Dorado Hills area to the El Dorado Trail/SPTC, and to connect regional parks. Table 24 lists the corridors from the 1990 Trails Plan that address these needs with some refinements. These corridors should be a priority for future implementation. For most of these corridors, additional study will be required to identify the specific preferred alignment of the route considering terrain, ownership, existing roads, and other constraints. Nevertheless, it is important to identify these corridors at a conceptual level so that future development does not preclude eventual implementation.

The remaining corridors identified in the 1990 Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan are still potential future alignments, but are considered lower priority for implementation than the selected corridors noted in Table 24 due to significant feasibility issues and/or less functional value. They are retained in this Master Plan as corridors for future study and are listed in Appendix F.

Table 24 – Recommended Priority Regional Multiple Use Trail Connections

Trail Name (from 1990 Plan)	Description	Estimated Length
C-1 Cosumnes Trail	From the west County line on Latrobe Road to Latrobe where it follows the SPTC alignment east to Brandon and then east along Brandon Road and Bonnet Road to Nashville, crossing SR 49 following Sand Ridge Road to Somerset. East beyond Somerset, following Happy Valley Road to the Eldorado National Forest trails.	33 miles
C-1 Cosumnes Trail Alternative A (Old Diamond-Caldor RR)	From Canyon Creek, use the Old Diamond- Caldor Railroad Line southeasterly to Grizzly Flat Road, east on Grizzly Flat Road and north on Cosumnes Mine Road to Sciaroni Road	11 miles
C-1 Cosumnes Trail Alternative B (Southern Loop)	South from Somerset to Slug Gulch Road, southeasterly between Sopiago Creek and the Middle Fork Cosumnes River to the latter’s intersection with Pi Pi Road to Caldor. The trail would eventually loop back westerly to Grizzly Flat and Sciaroni Road.	35 miles
C-5 Latrobe Trail (portion)	Starting at the intersection of White Rock Road and Latrobe Road heading south to intercept the SPTC alignment to the community of Latrobe.	3 miles
C-6 Salmon Falls-Knickerbocker Trail (portion)	Starting at Salmon Falls Bridge proceeding north and connecting to Olmstead Loop. Possible connections from Pilot View, Starling Lane, and Rattlesnake Bar, or via new trail along south shore of the North Fork of the American River.	5 miles
C-7 Pilot Hill Trail (portion)	Starting at Magnolia Trailhead/Greenwood Creek and heading south generally along SR 49 corridor to Lotus Road. At this point trail could proceed to Marshall Gold Discovery SHP or follow South Fork of the American River west to Henningsen Lotus Park, where it would enter the SHP via a new connector to the Monroe Ridge Trail. This trail would also provide a connection between Henningsen Lotus Park and the Lotus-Coloma business district.	4 miles
C-12 Black Oak Trail (portion)	From Kelsey to Coloma along Bayne Road	5 miles

TR7. Implement Trailhead Location Standards

Trailheads and staging areas are key functional and safety elements of a successful trail system. Trailheads or access points must be provided not only for nature trails, but also for local trails to provide access/egress points from neighborhoods. Placement of trailheads including those serving major multiple use trail and smaller neighborhood trails have a significant impact on user behavior and trail safety. While specific new trailhead locations are not identified in this Master Plan, guidance regarding parameters for locating trailhead is provided in the Trail Design Standards included in Chapter 11 of

this Master Plan. New trailhead locations will be identified using these standards as part of the overall design process for new trail alignments.

TR8. Implement Trailhead Design Standards

Standards for trailheads are needed to make sure these important elements in the trail network function safely for all user groups. For example, trailheads need to be clearly marked to provide clear direction and information about the difficulty of the trail ahead. Staging areas that are shared by equestrians and other trail users need to be designed with safety and trail capacity in mind. The Trail Design Standards included in Chapter 11 of this Master Plan provide specific direction on trailheads and should be used to guide the development of new trailheads and modifications to existing trailheads.



El Dorado Trail at Jacquier Trailhead

TR9. Implement Trail Design Standards

With the increasing popularity of all types of trail uses, there is an increasing need to design multiple use trails that will be safe and functional for equestrians, walkers, and cyclists. The vast majority of trail users who provided input to this process recognized the economic benefits of being able to accommodate all three uses within one alignment, although not necessarily on the same track. The trail design standards established in the 1990 Plan are updated in this Master Plan (Chapter 11) to reflect these multiple use objectives in a variety of urban and rural settings with a diverse range of user needs. These standards should be used to guide all County trail development and enhancement, including activities undertaken by volunteers.

TR10. Establish Trail Signage Format Standards

Standards need to be established for signage format to ensure that a consistent and clearly understood message is conveyed to all users. The standards should address content as well as graphic conventions. There are many trail advocacy organizations and agencies that have developed trail signage standards. The El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan identifies sign standards for bicycle transportation routes. The USFS and BLM also have sign standards for their facilities. The County should work in collaboration with the other trail agencies in the Plan Area to examine standards already in place and establish a standard for County trails that incorporate existing conventions where feasible to minimize confusion.

TR11. Establish Trail Use Standards

Standards need to be established for trail use rules to promote safety especially on multiple use trails. The standards should be developed by a citizen-based group representing various trail interests together with trail safety professionals, and representatives from the other trail agencies in the Plan Area.

TR12. Trail User Education and Advocacy Group

Trail use is the fastest growing area of recreation activity in the State of California. This means there are more miles of trails being built, and more people using trails with a greater variety of physical ability and experience. Many people simply don't know what to do on a multiple use trail when they encounter an unfamiliar situation. It is essential that more education be made available to trail users of all types to promote a safe and enjoyable trail experience.

Education needs to happen on multiple levels to be effective, including school programs, trailhead signage and literature, and presentations to and by trail advocacy groups. This is an effort that would most effectively be carried out as a coordinated effort involving the many trail interests in the County to make sure education is consistent and comprehensive. A community trail advocacy group should be convened and guided by the Trails Advisory Committee to develop a Walk/Bike/Ride Safe campaign to raise awareness about trail safety for all user groups. The goal of the campaign is to increase awareness of trail safety for all user groups by working with local media and developing positive relationships between the different user communities.

9.4 Administration

Needs

The three main administrative areas in which needs have been identified are funding, operations, and collaboration.

Lack of funding for both development and operation of parks and trails has been a significant issue for many counties in California for the last several years. Future General Fund revenues tied to property taxes are like to remain depressed for at least the near future. El Dorado County, in collaboration with its partner agencies, will need to utilize creative funding strategies to leverage local, state, and federal funds for the continued development and operation of parks and trails. Funding strategies that do not rely on the traditional tax base need to be emphasized in order to keep providing the park and trail facilities that are so important to the health and well being of County residents and communities.

Operational issues include both the day-to-day oversight and management of the County's parks and trails as well as the maintenance of facilities. Specific needs in this

area emphasize maintaining a consistent vision in all County efforts that impact parks and trails, providing for the continued high quality maintenance of existing and future facilities, and improving visibility and access to facilities through better information and scheduling.

Given the diversity of recreation providers active in El Dorado County it is essential that effective collaborative relationships be established and nurtured to leverage shared resources for the benefit of all residents and visitors. These relationships have important financial ramifications, as well, as they can be used to reduce the County's share in project development, maintenance, and operations as well as enhance the appeal of El Dorado County as a geotourism destination.

Recommendations

Funding

AD1. Aggressive Grant Strategy

Competition for federal, state, and private grants is fierce. However, substantial sums continue to be given away to worthy projects and the County should have an aggressive plan in place to be competitive. The County resources required to successfully pursue grants could be minimized by sharing grant writing staff with other partner organizations, or leveraging County staff time to oversee and manage multiple interns or subsidized workers such as AmeriCorp volunteers.

In order to be successful at winning grants, the County needs to:

- broaden awareness of which grants are available;
- have a list of well-defined projects that have been vetted for feasibility, regulatory compliance, and value to the community through an adopted plan;
- match grants with projects that are clearly aligned with the objectives of the grantor;
- develop relationships with partner organizations who will provide letters of support;
- identify local resources (Quimby/developer fees, volunteer labor, donations, etc.) as a match to leverage state and federal grant funds;
- demonstrate the administrative capacity to manage grants; and
- submit well-crafted and realistic proposals.

AD2. Park Impact Fee Nexus Study

Under the County's Subdivision Ordinance which implements the Quimby Act, land or fees in-lieu of land are to be dedicated to the County as part of the residential subdivision approval process to be used for park and recreational purposes. The amount of land or in-lieu fees may not exceed the equivalent of 3 acres of land per 1,000

residents unless the existing acreage of neighborhood and community parks is in excess of that amount. In such a situation up to 5 acres per 1,000 residents may be required.

When the subdivision is located within the boundaries of a local park agency, the fees are collected by the County and passed on to the corresponding agency. Otherwise, the fees are retained for County parks and recreation projects. The City of Placerville has a similar ordinance.

Another mechanism for funding park and recreation projects is to assess a development impact fee. Development park impact fees are collected by the County and provided to El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Park CSD, and Georgetown Divide Recreation District, and collected by the City of Placerville pursuant to the “Mitigation Fee Act” as found in Government Code § 66000 et seq. The intent of the impact fees is to fund park and recreational facility improvements needed to serve new residents so that access to such facilities, including trails, for existing residents is not degraded. The amount of development park impact fees and Quimby land dedication or fees in-lieu must be coordinated so that fees in excess of the amount required to provide the approved level of park and recreational facilities are not charged.

El Dorado County does not collect development park impact fees outside of the El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Park CSD, and Georgetown Divide Recreation District areas. An alternative approach is to require new park construction as a condition of approval, but this is only practical when there are enough new residential units being built to clearly warrant a whole new park. Consequently, the pace of neighborhood park development has not kept up with population growth throughout the County. As new population moves to the County this imbalance will only get worse if development impact fees or other effective alternatives are not implemented. A Park Impact Fee Nexus Study should be completed to identify the level of impact fees needed for parks and trails to keep pace with population growth. While the County may ultimately decide not to implement a park impact fee until economic conditions improve, the study would at least identify the level of funding or other resources that will be needed from alternative mechanisms to address in the absence of a park impact fee.

AD3. Sponsorship Outreach

The multifaceted benefits of parks and trails extend to many aspects of life in El Dorado County from health to economic development. There are businesses and organizations that benefit from having parks and trails available either for their own activities, commercial ventures, or the use of their employees. By developing a clearer picture of the businesses and organizations that enjoy these benefits, educating them about the value they are receiving, and asking their input on park and trail implementation priorities, a focused effort to pursue meaningful, sustainable sponsorships can be undertaken.

Operations

AD4. Oversight for Administrative Consistency

As new park and trail projects are designed and implemented, either by the County alone or by developers, there must be consistency between the Parks and Trails Master Plan requirements and design standards and direction in the Design and Improvements Standards Manual and Minor Land Division Ordinance for dedications. This will help project proponents have a clear idea of what they will encounter during the entitlement process, and ensure consistent quality between County and privately developed improvements.

AD5. Dedicated Staffing

Dedicated professional staffing is needed to plan for and manage the County's parks and trails and be responsible for the coordination and collaboration with the many regional and community park and trails partners, as well as any new special districts that may be formed to provide parks and trails in currently underserved areas. This type of oversight is critical for maximizing the value of park and trail resources. Dedicated staffing would also help to coordinate and optimize the efforts of operational staff in the Department of Environmental Management, and maintenance staff in the Department of Transportation. While contract services may be used for specific projects, permanent staff is needed to direct these projects and interface with the public in a consistent and knowledgeable manner. Many of the recommendations in this Master Plan will be best implemented as a work plan for dedicated park staff.

AD6. Preventive Maintenance

Maintaining existing County park and trail facilities is critical both for public safety and to avoid expensive repairs resulting from ongoing neglect. The County should continue to plan and budget for preventive maintenance at existing facilities, and factor preventive maintenance in the operational budget for new facilities. In addition, grants are available for certain types of maintenance. For example, EDCTC has funding available for the maintenance of Class I bike paths from the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Bicycle Pedestrian Set-Aside that could be used on the Class 1 sections of the El Dorado Trail.

AD7. Planning for Parks and Trails Maintenance

As new facilities are planned, consideration must be given to how the appropriate levels of maintenance will be provided and sustained. Strategies for reducing ongoing maintenance costs while providing a high quality experience at those facilities should be explored early in the project planning process. Facilities maintenance may be provided either through County staff or some other reliable combination of contract and/or volunteer resources.

AD8. Coordinated Online Information Resources

There are so many organizations providing recreation and trail opportunities in El Dorado County that getting information in a coordinated fashion can be challenging. The internet has also increased the public's expectation for the quantity and quality of available information. Park and trail users in the County are looking for web-based applications to help them easily identify places to go and what they can do when they get there. They are looking for a user-oriented approach to information in which they can go to one location to get information from multiple sources irrespective of who owns or operates the facility. The County needs to expand web information on County parks and trails and act as a portal site with links to the many excellent sites developed by other regional recreation providers. This is a critical component to a successful geotourism program.

AD9. Ordinance Enforcement and Security

Enforcement of ordinances related to park and trail use is necessary to provide the public with a safe recreation experience, protect public investment in facilities, and limit the impact of park and trail use on adjacent private property owners. Ordinance enforcement begins with education, including properly placed and clearly worded signage at park entrances and trailheads to identify regulations, and providing similar information on the County's web site. Education makes it less likely that people will commit violations unknowingly, and enables the park and trail user community to encourage appropriate behavior among its members. Where additional oversight is required, it may be possible to work with volunteer patrols to supplement County law enforcement staff for non-violent or non-confrontational situations. Teaming with the park and trail staff from the other regional recreation providers should also be pursued to leverage enforcement capacity.

*Collaboration***AD10. Public/Private Partnerships**

A partnership between the County and private businesses or non-profit organizations may facilitate the development and sustainable operation of certain types of park and trail facilities more quickly than if the County was solely responsible for the venture. These types of opportunities need to be embraced when they clearly provide a benefit to County residents. As projects are considered for implementation, stakeholders with an economic and/or social interest in the success of the project should be invited to participate in identifying ways to fund and sustain the project.

Other aspects of the public/private partnership include making provisions for local entrepreneurs to provide goods and services to people who visit El Dorado County to enjoy County parks and trail. A balance will need to be struck that promotes the economic benefits of geotourism while preserving public oversight of the valuable resources that are attracting visitors to the County.

AD11. Public/Public Partnerships

Inter-jurisdictional coordination is essential to effectively leverage resources for management and implementation, and to create the most enjoyable and safest possible recreation experience. This is especially critical where trails and parks managed by one entity adjoin those managed by another. A multi-faceted approach is needed to support coordination between El Dorado County and the many public recreation providers in the County, including the federal, state, and local agencies, and neighboring jurisdictions. This might include operational policies for communication between staffs to share information about facility conditions, hours of operation, fees, and use restrictions, as well as developing shared web-based information sites that could be accessed by the public.

An important benefit of this collaboration is the opportunity to leverage funding, grant writing, maintenance, and operational strategies that will help multiple recreation providers.

AD12. Park and Trail Promotion

There are numerous opportunities to gain additional recognition for El Dorado County park and trail resource that would help attract geotourism and potentially increase grant success. The National Historic Trails signage program is one such opportunity. Another opportunity would be to seek National Recreational Trail status for important regional trails such as the South Fork of the American River trail. The El Dorado Trail has the potential to be a trail of national significance once a Class I bike path has been connected to Folsom and the American River Parkway. This would create one of the longest system of Class I bike paths in California. A focused effort should be undertaken with the participation of recreation oriented businesses to identify and implement these types of promotion for County parks and trails.

AD13. Volunteers

There are many talented and motivated people who are passionate about contributing to some element of the parks and trails vision for El Dorado County on a volunteer basis. Marshalling these resources represents a significant economic and social benefit to the County.



Volunteers assist with restoration

While there are various issues associated with the use of volunteers related to liability and oversight, there is a significant body of experience in the region from other jurisdictions and organizations who have successfully addressed these issues to create highly effective volunteer programs with many

hundreds of participants. The benefit of embracing volunteer resources is not just in the financial value of the services they provide, but also in the greater sense of community cohesiveness and belonging experienced by the volunteers.

A focused strategy should be developed to embrace volunteer resources in all aspects of parks and trails planning, design, implementation, management, and maintenance. This strategy should include identifying existing and potential volunteer individuals and organizations, their interests, the resources they can provide, oversight and coordination needs, and mechanisms to evaluate and acknowledge the value of their contributions. Development of this strategy could even be prepared by qualified volunteers with County staff review and input.

Table 25 in Chapter 10 (Implementation Strategy) highlights the many valuable ways in which volunteers could assist with implementation of the recommendations in this Master Plan.

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10 Implementation Strategy

This first comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan for El Dorado County is being developed at a time of economic uncertainty, when competition for funding sources is high, and demand for public services is increasing. Nevertheless, it is important for the County to continue making progress in achieving its vision for parks and trails to meet the recreation needs of residents and visitors alike, and to achieve the many health, social, and economic benefits that come with providing these resources. This is a time of great opportunity to develop parks and trails that will benefit the children of today and future generations. El Dorado County, with its bounty of natural beauty and wealth of park and trail sites, is poised to create a legacy of outstanding park and trail facilities.

The implementation strategy for the Plan responds to these circumstances in several ways. Project phasing is emphasized to break large projects into smaller efforts that will provide near-term benefit while utilizing funding as it becomes available. Implementation priorities are expressed in relative terms rather than by specific dates to provide the flexibility to take advantage of focused funding and other resources that may unexpectedly appear. Lastly, implementation responsibility is focused on collaborative efforts involving the business community, park and trail users, and other significant stakeholders with County staff used to leverage these resources. The strategy for implementation of this Plan includes six major elements.

The **Level of Service Guidelines** establish quantitative and qualitative targets the County seeks to achieve in order to provide high quality park and trail resources for residents and visitors.

The **Feasibility Criteria** guide the evaluation of potential future projects as they move from the concept stage through the implementation phases. The purpose of these criteria is to identify project issues and corresponding solutions as early as possible, and make sure the limited available resources are spent wisely.

The **Park and Trail Design Standards** provide direction to achieve consistency in the quality of park and trail projects for public safety, quality of experience, and sustainability.

The **Land Development Process** describes how the approval for new development projects will be coordinated with the acquisition and development of park and trail resources to serve the needs of new residents.

The **Implementation of Recommendations** includes a list of the many proposed projects identified in the previous chapter along with their relative priority, suggestions for who

should lead the project implementation, potential support resources, and estimated costs.

Finally, the **Fiscal Analysis** examines the expenses and revenues associated with providing County parks and trails for the last several years, and make recommendations for potential additional revenue sources.

10.1 Level of Service Guidelines

The Level of Service (LOS) guidelines include consideration of how many parks are required in the Plan Area, where they should be located, and the types of facilities they should include to best meet the needs of the Plan Area residents. Specific LOS guidelines addressed in this Master Plan include:

- Park Classifications
- Trail Classifications
- Park Service Area
- Acres per 1,000 Population
- Facilities per 1,000 Population
- Non-vehicular Access
- Park Site Characteristics
- Standard Park Improvements

The standards are designed to provide flexibility in how the future park resources develop, while still setting a threshold for the level of service those resources are expected to provide. As new facilities are developed in the Plan Area, consideration will be given to these standards to determine if the proposed action is consistent with the County's defined level of service for parks and trails.

It is important to remember that, in most cases, the guideline apply to the entire system of parks and trail facilities, rather than to any one facility alone. These standards are meant to be used collectively to direct the future design and location of parks and trail improvements to maintain the overall quality of recreation experience throughout the Plan Area.

Park Classifications

The General Plan identifies three distinct types of parks: Neighborhood, Community, and Regional parks. **Neighborhood** parks are identified as being within walking or biking distance of the residents they serve, generally 2 to 10 acres in size, and preferably located adjacent to schools. Typical basic improvements may include play areas, turf areas, and picnic facilities, as well as other features.

Community parks and recreation facilities are intended to provide a focal point and gathering place for the larger community and range from 10 to 44 acres in size. They typically would include improvements similar to neighborhoods parks with additional facilities such as expanded sports fields and courts, group picnic facilities, multiple play areas, a swimming pool, and/or a community center.

Regional parks and recreation facilities shall incorporate natural features and serve a region involving more than one community. Size may range from 30 to 10,000 acres with the preferred size being several hundred acres. Facilities may include all those found at neighborhood and community parks, as well as special use facilities such as amphitheatres, trails, campgrounds, and interpretive centers.

A fourth type of park classification, **Linear** park, should be added to those defined in the General Plan. A linear park is defined as a linear open space separated from a motor vehicle corridor that functions both as a trail corridor and park space. The types of amenities in a linear park should complement the trail function including, for example, picnic areas, play pockets, interpretive elements, rest stations, trailheads, and access points.

Trail Classifications

The El Dorado County Bicycle Master Plan identifies four types of bikeways: Class I Bike Path, Class II Bike Lane, Class III Bike Route, and Class IV Shared Use Roadway. Any unpaved track or fire road is identified generally as a “trail”. For purposes of this Master Plan which focuses on recreational trail use, three more refined classifications for trails are needed in order to describe the variety of functional uses and associate planning considerations.

Nature Trails are usually unpaved and intended to serve hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, depending on constraints of terrain and environmental sensitivity. Nature trails typically provide ways to explore public natural areas and may be served by designated and/or improved trail heads. They function primarily as recreation features.

Park Paths are located within improved parks and may be paved or unpaved depending on the character of the park. They are intended primarily to provide recreational walking, skating, and/or leisure biking opportunities within the confines of the park. However, they may also function as segments in the neighborhood or community pedestrian/bicycle transportation network if they connect to designated pedestrian or bicycle routes.

Connectors are characterized by the function they serve in providing ways for people to move between neighborhoods and communities. They have both a recreation and transportation function, but for recreation purposes are typically separated from a vehicular route. They may be paved and/or unpaved, depending on their location and

expected use. Connectors may function at the scale of a neighborhood, community, and/or region and provide alternative transportation options for people to get from home to schools, parks, and businesses without relying on an automobile. These are also very important recreation features especially for people who can't drive to a trailhead, such as children, people without cars, and the elderly who no longer drive.

Park Service Area

The El Dorado County General Plan lists the service area for neighborhood parks as the distance the average person is willing to walk or bike to a facility. This is generally understood to be ½ mile. Community parks, being larger than neighborhood parks and containing more facilities, draw from a larger area. Most people are willing to drive a several miles to reach a community park. Given the dispersed nature of the communities in the Plan Area, a distance of 5 miles is a reasonable travel distance for community parks.

No service area is established for regional parks. Because of the nature of a regional park, people are willing to drive much further to experience its unique resources; however, the local community may also use a regional park like a community and/or neighborhood park depending on the type of facilities it includes.

No service area is established for linear parks except in the case where some portion of the park is also considered to function as community or neighborhood park acreage (see below). In these cases, the corresponding service areas distance would apply.

Acres per 1,000 Population

The County General Plan guideline for acquisition and development of park land calls for 1.5 acres of regional parks, 1.5 acres of community parks, and 2 acres of neighborhood parks for a total of 5 acres per 1,000 population. Linear park acreage does not count towards the General Plan guidelines for neighborhood, community, and regional parks unless the type of non-trail improvements in the linear park provides comparable recreation opportunities as would typically be found in a neighborhood, community, or regional park.

Facilities per 1,000 Population

Facility guidelines describe how many people can reasonably be served by a facility and are used to help determine if additional facilities are needed. These standards are based on comparisons with other cities, existing facility usage, and community demand for certain facilities. Table 23 in Chapter 10 shows the proposed facility guidelines and analysis of how many facilities are required to meet the current need of Plan Area residents. The standards for typical facilities are as follows:

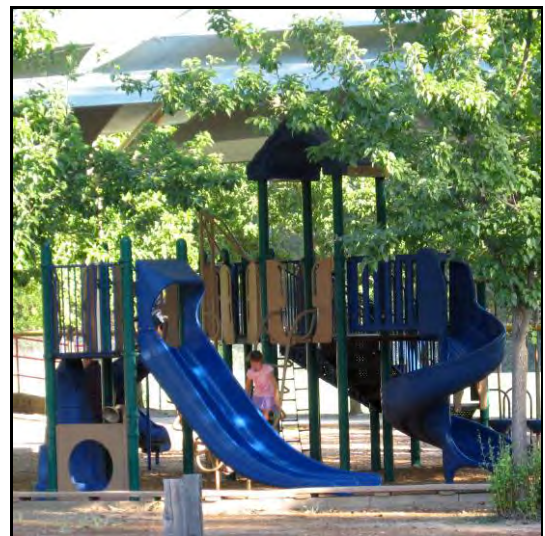
- Play Area 1/3,000 people with at least 1 per park
- Tennis Court 1/6,000 people
- Outdoor Basketball Court 1/6,000 people
- Baseball Field (lighted) 1/25,000 people
- Softball Field 1/7,000 people
- Little League Baseball Field 1/7,000 people
- Soccer or Multi-use Field 1/6,000 people
- Equestrian Arena 1/20,000 people
- Swimming Pool 1/45,000 people
- Gym/Multipurpose Room 1/20,000 people
- Meeting/Event Space 1/15,000 people
- Community Center 1/30,000 people
- Group Picnic Area (covered) 1/8,000 people
- Skateboard Park 1/45,000 people
- Disc Golf Course 1/45,000 people
- Amphitheater 1/45,000 people
- Dog Park 1/ 50,000 people

Non-vehicular Access

All new neighborhood parks should be on an existing or proposed Class I bike path or Class II bike route. Neighborhoods that include parks on Class II bike routes should have sidewalks connecting homes to the park. This standard is intended to facilitate safe pedestrian and bicycle access to parks and to make it feasible for children to visit neighborhood parks without being driven there. Improved non-vehicular access will also reduce the need for parking lots, help prevent overflow parking into neighborhoods, and reduce traffic congestion and associated air pollution.

Park Site Characteristics

Not all types of land are appropriate for improved park uses. Lands that are to be dedicated for development as active parks must have a location and physical characteristics that are suitable for the intended uses. The following guidelines will be used to evaluate the suitability of proposed land to be dedicated for active use parks.



Henningsen Lotus playground

- a. The service area standards determine how far park users can reasonably be expected to travel to access the park. Land that is to be dedicated for a neighborhood park should generally be within ½ mile of the population it will serve. Community park land should be within 5 miles of the intended user population except in rural areas where population density may necessitate increasing this distance.
- b. Proposed park land should have access to appropriate infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, and power.
- c. The types of land uses surrounding the potential park site should be considered. Land adjacent to an existing or proposed school site is desirable because it offers future joint use opportunities. Land that provides opportunities to connect to trails or bikeways is also desirable. If a proposed park site is adjacent to land uses that are incompatible with the proposed park use, the land may not be suitable.
- d. The types of improvements that are typically developed in an active use park include, but are not limited to: playgrounds, sports fields, hard surface courts, meeting rooms, paths, and gymnasiums. The size of a site, as well as its topography, geology, presence of water courses, and any other physical constraints must be suitable for these and any other intended uses.
- e. The site should be no less than 4 acres for a neighborhood park and no less than 8 acres for a community park.
- f. Land that is constrained by the presence of special status species, jurisdictional wetlands, cultural/historical resources, or other protected resources may not be suitable, depending on how much of the site is constrained and the extent of the constraint. In situations where the resources may offer meaningful interpretive opportunities, provide additional passive recreation opportunities, and/or would not be damaged by the proposed uses, the presence of these resources would not necessarily make a site unsuitable for active park uses.
- g. A site may be deemed unsuitable for park land dedication if previous uses have resulted in the presence of hazardous materials, excessive erosion, unstable ground, or any other condition that cannot be corrected without excessive remediation costs. If such conditions can be remediated to the satisfaction of the County, at no cost or an acceptable cost to the County, the land may be considered suitable.
- h. The County reserves the right to make the final determination on the suitability of a proposed park land dedication for both active and recreational open space uses because individual site conditions are unique and cannot fully be anticipated in these guidelines. The County may also determine what portion of a proposed site is suitable.

10.2 Feasibility Considerations

It is essential that careful consideration be given to each project’s potential for successful implementation before resources are committed. The following feasibility considerations shall be factored into the process for the planning, design, and construction of new park or trail projects, or major enhancements to existing parks and trail.

- a. Consistency with the goals and policies of the El Dorado County General Plan
- b. Consistency with goals, policies, and implementation direction of the El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan
- c. Consistency with other relevant plans and regulations
- d. Potential to implement the project in meaningful phases as funding allows
- e. Availability of required funding or likely potential to secure funding for project or phase(s) of project
- f. Site conditions that may require inordinately expensive or cost-prohibitive solutions to address
- g. Opportunity to identify and resolve unknown aspects of project or site conditions that may substantially influence feasibility with minimal up-front cost
- h. Sustainability of park/trail maintenance and operations
- i. Potential for cooperative partnering to share costs and operational responsibilities
- j. Degree of stakeholder support and community consensus on the merit of the project

10.3 Park Design Standards

The following standards should guide planning, design, and construction of new parks and improvements at existing parks. All park projects shall also comply with the El Dorado County Design and Improvements Standards Manual.

Facilities

- a. The standard minimum improvements at all neighborhood parks developed in the future by the County, or as turn-key projects by other parties, should be similar so that the overall quality of park resources throughout the Plan Area is consistent. Neighborhood parks should include the following minimum improvements:
 - Turf area for unstructured play
 - Landscaping
 - Irrigation

- Bicycle parking
 - Vehicle parking (ADA accessible)
 - Restrooms (ADA accessible)
 - Multi-age play structures
 - Site furnishings such as drinking fountains, trash cans, and benches (ADA accessible)
 - Paths (ADA accessible)
 - Covered picnic tables (ADA accessible)
- b. Sports fields and/or courts or other improvements may be included in neighborhood parks as guided by needs identified in this Master Plan and the preferences of the residents the park is primarily intended to serve.
- c. Community parks should generally include the same minimum facilities as neighborhood parks with additional improvements as identified by the facilities needs in this Master Plan. Exceptions are special use community parks such as skateparks.
- d. Community parks should also function as neighborhood parks for areas that lack neighborhood parks by providing comparable improvements.
- e. Regional parks may or may not include the same improvements as neighborhood and community parks depending on the purpose of the park.
- f. Conjunctive use and multi-use recreation areas and facilities should be emphasized to efficiently utilize park resources.
- g. Facilities within parks should be sited to optimize recreation value by locating features with synergistic uses adjacent to each other.
- h. Play areas shall be a minimum of fifty feet (50') from the street or parking lot, or surrounded by an enclosure that will effectively prevent movement between the play area and street or parking lot.
- i. Play areas should be located near the main circulation route, picnic areas, and open lawn areas.
- j. Sport courts should be located near park edges or adjacent to streets to maximize visibility for security. However, some physical separation should be provided between courts and the street such as a low berm or landscape buffer approximately fifteen feet (15') in width.
- k. Sport courts and fields should generally be oriented with the long axis running north south as feasible.
- l. Where night lighting is included in parks for safety and anticipated recreational uses, glare impacts on nearby residential areas shall be mitigated through appropriate equipment choices and placement.

Design Process

- a. Consider the social, recreation, and economic needs of the residents who will be served by a neighborhood or community park.
- b. Residents should actively participate in developing the site master plan and selecting which improvements will be provided in their neighborhood or community park.
- c. Provide a unique character for each park consistent with the local identity. Express this identity through consistent use of selected colors, materials, and design motifs.
- d. Sites, facilities, structures or landscapes of historic or cultural significance within each park should be included where possible in the park design.
- e. The size of any given neighborhood or community park should be established after considering the population it will serve, the types of facilities needed, and costs.
- f. Parks should be designed for phased implementation in case funding for full implementation is not available. Designate phases to avoid rework or temporary improvements that add cost to the project.

Location

- a. Parks should be located with consideration for proximity to expected users consistent with the Park Service Area Level of Service guidelines.
- b. Park locations should be selected based on compatibility the adjacent land uses, site suitability, and opportunities to optimize existing infrastructure.
- c. Barriers and screens such as landscaping, earth berms, and fences should be included as buffers between parks and residential or other land uses where park use adversely impacts or is adversely impacted by the adjacent land use.

Parking and Circulation

- a. Adequate parking shall be provided at parks in accordance with anticipated levels of use. On-street parking shall not cause traffic congestion or interfere with parking for and access to adjoining land uses, particularly residential neighborhoods.
- b. The main entrance to the park should be located near public transit stops or crosswalks if possible.
- c. Park entrance improvements shall include a park name sign with hours of operation.
- d. Circulation for maintenance vehicles shall be provided that does not interfere with pedestrian or bicycle circulation in the park.

- e. Adequate access for fire, emergency, and safety vehicles and equipment shall be provided.
- f. An ADA accessible circulation route shall be provided connecting all accessible features in the park.
- g. The circulation route shall provide safe access to all improvements so that users do not create their own pathways through landscape or turf areas.
- h. Sight lines shall be maintained along circulation routes so that users have adequate opportunity to see oncoming pedestrians and cyclists and to eliminate blind spots.

Sustainability

- a. Promote water conservation by using efficient irrigation controls with seasonal adjustment.
- b. Where appropriate, use drought tolerant and native plant materials in parks.
- c. Design park facilities to minimize maintenance requirements.
- d. Preserve natural site characteristics as feasible in park design.
- e. Incorporate techniques to manage stormwater discharge from the park site such as permeable surfaces, erosion control planting, and detention/retention swales.
- f. Select energy and water efficient equipment options when possible.
- g. Provide recycling containers in parks along with standard trash receptacles in communities with recycling programs.
- h. Minimize grading and import/export of fill material.
- i. Preserve mature healthy trees as feasible by locating park improvements outside of the trees' drip line and preserving natural drainage

10.4 Trail Design Standards

The following standards should guide planning, design, and construction of new trails and improvements to existing trails. All trail projects shall also comply with the El Dorado County Design and Improvements Standards Manual as applicable.

Parking and Trailheads

- a. Designated parking lots should be provided whenever possible at trailheads, particularly at heavily-used trails and trailheads. Parking lots shall be of sufficient size to accommodate known or anticipated demand. Consideration should be given to joint-use parking with schools, churches, restaurants, and commercial uses.
- b. Where parking lots are not provided at trailheads, sufficient on-street parking should be available that will not cause traffic congestion and interfere with

- parking for and access to adjoining land uses, particularly residential neighborhoods.
- c. To the extent possible, trailheads to heavily used trails should be located in close proximity to major streets and highways and away from residential neighborhoods and other sensitive land uses.
 - d. Frequent, convenient access/egress points should be located along trails in neighborhoods and communities to facilitate use and trail security.
 - e. Parking lots shall be designed to minimize disturbance of the natural environment. Grading and tree removal should be the minimum necessary. Appropriate measures shall be employed to reduce air- and water-borne erosion both during construction and during subsequent use.
 - f. Barriers shall be used to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access beyond designated parking areas. To the extent feasible, barriers should consist of natural materials such as native boulders and logs, but other materials such as bollard may be used as appropriate.
 - g. Where horses are permitted, trailheads shall be designed to accommodate parking and turning movements of vehicles towing trailers.
 - h. At a minimum, trailheads heavily used by equestrians should include hitching rails. Where practicable, corrals and a water spigot should also be provided.
 - i. Restrooms (permanent or portable) should be provided and maintained within all major trailhead parking lots.
 - j. Trash receptacles shall be provided and maintained in sufficient number and size to accommodate trailhead use.
 - k. Whenever practical, potable water shall be provided at trailhead parking lots.

Signs

- a. Signs shall be placed at all trailheads, in clear view of parking lots or adjacent streets (where parking lots are not used), directing trail users to trails. Signs at trailheads should include the following information, at a minimum:
 - Trail name and route number
 - Destination(s) and distance to destination(s).
 - Overall length and length of segments (where applicable).
 - Types of users (i.e., pedestrians, equestrians, bicyclists) permitted.
 - Trail etiquette and safety considerations, including respect for private property, litter control, fire control, and protection of sensitive plants and animals.
- b. Signs should be placed at various points along trails to identify junctions with other trails, water features, streets, and hazardous or sensitive areas.

- c. Interpretive signs may be placed at environmentally-sensitive areas to educate trail users of the value of the natural resource. Culturally-sensitive sites shall not be identified in order to discourage disruption, theft, and vandalism.
- d. Signs located at trail heads and at forks in the trails should include the name of the trail and the distance to known points or destinations. Degrees of difficulty, use limitations, and timing are additional desirable pieces of information.

Proximity to Developed Areas

- a. Trailheads and trails should be located away from noise- and privacy-sensitive uses, particularly residences, to the extent necessary to prevent intrusion. In addition to physical distance, earthen berms and plant materials may be utilized to further screen trailheads and trails from adjoining uses.
- b. Barriers and obstacles including boulders, logs, bollards, and stiles, may be erected outside of and adjacent to the path of travel where needed to discourage unauthorized motor vehicles access.

Sensitive Environmental or Cultural Areas

- a. Trails and trailheads should avoid environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, such as streambeds, wetlands, special-status plant and animal species areas, and archaeological sites.
- b. Where trails must come in close proximity to environmentally or culturally-sensitive areas, barriers should be used, as appropriate, to discourage damage in these areas. To the extent practicable, barriers should utilize natural vegetation.
- c. Culturally-sensitive sites and areas shall not be identified by signs or other means in order to prevent disturbance.
- d. Stream crossings shall be minimized whenever possible. Where crossings occur, bridge and culvert designs should be used that result in the least disturbance of the watercourse.
- e. Trails shall be designed to avoid disruption of drainage patterns that contribute to seasonal wetland. Consideration should be given to the use of elevated pathways (i.e., boardwalks) in order to avoid soil disturbance and erosion impacts near environmentally sensitive areas.

Grading and Erosion Control

- a. Grading for trails and trailheads should be minimized to the extent feasible. Where trails traverse cross slopes, large upslope cuts and downslope fills should be avoided through the use of retaining walls.
- b. Trail design shall include effective measures to control or reduce erosion. Recommended measures include seeding (e.g., hydro-seeding) of disturbed

- ground with native grasses, use of shallow diversion ditches, water bars, and other mechanisms to reduce water velocity and volume on trails surfaces and adjoining areas.
- c. Erosion control measures that comply with the County Design and Improvement Standards Manual shall be employed in all trail construction projects. Appropriate erosion control measures shall be determined by a qualified professional based on local soil conditions, topography, and vegetation.
 - d. Where grading is required to construct trails on hillsides, all cuts and fills shall be the minimum necessary and shall be contoured to blend with the natural slope.
 - e. Trail alignments should be selected that will result in the least impact on the existing topography and vegetation.
 - f. Vegetation removal and grading should be the minimum necessary to meet the horizontal and vertical clearance requirements identified in this section.

Proximity to Hazardous Areas

- a. To the extent practicable, trails should avoid proximity to potentially unsafe situations, such as railroad tracks, busy streets and highways, abandoned mines, and steep cliffs. Where trails must be in close proximity to such areas, fencing or other appropriate barriers shall be installed.
- b. Trail crossings of busy streets should be minimized. Where crossings are needed, a location with adequate sight distance shall be selected and appropriate signage installed,
- c. Where trails are designed within an active or potentially active railroad corridor, trails should be located downslope of tracks whenever possible, should employ physical barriers when necessary, and always be separated by the maximum available distance.
- d. Trails should not be constructed where cross slopes exceed 20 percent, unless appropriate downslope barriers are provided. In certain instances, upslope barriers may be necessary to intercept falling rocks.
- e. Barriers constructed of local trees and logs should be provided between trails and steep and hazardous areas.
- f. Trails located next to steep or other hazardous areas shall be at least four feet in width.

Trail Design Details

- a. Class I bike paths will be designed in accordance with Caltrans Chapter 1000 Bikeway Design Standards.
- b. For all other trails, tread width minimum requirements:
 - Single-use trails : 4 feet

- Dual- or multiple- use trails : 8 feet
- c. To accommodate the minimum tread widths specified in ‘a’, trail easements for single-use trails shall be a minimum width of 8 feet. Easements for dual or multiple trails should be a minimum of 12 feet in width.
 - d. When equestrian uses are anticipated adjacent to a paved trail a separate unpaved track shall be provided at least 4 feet in width and at least 6 feet from the paved trail.
 - e. To the extent feasible, trails should be designed in compliance with the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and should be designed to allow access and use by those with disabilities. As accessibility standards are updated, trail design should respond to the updated standards as feasible.
 - f. Trail surfaces should be as smooth as possible, using existing ground in most instances. In certain instances, due to the presence of rock, poor soils, or perennial wetness, crushed rock or wood chips may be imported to the site and employed as a trail surface material.
 - g. Horizontal clearance for all trail types shall be two (2) feet beyond the trail tread.
 - h. Minimum vertical clearance standards are as follows:
 - Hiking trail : 7 feet
 - Bicycling trail : 12 feet
 - Equestrian trail : 12 feet
 - i. Trails should not be greater than 15% in slope except where necessary for short runs of up to 20%.
 - j. Where retaining walls are employed, natural materials, such as logs and native stone, should be used to the extent possible.
 - k. Landings at the end of switchbacks should be at least 8 feet in width.
 - l. Hiking and equestrian trails located within a public right-of-way shall be at least 5 feet from the traveled way unless a barrier is constructed between the trail and the edge of the traveled way.
 - m. Regional connectors should ideally provide facilities for pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian users. However, ownership and terrain may preclude the ability to secure a sufficiently wide easement for all uses. In such cases, uses will be selected based on community priorities and feasibility.



Accessible Section of El Dorado Trail

10.5 Land Development Process

As new residential development occurs in El Dorado County, there is likely to be a demand for additional parks and trails to serve the new residents. Therefore, it is important for park and trails to be considered when such development is being evaluated for potential approval by the County. There are a number of existing General Plan policies and their implementing ordinances, as identified in Chapter 2, that direct how the provision of parks and trails should be addressed in the development review process. These policies and ordinances provide for the following direction.

Residential Subdivisions

Under the County’s Quimby Act Implementing Ordinance, the Board of Supervisors may require residential subdivision projects to dedicate land and/or fees in-lieu of land for park and recreational purposes. The dedicated land and/or fees in-lieu are conveyed to the County or another local public agency for the purpose of providing park or recreational facilities to serve the residents of the subdivision. The amount of land and/or fees in-lieu is determined based on residential density, which is derived from the number of approved units and the average number of persons per household. The dedication of land or fees in-lieu may not exceed the proportionate amount necessary to provide three (3) acres per 1,000 person, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community park acreage in the area exceeds this amount. In such a situation, the higher amount up to five (5) acres per 1,000 persons may be used as the standard.

The General Plan provides that the park land dedicated/in-lieu fees collected under the Quimby Act shall be directed towards the purchase and funding of neighborhood and community parks, with an emphasis on neighborhood parks. Park land dedicated under the Quimby Act must be suitable for active recreation, with a maximum average slope of 10 percent, sufficient access for a neighborhood or community park, and no significant constraint that would make the site unsuitable for development. The Parks and Recreation Commission is required to review all tentative subdivision maps of fifty (50) parcels or more that are located outside the boundaries of special recreation or community services district and to provide recommendations to the Planning Commission for the provision of recreation services.

Oversight of Parks in New Developments

The General Plan (Policy 9.2.2.2) requires new development projects creating community or neighborhood parks to provide mechanisms (e.g., homeowners associations, or benefit assessment districts) for the ongoing development, operation, and maintenance needs of these facilities if annexation to an existing parks and recreation service district/provider is not possible. Fees collected under the Quimby Ordinance may not be used for these purposes.

Park Impact Fees

The Quimby Act Implementing Ordinance only provides the potential to secure park land dedication or fees in-lieu for new residential population associated with subdivision projects. This mechanism alone is not sufficient to provide the resources needed to actually acquire and build the level of park facilities envisioned by the General Plan for El Dorado County. The General Plan (Policy 9.2.2.5) therefore directs that the County shall establish a development fee program applicable to all new development to fund park and recreation improvements and acquisition of parklands such that minimum neighborhood, community, and regional park standards are achieved. These are established by the General Plan as 1 ½ acre per thousand persons for regional and community parks, and 2 acres per thousand persons for neighborhood parks for a total of 5 acres per 1,000 persons. This park impact fee is to be assessed in addition to Quimby Act requirements, and adjusted periodically to reflect changes in acquisition and development costs. Park impact fees and Quimby land dedication or fees in-lieu must be coordinated so that subdivision projects receive credit for Quimby contributions to offset the total park impact fee collected.

Establishment of a park impact fee is subject to requirements of the California Government Code Mitigation Fee Act, which stipulates that the fee must bear a nexus to the costs required to provide the specific intended services and/or facilities to those paying the fee. This is typically accomplished through an Impact Fee Nexus Study, which is one of the implementation actions recommended in this Master Plan. New development within the boundaries of the El Dorado Hill CSD, the Cameron Park CSD, and the Georgetown Divide Recreation District is already subject to a park impact fee, as each of these districts either completed or updated park impact fee nexus studies within the last five years.

Trail Dedication

The General Plan directs that all projects subject to development review as well as public facilities projects are to be evaluated with regard to their ability to implement planned bikeways and other trails. Discretionary projects may be conditioned to require trail easements and construction of trails when such trails provide loops or linkages to existing trails, schools, parks, or transit nodes. This should be expanded to include connection to regional trails. As the Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plans (recommendation TR4) are developed, the specific neighborhood, community, and regional connector trail alignments identified in the plans should be implemented by projects subject to development review as conditions of approval.

Parks and Recreation Commission Participation

These existing General Plan policies and related ordinances potentially provide mechanisms to address most of the impacts associated with increased demand for parks

and trails associated with new residential development. They will only be effective, however, if they are consistently interpreted and applied throughout all development reviews. For this reason, it would be beneficial to increase the involvement of the Parks and Recreation Commission in the development review process. Their expressed responsibility is to see that the parks and trails vision for El Dorado County is faithfully pursued. They can do this in part by providing their expertise to help craft development conditions of approval that are consistent with this vision.

10.6 Implementation of Recommendations

Chapter 9 of this Master Plan includes numerous specific recommendations to address the identified needs for parks and trails in the Plan Area. The recommendations include a wide variety of initiatives that collectively will help achieve the County's vision for parks and trails such as capital projects, planning activities, collaborative opportunities, and administrative measures. In addition, several capital projects have been approved or are pending approval for the current fiscal year (2011-2012). Other needs include several deferred maintenance projects at existing facilities have been identified by the County Grounds staff.

Each of these initiatives and projects is listed in Table 25 along with suggestions for relative priority, lead implementation responsibility, potential support roles, and estimated costs. Where "Parks Staff" is identified as the lead for implementation, it is assumed that dedicated staff will have been designated for parks and trails projects. Priority is expressed as Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3. Tier 1 projects are those that have the highest priority because they address an immediate critical need, provide a strategic benefit, and/or are relatively simple to implement. Tier 2 projects are those that address less urgent needs, are dependent on Tier 1 projects for functionality, and/or have more complex issues associated with implementation. The remaining projects are classified as Tier 3. These projects are still important but provide less immediate or strategic value than Tier 1 or Tier 2 projects.

For certain recommendations, the costs may be significantly less than indicated depending on value of donated goods and volunteer labor.

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Table 25 – Recommendations

Recommendation	Priority	Lead	Support	Cost
PARKS				
Neighborhood				
NP1. Assist with Establishing Neighborhood Parks				
<i>NP1.A. El Dorado/Diamond Springs area: 4 parks ; Shingle Springs area: 1 park</i>	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$9.6 million
<i>NP1.B. Continue land dedication/fees-in-lieu requirements</i>	Tier 1	Planning Staff		County Staff Cost
<i>NP1.C. Establishment of Community Service Districts and/or assessment districts</i>	Tier 1	Various Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
<i>NP1.D. Joint-use agreements with schools</i>	Tier 1	Parks Staff	Schools, Sports Leagues	County Staff Cost
NP2. Implement Neighborhood Park Standards	Tier 1	Parks Staff		County Staff Cost
NP3. Neighborhood Park Access				
<i>NP3.A. Require pedestrian/bicycle access routes</i>	Tier 1	Planning Staff		County Staff Cost
<i>NP3.B. Coordinate park and school locations</i>	Tier 1	Parks, Planning Staff		County Staff Cost
Community				
CP1. Camino/Pollock Pines Community Park				
<i>CP1.A. Identify/Implement Phase 1 project</i>	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 6,000/TBD
<i>CP1.B. Collaborate with EID on Forebay Reservoir improvements</i>	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
<i>CP1.C. Explore alternatives/need for non-Phase 1 improvements</i>	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 20,000
CP2. Assist Georgetown Divide Recreation District with Community Parks				
<i>CP2.A. Complete the transfer of ownership of the Greenwood Community Center</i>	Tier 1	Legal Staff		County Staff Cost
<i>CP2.B. Explore teaming on Bayley House site improvements as regional park</i>	Tier 3	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
<i>CP2.C. Collaborate with GDRD on grants and support for community parks</i>	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
<i>CP2.D. Coordinate with GDRD on Georgetown Airport area trail easements.</i>	Tier 1	Legal Staff		In Process
CP3. Henningsen Lotus Park Improvements				
<i>CP3.A. Build a second pavilion</i>	Tier 3	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 175,000

Recommendation	Priority	Lead	Support	Cost
<i>CP3.B. Collaborate with GDRD coordination and planning for community events</i>	Tier 1	Parks Staff		County Staff Cost
<i>CP3.C. Develop build-out improvement concept plan</i>	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 25,000
CP4. Implement Community Park Standards	Tier 1	Parks Staff		County Staff Cost
CP5. New Community Parks				
<i>CP5.A. Continue land dedication/fees-in-lieu requirements</i>	Tier 1	Planning Staff		County Staff Cost
<i>CP5.B. Establishment of Community Service Districts and/or assessment districts</i>	Tier 1	Various Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
<i>CP5.C. Partner with private businesses and organizations to repurpose underutilized facilities</i>	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
Regional				
RP1. El Dorado Fairgrounds Ball Fields	Tier 1	Parks, CAO Staff	PRC	TBD
RP2. Chili Bar Finalize Concept Plan and CEQA (<i>Pending FY 2011/12 CIP</i>)	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 60,000
RP3. Cronan Ranch Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 25,000
RP4. Bass Lake Regional Park Updated Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy (<i>Pending FY 2011/12 CIP</i>)	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 15,000
RP5. Railroad Park Implementation Strategy	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	In Process
Facilities				
RF1. Play Areas and Outdoor Basketball Courts Joint-use	Tier 2	Parks Staff	Schools, Sports Leagues	Procedure
RF2. Tennis Courts (3 at Henningsen Lotus Park)	Tier 2	Parks Staff		\$ 200,000
RF3. Sports Fields				
<i>RF3.A. Joint Use</i>	Tier 1	Parks Staff	Schools, Sports Leagues	County Staff Cost
<i>RF3.B. Complete Fields at Office of Education</i>	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 250,000
<i>RF3.C. Private/Public Partnerships</i>	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
RF4. Equestrian Arena in North County	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 70,000
RF5. Swimming Pool Community Operations Group	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost

Recommendation	Priority	Lead	Support	Cost
RF6. Explore Underutilized Space for Indoor Recreation and Events	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
RF7. Group Picnic Areas	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 420,000
RF8. Skateboard Park in North County	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 75,000
RF9. Disc Golf in North County	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 20,000
RF10. Amphitheater at Pollock Pines	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 150,000
RF11. Dog Park	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 25,000
TRAILS				
TR1. El Dorado Trail				
<i>TR1.A. Sacramento County to Placerville (including SPTC)</i>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	Per BTP/SPTC Plan
<i>TR1.B. Halcon Road to Pacific House Planning/Implementation</i>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	\$ 15,000/TBD
<i>TR1.C. Pacific House to Tahoe Planning</i>	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	\$ 25,000
<i>TR1.D. Brockliss Bridge Planning/Implementation</i>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, USFS, Volunteers	\$ 15,000/TBD
TR2. Pony Express National Historic Trail Signage	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	\$ 5,000
TR3. Mormon-Carson Emigrant Trail Signage/Improvements	Tier 2	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	\$ 15,000
TR4. Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plans				
<i>TR4.A. Georgetown Divide</i>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	\$ 40,000
<i>TR4.B. Camino/Pollock Pines</i>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	\$ 40,000
<i>TR4.C. El Dorado/Diamond Springs</i>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	In Process
<i>TR4.D. Shingle Springs.</i>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	\$ 40,000
TR5. El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan Implementation	Per BTP	DOT, EDCTC		Per BTP
TR6. Other Regional Connections				
<i>C-1 Cosumnes Trail</i>	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Volunteers	TBD
<i>C-1 Cosumnes Trail Alternative A/B (Old Diamond-Caldor RR/Southern Loop)</i>	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	TBD

Recommendation	Priority	Lead	Support	Cost
<i>C-5 Latrobe Trail (portion)</i>	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Volunteers	TBD
<i>C-6 Salmon Falls-Knickerbocker Trail (portion)</i>	Tier 2	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	TBD
<i>C-7 Pilot Hill Trail (portion)</i>	Tier 2	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Volunteers	TBD
<i>C-12 Black Oak Trail (portion)</i>	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	TBD
TR7. Implement Trailhead Location Standards	Tier 1	Parks Staff		County Staff Cost
TR8. Implement Trailhead Design Standards	Tier 1	Parks Staff		County Staff Cost
TR9. Implement Trail Design Standards	Tier 1	Parks Staff		County Staff Cost
TR10. Establish Trail Signage Format Standards	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
TR11. Establish Trail Use Standards	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
TR12. Trail User Education and Advocacy Group	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
ADMINISTRATION				
<i>Funding</i>				
AD1. Aggressive Grant Strategy	Tier 1	Parks, EDCTC Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
AD2. Park Impact Fee Nexus Study	Tier 1	Planning Staff		\$ 25,000
AD3. Sponsorship Outreach	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
<i>Operations</i>				
AD4. Oversight for Administrative Consistency	Tier 1	Parks, CAO Staff		County Staff Cost
AD5. Dedicated Staffing	Tier 1	CAO Staff	PRC, TAC, Volunteers	\$ 120,000
AD6. Preventive Maintenance	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff		County Staff Cost
AD7. Planning for Low Maintenance	Tier 1	Parks Staff		County Staff Cost
AD8. Coordinated Online Information Resources	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	\$ 40,000

Recommendation	Priority	Lead	Support	Cost
AD9. Ordinance Enforcement and Security	Tier 1	Parks Staff, Sheriff		
<i>Collaboration</i>				
AD10. Public/Private Partnerships	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
AD11. Public/Public Partnerships	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
AD12. Park and Trail Promotion	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
AD13. Volunteer Strategy and Coordination	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Volunteers	County Staff Cost
2011/2012 CIP Approved				
<i>Bradford Park</i>				
Restroom Replacement	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 91,000
<i>El Dorado Trail</i>				
Los Tramos to Halcon Maintenance	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 35,000
Culvert Repair	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 347,859
<i>Other Projects</i>				
Parks and Trails Master Plan	Tier 1	DOT		\$ 104,600
SMUD Trail with El Dorado Hills CSD	Tier 1	DOT		\$ 353,000
2011/2012 CIP Pending				
<i>Henningsen Lotus Park</i>				
Parking Lot Slurry Seal and Striping	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 50,000
<i>Pollock Pines Community Park</i>				
Brush Clearing	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 5,000
<i>Chili Bar Park</i>				
Chili Bar Final Master Plan and CEQA (RP 2 above)	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 60,000
<i>Bass Lake Regional Park</i>				

Recommendation	Priority	Lead	Support	Cost
Bass Lake Regional Park Updated Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy (RP4 above)	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 15,000
<i>Other Projects</i>				
South Lake Tahoe Playground Equipment	Tier 1	CAO		\$ 3,375
Tahoe Area Parks and Trails Master Plan	Tier 1	CAO		\$ 50,000
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE (Future CIP)				
<i>Pioneer Park</i>				
Sidewalks from playground to basketball court	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 5,000
Slurry seal and restripe parking lot	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 13,000
Install fertigation system for sports fields	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 4,500
<i>Bradford Park</i>				
Playground safety retrofit	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 10,000
Replace shade structure	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 4,000
<i>El Dorado Trail</i>				
Crack seal and slurry seal from Jacquier Way up	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 20,000
Extend fence at Jacquier Way trail head	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 4,000
Brush clearing Missouri Flat to El Dorado	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 10,000
<i>Pollock Pines Community Park</i>				
Realign entrance/grading/fence	Tier 1	Grounds Staff		\$ 15,000

10.7 Fiscal Analysis

Implementation of the numerous recommendations in this Master Plan will need to be phased over time depending on availability of funding. In preparing a budget and Capital Improvement Program for each fiscal year, it is essential that specific funding sources are identified for each anticipated expense because some funding sources are limited to particular types of expenditures. In addition, the scope of projected projects must be based on a realistic projection of available funding. Over the last several years, funding for park and trail projects has come for many different sources (Table 26). The availability of these funding sources is variable, with some being relatively stable while others are a one-time occurrence.

Expenses

The cost of providing County parks and trails includes paying for a variety of services from the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Management Department, and capital projects. The Department of Transportation provides maintenance and grounds services, as well as engineering and other technical services, support for grants, and coordination as needed with the various parks and trails commissions and committees. The Environmental Management Department provides park operations staff. Capital projects are significant efforts that maintain or improve parks or trails. They may include new construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement projects. It is important to distinguish between these various expense categories in order to match them with allowable funding sources. Table 26 shows the total amount expended by El Dorado County for parks and trails during the last two complete fiscal years as well as the projected expenses for the current fiscal year 2011-2012 in each of these categories.

Maintenance

The expense associated with maintenance is driven largely by the ongoing need to maintain and operate County parks and trails at the level required for public safety, access to facilities, and to preserve infrastructure investment. There is some small degree of discretionary variability in these costs from year to year depending on replacement timing for repairs, weather, and public demand for events and facility use. As park acreage and miles of trail are increased, and new facilities are added to existing parks and trails, these costs are expected to increase. The amount of increase will be driven by numerous factors including park size and level of improvement. Resources to address maintenance costs must be identified before new facilities are developed.

Engineering and Technical Services

Engineering and technical services provided by DOT staff vary from year to year depending on the anticipated need for assistance with special maintenance or capital projects. County staff may also oversee contractors who are providing specialized services for park and trail projects.

Table 26 – Parks and Trail Expenses and Revenue Sources

	FY 09/10 Actual	FY 10/11 Actual	FY 11/12 Budget
EXPENSES			
DOT – Maintenance/Grounds	\$ 199,964	\$ 204,091	\$ 224,000
DOT – Engineering/Technical Services	\$ 41,016	\$ 72,217	\$ 75,623
DOT – Grant Applications	\$ 44,050	\$ 43,110	
DOT – Commissions/Committees	\$ 16,457		
EMD – Operations	\$ 161,314	\$ 156,073	\$ 209,737
Capital Projects ¹	\$ 950,601	\$ 389,683	\$ 931,459
Pending Additional FY11/12 CIP			\$ 183,375
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 1,413,402	\$ 865,174	\$ 1,624,194
REVENUES			
General Fund	\$ 488,303	\$ 404,835	\$ 464,360
ACO (Accumulative Capital Outlay)	\$ 24,929	\$ 220,984	\$ 381,311
Grants			
DMV Air Pollution Control District Grant		\$ 25,000	
Prop 40	\$ 148,313	\$ 91,644	
State Parks Roberti-Z'berg-Harris	\$ 5,954		
Transportation Development Act			\$ 20,000
EDCTC/Regional Surface Transportation Program	\$ 10,456	\$ 52,141	\$ 347,859
Transportation Enhancement Program	\$ 442,964		\$ 246,245
Transportation Enhancement - State	\$ 48,427		
Bicycle Transportation Account - State	\$ 106,839		
Reservations and Fees ²	\$ 54,315	\$ 70,570	\$ 45,000
Quimby In-Lieu Fees			\$ 12,664
Community Enhancement Fund	\$ 82,902		
El Dorado Hills CSD			\$ 106,755
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$ 1,413,402	\$ 865,174	\$ 1,624,194

¹ Capital Projects may include new facilities as well as major deferred maintenance or facility enhancements. Costs may include County staff, contract labor, and materials associated with the project. In FY 10/11 Capital Projects includes \$52,141 and in FY11/12 \$347,859 for El Dorado Trail Culvert Repair.

² FY 10/11 includes \$19,591 closeout balance from the Henningsen Lotus Park Special Reserve Fund.

Grant Applications

Staff time related to grant applications includes researching available grants, preparing the grant submissions, and administering successful grants. Event though the grant environment has become increasingly competitive in recent years, there are still many viable federal, state, and private foundation sources for grant awards. For example,

since 2005, the County has been awarded \$2.3 million for construction of two segments of the El Dorado Trail. Aggressive pursuit of these grant resources, in strategic coordination with the County's partner agencies, should be emphasized as a key component of revenues for future park and trail projects.

Commissions and Committees

Costs associated with staff support for commissions and committees is proportional to the number of commissions and committees, the frequency of their meetings, and complexity of coordination required with the public and County departments. DOT staff and staff from the Chief Administrator's Office typically provide support as needed. Commissions and committees currently being supported include the Parks and Recreation Commission and its two subcommittees (the Trails Advisory Committee and the SPTC Oversight Committee), the Rubicon Advisory Committee, and the Skatepark Advisory Committee.

Capital Projects

Capital project costs depend significantly on available funding sources, which can vary dramatically from year to year. Capital projects may be funded from multiple sources, including the Accumulative Capital Outlay fund, the General Fund, and grants. Capital projects provide many opportunities to leverage volunteer resources and donations to reduce the amount of funding needed. While effective utilization of volunteers will require coordination and direction by County staff, the economic and social value of including volunteers can far outweigh the associated staff costs.

General Expense Considerations

All expense categories are expected to be impacted in the future by external economic drivers such as inflationary influence on costs of materials and labor. The expenditure categories that consist primarily of County staff labor costs are maintenance/grounds and other services provided by DOT staff, and the operational support from EMD staff. These expense items will also be subject to future changes in salary scales and benefits.

Revenue Sources

Parks and trails are funded in a number of different ways depending on available resources and the types of projected expenditures.

General Fund

The General Fund is one of the primary recurring sources of discretionary funding for a wide variety of park and trail expenses. Revenues come primarily from property and other local taxes, as well as various other revenues collected by the County. Over the last four years, declining property values and a dramatic reduction in new development have adversely impacted the General Fund revenues. Nevertheless, the County has committed an average of about \$450,000 annually since 2009 to support park and trail projects.

Accumulative Capital Outlay (ACO)

The ACO fund is similar to the General Fund but is committed exclusively to pay for expenses associated with capital projects.

Grants

State and federal grants have been an important source of funding for County park and trail projects. More than \$1.5 million in grants have been secured in the last three years alone for parks and trails projects. It is important for El Dorado County to aggressively pursue available grants and to stay informed about public as well as privately funded grant programs. When seeking out grants, it is critical to make sure that the proposed project is consistent with the grant objectives in order to increase likelihood of success. Many grants are to be used only on capital project planning or implementation and are therefore not available to help cover maintenance, operational, or administrative expenses. These expenses must be covered with revenue from other sources such as the General Plan or fees.

Reservations and Fees

Fees collected for park use including parking, reservations, event rentals, and other facility uses are intended to help offset the expenses associated with providing and maintaining the facilities. The fees collected are not sufficient cover all costs, but do contribute a significant amount of revenue on an annual basis.

Fees for all Henningsen Lotus Park facilities and the Pioneer Park arena and ballfields were last updated in 1998. Fees for the Pioneer Park Community Center Building were last updated in 1999. In November 2010, EMD staff began evaluating park fees to determine if they had kept pace with inflation and were competitive with those charged by other park providers in the region. Based on this analysis together with input from sports leagues, event organizers, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the River Management Advisory Committee, fees were revised in May 2011 (Appendix G). The new fees will go into effect January 1, 2012. The changes included an approximately 3 percent inflation adjustment for the period from 1999 to 2011 resulting in about a fifty percent overall increase in fees. Other fee structure changes were implemented, such as collecting a surcharge on event tickets rather than a percent of gross receipts, and charging fees for vendor booths. Fees were also established for use of Bradford Park for special events and the sports field.

While the increased fees are anticipated to provide more revenue to support future park operations, budget projections for the 2011-2012 fiscal year show a slightly reduced amount coming from fees over prior years. This is a conservative estimate reflecting the potential for reduced park usage related to the economic downturn. However, preliminary assessment of fees collected for the first half of FY 2011-2012 indicate that usage levels are comparable to prior recent years.

Quimby Fees In-lieu

When new residential subdivisions are approved, the County requires dedication of park land or assessment of fees in-lieu to help address the need for additional parks to serve the new population. When in-lieu fees are collected they must be spent subject to specific requirements related to timing and location of improvements. With the dramatic slowdown in new residential development over the last four years, the amount of in-lieu fees being collected has declined. There is currently no park land dedication or in-lieu fee required for single-lot residential projects or non-residential projects.

Other Sources

Miscellaneous other revenue sources also provide one-time funding to cover various park and trail expenditures. These include small amounts available in reserve funds for specific communities and contributions from partner agencies for specific projects. Since 2009, funding has come from the County's Community Enhancement Fund for local projects to help construct a portion of the El Dorado Trail. The El Dorado Hills CSD also contributed funding to partner with the County in constructing a trail in the community of El Dorado Hills.

Potential Additional Revenue Sources

Park Impact Fees and Benefit Assessment Districts are two potential revenue sources that should be pursued to facilitate implementation of this Master Plan.

Park impact fees are a potential funding source for building and/or improving parks and trails to provide additional resources to meet the needs of new residents. While the combination of the existing Quimby park land dedication/fees in-lieu and a new park and trail impact fee could provide the resources needed to acquire and develop new facilities, there is no mechanism in place to pay for maintenance and operations.

In addition, as the County examines the potential to develop new parks and trails in communities such as Diamond Springs, El Dorado, and Pollock Pines, funding sources for both implementation and maintenance of these facilities must be identified. Benefit Assessment Districts would provide a mechanism for a dedicated assessment to be collected expressly for the purpose of funding park and trail improvements, acquisition, and maintenance to serve the assessed property owners. Such an assessment is subject to a vote of affected property owners. The El Dorado County General Plan already requires that developments that create new parks provide a mechanism for their ongoing development, operation, and maintenance such as a benefit assessment districts or homeowners' association.

The use of park impact fees and benefit assessment districts should be carefully examined to balance their potential to improve the quality of life for El Dorado County residents without creating undue financial hardship or discouraging new development. Partnerships with private businesses and other public recreation providers, as well as

sponsorships, volunteers, and donations should be aggressively pursued whenever possible to limit the need for additional assessments or fees.

Funding Priorities

The highest priority (Tier 1) projects in Table 26 include capital projects, initiatives that would be pursued by dedicated County parks staff, and deferred maintenance projects that have not yet been incorporated in a Capital Improvement Plan. The costs associated with these projects and providing the dedicated County parks personnel total approximately \$10.3 million and are summarized in Table 27.

Parks

The largest portion of the total cost (\$9.6 million) is for acquiring land and developing five new neighborhood parks to sever the communities of Diamond Springs, El Dorado, and Shingle Springs. The estimated cost is based on assuming 5 acres for each park acquired at a cost of \$54,000 per acre and developed at a cost of \$330,000 per acre. These costs derive from analysis of recent park land acquisition and development costs in the region, but may be significantly reduced by donations and volunteer labor. Prior to any of these parks being developed, mechanisms for ongoing maintenance and management of the facilities must be identified. These could include special districts and/or assessments.

The remaining listed priority park projects could be funded through a combination of grants, General Fund, ACO Fund resources, and donations. Planning for improvements at Cronan Ranch and identifying the Phase 1 improvements for Pollock Pines Community Park will help define the resources needed to implement these projects. Volunteer labor and donations could play a significant role in both projects. The sports field project at the Office of Education is an excellent opportunity for grant funding with potential matching contributions of volunteer labor and donations from local sports leagues. The Fairgrounds Ball Fields is a similar opportunity, pending resolution of the outstanding issues regarding the various potential uses of the space currently occupied by the fields. The cost for development of a Dog Park could also be reduced with volunteer labor and donations.

Trails

The trail projects listed include ongoing implementation of the El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) and the El Dorado Trail from Placerville to Sacramento including the segments within the SPTC. The BTP specifically addresses implementation of the Class I bikeway improvements for this portion of the El Dorado Trail. Improvements to allow for pedestrian and equestrian use should be provided through a combination of grant funding and volunteer labor and donations. Much of this segment of the El Dorado Trail is already passable for these purposes, but access needs to be coordinated with consideration for signage, safety, and potential rail uses as identified in the SPTC Master Plan.

Table 27 – Funding Priorities

Recommendation	Cost
PARKS	
RP3. Cronan Ranch Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy (Implementation Costs TBD in Planning)	\$ 25,000
RF3.B. Complete Fields at Office of Education	\$250,000
CP1.A. Pollock Pines Community Park: Identify Phase 1 Project (Implementation Costs TBD based on Phase 1 Project Scope)	\$ 6,000
NP1.A. Neighborhood Parks - El Dorado/Diamond Springs Area: 4 parks ; Shingle Springs area: 1 park	\$9.6 million
RP1. El Dorado Fairgrounds Ball Fields Renovate/Relocate	TBD
RF11. Dog Park	\$ 25,000
TRAILS	
TR5. El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) Implementation	Per BTP
TR1.A. El Dorado Trail: Sacramento County to Placerville	Per BTP/SPTC Plan
TR1.B. El Dorado Trail: Halcon Road to Pacific House Planning (Implementation Costs TBD in Planning)	\$ 15,000
TR1.D. El Dorado Trail: Brockliss Bridge Planning (Implementation Costs TBD in Planning)	\$ 15,000
TR4.A. Georgetown Divide Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plan	\$ 40,000
TR4.B. Camino/Pollock Pines Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plan	\$ 40,000
TR4.C. El Dorado/Diamond Springs Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plan	In Process
TR4.D. Shingle Springs Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plan	\$ 40,000
ADMINISTRATION	
AD2. Park Impact Fee Nexus Study	\$ 25,000
AD5. Dedicated Staffing	\$ 120,000
AD8. Coordinated Online Information Resources	\$ 40,000
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	
<i>Pioneer Park</i>	
Sidewalks from playground to basketball court	\$ 5,000
Slurry seal and restripe parking lot	\$ 13,000
Install fertigation system for sports fields	\$ 4,500
<i>Bradford Park</i>	
Playground safety retrofit	\$ 10,000
Replace shade structure	\$ 4,000
<i>El Dorado Trail</i>	
Crack seal and slurry seal from Jacquier Way up	\$ 20,000
Extend fence at Jacquier Way trail head	\$ 4,000
Brush clearing Missouri Flat to El Dorado	\$ 10,000
<i>Pollock Pines Community Park</i>	
Realign entrance/grading/fence	\$ 15,000

The remaining trail projects are planning efforts needed to move important initiatives forward. These include planning for the segment of the El Dorado Trail from Halcon to Pacific House, for which the alignment alternatives study has already been completed. Planning for the Brockliss Bridge would identify how to provide this essential linkage on the El Dorado Trail into the Eldorado National Forest, building on preliminary studies that were completed about ten years ago. The need for linkages between neighborhoods, communities, and the regional trail network in the Georgetown Divide, Camino/Pollock Pines, and Shingle Springs areas would be addressed by preparing connectivity plans for these communities. Such a plan has already been funded is in underway for the El Dorado/Diamond Springs area and could provide a template for planning in the other three areas.

Administration

Three administrative initiatives are also identified as funding priorities. The development of a Park Impact Fee Nexus Study is required before any such fees can be imposed by El Dorado County as part of the development approval process. This is an excellent time to complete the study so that when development activity resumes, the County will be positioned to secure funding for the parks and trails needed to serve new residents. The nexus study would most likely be prepared by a consultant specializing in this type of analysis.

Development of an online system to provide coordinated Countywide parks and trails information would not only serve residents, but is also a key way to leverage the economic opportunities associated with visitors coming to enjoy El Dorado County recreation. This project could be developed by a web consultant perhaps with financial contributions from the local businesses and the other regional recreation providers who would benefit from such a resource.

Dedicated County parks and trails staffing could be implemented and funded as a new position, or by reallocating a portion of staff time from DOT and EMD staff who are currently sharing the responsibility for parks and trail planning and administrative duties.

Deferred Maintenance

The deferred maintenance projects identified as funding priorities account for less than one percent of the total. The fiscal resources needed to complete these projects are relatively minor, but the projects themselves are important for public safety and to protect previous facility investments. All of the deferred maintenance projects should be addressed as soon as possible.

Appendix A - County Parks Inventory

Table 1 - El Dorado County Park Facilities Inventory

Facility Name	Address	Total Acreage	Neighborhood Park Acreage	Community Park Acreage	Regional Park Acreage	Amphitheater	Equestrian Areana	Little League Ballfields	Regulation Hardball Ballfields	Softbal Ballfields	Regulation Soccer Field	Junior Soccer Field	Other Soccer Field	Multi-Use Field	Outdoor Volleyball	Outdoor Basketball (# of hoops)	Tennis Courts	Children's Play Area	Tot Lot	Water Play Area	Swimming Pool	Multipurpose Room/Clubhouse	Community Center	Gymnasium	Non-group Area Picnic Tables	Group Area Picnic Tables	Group Picnic Area	Horseshoe Pit	Disc Golf	Skate Park	Dog Park	Restrooms	Pond/Lake	Paths/Trails	Natural/Nature Area	Off-Street Parking	Maintenance Shop	Remarks			
EXISTING FACILITIES																																									
Pioneer Park	6740 Fair Play Road, Somerset	21.0		21.0			1	1		1	1	1				2		1					1				1												Equestrian Arena		
Henningsen Lotus Park	950 Lotus Road, Lotus	51.0		51.0				1		1	1	1						1				1			8	8	1					2			√	√	√		boat launch, beach area, lighting for ball fields		
Bradford Park	4224 Motherlode Drive, Shingle	5.0	5.0									1		1				1																							
EDC Fairgrounds	100 Placerville Drive, Placerville	48.0			48.0		1															5	1								1										
Joe's Skate Park	216-398 Armory Road, Placerville	1.0		1.0		√																							1												
Cronan Ranch	Pedro Hill Road, Pilot Hill	64.0			64.0																																				
Chili Bar	1669-1671 Chili Bar Court, SR 193	15.7			15.7																											1			√	√	√				
Total Existing Facilities		205.7	5.0	73.0	127.7		2	2	0	2	2	3	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	6	2	0	8	8	3	0	1	1	0	4	2								
PROPOSED FACILITIES																																									
Railroad Park	Oriental Street, El Dorado	6.3			6.3																																			6.3 acre park and 2.2 mile trail to Missouri Flat Rd. total 33 ac.	
Bass Lake Regional Park	Bass Lake Road	40.0			40.0																																				
Pollock Pines Community Park	Red Hook Trail, Pollock Pines	26.0		26.0		1								1	2			1	1			1			4		1	3			1			√	√	√					
Total Proposed Facilities		72.3	0.0	26.0	46.3	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0								
El Dorado County Total Existing and Proposed		278.0	5.0	99.0	174.0	1		2	0	2	2	3	0	2	0	4	0	4	1	0	0	7	2	0	12	8	4	3	1	1	0	5	2								

Appendix B - City and District Parks

The following table lists a summary of parks and trails owned and managed by local recreation providers. Many of the listed parks include internal trails/paths that are not called out separately.

Park or Facility Name	Approximate Acres
City of Placerville	
Lions Park	24
Aquatics Center	1
Orchard Hill Park	4
Rotary Park	4
Lumsden Park	4
Benham Park	2
Gold Bug Park	62
El Dorado Trail (portion)	2 miles
El Dorado Hills CSD	
New York Creek Nature Trail	1 ½ miles
Brooks Gym	NA
Waterford Park	1
Ridgeview Park	4
Village Green Park	10
Community Park	40
Bertelsen Park	11
Overlook Park	2
McCabe Field	3
Wild Oaks Park	8
Kalitheia Park	4
Alan Lindsay Park	5
Bass Lake (Sellwood) Field	3
Promontory Park	19
Oak Knoll Park	3
Windsor Point	1
Creekside Greens	2
Fairchild Park	1
Weisberg Park	4
St. Andrews Park	5
Stephen Harris Park	6
Parkview Heights Park	1

Park or Facility Name	Approximate Acres
Highland View	4
Reid White Memorial Park	2
Ridgeview Unit 7 Park	1
Cameron Park CSD	
Royal Oaks Park	10
Bass Lake (Sellwood) Field	3
Hacienda Park	5
David West Park	2
Northview Park	6
Gateway Park	8
Christa McAuliffe Park	6
Eastwood Park	3
Rasmussen Park	10
Cameron Park Lake	51
Georgetown Divide Recreation District	
Trails (Georgetown Airport Area)	8 miles
Buffalo Hill Pedestrian Path	1
Bayley House Historic Park	11
Garden Valley Park	5
Beam Field	3
Georgetown Park	1
Greenwood Park/Schoolhouse	2
Regional Park (undeveloped)	141
Cosumnes River CSD	
Community Park	1
Rolling Hills CSD	
Stonebriar Park	10
Berkshire Park (undeveloped)	3
Holiday Lake CSD	
Holiday Lake/Trail	30
Cameron Estates CSD	
Various unpaved trails	

Appendix C - Western El Dorado County Public Trails

Residents and visitors to western El Dorado County have access to a number of public walking, biking, and equestrian trails close to populated areas. Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, Cronan Ranch, Auburn State Recreation Area, Sly Park, and the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area provide many miles of multiple use trails. Some of the most popular trails are listed in the following table, and additional trail information is available on the various park web sites.

Partial List of Western El Dorado County Public Trails

Trail	Location	Approx. Length in Miles	Type ¹			
			Surface	P	E	B
Auburn to Cool Trail (portion)	Auburn SRA	3.2	Unpaved	■	■	■
Olmsted Loop	Auburn SRA	9	Unpaved	■	■	■
Pointed Rocks Trail	Auburn SRA	1.5	Unpaved	■	■	■
Western States Trail (portion)	Auburn SRA	19.1	Unpaved	■	■	■
Monroe Ridge Trail	Marshall Gold Discovery SHP	2.3	Unpaved	■		■
Monument Trail	Marshall Gold Discovery SHP	0.8	Unpaved	■		■
Discovery Trail	Marshall Gold Discovery SHP	0.7	Unpaved	■		■
Brown's Ravine to Old Salmon Falls	Folsom Lake SRA	8.7	Unpaved	■	■	■
County Boundary to Brown's Ravine	Folsom Lake SRA	2.3	Unpaved	■	■	■
Darrington Trail	Folsom Lake SRA	8.5	Unpaved	■	■	■
Sweetwater Creek to Salmon Falls	Folsom Lake SRA	2.2	Unpaved	■	■	■
Cronan Ranch (various)	Pilot Hill	12	Unpaved	■	■	■
S. Fork American River Trail	Magnolia Ranch to Salmon Falls Bridge	25	Unpaved	■	■	■
El Dorado Trail	Camino Heights to Los Trampas Dr.	1.7	Unpaved	■	■	■
El Dorado Trail	Los Trampas Dr. to Placerville	5.1	Paved	■		■

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Trail	Location	Approx. Length in Miles	Type ¹			
			Surface	P	E	B
El Dorado Trail	Forni Rd./Ray Lawyer Dr. to Missouri Flat Rd.	2.7	Paved, unpaved shoulder	■	■	■
El Dorado Trail	Missouri Flat Rd. to Oriental Sr.	1.7	Unpaved	■	■	■
Sly Park Recreation Area	Pollock Pines/Jenkinson Lake	9	Unpaved & Paved	■	■	■

¹ P: Pedestrian, E: Equestrian, B: Bicycle

Appendix D - Sierra Nevada Trails in El Dorado County

The network of unpaved public trails in the Eldorado National Forest is extensive. A complete listing with maps and information about trail regulations, seasonal closures, and camping facilities is available on the Eldorado National Forest web site.

Partial List of Named Sierra Nevada Trails in El Dorado County

Trail	Area	Approx. Length in Miles
Bryan Meadows	Between US 50 & SR 88	3.0
Buck Pasture	Between US 50 & SR 88	3.0
Caples Creek	Between US 50 & SR 88	4.0
Cedar Park Trail System	Between US 50 & SR 88	1.2
Cody Lake	Between US 50 & SR 88	0.5
Fleming Meadow	Between US 50 & SR 88	8.8
Government Meadows	Between US 50 & SR 88	0.5
Lake Margaret	Between US 50 & SR 88	2.5
Little Round Top	Between US 50 & SR 88	2.5
Lovers Leap	Between US 50 & SR 88	2.5
Mount Ralston	Between US 50 & SR 88	3.0
Old Silver Lake	Between US 50 & SR 88	1.5
Pyramid Creek Loop	Between US 50 & SR 88	1.7
Sayles Canyon	Between US 50 & SR 88	4.5
Shealor Lake	Between US 50 & SR 88	1.4
Silver Fork	Between US 50 & SR 88	3.0
Trestle Trail	Between US 50 & SR 88	1.2
Dry Lakes Trail	Crystal Basin	4.3
Gerle Interpretive	Crystal Basin	1.0
Harvest	Crystal Basin	1.0
Hunsucker Trail	Crystal Basin	1.9
Ice House Bike Trail	Crystal Basin	3.1
Loon Lake South Shore	Crystal Basin	6.2
South Fork Trail	Crystal Basin	6.8
Union Valley Bike Trail	Crystal Basin	4.8
Cascade Falls Trail	Desolation Wilderness	0.7
Eagle/Middle Velma Lakes Trail	Desolation Wilderness	4.9

Trail	Area	Approx. Length in Miles
Gertrude Lake Trail	Desolation Wilderness	4.1
Granite Lake Trail	Desolation Wilderness	1.2
Grass Lake Trail	Desolation Wilderness	2.7
Mount Tallac Trail	Desolation Wilderness	5.0
Ralston Lake Trail	Desolation Wilderness	4.4
Ralston Peak Trail	Desolation Wilderness	4.0
Smith Lake Tail	Desolation Wilderness	2.8
Susie and Heather Lakes	Desolation Wilderness	5.3
Bald Mountain Canyon	Georgetown	1.6
Hell Hole	Georgetown	4.3
Hunters Trail	Georgetown	10.0
Kelliher	Georgetown	2.0
Lawyer	Georgetown	1.3
MarDet	Georgetown	4.8
Martin	Georgetown	1.6
Nevada Point Trail	Georgetown	5.3
One Eye Creek	Georgetown	1.5
Otter Creek	Georgetown	1.4
Sugarloaf	Georgetown	0.8
Crag Lake Trail	Lake Tahoe	5.0
General Creek Trail	Lake Tahoe	11.2
Rubicon Point Trail	Lake Tahoe	2.7
Bake Oven Trail	North/Middle Fork American R.	9.0
Belix Trail	North/Middle Fork American R.	6.9
Ellicott Trail	North/Middle Fork American R.	1.3
Grey Trail	North/Middle Fork American R.	2.4
Grizzly Canyon Trail	North/Middle Fork American R.	2.0
Pigeon Roost Trail	North/Middle Fork American R.	1.4
Rubicon Trail	North/Middle Fork American R.	8.4
Slide Point Trail	North/Middle Fork American R.	1.2
Hawley Grade Trail	Sierra Nevada/US 50 corridor	1.8
Pacific Crest Trail – section 13	Sierra Nevada/US 50 corridor	66.0
Bassi Loop	Van Vleck	1.8
Highland	Van Vleck	3.2
Loon Lake	Van Vleck	4.5
Red Peak Trail	Van Vleck	6.5
Shadow Lake	Van Vleck	2.0

Trail	Area	Approx. Length in Miles
Sun Rock	Van Vleck	2.0
Two Peaks	Van Vleck	3.0
Beauty Lake	Wrights Lake	0.5
Bloodsucker	Wrights Lake	2.3
Lake Loop	Wrights Lake	1.5
Lyons Lake Trail	Wrights Lake	5.6
Meadow Loop	Wrights Lake	1.0
Rockbound	Wrights Lake	7.8
Twin Lakes Tie	Wrights Lake	0.8
Twin Lakes Trail	Wrights Lake	3.4
Windmill Trail	Wrights Lake	2.9
Long Canyon 4WD Trail	South of Hwy 50	4.0
Baltic Ridge 4WD Trail	South of Hwy 50	10.0
Bald Mountain Spur 4WD Trail	South of Hwy 50	1.0
North Shanty 4WD Trail	South of Hwy 50	3.0
Strawberry 4WD Trail	South of Hwy 50	6.0
Spur B 4WD Trail	South of Hwy 50	2.0
Elkins Flat Motorcycle Trail System	South of Hwy 50	69.0
Gold Note Motorcycle and ATV Trail System	South of Hwy 50	30.0
Rock Creek OHV Trail System	Georgetown Divide Area	110.0
Deer Creek Motorcycle Trail	Crystal Basin	2.0
Barrett Lake 4WD Trail	Crystal Basin	6.0

Sources: Karen & Terry Whitehall, 2002. *Best Short Hikes in California's North Sierra*. The Mountaineer Books; website: <http://www.trailsgalore.com>; USDA, 2009. Non-motorized Trails, El Dorado National Forest.

Appendix E – Future Trail Corridors

The following trail corridors were included in the 1990 Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan, but are considered lower priority for implementation than the selected corridors noted in this Master Plan. However, they are still valid potential corridors and are retained in this Master Plan as corridors for future study.

Trail Name (from 1990 Plan)	Description	Estimated Length
C-2 Park Creek-Old Highway 50 Trail	Along Park Creek Road to link proposed Cosumnes Trail, Mormon-Carson Trail (California National Historic Trail), and Pony Express National Historic Trail and then easterly to Strawberry	26 miles
C-8 Marshall Trail	From Amador county line at Cosumnes River north along SR 49 to El Dorado where it intercepts the Mormon-Carson Trail on Pleasant Valley Road to Diamond Springs, the El Dorado Trail to US Highway 50, and north on Cold Springs Road and Gold Hill Road to SR 49 and Marshall Road. Northeasterly on Marshall Road to Black Oak Mine Road, Bear Creek Road, MarDet Trail, County Road 8074, Balderson Road, Indurskey Road, to proposed C-9 Trail to Placer County.	33 miles
C-9 Divide Trail	Starting at Western States Trail south of Summit Hill on Spanish Dry Diggings (Airport) Road. Then following Canyon Creek past Little Bald Mountain and north to Otter Creek Trail, to Volcanoville Road east to French Meadows Road, crossing the Rubicon River to Placer County.	16 miles
C-10 Deer Creek Trail	From Sacramento county line to the SPTC trail along the Deer Creek corridor.	2 miles
C-11 Green Valley Road Trail	Starting at Green Valley Road at Rescue east to Missouri Flat Road, south across U.S. Highway 50 to El Dorado Trail and south to Pleasant Valley Road.	5 miles
C-13 SMUD Easement Trail	Starting at proposed Marshall Trail (C-8) on Cold Springs Road extending easterly along the Sacramento Municipal Utility District easement to Junction Reservoir and Union Valley Reservoir.	23 miles
C-14 Forebay/Stumpy Meadows Trail	Starting at Pony Express Trail then northwesterly along Forebay Road to enter Eldorado National Forest.	1.5 miles

Appendix F – Public/Agency Contacts

El Dorado County Transportation Commission
2828 Easy Street, Suite 1
Placerville, CA 95667-3907
(530) 642-5262

City of Placerville
549 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 642-5232

El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA 95667-295-6819
(530) 622-4513

American River Conservancy
PO Box 562
Coloma, CA 95613
(530) 295-2190

Community Economic Development Association
of Pollock Pines
3510 Gold Ridge Trail
Pollock Pines 95726
(530) 613-1332

Cameron Park CSD
2502 Country Club Drive
Cameron Park, CA 95682
(530) 677-2231

El Dorado County Office of Education
6767 Green Valley Road
Placerville, CA 95667
(530)295-2205

Bureau of Land Management
5152 Hillsdale Circle
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
(916) 941-3101

Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5213

Georgetown Divide Recreation District
P.O. Box 1418
Georgetown, CA 95634
(530) 823-9090

El Dorado Hills CSD
1021 Harvard Way
El Dorado Hills, California 95762
(916) 933-6624

California State Parks
Gold Fields District
7806 Folsom–Auburn Road
Folsom, CA 95630-1797
(916) 988-0205

Appendix G - Park Fee Resolution 071- 2011



RESOLUTION NO. 071-2011

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

WHEREAS, current park fees are governed by El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Resolution 111-98 and 073-99 and the fees set forth therein need to be revised to reflect updated County costs;

WHEREAS, from time to time, and upon recommendation of the Parks Commission the Board of Supervisors may promulgate rules and regulations pertaining to parks and their facilities and may adopt such policies as it sees fit to ensure appropriate management and administration of parks, parks facilities and of the department; and

WHEREAS, as the County park system builds recreation facilities, the need for administration, maintenance and operation of these facilities grows; and

WHEREAS, the County parks will need revenue for administration, maintenance and operation of these County facilities and support from park users; and

WHEREAS, the revenue needed to maintain and operate park facilities should be partially provided by those members of the public who utilize the facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department Director can suspend any park activity due to public safety, damage to facilities or conflicting uses to park users; and

WHEREAS, violations of this resolution will be considered a violation of County Code 9.46 and therefore subject to applicable ramification; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the following shall be the fee schedule and policy for the County of El Dorado Parks facilities superseding the aforesaid Resolutions 111-98 and 073-99.

General Rules for all Parks

- A. Security deposits will be fully refunded if keys are returned and facilities left in clean, undamaged condition.
- B. Adult Chaperones will be required for all youth activities.
- C. Proof of a policy of insurance, satisfactory to the El Dorado County Risk Management Department, shall be submitted.
- D. Seasons shall be no longer than four months.

Bradford Park Ballfield Use Fees Schedule

	Fee	Refundable Deposit
Youth Soccer (10 and under)		
• Hourly	\$15.00	\$50.00
• 1/2 Day	\$50.00	\$50.00
• Full Day	\$80.00	\$50.00
• Season	\$550.00	\$100.00

Henningsen Lotus Park Ballfield, River Use and Parking Fee Schedules

Ballfield Use Fees			
	Fee	Refundable Deposit	Lighting
Youth Soccer			
• Hourly	\$15.00	\$50.00	NA
• 1/2 Day	\$50.00	\$50.00	
• Full Day	\$80.00	\$50.00	
• Season	\$550.00	\$100.00	
Adult Soccer			
• Hourly	\$18.00	\$50.00	NA
• 1/2 Day	\$65.00	\$50.00	
• Full Day	\$110.00	\$50.00	
• Season	\$700.00	\$100.00	
Little League			
• Hourly	\$15.00	\$50.00	\$8.00 per hour
• 1/2 Day	\$50.00	\$50.00	
• Full Day	\$80.00	\$50.00	
• Season	\$550.00	\$100.00	
Adult Softball			
• Hourly	\$18.00	\$50.00	\$8.00 per hour
• 1/2 Day	\$65.00	\$50.00	
• Full Day	\$110.00	\$50.00	
• Season	\$700.00	\$100.00	

Parking Day Use Fees:	
Bus (Commercial or Private) 25 passengers or more	\$45.00
Mini Bus or Van (Commercial or Private) 10-24 passengers	\$22.00
Private Vehicle (Per space)	\$5.00
Vehicle with Trailer or Vehicle longer than 18'	\$10.00
Annual Pass – Private Vehicle Only (Assigned to person or family to be used with their vehicles)	\$18.00
Violation for non payment of parking fee	\$20.00
River Put-In and Take-Out Fees:	
Commercial Rafts or Boats (2 or more person capacity)	\$9.00
Commercial Kayaks or Single Person Craft (such as inner tubes etc.)	\$3.00
Private Rafts or Boats (2 person capacity or more)	\$5.00
Private Kayaks, Single Person Crafts (such as inner tubes etc.)	\$1.00
Violation for non payment of put in or take out fees	\$20.00

Exceptions to the above fee schedule for Henningsen Lotus Park are:

- 1) Loading and Unloading of vehicles (15 minutes)
- 2) Non-Motorized (walk-ins and bicycles)
- 3) El Dorado County Public Schools grades K-12 with advance submitted Parks Use Application
- 4) Leagues that are using fields within the time designated in their use agreement.
- 5) El Dorado County Fire or Rescue Departments conducting Official Swiftwater Rescue Training with prior authorization from County Parks Operations and El Dorado County River Program.
- 6) 2 Hour free parking in designated spots adjacent to children's playground
- 7) For participants of County River Program river cleanup events (free parking during event)

Pioneer Park Community Center Use Fee Schedule

Pioneer Park Community Center was built and is available for public use only during hours not dedicated to County business.

The following is the established fee schedule for use of the Pioneer Park Community Center:

Type of Use	Area Rental	Fee	Refundable Deposit
<u>Non-Profit Youth Organization</u>			
On Going Use (weekly or monthly)	Main Hall or Conference Room	\$8.00 (per meeting)	\$100.00
One Time Use	Main Hall or Conference Room	\$40.00 (per use)	\$100.00
Snack Bar/Kitchen (for sporting events)	Kitchen	\$30.00 (per use)	\$100.00
<u>Non-Profit Adult Organization</u>			
On-Going Use (weekly or monthly)	Main Hall or Conference Room	\$15.00 (per meeting)	\$100.00
One Time Use	Main Hall or Conference Room	\$40.00 (per use)	\$100.00
One Time Use	Kitchen	\$30.00 (per use)	\$100.00

<u>Private Use</u>			
One Time Use (Private parties, weddings, etc.)	Main Hall or Conference Room	\$25.00 (per hour)	\$200.00
	Kitchen	\$50.00 (per use)	\$200.00
For-Profit classes, Community Activities (Ongoing)	Main Hall or Conference Room	\$25.00 (per meeting)	\$200.00

- A. To qualify for on-going event fee status, groups will be required to submit a Park Use Permit application and pay a non-refundable amount for a minimum of 5 meetings.
- B. 4 hour time limits will be set on all ongoing activities, over 4 hours will require additional fees.
- C. All kitchen rental fees are in addition to Main Hall or Conference Room rental fees.

Pioneer Park Arena Use Fee Schedule

The following is the established fee schedule for use of the Pioneer Equestrian Arena:

Organized and supervised youth groups, per day	\$15.00
Organized and supervised youth groups reserved, ongoing practices processing fee	\$45.00
Clinics that promote proper horse care, per day	\$75.00
Adult equestrian associations and clubs fee for a seasonal use permit	\$220.00
Special events charging general admission for 200 people or more will add a per ticket surcharge which will be paid to the County	\$1.00 per ticket

Pioneer Park Ballfield Use Fees Schedule

	Fee	Refundable Deposit
Youth Soccer		
• Hourly	\$15.00	\$50.00
• 1/2 Day	\$50.00	\$50.00
• Full Day	\$80.00	\$50.00
• Season	\$550.00	\$100.00
Adult Soccer		
• Hourly	\$18.00	\$50.00
• 1/2 Day	\$65.00	\$50.00
• Full Day	\$110.00	\$50.00
• Season	\$700.00	\$100.00
Little League		
• Hourly	\$15.00	\$50.00
• 1/2 Day	\$50.00	\$50.00
• Full Day	\$80.00	\$50.00
• Season	\$550.00	\$100.00
Adult Softball		
• Hourly	\$18.00	\$50.00
• 1/2 Day	\$65.00	\$50.00
• Full Day	\$110.00	\$50.00
• Season	\$700.00	\$100.00

Park Use Permits and Special Events

The County requires a Parks Use Permit for all reserved events taking place at a park.

There is a flat day use fee for events held in the park where general admission is not charged to participate in the event. See schedule below.

Events held for 200 people or more where general admission tickets are sold to participate in the event will pay a per ticket surcharge to the County in lieu of the flat fee for day use. See schedule below.

Events over 1,999 people require an additional permit from Planning Services.

Events cannot exclude the public from an entire park or access to the South Fork of the American River.

The following is the established fee schedule for use of the Henningsen Lotus Pavilion or exclusive use of an area of a park for a special event that particular day.

Fees for parking, field use or other park infrastructure are not included for reserved events with the exception of those events greater than 200 people where a per ticket surcharge is applied.

Non-refundable application fee	\$20.00
Events with up to 49 people	\$75.00
Events with 50 to 99 people	\$110.00
Events with 100 to 199 people	\$150.00
Events with greater than 200 people	\$200.00
Cleaning and damages deposit for events up to 199 people	\$100.00
Cleaning and damages deposit for events over 200 people	\$250.00
Vendor Booth Fee; per vendor (vendors with EDC Environmental Management Mobil Food Permits, Non-profit promotional booths and official event booths are excluded)	\$20.00
Surcharge per ticket sold for events charging admission/entrance for events over 200 people and up to 1,999 people; fee will be collected in lieu of applicable park use fees, including facility rental, field rental and parking; payable to the county within 30 days after event	\$1.00
Surcharge per ticket sold for events charging admission/entrance for events over 1,999 people; fee will be collected in lieu of applicable County permit fees and park use fees including facility rental, field rental and parking; payable to the county within 30 days after event. Note: for events over 1,999 people, a Planning Services permit will still be required however the permit fee will not be assessed.	\$2.00

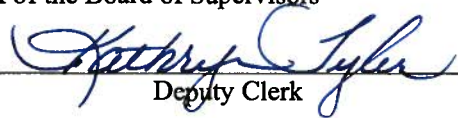
Filming in a Park

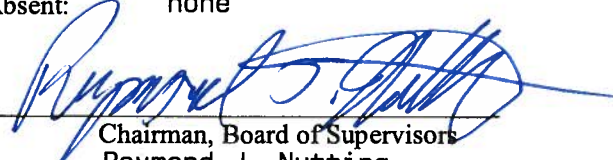
Filming at a County Park requires a permit with the El Dorado County Film Commission. Applicable Park fees apply when filming in a park (parking, exclusive use of an area of the park, etc.)

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 3 day of May, 2011 by the following vote of said Board:

⁴¹
Ayes: Briggs, Knight, Nutting, Sweeney, Santiago
Noes: none
Absent: none

Attest:
Suzanne Allen de Sanchez
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 
Deputy Clerk


Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Raymond J. Nutting

I CERTIFY THAT:
THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT IS A CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE.

Attest: Suzanne Allen de Sanchez, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado, State of California.

By: _____ Date: _____
Deputy Clerk

Appendix H - Glossary

Active Use

A recreation activity that typically requires the presence of substantially improved facilities such as sports fields, gymnasiums, swimming pools, or play structures.

ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act, which gives civil rights protections and guarantees equal opportunity to individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, State and local government services, and telecommunications. Parks and trails that are designed to comply with ADA are accessible by individuals with disabilities.

Class I Bikeway (Bike Path)

A completely separated facility designed for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians with minimal cross flows by motorists.

Class II Bikeway (Bike Lane)

A striped lane for one-way bicycle travel on a street or highway.

Class III Bikeway (Bike Route)

An area for shared use with pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic. Signs or permanent markings designate a bike route,

Community Park

Community parks are intended to provide a focal point and gathering place for the community and typically range from 10 to 44 acres in size. They may include sports fields and courts, picnic facilities, play areas, and special facilities such as a swimming pool and a community center.

Community Region

The El Dorado County General Plan defines a Community Region as an area which is appropriate for the highest intensity of self-sustaining compact urban-type development or suburban type development within the County.

Geotourism

Tourism that is based on, celebrates, and sustains the special character of a place as reflected by its environment, resources, culture, aesthetics, and heritage.

Goal

A goal describes an ideal future end, condition, or state toward which planning and implementation measures are directed. A goal, as a general expression of community

values, is abstract in nature and may not be quantifiable, time-dependent, or suggestive of specific actions for its achievement.

Impact Fee

A fee levied on the developer of a project by a public agency to compensate for impacts the project will produce generally in relation to increased demand for public services and facilities. Also called a development fee.

In-lieu Fee

Cash payments that may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for a dedication of land, usually calculated in dollars per lot.

Linear Park

A park that is significantly longer than it is wide. Such parks may be the result of setting aside land adjacent to creeks or rivers, abandoned rail lines, or connecting multiple smaller parks to create a larger continuous park.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are generally 2 to 10 acres in size and within walking or biking distance of the residents they serve. , and preferably located adjacent to schools. Typical improvements include play area, turf, and picnic facilities.

Objective

An objective is a specific end, condition or state that is an intermediate step toward attaining a goal. An objective may only pertain to one particular aspect of a goal or it may be one of several successive steps towards achieving a goal. Consequently, there may be more than one objective for each goal.

Parkland Dedication

The turning over of private land for public park use, and the acceptance of land for such use by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the park. Parkland dedications are often required as conditions for approval of a development.

Passive Use

A recreation activity that does not require substantially improved facilities such as sports fields, gymnasiums, swimming pools, or play structures. Examples include hiking, bird watching, and nature photography.

Policy

A policy is a specific statement that guides decision making. It indicates a clear commitment of the local legislative body. A policy is based on a general plan’s goals and objectives as well as the analysis of data.

Quimby Act

California State law providing for the dedication of land or the payment of in-lieu fees for the purpose of establishing parks, based on a defined need of at least 3 acres and up to 5 acres of land per 1,000 residents. The average population per household for the community is utilized to determine the required acreage dedication for each development project

Regional Park

A regional park serves a region involving more than one community. The size is variable, generally ranging from 30 to 10,000 acres but smaller parks may also serve a regional purpose depending on the unique facilities or resources they provide. Facilities may include all those found at neighborhood and community parks, as well as special use facilities such as amphitheaters, trails, campgrounds, and interpretive centers.

Rural Center

The El Dorado County General Plan defines a rural center as an existing place which provides a focus of activity and goods and services to the surrounding area. These are places of higher density development located throughout the rural area of the County, with some but not necessarily all public services provided by the County.

Rural Region

The El Dorado County General Plan classifies all areas not included in a Community Region or Rural Center as Rural Regions. In these areas there is limited availability of infrastructure and public services, with an emphasis on preservation of agricultural and forest/timber land uses.