

PLACERVILLE AREA

# Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2017

*Draft  
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PREPARED FOR



PREPARED BY

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# 1 Executive Summary

The Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (Master Plan Update) focuses primarily on updating aspects of the 2009 Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009 Plan) that may have changed over the last eight years. These include the inventory of facilities, recreation program participation, demographics, and levels of service that are expressed as a function of population. It retains the format and much of the content from the 2009 Plan which continues to be relevant. The Master Plan Update also includes information about the El Dorado County parks that serve residents of Placerville and the surrounding unincorporated areas of El Dorado County. The unincorporated areas addressed in this planning effort includes the communities of Coloma, Lotus, Gold Hill, Diamond Springs, Camino, Pollock Pines, and portions of Rescue. The purpose of this update is to provide specific guidance for the City and supporting analysis for the County to better understand how best to cooperatively manage and develop new facilities and recreation programs to meet the needs of the current and future population.

## *Master Plan Update Process and Findings*

### *Public Participation*

Substantial public input was received as part of the 2009 Plan process. This information continues to be relevant and provides guidance for current and future facility and program planning. Specific input methods used for the 2009 Plan included a phone survey, a written survey, and two community workshops. An additional community open house workshop was held April 26, 2017 to gather any new input and suggestions. Input from all of these sources (described in Chapter 5) was essential to identifying recreation needs and priorities. The major theme of the input provided by plan area residents was that parks and recreation programs are very important to their quality of life. There is a high level of satisfaction with the overall quality of existing recreation resources, coupled with a desire for a greater number of parks, and some specific renovations at individual parks.

### *Inventory and Demographics*

The 2009 Plan supplemented input from the community with a number of other analyses aimed at developing a comprehensive, strategic Master Plan for parks and recreation in the plan area. A comprehensive inventory of existing City and County parks and programs was developed with analysis of other recreation opportunities in the region (Chapter 3). This information has been reviewed and revised as needed to be current. Plan area demographics developed for the 2009 Plan were also updated to identify trends that could be significant for recreation planning purposes (Chapter 4). New analysis has been included that examines land use projections and anticipated development that may impact demand for City recreation facilities and programs (Chapter 4).

Based on this analysis, the population of the plan area is expected to increase from a 2017 population of 61,431 to a population of 67,524 by 2032, or about 10 percent. Over the same period, the population of the City of Placerville alone is expected to increase by about 17 percent from 10,808 to 12,529 people. The future population will include more adults over the age of 49 as a percent of the total population, a greater degree of cultural diversity than at present, and families will continue to make up a significant part of the plan area population. Future demand for recreation

programs to serve mature adults, teens, and children, and those of diverse cultural backgrounds is projected to be strong.

### ***Planning Standards***

This Master Plan includes a comprehensive set of planning standards which are intended to guide future park development (Chapter 6). The purpose of these standards is to preserve the high quality of recreation resources available to plan area residents as new development occurs and creates additional demand for these resources. The planning standards include a classification scheme for various park types ranging from mini-parks to regional parks, and guidelines for suitability of proposed land for active use parks. The Master Plan also includes Level of Service standards as follows:

- Active Park Land – 5 acres per 1,000 population
- Trails – 0.55 miles per 1,000 population for City of Placerville
- ½ mile service area for neighborhood parks
- 2-mile service area for community parks
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant paths in all parks
- Non-vehicular access to new neighborhood parks via Class I trails or Class II bike routes
- Maximum population to be served for the most common types of recreation facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields and courts, picnic areas, etc.
- Standard park improvements for future neighborhood parks

The City of Placerville currently has adequate active park land to meet the active park land standard for the City population. El Dorado County has sufficient regional park acreage to meet the County’s standard for these types of facilities. If the land designated for Pollock Pines Community Park is developed or traded for a more suitable site, there will also be enough acreage in community parks to satisfy the County’s community park acreage goal. The major park deficit at this time is about 101 acres of neighborhood park land that is needed in the unincorporated parts of the plan area.

Other facilities needed to meet the needs of the current population based on levels of uses and demand include tennis and basketball courts; baseball, softball, and Little League fields; multi-use fields; group picnic areas; a dog park; and a bike pump track. Additional community center, gymnasium, and amphitheater facilities are also needed.

### ***Master Plan Implementation and Funding***

Specific Master Plan implementation strategies for the City of Placerville are described in Chapter 7. These include prioritized recommendations for improvements to existing parks, new park development, paths and trails, programs, and administration. Costs for capital projects are reflected in a proposed 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP focuses on projects that will enhance the capacity of existing parks, while making needed repairs to aging infrastructure to protect public safety and minimize operational costs.

The Master Plan recommendations for the City total approximately \$3.1 million in 2017 costs for capital improvements (Chapter 8) over the next ten years. Funding strategies for these costs are outlined in a 10-year Finance Plan (Chapter 9). The Finance Plan relies on revenues from existing sources adjusted for future projected inflation, but other funding sources are also recommended to

provide the additional revenues that will be needed. These include adjustments to program and facility use fees, periodic increases in benefit assessment districts, private-public partnerships, and sponsorships. The Master Plan also recommends that the City complete a Nexus study and increase its development impact fee to a rate sufficient to provide parks and facilities at a level consistent with the resources currently offered. The City's Quimby ordinance should also be reviewed to make sure it is keeping pace with land costs when in-lieu fees are calculated.

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## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Purpose of the Master Plan Update

The Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (Master Plan Update) focuses primarily on updating aspects of the 2009 Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009 Plan) that may have changed over the last eight years. These include the inventory of facilities, recreation program participation, demographics, and levels of service that are expressed as a function of population. It retains the format and much of the content from the 2009 Plan which continues to be relevant. The Master Plan Update also includes information about the El Dorado County parks that



serve residents of Placerville and the surrounding unincorporated area of El Dorado County. The unincorporated area includes the communities of Coloma, Lotus, Gold Hill, Diamond Springs, Camino, Pollock Pines, and portions of Rescue. The boundary of the plan area is defined by the Regional Analysis Districts (RADs)<sup>1</sup> established by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) which include the City of Placerville and these communities (Figure 1). The purpose of this update is to provide specific guidance for the City and supporting analysis for the County to better understand how best to cooperatively manage and develop new facilities and recreation programs to meet the needs of the current and future population.

Residents of the plan area routinely use both City and County park facilities, and participate in City recreation programs irrespective of the jurisdiction in which they reside. Combining both City and County resources in this Master Plan facilitates resource sharing and integration of planning efforts, for the most cost-effective solutions to meet recreation needs in a manner which reflects actual patterns of use and demand.

The updated demographic analysis in this Master Plan Update indicates that in the period from 2008 to 2016, the population of the City of Placerville increased by approximately 4.2 percent with the addition of approximately 427 new residents.<sup>2</sup> Analysis by the Sacramento Area Council of

<sup>1</sup> Regional Analysis Districts are aggregations of SACOG's traffic analysis zones, and are intended to generally represent geographic or community areas which would be recognizable to residents of the region. Where possible the boundaries are fixed, linear geographic features (rivers, railroad lines, freeways). The boundaries are explicitly not jurisdictional. Personal communication from Bruce Griesenbeck, SACOG, February 13, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Sacramento Council of Governments, SACOG Modeling Projections for 2012, 2020, and 2036. Sacramento, California, February 2016.

State of California, Department of Finance, E-8 City/County Population and Housing Estimates and E-5 City/County Population and Housing Estimates. May 2016.

State of California, Department of Finance, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2008, with 2000 Benchmark. May 2008.

Governments (SACOG) suggests that population growth in the unincorporated areas surrounding Placerville occurred at a much slower pace due to the impacts of the economic recession. Populations in these areas actually declined between 2008 and 2012 with modest increases resuming in 2013. The Coloma-Lotus area had a modest population increase of 2 percent, while the Camino-Pollock Pines area population decreased by 1.6 percent, Diamond Springs area decreased by 6.7 percent.

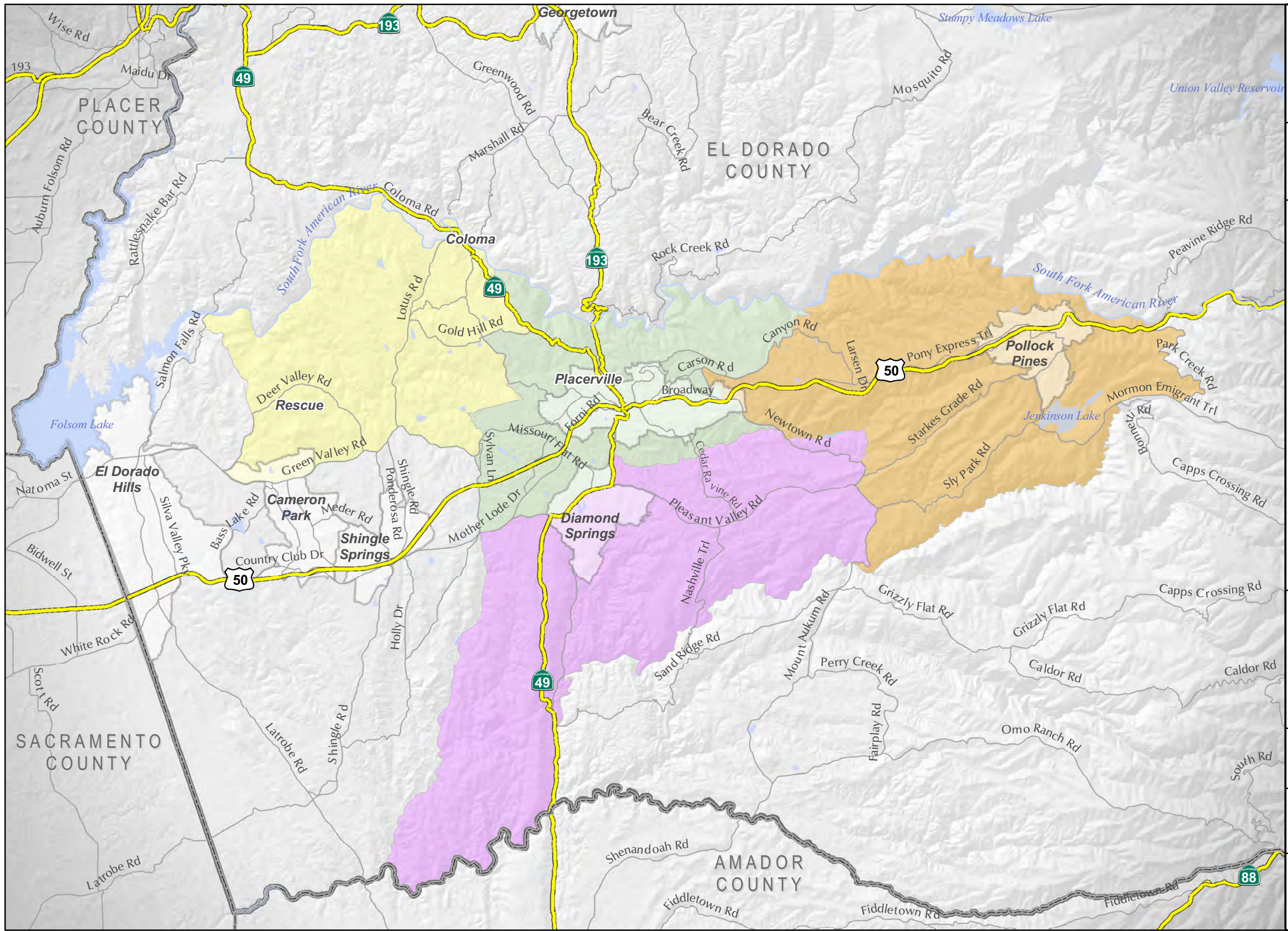
With the strengthening of the regional economy, SACOG projects a modest future growth rate of about 10 percent by 2032 for the entire plan area including Placerville and these scenic rural communities. These communities are located just east of the most rapidly growing communities in El Dorado County and suburban Sacramento, and are a commutable distance to these employment centers. The growth-driven demand for additional recreation services needs to be addressed both to protect the access current residents have to such services, and to preserve the desirable quality-of-life experience that attracts new residents to the plan area.

As the population base increases and diversifies, residents will seek out a variety of recreation resources. There will continue to be demand for improved parks with ‘active’ use facilities such as sports fields and play areas, as well as access to unstructured or ‘passive’ recreation experiences such as hiking or mountain biking in natural open spaces. While the City has historically focused on providing improved active facilities, and the County has emphasized regional passive open space parks, each does provide some degree of both active and passive recreation resources. City and County facilities are complemented by certain school district facilities that are used during non-school hours for public recreation purposes.

Another important focus of this Master Plan Update is the public demand for organized recreation activities, classes, and events. The City of Placerville offers a wide variety of recreation programs, community events, and life enrichment activities that are open to both City and County residents. The County does not have staff dedicated specifically to recreation programs; however, many recreational and life enrichment activities are directly or indirectly made available through various County departments. These include social programs through Public Health, Human Services, and Library Services; year-round recreational activities and events at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds; promotion of recreation-based tourism as an economic development strategy; trails planning through the Department of Transportation and El Dorado County Transportation Commission; river recreation; and youth programs through the El Dorado County Office of Education. Independent youth and adult sports leagues, and special interest groups also provide recreation programs within the plan area. This Master Plan Update examines how well the available recreation programs are meeting the needs of current plan area residents, and how anticipated demographics and preferences might influence future program offerings.



*Adult softball players in action*



**PLACERVILLE AREA  
PARKS MASTER PLAN**

**PLANNING AREA**

- SACOG**  
**Regional Analysis Districts**
- Coloma - Lotus
  - Diamond Springs
  - Placerville (East, West, South)
  - Pollock Pines



Drawn By: MJ, RJM  
 Date: 08/12/09  
 Project\_Area\_11x17.mxd

**FIGURE 1**

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All of these services and facilities will be competing for the very limited operational and capital funding needed to construct and manage these resources. The City and County must work within their fiscal and operational limitations to allocate staff and funding towards the facilities and services that will have the most beneficial impact on plan area residents. This Master Plan Update provides information that will help establish current priorities, and determine the levels of funding and support that will be required to meet future needs. The need for development fees dedicated to recreation facilities is also addressed by this plan.

The Master Plan Update relies on projections of population and demographics, and makes assumptions about recreation preferences and trends. It will be necessary for the City and County to periodically review the Master Plan Update to make sure it accurately responds to residents' needs as future development occurs and the plan area evolves. The Master Plan Update also provides potential developers with a picture of the recreation vision for the plan area to aid them in designing their neighborhoods and understanding what type of recreational amenities they will be required to provide or help fund.

Finally, it is important to remember that this Master Plan Update is a strategic planning document. While it identifies needs and general characteristics of specific facilities and programs and estimated costs, further design of these elements will be required. Detailed design, using the most current construction methods and materials, must be completed before implementation.

## 2.2 Master Plan Update Process

This Master Plan Update retains the format and much of the content of the 2009 Placerville Parks and Recreation Master Plan, with revisions to key topics to make them current. These include inventory, demographics, levels of service, and recreation program participation. The 2009 Plan was developed by combining community input from the plan area residents, and City and County staff with analyses of data from a variety of sources. The planning process consisted of several distinct phases. As each section of the 2009 Plan was updated, it was provided to City staff for review and comment.

The Needs Assessment phase included analyzing current and projected demographic information about plan area residents, such as age, gender, and ethnicity. An inventory of existing park facilities was conducted to document the amenities and condition of each park. This information was reviewed and revised for the Master Plan Update. Data about the various types of recreational programs available to Placerville area residents were also gathered for the 2009 Plan and then revised for this Update. For the 2009 Plan, plan area residents were invited to provide their input on parks and recreation programs through



*Community Meeting*

participation in a randomized phone survey and by filling out a written survey available in hardcopy and online. Area residents were also invited to participate in two community workshops to gather input about their recreational needs, spending priorities, and how best to allocate limited funds for recreation resources in the future. Another community open house was held in April, 2017 to collect new or additional information. Inputs from all of these analyses were evaluated together with recreation planning guidelines to assess what types of facilities and programs are needed. The recreation planning guidelines were based on input from the community as expressed in the workshops and surveys; City and County staff; the Placerville Recreation and Parks commissioners; a comparison with similar communities in the region; and national standards.

The next step in the process was to revisit the 2009 Plan recommendations and phasing incorporating updated inventory, needs, and demographic information. The purpose of this exercise was to assess how well the existing parks and programs meet both the current and anticipated future recreation demand. Relative priorities were assigned to the proposed improvements to help guide implementation timing.

A Financing Plan was then developed to identify capital and operational costs, as well as required revenues from various sources to fund these expenses over the next 10-year period.

A draft of the Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update will be presented at a public meeting of the Placerville Recreation and Parks Commission for review and comment. This document will also be presented to the City Planning Commission and the City Council in public meetings. Comments and input from these three meetings will be reviewed with City staff, and appropriate edits made to the draft document. The resultant final Placerville Area Parks Master Plan Update will be presented to the Placerville City Council for adoption.

## 2.3 Other City and County Plans

### City of Placerville

The City of Placerville General Plan provides for the establishment of a Placerville park system and recreation program in Goal D of the Public Facilities and Services element, along with a series of implementing policies.<sup>3</sup>

**GOAL D:** To establish and maintain a park system and recreation program that are suited to the needs of Placerville residents and visitors.

#### Policies

1. *The City shall expand the community and neighborhood park system with the goal of providing park facilities within reasonable walking distance of all City residents.*
2. *City park acquisition and development efforts shall be based on a goal of five acres of usable developed neighborhood and community parkland per 1,000 residents within the City limits.*

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<sup>3</sup> City of Placerville General Plan Policy Document, January 1989, Amended December 14, 2004.

3. *The City shall continue to assess park development fees on all new residential development sufficient to fund citywide park improvements.*
4. *The City shall give priority in its park acquisition and development program to parks for active recreation over parks for passive recreation.*
5. *The City shall give joint use of school facilities, including college and County Office of Education facilities, a high priority in its park development program.*
6. *The City shall aggressively pursue State funding programs for park acquisition and development to augment City revenues to the extent State funding is available.*
7. *The City shall explore alternative approaches to financing parkland development, including park assessment districts, County collection of parkland development fees, and increases in user fees for County residents.*
8. *The City shall encourage the County to provide additional parkland for residents in the unincorporated Placerville area.*
9. *The City shall, within fiscal limitations, develop another baseball field on the west side of the City and develop a park that includes a swimming pool on the east side of the City.*
10. *The City shall promote the provision of private open space and recreational facilities as part of new residential developments.*
11. *The City shall continue cooperative agreements with the school districts for the use of school facilities for City-sponsored recreation programs.*
12. *The City shall periodically survey community attitudes and preferences for recreational programs.*

Other General Plan elements are indirectly related to the provision of parks and recreation by the City of Placerville. The Housing element provides projections of new residential construction through the vacant lands inventory, annexation, and infill development, all of which could generate demand for additional parks and recreation programs.

Goals E, F, and I from the General Plan Transportation element and related policies address bicycle and pedestrian circulation, including connections to existing and planned local and regional bicycle routes and opportunities to locate park facilities along pedestrian and bicycle accessible routes.

Several goals in the Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Resources element of the General Plan are relevant to park facility design, maintenance, and use. Goal A encourages water quality protection and water conservation. Goal D provides for the protection of natural vegetation and wildlife. Energy and resource conservation are addressed by Goal F. Goals G and I provide direction on preserving Placerville's historical heritage, community character, and scenic resources. The Community Design element Goal A includes other policies related to preservation of visual attributes of Placerville, including preservation of natural vegetation. The Health and Safety element includes Goal C (flood protection) and Goal D (fire protection). Improvements at existing parks and the development of new parks will need to incorporate design concepts, materials, and construction techniques that are consistent with all of these goals and policies.

The City of Placerville also has adopted a *Non-Motorized Transportation Plan* (2005), which provides some analysis of which parks are located on pedestrian and/or bicycle routes.

## El Dorado County

The El Dorado County General Plan has two major elements that specifically address parks and recreation. The Parks and Recreation element discusses the provision and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities, and trails to serve El Dorado County while the Conservation and Open Space element deals with the conservation of open space for outdoor recreation.<sup>4</sup> Both of 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. While much of this General Plan information addresses issues that are beyond the focus of this Master Plan, some of the information is relevant to this planning process, particularly as it relates to coordination with the types of recreation resources provided by the City of Placerville.<sup>5</sup>

The Parks and Recreation element Goal 9.1 with its supporting objectives and policies directs that 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.

Neighborhood parks are identified as being within walking or biking distance of the residents they serve, generally two to ten 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 ten 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. Guidelines for acquisition and development of park facilities are also provided (Table 1).

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

<b>Park Types</b>	<b>Developed</b>
Regional Parks	1.5 ac/1,000 population
Community Parks	1.5 ac/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2.0 ac/1,000 population
<b>Specific Standards (Neighborhood and Community Parks)</b>	
Cameron Park Community Services District	5.0 ac/1,000 population

<sup>4</sup> El Dorado County General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element, July 2004.

<sup>5</sup> The relevant information is summarized and not presented in full detail, since this Master Plan will not be adopted by El Dorado County. A separate County Parks and Trails Master Plan has been developed. 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>

El Dorado Hills Community Services District	5.0 ac/1,000 population
Planned Communities	5.0 ac/1,000 population

Goal 9.1 also encourages the County to support joint efforts with Community Service Districts, cities, school districts, and independent recreation districts to provide parks and recreation facilities. The County further assumes responsibility for acquiring and developing, as feasible, regional non-motorized trails outside of the boundaries of cities and other jurisdictions with park and recreation taxing authority.

Goal 9.2 and its objectives and policies direct that resources and funding for implementation of County parks and recreation improvements is to come from a variety of sources, including land dedication or fees in-lieu under the Quimby Act, benefit assessment districts, and development impact fees, in coordination with cities and local districts.

Goal 9.3 and its objectives and policies direct the County to promote recreation-based tourism and businesses, and to actively encourage major recreational events.

The County has also developed several other plans that provide additional information about specialized recreation resources and needs. The El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan (2005) focuses on the transportation function of bicycle routes, including off-street trails that also have recreational value. 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. While a portion of this river segment is within the plan area, whitewater recreation facilities are not addressed in this Master Plan due to the specialized nature of the activity.

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## 3 Recreational Resources

Park and recreation amenities available to Placerville area residents include services and facilities provided by the City of Placerville, El Dorado County, and a variety of other providers such as the State of California and local school districts. In addition, privately operated recreation programs and facilities are also available within the plan area, such as health clubs and golf courses.

Other public recreation providers in the region immediately beyond the Placerville area include the Cameron Park Community Services District, the El Dorado Hills Community Services District, the Georgetown Divide Recreation District, the El Dorado Irrigation District, and the Eldorado National Forest. While the facilities operated by these entities may in some cases supplement the recreation experience of Placerville area residents, they are not a substitute for access to local recreation resources considered in this Master Plan. The location of City and County recreation facilities within the plan area is illustrated in Figure 2. Table 2 shows a detailed inventory of the City and County parks and their amenities.

### 3.1 City of Placerville

The City of Placerville Community Services Department is responsible for managing and maintaining parks and public facilities within the City limits. Non-park facilities, such as City Hall and the cemeteries, are maintained by the Community Services Department but are not considered in this Master Plan. Recreation facilities maintained by Community Services Department Parks staff include seven public parks, the Placerville Aquatic Center, and a portion of the El Dorado Trail. The Community Services Recreation staff is responsible for coordinating an extensive year-round offering of community recreation programs, including contracting with instructors and identifying facilities for the programs. Rentals and reservations for several City-owned recreation facilities are also coordinated by the Recreation staff.

#### Existing Parks

The City of Placerville has one large community park located on the north side of town and accessed from Bedford Avenue.

**Gold Bug Park** occupies 61.5 acres of mostly natural wooded hills surrounding an historic mining site. Features at this park include the historic mine, group and individual picnic areas, paved paths and unpaved trails, restrooms and various mine facilities. Off-street parking is available near the covered Liberty Claim Pavilion, which can be rented for group picnic events. A seasonal stream runs through the park, and several bridges provide access from the parking lots and trails.



*Liberty Claim Pavilion at Gold Bug Park*

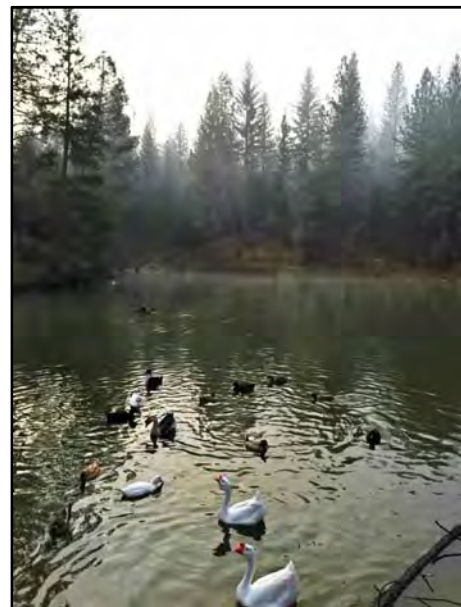
Gold Bug Park is a very popular destination for local and regional visitors. Hattie’s Museum and the Gift Shop include displays of historic tools and artifacts, and offer books and other souvenirs for sale. Visitors can also tour the Joshua Hendy Stamp Mill, a working model of a gold-extraction mill. Volunteer guides provide popular tours, and many school groups utilize the park in spring and fall. Students study California History and the gold rush era while enjoying a variety of interpretive experiences including gold mine tours, gem panning, hiking trails, and visits to the museum, gift shop, and stamp mill. Future planned improvements to Gold Bug Park include renovation of the Meagher House as an interpretive and education center. The City is currently developing and implementing a fire-safe plan for the park. The park is a designated State Point of Historic Interest and is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Placerville has two community parks: Benham Park and Lions Park. **Benham Park**, also known as City Park, occupies 1.60 acres in the center of town. Located on Benham Street, this park has a tot lot and children’s play equipment, picnic facilities, and a basketball court. The **Placerville Aquatic Center** is also located here. The aquatics facility includes multiple interconnected swimming pools with a water slide, a water play/spray area, and a restroom and shower complex. Benham Park also has a small meeting structure called Scout Hall, a multi-use field and plumbed restrooms. Parking is on-street. The aquatic center shares parking with the adjacent church.

**Lions Park** is a 24-acre community park located on Cedar Ravine Road. Built largely during the mid-1960’s by the Placerville Lions Club, the park includes two softball fields, tennis courts, a play structure, individual picnic areas, a covered group picnic area, horseshoe pits, a multi-use field, off-street parking, and plumbed restrooms. The group picnic area is available by reservation for private events. A popular disc golf course occupies a natural area in the southeast corner of the park. Foot bridges across an existing drainage connect the sports fields to the multi-use field and tennis courts. The City also stores maintenance equipment for the park in a small structure on-site.

There are four neighborhood parks in Placerville: Rotary Park, Lumsden Park, Orchard Hill Park, and Duffey Park. **Rotary Park** is located on Clark Street and encompasses four acres, centered on a lighted little-league baseball field and terraced spectator seating areas. The park also includes a children’s play area, picnic tables, and restrooms. A concession stand is located south of the ballfield above the seating area. Head-in on-street parking is available at the park site; however, capacity can be insufficient during All-Stars games.

**Lumsden Park** occupies four acres in a wooded hilly area on the southeastern side of town. The park is divided into three spaces: a pond to the south, a wooded picnic area with restrooms and horseshoe pits north of the pond, and a children’s play area across Wiltse Road from the picnic area. A seasonal stream winds through the picnic area from the pond, and a bridge across the stream provides access to the restroom facility. On-street parking is located between the play area and the picnic facilities.



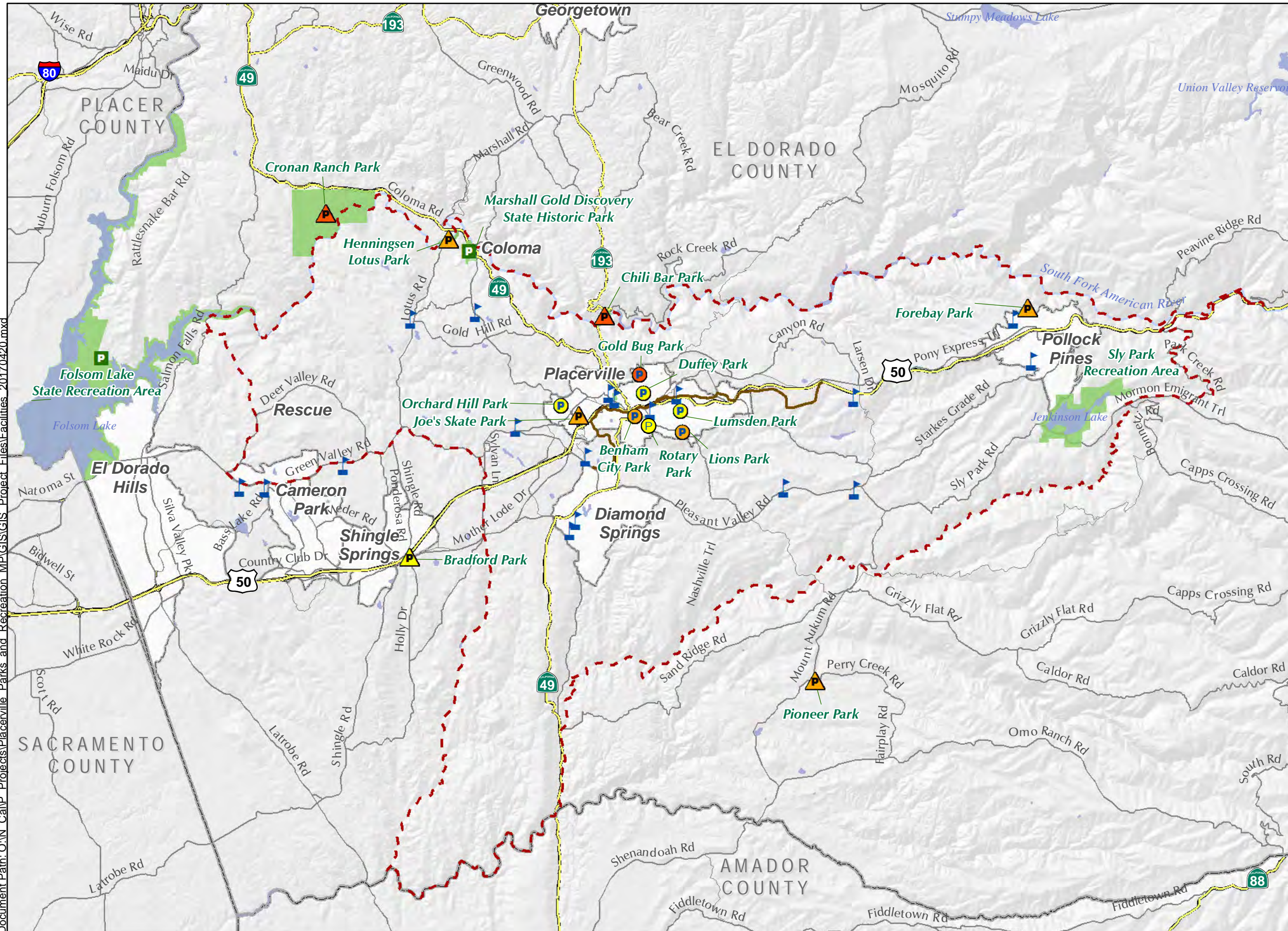
*Lumsden Park pond*



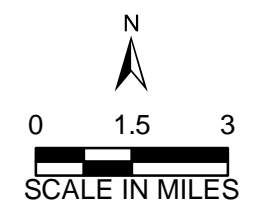
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# PLACERVILLE AREA PARKS MASTER PLAN

## FACILITIES



- FEATURES**
- Plan Area
  - Trails
  - Schools
- Existing Parks**
- City**
- Neighborhood
  - Community
  - Regional
- County**
- Neighborhood
  - Community
  - Regional
- State**
- Regional



Drawn By: MJ, RJM, AMP  
QA/QC: MUB  
Date: 04/20/17

### FIGURE 2



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**Table 2 — Placerville Area City and County Recreation Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name	Address	Total Acreage	Neighborhood Park Acreage	Community Park Acreage	Regional Park Acreage	Active Use Acreage	Passive Use Acreage	Within Placerville City Limits?	Amphitheater	Little League Ballfields	Regulation Hardball Ballfields	Softball 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/River Access	Paths/Trails	Natural/Nature Area	Off-Street Parking	Maintenance Shop	Remarks		
<b>EXISTING FACILITIES - CITY OF PLACERVILLE</b>																																										
Gold Bug Park	2635 Goldbug Lane	61.5		61.5		18.50	43.00	√																																	Meagher House Interpretive Center,	
Benham Park or City Park	3071 Benham Street	1.6		1.6		1.6		√							1		2		1	1	1	1	1																	Scout Hall/Aquatics Complex		
Rotary Park	3155 Clark Street	4.0	4.0			4.0		√		1					1																									Concession Stand, lighting for field		
Lions Park	3633 Cedar Ravine Road	24.0		24.0		24.0		√			2				1			2		1																				Corporation Yard		
Lumsden Park	3144 Wiltse	4.0	4.0			4.0		√							1						1																					
Duffey Park	Clay Street & Arizona	1.5	1.5			1.5		√							1						1																					
Orchard Hill	2355 Green Wing Lane	1.7	1.7			1.7		√							1		1				1																					
Subtotal		98.3	11.2	87.1	0.0	55.3	43.0		0	1	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	3	2	2	5	1	1	1	0	0	27	18	2	0	1	0	0	6	2							
<b>EXISTING FACILITIES - COUNTY OF EL DORADO</b>																																										
Henningsen Lotus Park	950 Lotus Road	49.1		49.1						1	1	1	1		1					1	1						8	8	1					2	√	√	√	√		boat launch, beach area, lighting for ball fields		
Joe's Skate Park	Placerville Drive	1.0		1.0				√																																		
Cronan Ranch <sup>1</sup>	Pedro Hill Road	64.1			64.1																																					
Chili Bar (Lower)	1669-1671 Chili Bar Court, State Hwy 193	9.7			9.7																																				boat launch, beach area	
Forebay Park	Forebay Road, Pollock Pines	12.6		12.6						1													1				4			6												
Subtotal		136.5	0.0	62.7	73.8				0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	12	8	1	6	0	1	0	3	0							
<b>Total Existing Facilities</b>		<b>234.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>149.8</b>	<b>73.8</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>							
<b>UNIMPROVED PARKLAND - COUNTY OF EL DORADO</b>																																										
Chili Bar (Upper)	1669-1671 Chili Bar Court, SR 193	6.0			6.0																																					
Pollock Pines Community Park (County)	Red Hook Trail	26.0		26.0																																						
<b>Total Unimproved Parkland</b>		<b>32.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>																																					

<sup>1</sup>Located immediately outside of but adjacent to plan area.

El Dorado Trail/Other	Miles in Placerville
Class I Bike Path	3.750
Class II Bike Lane	0.025
Class III Bike Route	0.500

Multi-use Natural Trails	Miles
Gold Bug Park	2.000
Lumsden Park	0.200

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Located on the west side of town on Green Wing Lane, the 1.7-acre Orchard **Hill Park** serves the local neighborhood with a multi-use field, two outdoor basketball courts, a tot lot, and individual picnic tables with barbecues. A massive oak tree occupies the center of the site. Head-in on-street parking is available. **Duffey Park** is a small 1.5-acre neighborhood park located between Clay and Pleasant Streets at Arizona Drive. The park contains a children’s play area with a perimeter accessible path, a multi-use field, and individual picnic tables.

### 3.2 *El Dorado County Parks*

El Dorado County owns and maintains three recreation facilities outside of the City of Placerville but within the plan area. The largest of these, **Henningsen Lotus Park**, occupies 49 acres on the site of an old gravel mining operation in the community of Lotus. Henningsen Lotus Park is a community facility containing little league ballfields, 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 park. Paved paths throughout the park are popular with cyclists and skaters. The ballfields are lighted, which allows nighttime 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 within the plan area. Parking is off-street. The park is heavily used during the summer season. The soccer fields, ballfields, and pavilion may be leased for private use.

**Joe’s Skate Park** is located at El Dorado County Fairgrounds and is very popular with local skateboarders. It is a supervised park open from 6:30 a.m. until sunset. The facility occupies about an acre and consists of fixed, in-ground skating facilities.



*Joe’s Skate Park*

The **Forebay Park** is located on Forebay Road in Pollock Pines adjacent to El Dorado Irrigation District’s Long Canyon Forebay. It is a 12.6-acre community park that serves residents of Pollock Pines and the surrounding unincorporated areas. The park includes a Little League ballfield, a multipurpose meeting building, six horseshoe pits, and picnic tables.

El Dorado County also owns two other regional parks that are located just outside of the plan area: Cronan Ranch and Chili Bar. While neither of these provides the type of neighborhood or community park facilities which are the focus of this plan, they are included for consideration in evaluating the County’s goals for providing regional recreation resources. The County owns a 64-acre portion of the **Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park** which is located northwest of the plan area 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.

**Chili Bar** is a rafting/kayaking put-in spot immediately downstream of the Highway 193 bridge over the South Fork of the American River. Owned by El Dorado County and operated by the American River Conservancy, Chili Bar is one of the most heavily used access points on the river. Off-street parking and minimal day use facilities are also available. The park operates only during the rafting season.

The County also owns a parcel next to El Dorado High School known as Bennett Park, which includes the high school’s football and baseball fields. Since the high school has maintained and overseen use of these facilities for many years, the County does not include the area in its inventory of publicly accessible park sites.

The 48-acre **El Dorado County Fairgrounds** is a regional facility 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.

### Unimproved Park Land

El Dorado County currently owns 26 acres of undeveloped park land in Pollock Pines. Given its proximity to Forebay Park, the County is exploring opportunities to sell or exchange this land to secure park land in some other area of the County that is underserved.

### 3.3 Other Public Recreational Resources

In addition to the City and County parks, plan area residents enjoy access to several other recreation facilities in the region.

**Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park** in Coloma is run by the State of California and 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 informal boat put-in and take-out beaches are available for rafters



*Marshall Monument in Coloma*

and kayakers. There are approximately five miles of trails throughout the park, and numerous off-street parking lots provide for dispersed parking throughout the site.

On the eastern end of the plan area, located south of the Pollock Pines community, the **Sly Park Recreation Area** (SPRA) is centered on the 640-acre Jenkinson Lake. The SPRA, run by the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) offers group and individual camping sites, nine miles of multi-use trails, an equestrian camping area, day use areas, boat ramps, boat rentals, meeting rooms, and fishing. Sly Park is a very popular summertime regional destination for camping, water sports, hiking, and equestrians. Planning is currently underway to relocate the Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp, operated by the El Dorado County Office of Education, to a site within SPRA.



*Jenkinson Lake at Sly Park*

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.

Outside of the plan area, there are several other important regional recreation resources. The **Folsom Lake State Recreation Area** 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, 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 trail is planned to connect the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area with Cronan Ranch along the South Fork of the American River.

Located just east of the City of Placerville, **El Dorado National Forest** is operated by the United States Forest Service and offers numerous recreational opportunities including fishing, swimming, hiking trails, biking, equestrian 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 Placerville and the surrounding areas.

### 3.4 Park Conditions

While some of the older Placerville area parks are in need of updating and replacement of worn equipment, all the parks are well maintained with little evidence of vandalism or neglect. The types of enhancements needed are, in general, consistent with the age of the parks, the heavy usage they receive, and deterioration from exposure to winter snows and summer sun. The specific improvements recommended for each park are detailed in Chapter 7 of this Master Plan, along with their relative priority.

### 3.5 Paths and Trails

There are several types of paths and trails available to plan area residents for both recreation and transportation purposes. The El Dorado Trail is conceived as a multi-modal corridor that would extend from the western County boundary to the Lake Tahoe Basin. The segment from the Sacramento-El Dorado County border to the west side of Placerville is part of the Sacramento-



*El Dorado Trail*

Placerville Transportation Corridor and occupies the former Southern Pacific rail alignment. The segment through Placerville and east to Camino is being developed by the City of Placerville and El Dorado County. Several segments already constructed include about 8.7 miles of paved, Class I bike trail that roughly parallels Highway 50 from Bedford Street to Las Trampas Drive, and from the intersection of Main Street and Forni Drive west to Missouri Flat Road in the community of Diamond Springs. Approximately 3.25 miles of these Class I bike trails are within the Placerville City limits. The trail continues east of the paved section as an unpaved trail for another 1.8 miles to Camino Heights. The

alignment from Camino east to Tahoe has not yet been determined, but the California Cross State Bicycle Trail study completed in 2005 suggested potential routes. The El Dorado Trail through downtown Placerville comprises about ½ mile of Class II bike lane, and ¼ mile of Class III bike route.

Additional unpaved nature trails are located in Gold Bug Park, Marshall Gold Discovery Park, and the Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park. Gold Bug Park has about 2 miles of walking paths. The Marshall Gold Discovery Historic State Park has approximately five miles of multi-use trails that may be used for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking. Approximately 11 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails are located within the Sly Park Recreation Area. Cronan Ranch along the South Fork of the American River has another 12 miles of multi-use trails with more trails planned for the future.

Many informal trails have been blazed throughout the unincorporated plan area, including those along EID ditches. An important effort in future trail planning will be to evaluate the feasibility of



acquiring easements for the more desirable of these undesignated trails. This will be considered as part of the County’s trails planning process.

### 3.6 Recreation Programs

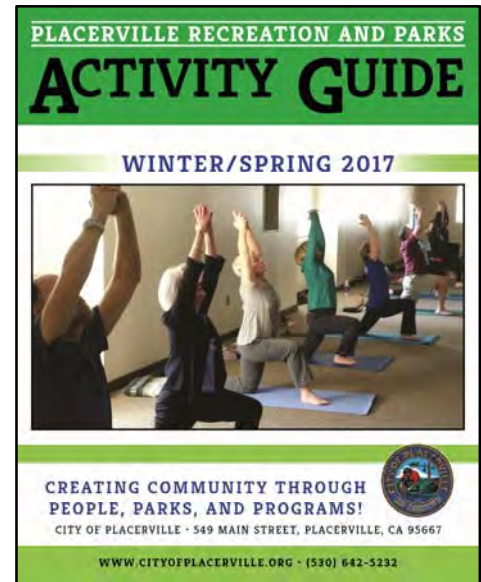
The City of Placerville runs a wide variety of recreation programs for City and County residents of all ages. These programs include football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, and sports camps. An extensive aquatics program is also available with swimming lessons, lap swim, water exercise, family swim, pool play, junior lifeguard and swim aides training. Self-improvement and life enrichment courses are offered including art, cooking, taekwondo, Pilates, and dance. The City also coordinates special events such as the Spring Fishing Derby at Lumsden Park, the October Spooktacular, the Festival of Lights, and the Community Day of Service. The Hangtown Christmas Parade is co-sponsored by the City with the Mountain Democrat.

The Placerville Recreation and Parks Department staff produces a comprehensive Activities Guide three times a year. The guide is mailed out to residents upon request, and to prior program participants. It is also posted on the City’s web site, and is available at Town Hall, Gold Bug Park, and the Chamber of Commerce. It lists classes, camps, aquatics programs, adult sports leagues, and upcoming special events as well as contacts for the youth and adult sports leagues that are not run by the City. Information on facility rentals and fees is also provided. Facilities available for rent include Town Hall, Scout Hall, Liberty Claim Pavilion at Gold Bug Park, the Lions Park gazebo, and the Placerville Aquatic Center. The City will also rent out barbecue equipment for large group events.

Fees are charged for most programs and are collected by the Recreation staff through the registration process. Youth fee assistance is available for qualified families through the Recreation for Youth Fund. City and County residents pay the same fees for all programs. Instructors are selected from the local and surrounding communities.

Due to the high demand for programs within the plan area and the limited number of City facilities available, programs are held at a combination of City, school, and private facilities. The various meeting rooms and kitchen at Town Hall are very heavily used as are the ballfields at Lions’ Park. The El Dorado High School gym and pool, and the Markham Junior High School gym are also heavily used. City programs rely on these facilities because the City pool is closed except during the summer season and there are no gymnasiums in City-owned facilities.

The City has agreements with a number of private entities to share recreational resources. Town Hall is utilized by a Bingo group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month, and Mountainside Spiritual Center uses the hall for Sunday services several times a month. Additionally, the City offers



*Placerville Activities Guide*



classes in several private facilities such as Foothill Taekwondo, All Star Gymnastics, the Placerville Performing Arts Center, and Stage Right Studio. Agreements for these off-site classes are made on a class-by-class basis.

The breadth and popularity of the City recreation programs is illustrated in the attendance figures for the three-year period of 2014 through 2016 (Table 3 through Table 7). Each individual attending a single class is counted as single occurrence. All program areas including youth and adult leisure enrichment classes, youth sports camps, aquatics, and sports leagues are well attended. Recreation staff continually review demand for programs and adjust the offerings to reflect community trends. Since most of the recreation program costs are paid from participant registration fees, only those programs that have sustained attendance are carried forward from season to season.

**Table 3 – Youth Classes Attendance**

<b>Youth Classes</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Karate/Taekwondo	93	57	53	203
Dancing	59	43	49	151
Babysitting	53	50	42	145
Ballet	8	13	15	36
Tea Party		15	17	32
Exercise/Aerobics		17	11	28
Other	28			28
Crafts/Sewing	14	5	8	27
Art Classes	18	3		21
Guitar for Kids	8	7	3	18
Cooking	11			11
Photography for Kids		7	3	10
Reading/Writing/Language	4			4
Drama	4			4

**Table 4 – Adult Classes Attendance**

<b>Adult Classes</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Yoga/Meditation	256	221	237	714
Exercise/Aerobics	178	174	152	504

<b>Adult Classes</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Dancing	51	135	184	370
Tai Chi	102	110	40	252
Computer	25	11	29	65
Karate/Taekwondo	3	13	41	57
Art Classes	26	25	5	56
Personal Health		25	28	53
Guitar/Music	19	13	19	51
Dog Obedience	7	19	20	46
Table Tennis	20	11	9	40
Photography	5	20	10	35
Pilates	9	3	5	17
Holiday Crafts	4	12		16
Crafts			9	9
Cooking	7			7
Writing Memoirs			4	4
Ballet		2		2

Table 5 – Youth Sports Camps Attendance

<b>Youth Camps</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Soccer	143	132	90	365
Basketball	75	33	49	157
T-Ball/Softball/Baseball	65	47	21	133
Tennis	44	52	33	129
Volleyball	28	34	45	107
Golf	21	17	16	54
Cheerleading		9		9
Bowling	6			6

Table 6 – Aquatics Programs Attendance

<b>Aquatics Programs</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Rec Swimming	14,609	14,934	14,810	44,353
Wading Pool Play	2,516	1,860	3,285	7,661
Swimming Lessons	1,340	1,515	1,587	4,442
Lap Swimming	851	663	1320	2,834

<b>Aquatics Programs</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Lifeguard Training	20	32	19	71
Junior Life Guard Camp	25	34	32	91
Water Aerobics	1,157	814	1,068	3,039

Table 7 – Sports Leagues Participation

	<b>Number of Teams</b>			
<b>Adult Sports</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Softball	242	234	220	696
5 on 5 Basketball	21	17	14	52
3 on 3 Basketball	53	42	44	139
Volleyball	33	26	22	81
	<b>Number of Teams</b>			
<b>Youth Sports</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Basketball	76	75	80	231

### 3.7 Private Recreation Facilities and Programs

The Placerville area is rich with diverse recreation opportunities for all ages and interests. There are many privately operated recreation businesses serving the plan area and complementing the public recreation resources. Several private campgrounds provide camping and access to the American River, including Coloma Resort, Ponderosa Park, and Camp Lotus. Numerous private rafting outfitters offer trips on the South Fork of the American River. Two private golf courses that are also open to the public are located within the plan area, including the 18-hole Cold Springs Golf and Country Club in Placerville, and the 9-hole Camino Heights Golf Club in Camino. The 18-hole Apple Mountain Golf Resort in Camino is the only public course in the plan area.

Local farmers and food producers host regular Farmers Markets as well as many seasonal activities to promote their wares including apple, wine, microbrews, olive oil, and Christmas trees. The Olde Coloma Theater in Coloma presents plays in a historical setting during the summer season and also runs educational performances for schools. The Fountain-Tallman Museum, operated by the El Dorado County Historical Society, and the El Dorado County Historical Museum are both located in Placerville and house interesting collections highlighting local history. Located across the river from the State Historic Park, Coloma Outdoor Discovery School is a private, non-profit learning center that provides educational programs to school children. Many other recreation opportunities are available through local stables, health clubs, and fitness studios.

Additional recreational opportunities are available for Placerville area youth including the Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado County Western Slope, 4-H Youth Development, Girl Scouts, and Boy

Scouts. In November 2016, the Boys and Girls Club moved into a new 15,000 square foot clubhouse facility in Placerville. The facility boasts a full-size gymnasium, commercial kitchen, computer lab, music room, art room, game room, and teen room (Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado County 2017). Various hobby clubs in the area include the 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. Bingo is held at the City of Placerville Town Hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

There are a number of private sports leagues that operate in the Placerville Area. Gold Rush Little League and Snowline Little League organize T-Ball, Farm, Minor, and Major teams. The Sierra Gold, High Sierra, and Prospectors Soccer Clubs offer 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, and El Dorado Junior Cougars Football and Cheer. The Dry Diggins Dolphins swim program is a parent-run program that uses the local high school pools. Other organized sports activities are coordinated by the Sierra Storm Girls’ Basketball Club, the Special Olympics, and Hangtown Women’s Tennis Club.

Many special events are available to plan area residents and visitors, in addition to those coordinated by the City Recreation staff. The Placerville Downtown Association organizes numerous community activities throughout the year designed to bring local residents and visitors to the business core on Main Street. These include the Placerville Art Walk, the Bell Tower Breakfast, the Craft Faire, the Antique Street Faire, and the Art and Wine Festival. Activities coordinated by the Fairgrounds Association include bingo, horse shows, and a monthly flea market. A private company operates the Placerville Speedway at the fairgrounds and offers a six-month season of auto and motorcycle racing events. The Imagination Theater at the fairgrounds provides musical performances, plays, and acting workshops.



*Apple Hill Orchards*

### **3.8 School Resources**

Eight public school districts provide educational services in the City of Placerville and surrounding areas.<sup>6</sup> Placerville Union School District serves 1,160 students from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade with two elementary and two middle schools. The El Dorado Union High School District serves 7,248 students in and around Placerville with eight high schools, including three alternative schools and one charter school. The High School District also provides

<sup>6</sup> El Dorado County Office of Education, <http://www.edcoe.k12.ca.us/districts/eduhds.html>

adult education and occupational training services. Gold Trail Union Elementary School District provides one elementary school for kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and one school for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade with a total of 564 students. Gold Oak Union Elementary School District serves 720 students with two middle schools and one elementary school.

The Camino Union School District has 508 students in one school with kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Mother Lode Union School District has two elementary schools and one middle school for a total of 1,574 students. Pollock Pines School District has two schools serving 799 students in kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Rescue Union School District has two elementary schools and one middle school serving plan area residents as well as several schools outside of the plan area.

School campuses provide many recreational amenities to the community in the form of sports fields and courts, and performance and meeting areas. The use of some school facilities for recreation purposes is governed by joint use agreements with the City of Placerville. Under these agreements, programs sponsored by the City have priority to use these facilities second only to the school district programs.

The City currently has a joint use agreement with Placerville Union School District to utilize the gymnasium at Markham Junior High School for a period of 40 years beginning in fall of 2004. The City also has a joint use agreement with the El Dorado Union High School District to use classrooms and other building facilities, the pool, gymnasiums, school grounds, and play fields of El Dorado High School (EDHS) in exchange for allowing the School District to utilize City recreational facilities such as play fields, the swimming pool, parks, meeting rooms, and community centers. Several of the EDHS facilities covered under this joint use agreement are actually located in the county-owned parcel called Bennett Park, but EDHS controls use of these fields. This agreement has a term of 15 years beginning in 2000. Of the facilities available at EDHS, the City currently utilizes one football/soccer field, six tennis courts, the swimming pool, two gymnasiums with indoor basketball courts, and the amphitheater. The joint use agreement with EDHS requires that the City pay for facility improvements or equipment in lieu of hourly rental fees. In addition, the City has informal agreements with 13 other area schools to use facilities in exchange for an hourly rental rate.

## 4 Community Character

### 4.1 *The City of Placerville and Region*

The City of Placerville is the only incorporated municipality in the plan area. Placerville is located on the State Highway 50 corridor between the cities of Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe. Situated in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the City is the seat of government for El Dorado County. The South Fork of the American River lies a short distance to the north of the City, and the river canyon forms a natural topographic boundary to urban expansion. The City of Placerville was named for the placer gold deposits found in the South Fork of the American River.

California Highways 50 and 49 intersect in Placerville. Highway 50 is the major route linking Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe and provides access to the many campgrounds, lakes, hiking trails, ski resorts, and other recreational amenities in the Sierra Nevada. Historic Highway 49 runs north-south through the foothills, linking many historic mining towns such as Jackson, Sutter Creek, Plymouth, Placerville, Coloma, Auburn, Grass Valley, and Nevada City. This historic highway is a major touring route, especially on the weekends.

The City of Placerville traces its origins back to the discovery gold on the north branch of Weber Creek in June, 1849. The resultant mining camp became known as “Old Dry Diggings” due to the lack of consistent water in the creek needed to wash the mined soil. In 1849, three thieves were hung following an impromptu frontier style “trial” and the camp became known as Hangtown. In 1852, the settlement was incorporated by petition as the Town of Placerville. In 1854, it was incorporated as the City of Placerville by legislative act. The county seat was moved to Placerville from



*Historic Court House in Placerville*

Coloma in 1857. The City of Placerville has a population of about 11,000 and the total population of the Placerville area, the area between other neighboring communities (Figure 1) is about 22,500. Other communities within the unincorporated plan area include Coloma-Lotus, Diamond Springs, and Pollock Pines, which includes the adjacent Camino area. The Pollock Pines community is located east of Placerville on Highway 50 and includes about 17,500 residents. Diamond Springs is immediately south of Placerville and is home to about 13,000 residents. The Coloma-Lotus community is northwest of Placerville on Highway 49 and includes about 8,500 residents (Table 8). Many residents of these communities live on large parcels zoned either for rural-residential or agricultural uses.

The plan area elevation varies from about 764 feet above mean sea level at Coloma to over 4,000 feet east of Pollock Pines. Placerville is located at an elevation of 1,850 feet. Native vegetation in the area includes chaparral and mixed conifer-oak woodland plant communities. The northern Sierra

Nevada foothill region has a pleasant climate with four distinct seasons ideally suited to a wide range of year-round recreation activities. Winters usually bring several feet of snow to the highest elevations with occasional dustings at the lower elevations. Summers are typically dry and hot.

The economy of the plan area is based on the urban services in the City of Placerville, agriculture in the rural areas, and a considerable amount of tourism. Visitors flock to the area for whitewater rafting, hiking, camping, and historic sightseeing. In winter months, many travelers pass through the area on their way to world-class skiing in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

## ***4.2 Population Trends***

The City of Placerville provides park and recreation resources for City residents and for a significant number of people who reside in nearby unincorporated areas of El Dorado County, including Coloma-Lotus, Diamond Springs, and Pollock Pines. For the purpose of assessing future demand on the City and County for park and recreation resources, the plan area for this Master Plan Update has been defined as areas within the boundary shown in Figure 1.

When the most recent census was conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2010, population in the plan area totaled 58,918 people.<sup>7</sup> This represents about a 6 percent decline from the 2008 pre-recession population of 62,730 people. One adverse impact of the recession on rural communities was the loss of population as people moved to more urban areas in search of better employment opportunities. The decline in population continued through 2012, when improvement in the economy and better housing costs began to slowly reverse the trend. As of 2017, the plan area population was still slightly less (2 percent) than in 2008. However, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), a regional planning entity, has projected that the area will continue to increase by approximately 10 percent from 2017 to 2032. Table 8 shows the expected population growth for the four Regional Analysis Districts (RADs) that make up the plan area.

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<sup>7</sup> SACOG Regional Analysis District boundaries have been slightly modified since 2008. Adjustments have been made to map the RADs to U.S. Census geography as closely as possible, however, boundaries are not entirely identical.



Table 8 – SACOG Population Projections

YEAR	SACOG Regional Analysis District					City of Placerville
	Coloma-Lotus <sup>1</sup>	Diamond Springs	Placerville Area	Pollock Pines	TOTAL	
2008	8,393	13,583	23,226	17,528	62,730	10,275
2017	8,631	12,767	22,593	17,439	61,431	10,808
2032	8,924	15,332	24,776	18,491	67,524	12,529
Projected Growth 2017 to 2032	3%	19%	9%	6%	10%	17%

<sup>1</sup> The Coloma-Lotus RAD includes portions of two census block groups outside the plan area, so population quantities shown for this RAD are approximately 20% larger than the actual population of this RAD within the plan area.

Sources: Sacramento Council of Governments, SACOG Modeling Projections for 2012, 2020, and 2036. Sacramento, California, February 2016.

State of California, Department of Finance, E-8 City/County Population and Housing Estimates and E-5 City/County Population and Housing Estimates. May 2016.

State of California, Department of Finance, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2008, with 2000 Benchmark. May 2008.



Lumsden Park

The long-term trend suggests growth will move forward at a steady pace in the plan area with growth in the Diamond Springs RAD and City of Placerville outpacing the remainder of the plan area. The plan area total population is expected to be 67,524 by 2032. The scenic beauty, low crime rate, and rural lifestyle of the entire plan area make it a highly desirable location to raise a family as well as retire. There are several constraints to growth at this time including lack of local employment opportunities and the limited local transportation network. However, the Placerville, Diamond Springs, and Pollock Pines areas are conveniently located on the Highway 50 corridor facilitating easy access to employment centers to the west. There is also a relatively large amount of privately owned unimproved land in these areas that will be suitable for future residential and commercial development. The Coloma-Lotus area will continue to be attractive to “baby boomer” retirees and others who are less concerned with seeking employment outside the home.

Within the City limits of Placerville, growth is anticipated due to the walkability of the neighborhoods and number of services offered by the community making it especially desirable. Development of new housing will be constrained by the relatively small size of the City, the number of already developed parcels, and physical constraints such as steep slopes or limited access. Land use projections are presented later in this chapter.



*Children's Holiday Crafts Class*

Any increase in population throughout the plan area, will lead to proportionally greater demand for parks and recreation services in the coming years. Most of this demand is likely to come from new County residents, with a lesser amount from new City residents. Both jurisdictions will need to have policies in place to assess appropriate levels of impact fees and land dedication to provide the new park facilities that will be needed. The new residents will also place a strain on the City's ability to provide recreation programs, potentially requiring more staff as well as strategies to secure the facilities needed as program venues. Depending on the patterns of development, establishment of new community service districts in the unincorporated areas may also be warranted.

### 4.3 *Demographics*

The U.S. Census provides various demographic data relevant to parks and recreation planning for the plan area. The data provide a way to understand the

character and community of the people who live in the plan area. These data may be used to anticipate the types of demand for both facilities and programs since users' preferences for both are often tied to their age, income, and cultural identity. These data may be used to anticipate the need for facilities and programs based on the household composition and socioeconomic climate of the community.

### Age Distribution and Projections

Table 9 shows the age distribution for the plan area in 2015. At that time, approximately 20 percent of the population was under the age of 20 (a 7 percent decrease from 2000); 32.4 percent was between the ages of 20 and 49 (a 5.1 percent decrease from 2000); and 46.6 percent was 50 or older (an 11.2 percent increase from 2000).

In 2015, the age distribution for all of El Dorado County was approximately 23.7 percent under the age of 20 (a 5.3 percent decrease from 2000); 33.8 percent was between the ages of 20 and 49 (a 7.2 percent decrease from 2000); and 42.5 percent was 50 or older (a 12.5 percent increase from 2000) (U.S. Census Bureau 2015).

Age distribution trends between 2000 and 2015 indicate populations in both the plan area and El Dorado County are aging in place. Table 9 indicates the greatest age group decrease is for the population under the age of 20. The 2015 plan area population for people under 20 is 78 percent what it was in 2000. The local trend follows a national trend in lower rates of reproduction. National reproductive rates have declined about 10 percent from 1990 to 2014 (United States Department of Health and Human Services 2017). Table 9 indicates the greatest age group increase is for the population over the age of 50. The higher proportion of people in the 50+ age bracket within the plan area may imply that Placerville and its environs are a desirable place to retire and stay once

children are raised.

Table 9 and Figure 3 suggest other interesting minor trends in age groups within the communities of the plan area. The Coloma-Lotus area has the lowest percentage of population under five years of age but the highest percentage of school-aged children (ages 5 to 19). “Baby boomers” (approximately ages 50 to 69) are drawn to the Coloma-Lotus and Pollock Pines areas. Pollock Pines remains an attractive location for people 70+, but Coloma-Lotus loses population in this group. Diamond Springs has the highest percentage of population in 70+ age group. Placerville area age group percentages are close to the median for the plan area with the exception of having a slightly higher number of children ages five to nine.

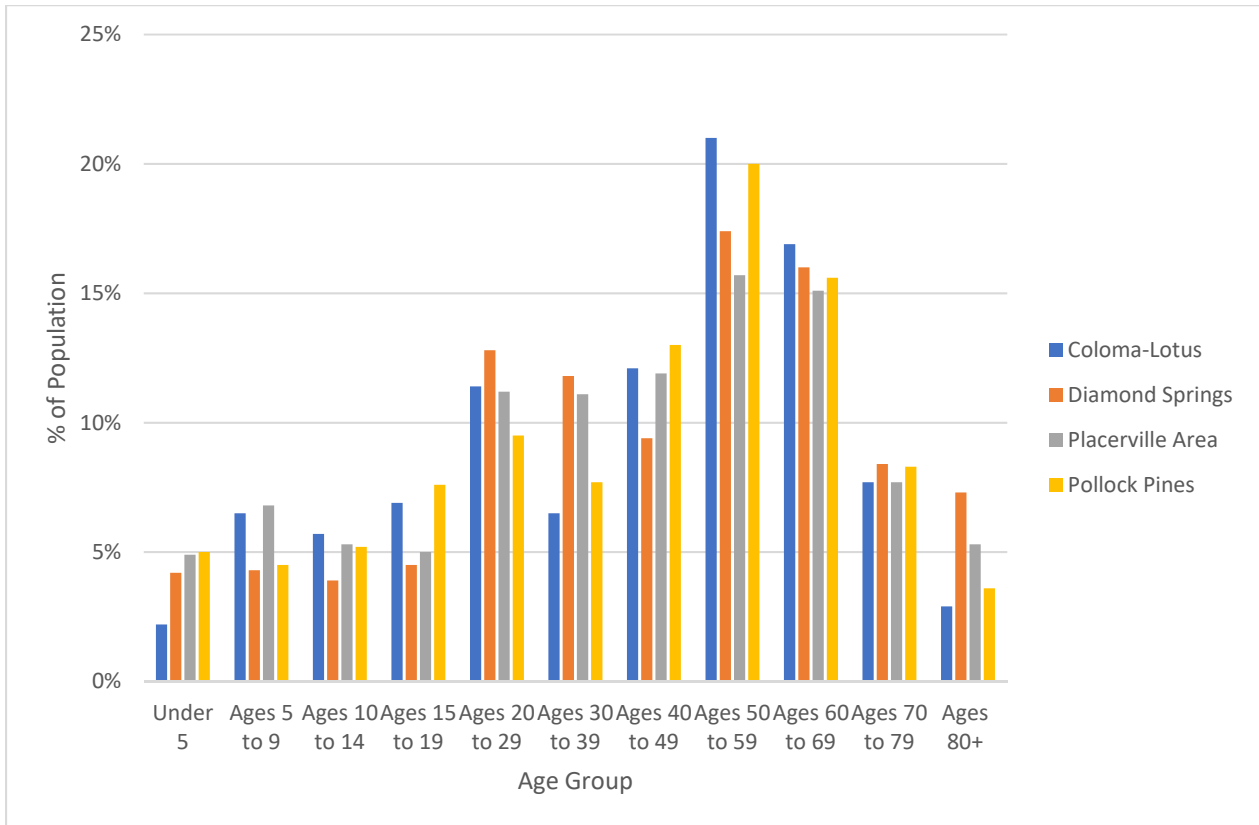
Based on this analysis of age group distribution, it appears that there is likely to be demand for activities, programs, and facilities to serve the needs of all age groups in all the communities addressed in this Master Plan.

Table 9 – Plan Area Age Distribution<sup>1</sup>

Age Group	Coloma-Lotus		Diamond Springs		Placerville Area		Pollock Pines		Plan Area (Total)	
		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total
Under 5	194	2.2%	521	4.2%	810	4.9%	810	5.0%	2,617	4.4%
Ages 5 to 9	571	6.5%	537	4.3%	730	6.8%	730	4.5%	3,348	5.6%
Ages 10 to 14	496	5.7%	482	3.9%	839	5.3%	839	5.2%	3,007	5.0%
Ages 15 to 19	605	6.9%	556	4.5%	1,221	5.0%	1,221	7.6%	3,490	5.9%
Ages 20 to 29	998	11.4%	1,590	12.8%	1,530	11.2%	1,530	9.5%	6,620	11.1%
Ages 30 to 39	571	6.5%	1,460	11.8%	1,241	11.1%	1,241	7.7%	5,750	9.6%
Ages 40 to 49	1,059	12.1%	1,160	9.4%	2,104	11.9%	2,104	13.0%	6,989	11.7%
Ages 50 to 59	1,830	21.0%	2,159	17.4%	3,234	15.7%	3,234	20.0%	10,740	18.0%
Ages 60 to 69	1,472	16.9%	1,986	16.0%	2,524	15.1%	2,524	15.6%	9,358	15.7%
Ages 70 to 79	669	7.7%	1,039	8.4%	1,344	7.7%	1,344	8.3%	4,780	8.0%
Ages 80+	255	2.9%	900	7.3%	575	5.3%	575	3.6%	2,915	4.9%
Totals	8,720	100%	12,390	100%	22,352	100%	16,152	100%	59,614	100%

<sup>1</sup> Does not total 100.0% due to rounding  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

Figure 3 – Plan Area Age Group Distribution



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

Projections for each major age group in El Dorado County as produced by the State of California Department of Finance are shown in Figure 4. The Department of Finance data reflect the projection for the entire County, and not just the plan area. However, it provides a reasonable approximation of what is likely to occur in the plan area.



*Lions Park tennis players*

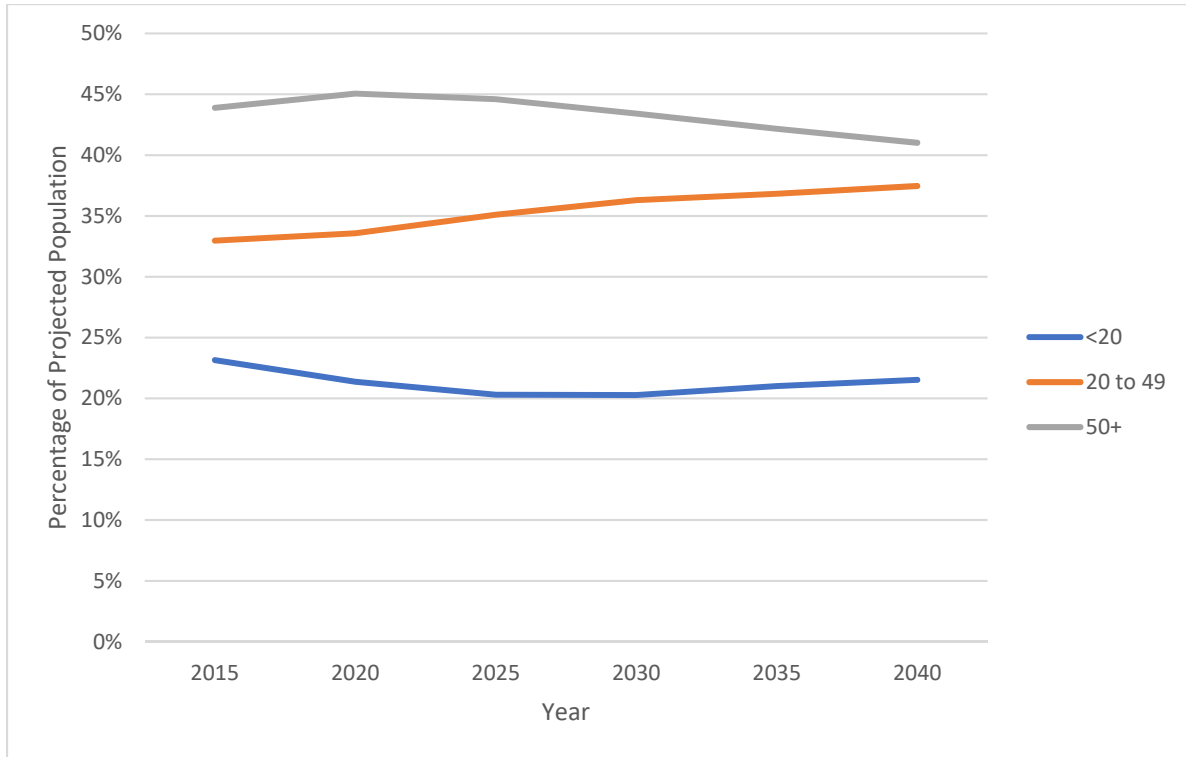
As can be seen, the proportion of people over the age of 50, which has been increasing since 2000, is expected to taper off after 2020, but remain the largest age group overall. The proportion of the 20 to 49 age group to the total population has been declining since 2000, but is now slowly rising again to just over one third of the population. At the same time, the steady decrease of children and teens as a proportion of total population will continue towards a projected low of 20 percent by 2030. However, increased population is likely to offset this decline

in terms of numbers of youth requiring services.

The need for youth play and sports facilities will likely remain similar to that seen over the previous 10 to 20-year period. Demand may increase at a faster rate for older adult fitness and recreational facilities and programs. The mature adult age group includes many retired or semi-retired people who have abundant leisure time and an interest in maintaining their health and fitness. Because of advances in medicine, people in this age group are more physically active than people of the same age in previous generations. Many studies have been published in recent years showing the value of preventative care in delaying age-related physical and mental decline. The mature adult community will likely be seeking age-appropriate activities and facilities that help them maintain physical and mental flexibility and strength. An important aspect of preserving mental health is maintaining social ties and continuing social interaction. Older adults often become more isolated as friends and family pass away. A heightened emphasis on programs that provide social and continued learning opportunities for mature adults may be warranted as this population increases.

This increasing need for mature adult facilities and programs may partially be met by retrofitting existing parks with par courses and other active adult fitness equipment, constructing additional trails, and expanding adult recreation programs. Additional community center facilities may be needed to meet the increasing recreational program demand.

Figure 4 – Age Group Projections for El Dorado County



Source: State of California, Department of Finance 2017a.

### Housing Vacancy Rate and Ownership

Housing vacancies increased nearly two-fold between 2000 and 2010 in both the plan area and throughout El Dorado County. This increase was to a large extent driven by the economic and mortgage lending issues associated with the national recession (Table 10). Housing vacancy rates rose in many areas in the SACOG planning region due to the economic downturn, but have since begun to fall with the improved economy. The 2015 plan area vacancy rate shows an improvement over 2010, but the vacancy rate for the overall County in 2015 was still increasing. Calculations for vacancy do not include vacation or seasonal home.

Table 10 – Housing Vacancy Rate

Year	Plan Area	El Dorado County
2000	3.7%	3.8%
2010	7.5%	6.0%
2015	6.7%	6.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015, 2010, 2000

Vacant housing could indicate social and economic stress in the community, decreasing property values, and erosion of neighborhood cohesiveness. These indicators may be felt by the City as decreased property tax revenue and increased issues with vandalism. Since the Placerville area

remains a very desirable housing market, vacant housing rates over the next 5-year period may be expected to continue to decline if the economy and employment opportunities remain stable.

Levels of home ownership remain strong within the plan area and El Dorado County as a whole, with little to no change between 2000 and 2015 (Table 11). Owner occupied housing is about 75 percent of total housing stock for both the plan area and El Dorado County. Home ownership can indicate how vested people are in the community. Communities with higher levels of home ownership have committed residents who are often more willing to invest in improvements that will result in long term benefits for their community.

**Table 11 – Home Ownership**

Year	Plan Area		El Dorado County	
	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied
2000	77.1%	22.9%	74.7%	25.3%
2010	79.3%	20.7%	76.5%	23.5%
2015	75.1%	24.9%	74.3%	25.7%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2015, 2010, 2000

## Household Composition

Residents within the plan area live within a variety of households, ranging from a single person living alone to extended multigenerational families. Understanding the community household composition may provide clues to specific opportunities or issues affecting parks and recreation planning.

Some recreation activities and facilities can be targeted to appeal to families including grandparents, parents, and children, while others may be designed to appeal to people who do not typically enjoy recreation in a family setting. About 69 percent of the households in the plan area are family households which indicates the need for recreation opportunities that engage families (Table 12). The 31 percent of residents not living in family households may appreciate recreation opportunities more targeted to individual participation or facilitating social engagement.

**Table 12 – Household Composition in Plan Area**

Category	% of Total Households
Family Households	69.0
With Children Under 18 Years	27.4
Single Parent w/Children Under 18 Years	8.2
Non-Family Households	31.0
Households with Individuals 65 Years and Over	32.9
Individuals 65 years and over living alone	11.4
Average Household Size = 2.49	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010

About one third of households have a family member over the age of 65 and one third of those are individuals 65 and over living alone. As described earlier in Age Distribution and Projections, over

the past 15 years, the plan area population has aged in place. People over 65 are the fastest growing demographic group in the plan area and are a critical part of the community with many still working, devoting time to caring for other family members, volunteering, and serving the community in numerous ways. Conversely, some residents over 65 are unable to work, living alone, isolated, or experiencing financial hardships making day-to-day life challenging. To successfully meet park and recreation needs in the community, the City must understand and engage the needs of residents over the age of 65. Opportunities for intergenerational recreation, health and fitness classes and activities, and social events should be explored.

Households with children under 18 years of age comprise about 27 percent of all households in the plan area. About 30 percent of these are single-parent households. Households with children have a need for a variety of recreation opportunities focused on youth to complement school or other club activities. These households may also have the need for day care and after school programs. Single-parent households have a particular need for recreational opportunities that are low cost, easy to get to, and potentially suitable for multiple age groups.

### Education, Employment, and Income

The education, employment, and income characteristics of plan area residents are relevant for park and recreation planning because they are potential indicators of interests, access to leisure time, ability to afford recreational expenses, and overall quality of life.

Educational attainment has a strong correlation to employment and income. About 52 percent of plan area residents over the age of 25 years do not have a college degree (Table 13). For these people, there may be opportunities for the City to partner with continuing education organizations, such as Folsom Lake College, offering special interest courses or degree equivalency programs that could be held at City facilities. Residents with higher levels of educational attainment may be interested in continuing education classes or in acting as instructors for programs focused on their special skills or experience.

**Table 13 – Educational Attainment of Plan Area Residents 25 Years and Older**

<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>% of Population</b>
Grade K-8	2.4
Grade 9-12	8.7
High School Graduate	33.2
Some College, No Degree	8.0
Associates Degree	14.3
Bachelor's Degree	21.1
Graduate Degree	12.4

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015*

Educational attainment is often tied to employment status. Over three quarters of people 16 years of age and older in the plan area are in the labor force, meaning these people are either employed or seeking employment (Table 14). People not considered to be in the labor force include students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers not looking for work, and institutionalized people. Twelve percent of the labor force is currently unemployed. Unemployment alone is not an indicator



of economic stability. Some households are well above the poverty line or even affluent with a single income, while the working poor may have multiple jobs and still be under the poverty line.

**Table 14 – Employment Status of Plan Area Residents**

Age Group	Total Population	Available to Work			
		Population	% of Total Population	% Employed	% Unemployed
16-19 Years	2,746	1,018	37.1	62.8	37.2
20-64 Years	36,593	25,945	70.9	88.7	11.3
65 Years and Older	12,213	2,527	20.7	90.4	9.6
Total 16 Years or Older	51,552	39,176	76.0	88.0	12.0

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

Employment status is directly tied to annual income. More than 60 percent of households in the plan area have an income of less than \$75,000 and about 20 percent make less than \$25,000 which places them near or below the federal poverty level (Table 15). Given the relatively high cost of living in California, the real number of households that are struggling to meet financial needs is probably higher than this.

**Table 15 – Annual Income of Plan Area Households**

Household Income	% of Households <sup>1</sup>
Less than \$10,000	5.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.8
\$15,000 to \$24,999	9.9
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9.8
\$35,000 to \$49,000	12.3
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18.4
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.8
\$100,000 to \$149,000	15.3
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6.0
More than \$200,000	6.1

<sup>1</sup> Does not total 100.0% due to rounding

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

The ability of these residents to participate in recreation programs and events may be severely limited by fees, cost of equipment, and/or lack of transportation. For these people, scholarships, work exchange, and other options should be explored as strategies to improve access to City facilities and programs. The City could promote public park and recreation facilities and programs as a low cost or no cost alternatives to the private gym.

## Cultural Identity

Cultural experiences often associated with race and ethnicity can influence recreation preferences. For example, attitudes about nature, favorite sports and hobbies, and family activities are often a reflection of one’s cultural influences. Figure 5 shows Department of Finance race/ethnicity

projections for El Dorado County from 2015 through 2040. The El Dorado County population is primarily white (Table 16); however, the proportion of white to other races has been decreasing slightly since 2000, and that trend is expected to continue at a steady rate. Hispanic/Latino is the next highest percentage ethnic group, having increased from under 10 percent in 2000 to a projected 15 percent by 2025. Other races and ethnic groups are a small proportion of the population and are not expected to increase significantly over the next 15 years.

This information is useful for park and recreation planning purposes because it suggests that the City may need to consider multi-cultural preferences when designing new parks and facilities, retrofitting existing facilities, and developing programs. For example, large group facilities may be desired by cultures that emphasize multi-generational families, while other cultures may prefer facilities designed for small-group or individual recreation. As cultural demographics change, the City of Placerville and El Dorado County should make efforts to include various cultural groups in park and program planning.

**Table 16 – Plan Area Race and Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity**

<b>Race or Ethnicity</b>	<b>% of Population</b>
White	84.7
Hispanic or Latino <sup>1</sup>	9.9
Black or African American	0.2
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.8
Asian	1.3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.3
Some Other Race	0.0
Two or More Races	2.7

<sup>1</sup> *Hispanic or Latino identifying individuals of any race*

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015*

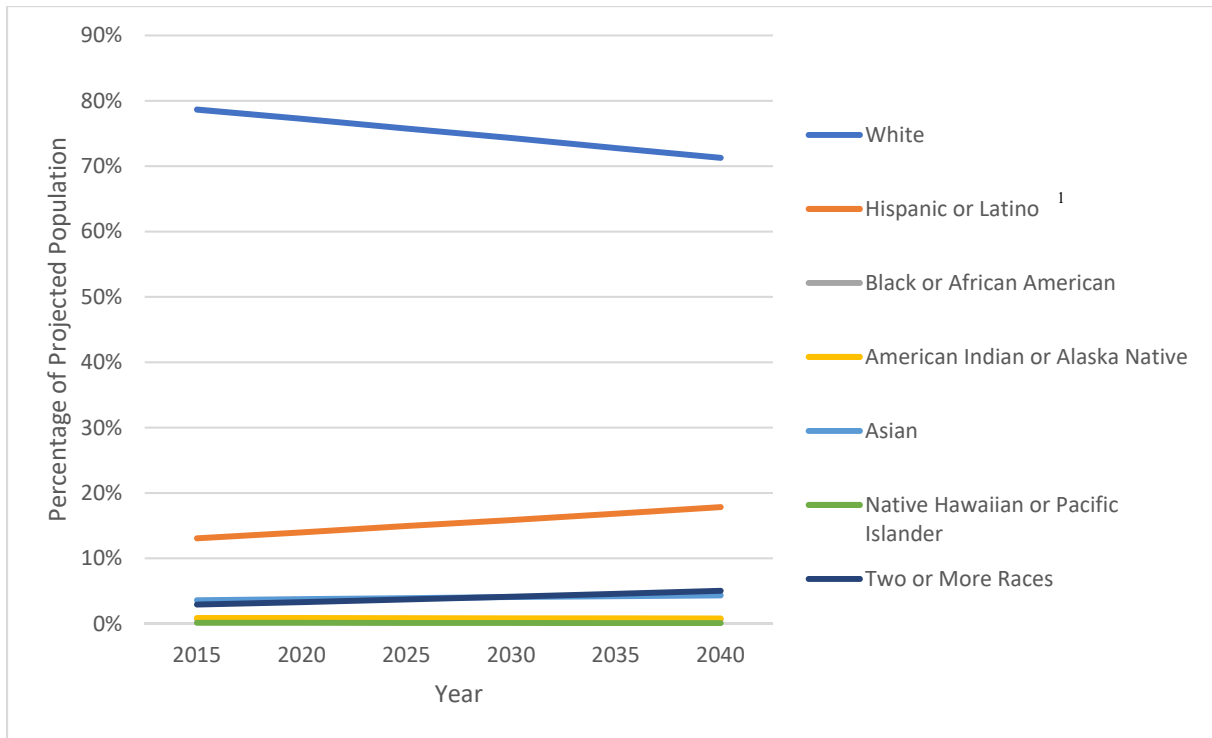
As of 2015, only about 1 percent of the plan area population does not speak English very well (Table 17). Language isolation does not appear to be a concern within the plan area at this time.

**Table 17 – Language Isolation among Plan Area Residents**

	<b>Ages 5-17</b>	<b>Ages 18-64</b>	<b>Ages 65 and Over</b>
Speak English Only	87.4%	91.7%	93.8%
Speak English and another Language Well	11.6%	7.2%	4.7%
Speak English less than Very Well	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015*

Figure 5 – Race/Ethnicity Projections for El Dorado County



<sup>1</sup>Hispanic or Latino identifying individuals of any race  
 Source: State of California, Department of Finance 2017b.

## 4.4 Land Use Projections

### City of Placerville

When the City of Placerville General Plan Housing Element was last updated in 2014, it identified that under SACOG’s Regional Housing Needs Plan, Placerville’s remaining share of the region’s housing construction needs is 321 housing units between 2013 and 2023. The City has identified an additional 27 acres of land that could potentially be rezoned to accommodate an additional 485 housing units (City of Placerville 2014).

The City is currently processing or has approved projects with a combined total of 164 housing units and 175,815 square feet of commercial development. In addition to these projects the City has adopted a housing opportunity (HO) overlay zone to the zoning ordinance. The HO overlay zone allows property owners an alternative development option for higher density housing (20-24 units an acre) on parcels within the zone in an effort to accommodate the City’s unmet housing need for lower income households and develop a minimum mix of affordable housing units (City of Placerville 2017a).

The City has identified several opportunities for a variety of housing types within the City on vacant land. The 2017 inventory identifies the potential for 635 new housing units on vacant land (City of Placerville 2017b).

**Table 18 – Potential New Population Associated with New Housing**

	<b>Housing Units</b>	<b>Potential New Population<sup>1</sup></b>
City Rezoned Land Potential	485	1,208
Current Pending and Approved Projects	164	408
Vacant Land Potential	635	1,582
<b>Total Potential Population Increase:</b>		<b>3,198</b>

<sup>1</sup>Potential population based on plan area average household size of 2.49 people as of the 2010 Census, See also Table 12

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010

If all properties identified for a potential rezoning, pending and approved projects, and vacant land potential were developed into housing units, the potential population increase in the City would be about 3,200 people (Table 27). This increase is slightly more than the increase projected by SACOG for the City (Table 8). No matter the exact increase in population realized, additional park and recreation facilities would be required to accommodate new residents and provide existing residents with the same level of service they have been accustomed to.

## El Dorado County

The El Dorado County General Plan Housing element was updated in 2013. Under SACOG’s Regional Housing Needs Plan, the West Slope portion of the unincorporated County needs an additional 3,948 housing units by year 2021 (El Dorado County 2013). The County has a number of pending projects within the plan area including 635 new housing units and 30,560 square feet of commercial space. Based on the average household size of the plan area according to the 2010 U.S. Census (Table 12), the pending housing projects in the unincorporated portions of the plan area would increase the population by approximately 1,580. These new residents would likely partly rely on park and recreation services in the City of Placerville.

## 5 Community Needs and Preferences

The preferences of the residents of the plan area are critical in developing a master plan for future park and recreation development that meets the needs of the community. For the 2009 Master Plan, three methods were utilized to determine users' visions for the plan area parks and recreation. 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 conducted to introduce the planning effort and solicit feedback. The input from these sources remains valid, and is reiterated in this 2017 Master Plan Update. It is also supplemented by input received from community members at an open house event held in April 2017.



*2017 Community Open House at Town Hall*

### 5.1 *Written/Web Survey 2008*

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. Participants were asked questions in six categories. These were: 1) overall park and recreation experience satisfaction, 2) park development and funding, 3) individual park evaluations, 4) recreation program experience, 5) additional park facilities, and 6) personal information. Personal information was collected for statistical purposes only. A copy of the survey and a full summary of the results are included in Appendix A.

Table 19 shows the results of the questions asked about overall satisfaction with plan area parks and programs. Responses to all questions were positive, which suggests there are currently no major areas of dissatisfaction among those who responded to the survey. Questions related to recreation programs received a somewhat higher level of approval than those related to parks. 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 19 – Overall Park and Recreation Experience

Survey Statement	Score <sup>1</sup>
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
7. You know where to get information about recreation programs provided by the City of Placerville.	3.43
8. You are satisfied with the variety of recreation programs offered by the City of Placerville.	3.08
9. The City's recreation programs are offered at locations that are convenient for you.	3.17
10. The City's recreation programs are offered at times that are convenient for you.	3.07

<sup>1</sup> Scoring from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree)

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 20). 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. However, Gold Bug appears to be visited by many people, though not frequently (58 percent of respondents had visited occasionally). Moderate usage was reported for Rotary Park (50 percent) and Lumsden Park (38 percent) consistent with the smaller size and fewer improvements found at these parks. Orchard Hill Park, a very small neighborhood park, was visited by 8 percent of respondents. Duffey Park was not open in 2008 at the time of the survey.

Table 20 – Park Visitation

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

Very few people noted concerns about park conditions (Table 21). 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 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. The Skate Park is currently only open on Saturdays. This concern may relate to a perceived lack of oversight at the park on the other days of the week, or to concerns about the degree of supervision when the park is open. Safety concerns about Lumsden Park may relate to its relatively secluded location, the proximity of the play area to the road, and/or the relative seclusion of the pond area. Respondents also noted some minor concern over cleanliness at Lions Park, Lumsden Park, and the Skate Park.

Table 21 – Respondent Concerns about Park Conditions

	<b>Concern Expressed</b>			
	<b>Condition of Facilities</b>	<b>Daytime Safety</b>	<b>Safety After Dark</b>	<b>Cleanliness</b>
<b>City of Placerville Parks</b>				
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%
<b>EI Dorado County Parks</b>				
Henningsen-Lotus Park	1%	2%	6%	1%
Joe's Skate Park	4%	9%	13%	6%

When asked to rate the importance of recreational programs among various age groups, all age groups showed solid support (Figure 6). In fact, the age groups that ranked lowest were still considered of high importance by at least one-half of respondents. These were adults aged 26 to 50 (50 percent) and preschool children (52 percent). The age groups with the highest ratings were teenagers by a wide margin (84 percent) followed by children (73 percent). These results suggest the need for after-school programs for children, and structured activities more oriented to teenagers. Programs for teenagers may be perceived as especially important in more rural areas where there are relatively few social gathering places or opportunities for this age group. Also, many teens cannot drive or don't have access to cars and are thus restricted to local or campus events for entertainment.

Among adults, programs for young adults aged 19 to 25 were considered highly important by 68 percent of respondents followed by 59 percent for seniors older than 70, and 58 percent for mature adults aged 51 to 70. As mentioned above, adults aged 26 to 50 had the lowest ranking (50 percent). The demand for young adult programs is possibly attributable to the same lack of social opportunities in rural areas that contributes to the need for teen programs. The demand for mature adult and senior programs is significant especially when combined with the number of respondents who ranked these programs as being of moderate importance. While these programs may not be the primary focus of the community today, there seems to be an appreciation that demand will be increasing as these people make up a larger percentage of the population in the future.

Figure 6 – Program Importance by Age Group

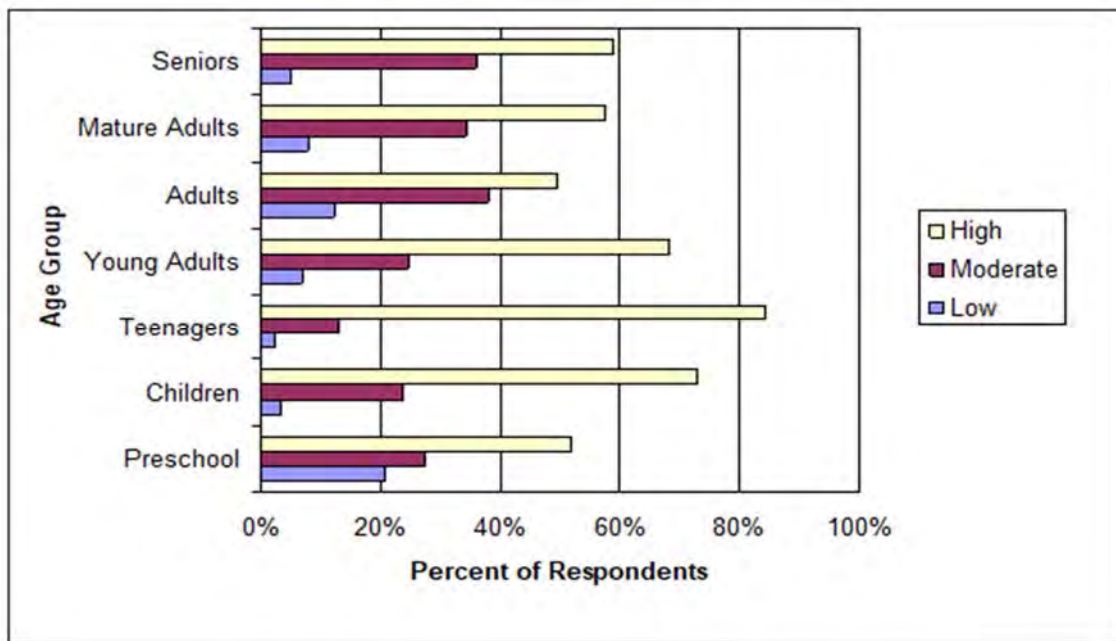
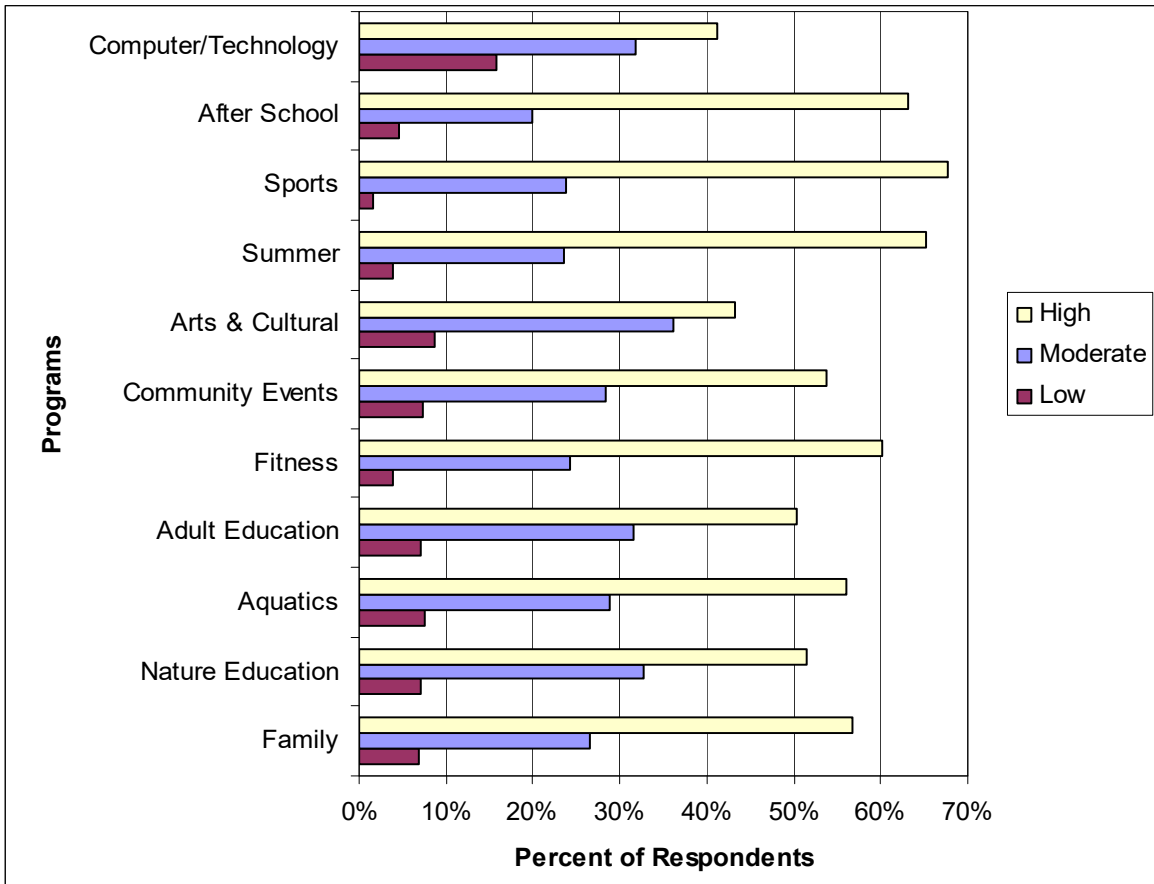


Figure 7 shows how respondents ranked the relative priority of program areas. While there was strong support for all program areas, sports (individual and team), after school programs, summer programs, and fitness rated the highest, and arts and culture and technology programs the lowest. These ratings loosely follow the attendance records over the past three years, in which fitness and sports programs received high attendance, and relatively few people signed up for arts and crafts



programs. This may also be a reflection of the availability of these types of programs through other venues such as continuing education courses and schools.

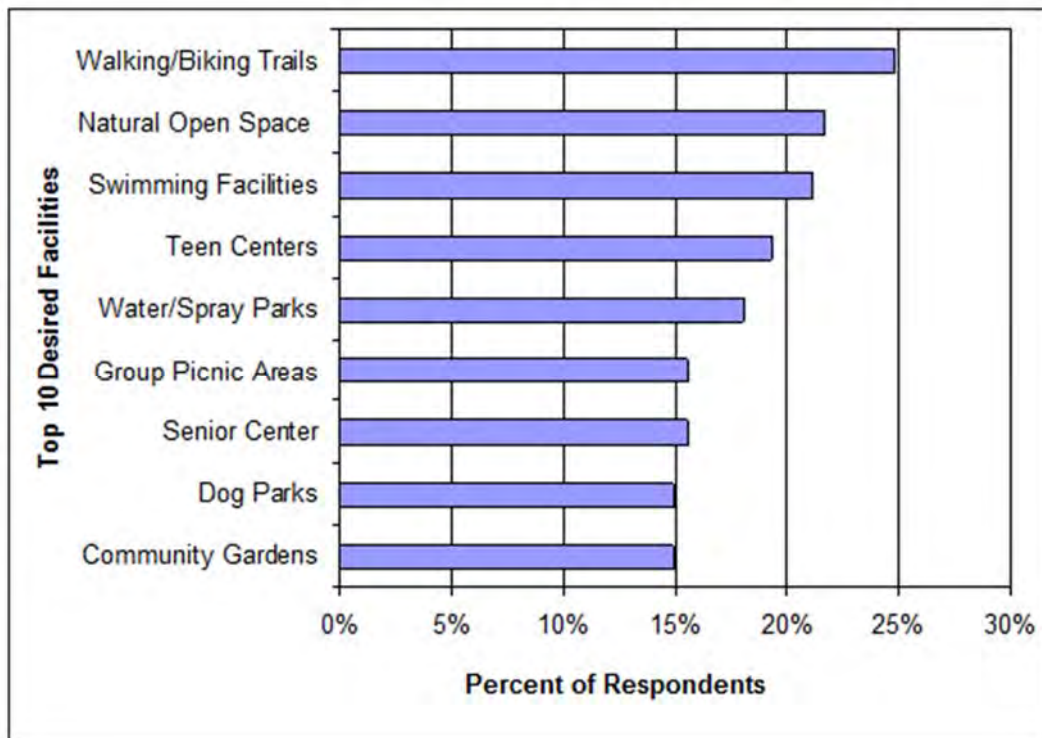
Figure 7 – Importance by Program Area



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 8). Water/spray parks, group picnic areas, senior centers, dog parks, and community centers were also rated highly.

Survey respondents covered a fairly diverse group of individuals. Sixty-four percent of respondents were female. Ages spanned from under ten 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 five to 18 years old, with the greatest number of respondents having children between the ages of six and ten. Most participants (49 percent) were from Placerville. Other areas represented were Diamond Springs (14 percent), Pollock Pines (9 percent), Coloma-Lotus (9 percent), and other areas (19 percent).

Figure 8 – Additional Park Facilities



## 5.2 Phone Survey 2008

A randomized phone survey was conducted between July 21 and July 27, 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. The full survey text is included in Appendix B.

The phone survey questions addressed the following topics.

- Overall satisfaction with parks and recreation programs in the Placerville 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 even slightly more positive than for the written survey (Table

22). 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 22 – Overall Satisfaction with Parks and Programs**

<b>Survey Statement</b>	<b>Score<sup>1</sup></b>
1. The variety of facilities at the parks meet your recreational needs.	3.1
2. You are satisfied with the quality of the facilities in the parks.	3.3
3. The parks are conveniently located for you.	3.3
4. There are enough parks to meet your needs.	3.3
5. The parks are well-maintained.	3.5
6. It is safe for young people to play in the parks.	3.2
7. You know where to get information about recreation programs provided by the City of Placerville.	3.3
8. You are satisfied with the variety of recreation programs offered by the City of Placerville.	3.2
9. The City's recreation programs are offered at locations that are convenient for you.	3.1
10. The City's recreation programs are offered at times that are convenient for you.	3.2

<sup>1</sup> Scoring from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree)

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. Duffey Park was not open in 2008 when the survey was done.

**Table 23 – Park Visitation**

	<b>% of Respondents Who Visit this Park</b>
<b>City of Placerville Parks</b>	
Gold Bug Park	50%
Lions Park	47%
Benham Park	39%
Rotary Park	31%
Lumsden Park	26%
Orchard Hill Park	4%
<b>El Dorado County Parks</b>	
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.

The majority (47 percent) of interviewees were from Placerville, 24 percent from Pollock Pines, 8 percent from Diamond Springs, 6 percent from Coloma-Lotus, and 15 percent from other areas or declined to state. 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).

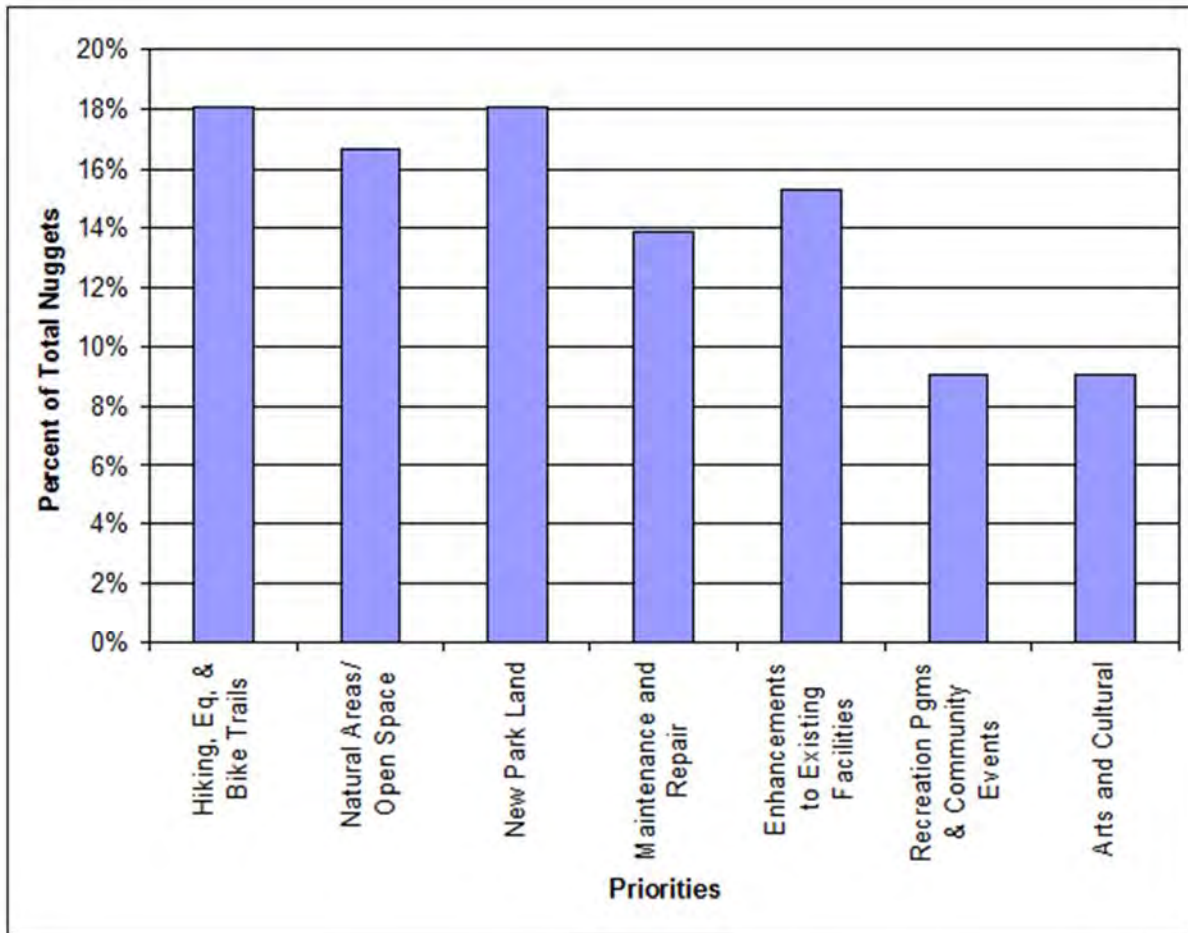
### ***5.3 Public Workshops 2008***

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 outside the plan area.

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 attendee 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 9. 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 9 – Panning Exercise Results



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



Workshop participants provide input on programs

In the “Spot On” exercise, teen events, drama/theater programs, gardening classes, and swim lessons received more than 14 spots. 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 spots. 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.

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 and facilities, 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; more land for future parks; and more play equipment at Lions Park and Joe's Skate Park. Changes to existing parks and programs that attendees would like to see also ranged widely. Responses that came up repeatedly included addressing the homeless issues at Lumsden Park and Benham Park; expanding the aquatics program to year-round; updating playgrounds; lighting the tennis courts; year-round water and restroom access at Lions Park; increased security; and new facilities to reduce the overuse of Benham Park.

## 5.4 *Community Open House 2017*

A community open house was held at Town Hall on the evening of April 26, 2017. The event was advertised with a flyer posted to the City's web site and social media pages. Residents were invited to drop by anytime during the 1 ½ hour event to provide comments on any aspect of Placerville parks, trails, and recreation programs. A presentation was given at the beginning of the event to explain the purpose of the Master Plan Update and provide guidance on how to submit comments at the various stations. Comment cards were also provided to encourage input on any topic not specifically identified at one of the stations. About two dozen people signed in for the event, but some attendees just dropped in and did not leave contact information.

The open house was organized into four stations each addressing a different range of topics: facilities, programs, trails, and operations. Individual comments cards and emailed comments received after the open house provided further input on several facilities. The input for each major topic is summarized below. Where views were expressed by multiple people, the number is shown after the comment.

### Park Facilities

#### Lions Park

- Resurface tennis courts, add tennis court lighting, and consider adding a third court. Court surface was especially degraded by the recent heavy winter rains. Increasingly the courts are both being used, and some have turned away due to lack of availability. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, a group of senior players (some in their 80s!) often has need of a third court. (5)
- Add swings. (3)
- Rebuild footbridges.

- Add new pickleball courts not on existing tennis courts.
- Add ½ court basketball.
- Add climbing wall. (2)
- Add zip line.
- Stripe the parking lot with a variety of vehicle size spaces.
- Put in a sidewalk to make it safe to walk to park.

#### **Lumsden Park**

- Add plant identification signs to nature trail.
- Improve lake water quality with better aeration.
- Add barbecue facilities.

#### **Rotary Park**

- Add a batting cage.

#### **Gold Bug Park**

- Add 18-hole disc golf course. (3)
- More gold mining equipment displays.
- Restoration of Meagher House as a park interpretive center. (3)
- Amphitheater with live music.

#### **Benham Park/Pool**

- Restore Scout Hall. (2)
- Improve condition of turf area.

#### **Duffey Park**

- Add restroom.

#### **Joe's Skate Park**

- Add lights to allow night use. (2)

#### **Henningsen-Lotus Park**

- Add more electrical outlets for pumping up rafts.

#### **Other Facilities**

- Placerville needs a dog park (3). Lions Park a suggested location.
- Bocce ball courts.
- Bike park/pump track. (5)
- Build a community center in partnership with the County and the Senior Center. (2)
- Can we get some sturdy picnic tables from Growlersburg crews for our parks?
- Improve wheelchair accessibility for existing facilities where topography permits, and make sure new facilities invite wheelchair use. (3)

- Add swings for special needs kids.
- Feature more public art (sculptures, murals, etc.) in parks and in town. For example, tile mural in cement near swimming pool.

## Recreation Programs

- Offer more programs for disabled persons including adaptive sports such as wheelchair basketball, rugby, and softball. It was suggested that existing facilities could be used for these programs with staffing by community volunteers, such as the Placerville Mobility Support Group, and liability insurance covered through fees. (4)
- Provide more weekend tours of the mines at Gold Bug Park.
- Add lacrosse and rugby leagues.
- Add youth ski camp.
- Create a Summer Concert in the Park series at Lions Park.
- Have more community festivals, fairs, concerts, and events. (3) Lions Park a possible location.
- Have “Movies in the Park” events sponsored by local movie theater.
- Need more programs for aging adult community, perhaps through the Senior Center. (3)
- More adult classes.
- Offer adult synchronized swimming group.

## Trails

### El Dorado Trail

- The El Dorado Trail is wonderful, but there are issues with homeless encampments.
- Trail crossing on Lower Main/Forni needs safety signage. (2)
- Traffic calming needed from Mosquito Road Park and Ride to trail, and at Jacquier Road.
- Provide curb cuts at both ends of Mosquito Road crosswalk to let bikes get on the trail.
- Provide Class II bike lanes on Jacquier Road to connect two trail sections.<sup>8</sup> (3)
- Add parking at the Main Street end of the trail segment between Main Street and Ray Lawyer Drive.
- Add decomposed granite on El Dorado Trail shoulders. (2)
- Add security surveillance cameras along trail to prevent crime.
- Add push button activated lights at high traffic trail crossings.
- More parking and access points are needed.
- Check access points for ADA barriers such as curbs.

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<sup>8</sup> This improvement is already included in 2010 El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan.



- Build a dog park or pump track along the El Dorado Trail near the overcrossing to reduce homeless encampments in that area.
- Add more trash cans along El Dorado Trail. (2)
- Add restrooms. (2)
- Add more painted signage explaining walking/riding rules on the El Dorado Trail. (2)

#### **Other Trails**

- More walking opportunities are needed. Walking is good for heart and bone health with minimal risk to joints.
- Think of a trail connecting to Folsom trail system.<sup>9</sup> (3)
- Would like circuit trail around the City of Placerville.

## **Operations**

#### **Placerville Aquatic Center at Benham Park**

- Keep the pool open for a longer period during the year to facilitate access for lessons, more hours for lap swimming, and aqua aerobics. If usage levels are not adequate to finance the longer hours, consider publicizing the pool more to attract more swimmers. (6)

#### **Maintenance**

- More funding is needed to maintain existing parks instead of deferring maintenance. No new parks should be built unless there are adequate funds to maintain the existing ones. Create a citywide benefit assessment with a small \$5-10 annual fee to pay for maintenance. For a dog park, maintenance could be funded partially with animal license fees collected by the County and passed on to the City. For bike park and trails, reinstate ordinance that requires bicycles to be licensed through the Police Department and collect fees.
- Would like to see a proactive maintenance plan for high cost facilities.
- Address drainage issues at Lion's Park. (3)
- Fix cracks in El Dorado Trail as soon as they appear. (2)
- Benham Park is heavily used and needs maintenance.
- Landscape parks with native plants.

#### **Communication**

- Get more input from young parents, teenagers, and children. Get their input at ball games, open swim, classes, etc.
- Advertise City parks with directional signs throughout town. (3)

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<sup>9</sup> The SPTC trail corridor being improved by El Dorado County and the SPTC-JPA will ultimately provide this connection.

**Safety**

- Resume encouraging crews from Fire Station 25 to drive by Benham/City park as they return from calls to reduce problems in the park.
- Extra law enforcement patrols are needed along the El Dorado Trail near Locust Avenue, and near homeless camps.
- Concerns about homeless presence and drug use at Lumsden Park. (2)
- Increase security at Rotary Park.

## 6 Planning Standards

One purpose of this Master Plan is to define a consistent vision for the quality and quantity of park and recreation resources, also called the level of service (LOS). The level of service includes 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 projected need for parks and recreation services. Specific planning standards established in this Master Plan include:

- Park Classifications
- Park Service Area
- Acres per 1,000 Population
- Facilities per 1,000 Population
- Non-vehicular Access
- Trails and Paths Miles per 1,000 Population
- 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 parks or park improvements are developed in the plan area, consideration will be given to these standards to determine if the proposed action is consistent with the City's defined level of service for parks and recreation.

It is important to remember that, in most cases, the standards apply to the citywide system of parks and recreation facilities, rather than to any one park alone. These standards are meant to be used collectively to direct the future design and location of parks and improvements so the overall quality of recreation resources throughout the City stays high.

### 6.1 Park Classifications

Classifications for parks are standardized so that future planning and development efforts use consistent terminology and there is a common understanding about how each park type serves the plan area. The City of Placerville General Plan Public Facilities and Services Element calls for neighborhood parks and community parks to meet residents' recreation needs under Goal D. It also allows for the development of mini-parks in streamside settings under Goal I of the Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Resources Element. The El Dorado County General Plan (Goal 9.1) directs the County to provide adequate recreational opportunities and facilities including developed regional and community parks, trails, and resource-based recreation areas (El Dorado County 2004).



*Lumsden Park Play Area*

While the City’s General Plan does not provide definitions for the various parks types, they were defined in the 2009 Placerville Areas Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These definitions are retained in this update. The County’s General Plan defines a neighborhood park as “*primarily focused on serving walk-to or bike-to recreation needs... .generally 2 to 10 acres in size and may include a playground, tot lot, turf areas, and picnic facilities.*” It defines a community park as a place that provides “*a focal point and gathering place for the larger community... .generally 10 to 44 acres in size, for use by all sectors and age groups, and may include multi-purpose fields, ball fields, group picnic areas, playground, tot lot, multi-purpose hardcourts, swimming pool, tennis courts, and a community center;*” and a regional park as a place incorporating “*natural resources such as lakes and creeks and serve a region involving more than one community...*” ranging “*...in size from 30 to 10,000 acres with the preferred size being several hundred acres. Facilities may include multi-purpose fields, ball fields, group picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming facilities, amphitheatres, tennis courts, multi-purpose hardcourts, shooting sports facilities, concessionaire facilities, trails, nature interpretive centers, campgrounds, natural or historic points of interest, and community multi-purpose centers.*” The following definitions describe the four park types potentially found in the plan area.

**Mini-Parks**

Mini-parks are usually two acres or smaller and provide very limited facilities. They are to be located adjacent to streams or may be the by-product of other planning decisions or site limitations. They may result from the establishment of public landscaping around monuments, when protected natural resources limit development of a small parcel, or when the development pattern results in a small residual piece of property.

Because they have so few improvements, mini-parks provide very few recreation opportunities. Successful mini-parks are generally found in very limited circumstances such as in a neighborhood where many children live nearby and don’t have access to outdoor play space in private yards or school grounds. In areas where mini-parks have little visitation, often due to location and/or lack of facilities, vandalism can be a serious problem. In such cases, mini-parks can become a magnet for undesirable activity which discourages legitimate uses of the park. The per acre cost of maintaining a mini-park is also much higher than for a larger park. For these reasons, the City and County should limit the number of mini-parks in future development in favor of neighborhood parks. If any additional mini-parks are considered, they will need to be carefully evaluated to ensure that proposed improvements and maintenance costs are acceptable.

**Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks are typically from four to eight acres in size, depending on proximity to schools and the density of the neighborhoods they serve. The minimum size of a neighborhood park is usually set at four acres to maximize the efficiency of maintenance and provide design flexibility. A neighborhood park usually includes a combination of picnic areas, play structures, paths, tennis



Rotary Park

courts, basketball courts, and/or sports fields, and is intended to be used by all age groups. Rotary Park, Lumsden Park, Orchard Hill Park, and Duffey Park function as neighborhood parks within the City of Placerville. Orchard Park may be considered a neighborhood park even though it is less than four acres because it includes basketball courts and a larger picnic area than a typical mini-park. Duffey Park, also less than four acres, has a children’s playground and turf area, but could accommodate potential future improvements.

### ***Community Parks***

Community parks are typically from eight to 40 acres in size and may include the same basic amenities found at neighborhood parks, along with more specialized facilities such as a swimming pool, nature areas, sports field complexes, a skate park, gymnasiums, community centers, and/or meeting rooms. These specialized facilities are intended to serve the larger community. When community parks include the basic neighborhood park amenities, they often also serve as the neighborhood park for residents living nearby. Lions Park, Benham Park with the Placerville Aquatic Center, Henningsen-Lotus Park, Forebay Park, and Joe’s Skate Park are considered community parks. Even though Benham Park and Joe’s Skate Park are both very small, they provide specialized facilities that serve the larger community. Gold Bug Park, while it provides historic features of a regional interest, is also considered a community park because it is heavily used by Placerville residents.



*Lions Park Picnic Area*

### ***Regional Parks***

A regional park is generally larger than a community park and may include amenities found in both neighborhood and community parks. It will generally also include additional specialized facilities or a unique combination of facilities that will attract usage from the surrounding region. Regional parks within the plan area include Chili Bar because of its use as a river put-in location; and Cronan Ranch, because of its extensive trail network and unique scenic qualities. Gold Bug Park is classified as a community park, but regional visitors do come to the park to enjoy the museum and historic tours.

## **6.2 Service Area**

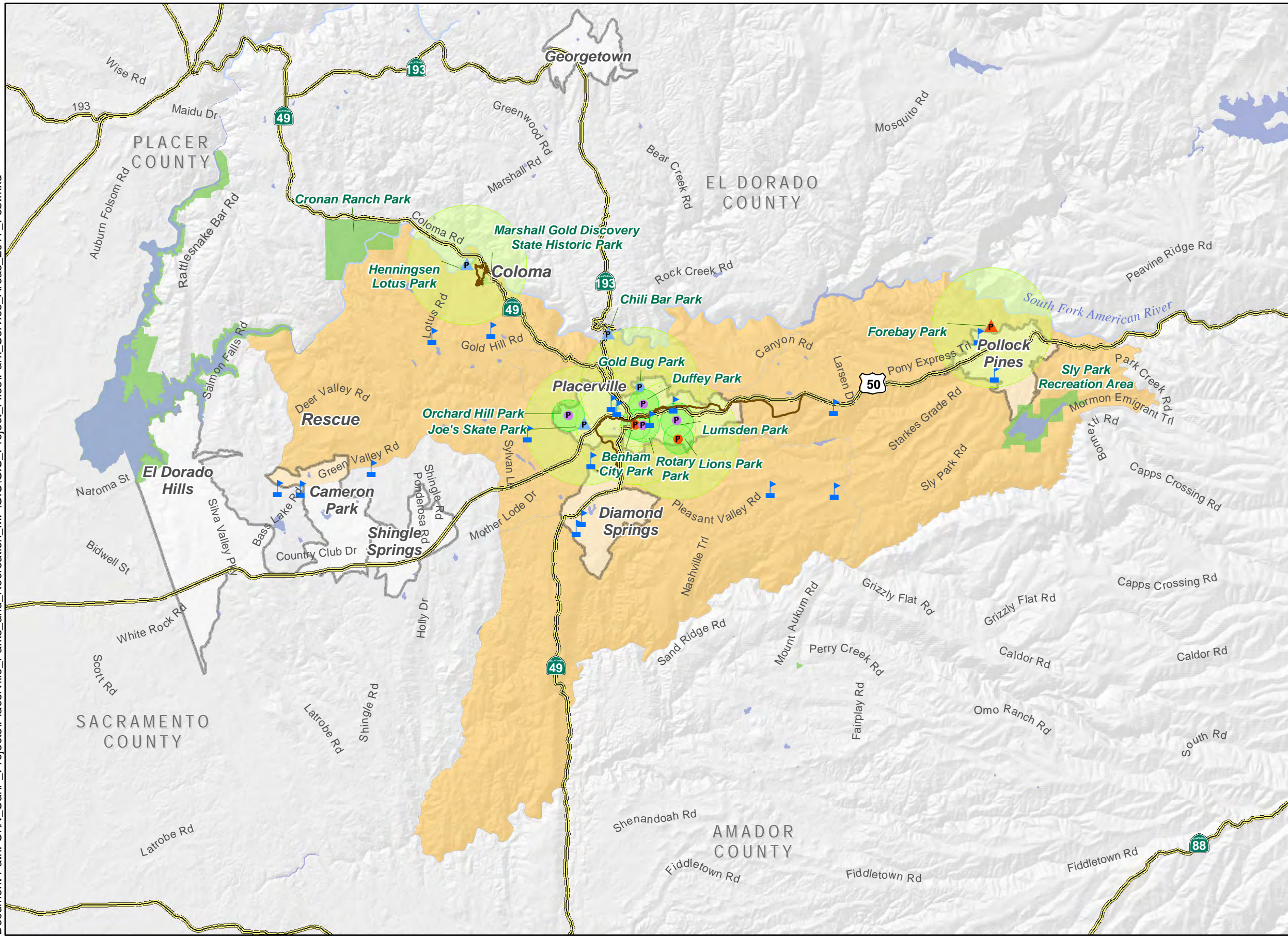
The City of Placerville General Plan does not include information on service areas for parks. The El Dorado County General Plan lists the service area for neighborhood parks as ½ mile, the typical distance the average person is willing to walk or bike to a facility. Community parks, being larger than neighborhood parks and containing more facilities, draw from a larger area. Most people are willing to drive a short distance, up to two miles, to reach a community park. Certainly, people within the plan area often drive further than two miles to visit Lions or Benham Parks, given the dispersed nature of the communities surrounding Placerville, but a 2-mile radius is the typical desired 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.

The current service areas for existing parks within the study area are shown in Figure 10. As can be seen, Placerville, eastern Pollock Pines and northern Coloma-Lotus are within two miles of an existing community park. Residents in the southern half of the Coloma-Lotus area, Camino, and most of Diamond Springs are outside of the 2-mile service area, many of them significantly so. These areas are good candidates for future park land acquisition, depending on the rate of new development and where it occurs.

Neighborhood parks are absent throughout the plan area except in the City of Placerville. The El Dorado County General Plan Housing Element includes policies directing the County to ensure projected housing needs can be accommodated and have adequate public services, and to encourage the enhancement of residential environments to include access to parks and trails. The El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan includes recommendations for the County to assist with the establishment of neighborhood parks, implementing neighborhood park standards, and providing neighborhood park access. The recommendations direct the County to provide neighborhood parks in more densely populated areas of the County not served by a community services or other special district. The areas identified include Diamond Springs, El Dorado, Shingle Springs, Camino/Pollock Pines, and the areas surrounding the City of Placerville (El Dorado County 2012).

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# PLACERVILLE AREA PARKS MASTER PLAN

## EXISTING PARK SERVICE AREAS

**FEATURES**

- School
- Trails
- Existing Parks**
- City**
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Regional
- County**
- Regional
- Community
- Park Service Areas**
- 1/2 Mile Service Area
- 2 Mile Service Area
- Other Features**
- Study Area

N

0 1.5 3

SCALE IN MILES

Drawn By: MJ, RJM  
 Date: 04/26/2017  
 Park\_Service\_Areas\_2017\_Feb.mxd

**FIGURE 10**

**FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES**  
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
 © 2017

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### 6.3 Acres per 1,000 Population

As development within the plan area continues to bring in new residents, new park land will need to be acquired to meet the growing demand for recreational facilities. The amount of park land needed to meet the recreational needs of residents and visitors is defined by County and City policies. As discussed in Section 2.3, both the City of Placerville and El Dorado County include information in their general plans about the number of acres of park land that should be available to meet demand. The City has established a standard of 5 acres/1,000 population of useable developed park land for neighborhood and community parks. The County calls for a total of 5 acres/1,000 population of developed parkland, broken out as 1.5 acres of regional parks, 1.5 acres of community parks, and 2 acres of neighborhood parks.

Table 24 presents the analysis of existing park land compared to these guidelines. The City of Placerville has sufficient active use park land to meet the General Plan standard, with additional passive use acreage at Gold Bug Park. The County has enough land in regional parks to meet that standard with a nearly 4-acre surplus. There is a considerable deficit of community park land (13.2 acres). However, the County does own 26 acres of undeveloped community park land in Pollock Pines that could be sold and used to purchase community park land at another location within the plan area. The most significant deficit is of neighborhood park land (101.2 acres) in the unincorporated parts of the plan area.

The numbers in Table 24 do not take into account the joint-use agreements currently in place between the City of Placerville and the school districts. However, school land covered under joint-use agreements is generally not included in the calculation of park acreage provided by the City or County, because the property is owned by the school districts and may one day be converted to classroom or building space, depending on the school districts’ needs. If joint use agreements are in place that guarantee public recreation access to school facilities for a defined, extended period some prorated portion of those facilities may be added to the acreage calculation.

**Table 24 — Park Acreage Needs**

	Population	
	City of Placerville	Unincorporated County
<b>Current (2017)</b>	10,808	50,623
<b>Existing Developed Parks</b>		
<b>City of Placerville</b>		
Active Use (acres [Benham, Duffey, Lions, Lumsden, Orchard Hill, and Rotary Parks])	36.8	
Active Use Gold Bug (acres [30%])	18.5	
Passive Use Gold Bug (acres [70%])	43.0	
Existing Acres (acres [total])	98.3	
Total Active Use (acres)	55.3	
Active Park Land (acres/1,000)	5.1	
<b>El Dorado County</b>		

	Population	
	City of Placerville	Unincorporated County
<b>Current (2017)</b>	10,808	50,623
Neighborhood Parks (acres)		0.0
Community Parks (acres)		62.7
Regional Parks (acres)		79.8
Existing Acres (acres [total])		142.5
Neighborhood Parks (acres/1,000)		0.0
Community Parks (acres/1,000)		1.2
Regional Parks (acres/1,000)		1.6
<b>Standards</b>		
<b>City of Placerville</b>		
Active Park Land Standard (acres/1,000)	5.0	
<b>El Dorado County</b>		
Neighborhood (acres/1,000)		2.0
Community (acres/1,000)		1.5
Regional (acres/1,100)		1.5
<b>Needed to Meet Standard</b>		
<b>City of Placerville</b>		
Active Park Land	54.0	
(Deficit) or Surplus	1.3	
<b>El Dorado County</b>		
Neighborhood (2.0 ac/1,000)		101.2
(Deficit) or Surplus		(101.2)
Community (1.5 ac/1,000)		75.9
(Deficit) or Surplus		(13.2)
Regional (1.5 ac/1,000)		75.9
(Deficit) or Surplus		3.9

## 6.4 Facilities per 1,000 Population

Facility standards 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 25 shows the current number of common recreation facilities along with the facility standard and projections of how many facilities will be needed by the end of the planning period. For the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that the joint use school facilities will be available to the City in perpetuity. Recreation facilities for which there are long-term joint use agreements are included in the existing facilities assessment, but their value is prorated 25% to reflect the restrictions on use during school hours and events.

**Table 25 — Facilities Standards by Population**

Facility Type	Current Facilities		Current Population per Facility	School Facilities		Proposed Standard		Current Facilities Needed
	City	County		Joint Use <sup>1</sup>	Non-Joint Use	Population per Facility	Number of Facilities	
Playground	7	2	6,826		multiple	1 per park	N/A	0
Tennis Court	2	0	30,716	1.5		7,500	8	5
Outdoor Basketball Court	1.5	0	40,954		multiple	6,000	10	9
Baseball Field	0	0	N/A	0.5		25,000	3	2
Softball Field	2	1	20,477	0.5		7,000	9	5
Little League Baseball Field	1	2	30,716		multiple many non-standard	7,000	9	7
Soccer or Multi-use Field	6	3	6,826		multiple many non-standard	6,000	10	1
Swimming Pool	1	0	61,431	0.25		45,000	1	0
Gymnasium	0	0	N/A	0.75	multiple	25,000	3	2
Clubhouse or Multipurpose Room	1	2	30,716			15,000	4	1
Community Center	0	0	N/A			30,000	2	2
Group Picnic Area	2	1	20,477			8,000	8	5
Skateboard Park	0	1	61,431			45,000	1	0
Bike/Pump Track	0	0	N/A			45,000	1	1
Disc Golf Course	1	0	61,431			45,000	1	0
Amphitheater	0	0	N/A	0.25		45,000	1	1
Dog Park	0	0	N/A			50,000	1	1

<sup>1</sup> Number shown is 25% of total facilities to reflect limited availability

As can be seen from Table 25, the City of Placerville generally has sufficient inventory of most types of facilities to meet the needs of its residents, with the main deficiencies being a gymnasium, a community center, a bike/pump track, an amphitheater, and a dog park. However, significant deficiencies exist within the larger plan area. This lack of facilities places a greater demand on the facilities provided by Placerville parks, resulting in the overused condition of many of the local parks. This situation parallels the park acreage needs presented in the discussion of the standards for acres per 1,000 population. As additional park land is acquired by the County to meet the regional need, amenities created at new parks will help to relieve the pressure on the City’s facilities.

Within the City, sufficient playground equipment exists to meet the standard of one playground per park. However, a diversity of age-appropriate universally accessible play structures for both toddlers and older children is lacking at some parks. If play equipment is upgraded or modernized in the future, structures that appeal to a wider range of ages and abilities may be more appropriate than more traditional equipment. Gold Bug Park and Joe’s Skate Park lack play equipment. Given the uses of Gold Bug Park, a play structure would not be appropriate unless a portion of the park was

redesigned to accommodate uses. Joe's Skate Park caters to a specialized group of users who typically are not looking for the experiences provided by standard play equipment. While some community meeting attendees discussed play equipment at Joe's Skate Park to increase the visitation by adults with younger children and thus improve supervision of the park, standard play equipment should not be required due to space limitations and the specialized nature of the venue.

Informal use of schools by local sports leagues and private individuals is currently helping to address the deficiency in outdoor basketball, soccer, football and baseball fields. For example, the Sierra Gold Soccer League utilized fields at Indian Creek, Herbert Green, Gold Oak, Pleasant Valley, Pioneer Park, Charles Brown, Camino, Markham, Pinewood, Sierra, Sierra Ridge, and Schnell schools in their 2016 season (Sierra Gold Soccer Club 2017). However, there is no certainty from year-to-year about costs or availability of the fields for these leagues. School grounds and outdoor facilities are also open on weekends for the use of private individuals if not occupied by local sports leagues. For example, on a typical weekend when the weather is pleasant, it is common to see the basketball courts at Gold Oak Elementary School used by children on bicycles, roller blades, and skateboards as well as playing basketball. Children are often playing on the play equipment; and the fields are often utilized by picnickers and people playing with their dogs. Continued informal use of school resources depends largely upon school needs and future school expansion, and therefore is not highly reliable.



*Lions Park Play Area*

The need for one or more community centers to serve the larger area was echoed in the public meetings and felt in the current high demand for Town Hall. To some extent, this need is being filled through joint-use of private facilities such as Foothill Taekwondo and Jammin' Dance and Fitness. These shared use agreements are subject to the fortunes of those businesses. In 2008, two businesses with which the City had shared use agreements closed, and the programs and facility use ceased. These events underscore the need for a community center that can function as a guaranteed venue for City programs. A community center would typically include a gymnasium and clubhouse/multipurpose room, filling a need for both of these types of facilities within the plan area. However, a community center is a very expensive facility to build and no suitable funding sources are currently identified. Until such funds are available, possibly through a bond measure or special assessment, residents will need to rely on private meeting spaces, Town Hall, church and school assembly rooms, and other similar facilities to meet the need.

## 6.5 Non-Vehicular Access

All parks except for Orchard Hill are on existing or proposed Class II or Class III bike routes. Orchard Hill is within approximately 0.1 mile of a proposed Class II route, accessible through a local neighborhood. Duffey and Lions Parks are on proposed Class II routes. Benham, Gold Bug, Lumsden, and Rotary Parks are on a proposed Class III bike route (El Dorado County Transportation Commission 2010). Consideration should be given to upgrading those routes to provide Class II access to these parks to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.

All new neighborhood parks should be on an existing or proposed Class I bike trail 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.

## 6.6 Paths and Trails

Access to paths and trails was one of the most commonly mentioned resources the community expressed a desire for during this planning process. There are three major types of paths and trails that have recreation value in the plan area: paths in parks, Class I bike trails, and multi-use unpaved open space trails.

Each new neighborhood and community park should include ADA accessible paved paths within the park suitable for walking, skating, young children on bicycles, and other such uses. Neither Rotary Park nor Lions Park has such improvements, but there is adequate space in both parks to create such paths. Lumsden Park has an informal unpaved trail (0.20 miles) around the pond that could also be improved to meet this standard. Gold Bug park has two miles of unpaved multi-use trails. Benham, Duffey, and Orchard Hill Parks are small and any such improvement would most likely be a perimeter path. There are a total of 2.20 miles of unpaved multi-use trails within Placerville parks, or 0.20 miles per 1,000 population.

Plan area residents currently have relatively good access to many multi-use unpaved trails at regional facilities such as Cronan Ranch, Marshall Gold Discovery Park, Sly Park Recreation Area, and in the Eldorado National Forest. As new development occurs, there will be further opportunities to secure easements for trail access in public recreational open space areas through development agreements.



*Equestrians enjoy the trails at Sly Park*

It will be important for the City and County to pursue these opportunities to provide residents with unpaved trails as the plan area becomes more densely developed. The extent of such trails within any one development project will be dictated by the size and configuration of the particular site, public safety considerations, and natural resource constraints.

Paved Class I bike paths are non-vehicular off-street routes which provide both a recreation and transportation resource. Class II bike routes are on on-street lanes with striping, and Class III routes are on-street and signed for bike travel but not striped. As part of the City and County transportation infrastructure, planning for Class 1 trails is handled through cooperative efforts of local and regional transportation planning agencies. Placerville currently has approximately 3.25 miles of Class I bike trail within the City limits as part of the El Dorado Trail. Within the City of Placerville, this trail is paved as a Class 1 bike path from the eastern city limits to Bedford Avenue. From Bedford Avenue, the route continues as an on-street Class III bike route on Main Street and then as a Class II bike lane on Lower Main to Forni Road, where the Class I bike path restarts and provides a connection to Ray Lawyer Drive. The 2.7-mile section of Class I bike path between Forni Road within the City of Placerville and Missouri Flat Road in the community of Diamond Springs was completed by El Dorado County. An additional 1 mile of Class I bike path is currently under construction adjacent to eastbound Highway 50 from Missouri Flat Road to the Forni Road exit. Approximately one-half of this bike path is within the City of Placerville. There is a total of 3.25 miles of constructed Class I bike path in the City of Placerville, or 0.30 miles per 1,000 residents. When the additional 0.50 mile of Class I bike path currently under construction from the Forni Road Highway 50 exit to the County line at Weber Creek is completed this year, there will be 0.35 miles per 1,000 people.

The El Dorado Trail extends east of the City an additional 2.5 miles as a paved trail and 2 miles as an unpaved trail. The ultimate vision for the El Dorado Trail is to continue westward and provide a connection to the trails in Folsom at the Sacramento-El Dorado County line.

El Dorado County does not currently have a standard that quantifies how many miles of trails and what types of trails should be available to the community. The El Dorado County General Plan does contain a number of policies related to trails within the County. In particular, policy 9.1.2.1 identified the El Dorado Trail as well as trails connecting regional parks, as the County's primary responsibility for trail establishment and maintenance. The El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan recommends the adoption of standards for trail and trail head design, signage, trail use, and development of various regional connector trails. El Dorado County should be encouraged to explore the value of adding a standard for trail miles per 1,000 people as part of the Master Plan update in process.

This Master Plan update recommends that the City of Placerville implement a minimum trail standard of 0.55 miles per 1,000 people based on the current inventory of 5.95 miles of trails. Both paved bike paths and unpaved multi-use trails would be included in this standard. There are currently about 1.7 miles of paved bike path for every 1 mile of unpaved trails.

## 6.7 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.

- ❑ 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 2 miles of the intended user population except in rural areas where population density may necessitate increasing this distance.
- ❑ Proposed park land should have access to appropriate infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, and power.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ The site should be no less than four acres for a neighborhood park and no less than eight acres for a community park.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ 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 City/County, at no cost or an acceptable cost to the City/County, the land may be considered suitable.
- ❑ The City/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 City/County may also determine what portion of a proposed site is suitable.

## 6.8 *Standard Park Improvements*

The standard minimum improvements at all neighborhood parks developed in the future by the City, County, or as turn-key projects by other parties should be similar to those present at the existing park so that the overall quality of park resources throughout the plan area is consistent. Neighborhood parks shall include the following minimum improvements:

- Turf
- Landscaping
- Irrigation
- Parking (ADA accessible)
- Restrooms (ADA accessible)
- Play structures
- Site furnishings such as drinking fountains, trash cans, and benches (ADA accessible)
- Paths (ADA accessible)
- Covered picnic tables (ADA accessible)
- Sports fields and/or courts or other improvements as determined by the City or County and as guided by needs identified in this Master Plan

Community and regional parks may or may not include these same improvements depending on the purpose of the park. Community parks would typically also include additional features such as group picnic areas, multiple sports fields, multipurpose rooms, or a gymnasium.



## 7 Strategies and Recommendations

Strategies and recommendations for future development and operation of plan area parks and recreation programs are described in this chapter of the Master Plan. These strategies and recommendations are based on the analysis of existing facilities and programs compared to the various service objectives defined in the planning standards, as well as the input received from the City and County staff, Parks and Recreation commissioners, the community workshops, and surveys. The strategies address the following areas:

- Improvements to Existing Parks
- New Park Development
- Trails
- Programs
- Administration

For each specific strategy, a relative priority has been established to assist with development of a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Short term projects are recommended for completion within three years, while longer term projects are recommended for implementation in years four to ten. Future projects are intended to be implemented in more than ten years, or as revenues allow. Higher priority is assigned to projects that 1) are required for public health, safety, and regulatory compliance; 2) provide a large benefit for a relatively low cost; 3) must be completed before others projects can be done; 4) address significant imbalances in the level of service provided to certain groups of residents; or 5) protect existing infrastructure investment through repairs or preventive maintenance. For capital projects, an estimated cost has been provided in 2017 dollars based on costs for similar goods and services in the region.

### 7.1 *Improvements to Existing Parks/Facilities*

The parks managed by the City of Placerville are for the most part built-out with little room for new facilities. However, they are in need of some significant upgrades and renovations (Table 26). These recommendations include capital improvements to existing parks that are in excess of ordinary maintenance. There is a significant shortage of certain types of recreation facilities within the plan area, such as sports fields and picnic areas. Due to the deficit of neighborhood parks in the unincorporated areas, most of these facilities will have to be built into the design of new parks.

#### ***Benham Park***

The capital improvements recommended for Benham Park primarily address accessibility and safety issues. These include traffic calming features on Benham Street to improve pedestrian safety and an ADA-accessible ramp to the basketball court. Interior renovations to Scout Hall to improve accessibility and modernize the facility are also needed. Other security related improvements include a low retaining wall, revegetation, and fence behind the park to stabilize the slope and keep children from playing on it, and providing a boulder climbing structure in the play area as a safer alternative. Motion sensors and cameras for the Placerville Aquatic Center will enhance security at that facility particularly during hours of non-operation. Other minor recommended improvements intended to improve the functionality and appearance of the park include a new sidewalk between Scout Hall

and the Charter School, and renovating the Scout Hall planters. The condition of the turf at the park was noted by the community as needing attention. However, the high level of use it receives due to the lack of other parks in the area makes it very unlikely that any additional maintenance would be adequate to consistently improve turf condition without periodic closures for rehabilitation.

### ***Rotary Park***

Various improvements are recommended at Rotary Park to improve accessibility, capacity, and functionality. These include a concrete ramp providing ADA-compliant access to the baseball field. Parking lot renovations including retaining walls and drainage are needed to address current erosion issues. Replacing the picnic tables and barbecues and adding new shade shelters are recommended to increase capacity and potential for rentals. Renovation of outfield grading and irrigation are also needed to address drainage issues that limit field availability. While the community expressed a desire for a batting cage, there is not adequate space to build one at the park.

### ***Lions Park***

Recommended capital projects at Lions Park address a variety of issues. Drainage through the site is problematic at certain times of the year due to runoff from the surrounding area and grading problems on the two ballfields. This limits the availability of the fields. Minor grading of the fields and redirecting surface flows to swales with perforated pipe is recommended to address this situation. The ballfield irrigation systems should also be upgraded to provide more even coverage which would improve the turf condition and enhance water efficiency. Adding covered dugouts and permanent foul ball poles would also enhance the functionality of the ballfields to a level of improvement typical for more contemporary construction.

Various ADA improvements are needed throughout the park to provide access to most amenities. Given the size and configuration of the park a complete set of engineered plans will be needed with accurate topography. The old restroom structure currently serving as a storage building for some maintenance equipment needs to be renovated or replaced to adequately accommodate all the equipment needed to maintain the park. This will also help reduce labor costs associated with transporting equipment from a central location. If the complete renovation cannot be funded in the near term, at a minimum a temporary roof replacement is needed as the existing composition roof has exceeded its useful life.

The north parking lot needs renovations in order to optimize parking space, clearly mark vehicular and pedestrian circulation, address sheet drainage, and incorporate some shade trees. The entrance to the park from Cedar Ravine Road would benefit from reconfiguration to better handle the traffic volumes when park use is heavy, and to improve the line of sight for vehicles exiting the park. In addition, damaged parking barriers should be removed and replaced with steel posts and cable. There are sections of the access road asphalt that are lifting due to tree root intrusion and erosion causing potential trip hazards and compromising the paved surface. These should be repaired.

The tennis courts at Lions Park are significantly degraded, with surface cracks causing a potential trip hazard. The net anchor foundations are also lifting. The courts need to be entirely resurfaced and striped, and new wooden header boards and nets are needed. The community has also requested that lights be installed on the courts to enable nighttime use.

The restrooms need to be upgraded with electric hand dryers to reduce the cost of custodial supplies and maintenance.

**Gold Bug Park**

Gold Bug Park provides facilities not found at any other city park. The major attractions at the park are currently centered on its gold mining history and undeveloped natural areas. While the gold mining history interpretative features draw visitors from outside the plan area, the park is also an important recreation resource for the local community.



*Gold panning at Gold Bug Park*

Expanding park facilities would increase the potential uses of the park as well as revenues related to these uses. Renovation of the Meagher House as an ADA-accessible facility suitable for workshops, meetings, and classes would provide an on-site location for programs related to the natural and mining history of the park. The building could also be leased for community and private events. Development of a small amphitheater at the park would provide similar opportunities.

Gold Bug Park is one of the few parks in the community that could accommodate an 18-hole disc golf course. The course could be situated so it

did not interfere with museum activities. Putting a course at Gold Bug Park would also allow the substandard course at Lions Park to be removed, freeing up space at that popular park for other much needed amenities.

Various infrastructure improvements are needed at Gold Bug Park to keep it functional and safe for staff and visitors. Sections of the asphalt sidewalks and access roads are lifting due to tree root intrusion causing potential trip hazards, or subsiding. These areas need to be repaired. Better access control is needed to keep 4x4 vehicles out of the park after hours. The use of large boulders as barriers would be an inexpensive solution visually consistent with the park setting.

The concrete patio at the base of the stairs to the Priest Mine needs to be replaced due to tripping hazards. The handrail needs to be re-set and some additional drainage installed. The unpaved access road from the Meagher House to Bear Rock Road needs to be regraded to improve drainage and make it safer for walking. The unpaved road used by staff and volunteers to gain access to the Black Smith Shop needs a permanent heavy-duty gate to deter unauthorized access.

Other safety related projects that are needed include various ADA improvements throughout the active use park area, and a comprehensive tree care and removal plan. A considerable number of trees within the park have become hazardous and pose a threat to park visitors and/or City property. The project will include an arborist assessment of the current conditions, a treatment plan, and plantings in the area where fuel load reduction has occurred. This will increase shade through established canopy and will reduce long term maintenance of the brush field. These trees can be

planted with the help of El Dorado County Resource Conservation District along with volunteer groups.

***Lumsden Park***

Access to Lumsden Park facilities is complicated by the road separating the play area from the park and the unimproved conditions around the pond. A variety of improvements are recommended to address these access issues. These include the addition of an accessible pathway through the improved areas of the park, a pedestrian bridge over the creek, and a disabled accessible ramp from the parking areas to the picnic tables. The picnic tables, barbecues, and restroom should also be updated for ADA accessibility.

Safety around the play area would be improved by reconfiguring the parking area with striping and curb bump-outs, adding crosswalks, and installing low fencing to separate the play area from the parking area.

There are sections of asphalt throughout the park that are failing due to tree root intrusion and erosion causing potential trip hazards and compromising the paved surface.

The pond is a unique feature at Lumsden Park that may potentially be used for watershed management as well as recreation. The hydrology of the surrounding upland areas and the capacity of the pond needs further study to determine what detention uses are possible, in conjunction with passive recreation such as trails and interpretation. The study should also consider the extent to which the park itself provides additional detention capacity in high flood events so that capacity is not impaired by future park improvements. Interpretive signage for the nature trail around the pond could reflect not only information about plants and wildlife, but also address water quality and conservation.

***Orchard Hill Park***

The existing play structure at Orchard Hill Park no longer meets current safety guidelines and has been compromised due to repeated vandalism. It needs to be replaced with new play activities for all age groups and abilities.

There is a minor erosion problem which should be addressed to prevent further degradation.

***Duffey Park***

The existing landscape at Duffey Park does not provide adequate shade for park visitors during the summer months. A shade structure is needed in close proximity to the existing play features within the park. While some community members expressed an interest in having a restroom added to the park, the neighborhood residents strongly opposed this feature when the park was opened several years ago.

***El Dorado Trail***

The segment of El Dorado Trail within the City limits receives a high level of use year-round. Basic repairs and maintenance are necessary to keep it safe and to prevent deterioration. These include vegetation management, resurfacing, and repairs to an existing culvert structure.

In addition, residents expressed a desire for a number of enhancements to the El Dorado Trail in general. These include more parking at access points; decomposed granite shoulders; restrooms; more trash cans; security cameras; and more painted signage on the trail surface illustrating rules of use. Lighting could also be added to key sections of the trail to allow expanded hours of use. An improvement plan should be developed for the portion of the trail within the plan area to identify where these enhancements are most beneficial, costs, and a phased approach to implementation.

Table 26 – Improvements to Existing Parks and Trails

<b>City of Placerville</b>	<b>Short-term 0-3 Years</b>	<b>Long-term 4-10 Years</b>
<b>Benham Park</b>		
<i>Wheelchair Access</i>	\$40,800	
<i>Traffic Calming on Benham Street</i>		\$40,880
<i>Basketball Court ADA Access</i>		\$3,887
<i>Scout Hall Improvements</i>		\$76,050
<i>Slope Stabilization/Climbing Structure Installation</i>		\$144,495
<i>Placerville Aquatics Center Security System</i>		\$8,450
<i>Other Park Improvements</i>		\$20,956
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,800</b>	<b>\$294,718</b>
<b>Rotary Park</b>		
<i>Wheelchair Access</i>	\$48,000	
<i>Other Access Improvements</i>	\$71,179	
<i>Parking Lot Renovation</i>		\$53,977
<i>Little League Outfield Renovation</i>		\$32,375
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119,179</b>	<b>\$86,353</b>
<b>Lions Park</b>		
<i>Chip Seal Repairs to Access Road</i>	\$60,000	
<i>Parking Barrier Replacement</i>	\$8,890	
<i>Maintenance Building Roof Replacement</i>	\$6,000	
<i>Tennis Court Reconstruction</i>	\$54,000	
<i>ADA Access Improvements</i>	\$180,000	
<i>Install Hand Dryers (2)</i>	\$16,000	
<i>Add Tennis Court Lighting</i>		\$225,000
<i>Park Drainage Improvements</i>	\$152,385	
<i>Maintenance Building Replacement/Renovation</i>		\$159,947
<i>North Parking Lot Renovation</i>		\$203,290
<i>West Parking Lot Entry Renovation</i>		\$71,555
<i>Softball Field Dugout Improvements</i>		\$128,608
<i>Foul Ball Pole Replacement</i>		\$24,518
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$477,275</b>	<b>\$812,917</b>
<b>Gold Bug Park</b>		
<i>Asphalt Repairs</i>	\$60,000	
<i>Install Boulder Barrier</i>	\$3,522	
<i>Concrete Patio Repair</i>		\$18,000
<i>Access Road Repairs</i>	\$3,750	
<i>Install Security Gate</i>	\$2,400	
<i>Tree Care and Removal</i>	\$48,000	
<i>Wheelchair Access</i>	\$60,000	

<b>City of Placerville</b>	<b>Short-term 0-3 Years</b>	<b>Long-term 4-10 Years</b>
<i>Add 18-hole Disc Golf Course</i>		\$45,000
<i>Amphitheater</i>		\$84,500
<i>Meager House Renovation/Restoration</i>		\$485,875
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$177,672</b>	<b>\$633,375</b>
<b>Lumsden Park</b>		
<i>ADA Access Improvements</i>	\$156,000	
<i>Picnic Area ADA Enhancements</i>		\$17,576
<i>Restroom Renovation (Roof and ADA)</i>	\$16,900	
<i>Playground Safety and ADA Improvements</i>	\$36,065	
<i>Asphalt Repairs</i>	\$30,000	
<i>Pond Enhancement/Detention Basin Study</i>		\$30,000
<i>Add Interpretive Signs to Nature Trail</i>		\$30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$238,965</b>	<b>\$77,576</b>
<b>Orchard Hill Park</b>		
<i>New Playground Equipment</i>	\$48,000	
<i>Minor Erosion Control</i>	\$1,690	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,690</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Duffey Park</b>		
<i>Install Shade Structure</i>	\$36,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>El Dorado Trail</b>		
<i>Trail Enhancement Plan</i>		\$25,000
<i>Trail Repair/Renovation</i>	\$48,247	
<i>Culvert Repair</i>	\$15,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$63,247</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,202,827</b>	<b>\$1,929,939</b>

## 7.2 New Park Development

Given the limited amount of space available at existing parks within the plan area, new parks will need to be built to supply the facilities that are in short supply. As of 2017, there are no new parks planned for development in the plan area, but as new residential neighborhoods are proposed, it is assumed that opportunities will be explored for creating new parks. Currently undeveloped parcels may also be appended to existing parks or converted to park use over time if they are of appropriate character and location. For example, it may be possible to locate a pump track or dog park adjacent to the El Dorado Trail on land that is not likely to be used for other purposes.

Based on the facility standards discussed in Chapter 6, an estimate of some of the facilities that will be needed to serve the plan area population is shown in Table 27.

Table 27 – Facilities Needed Following Construction of Proposed Parks

Facility Type	Facilities Needed per Proposed Standard
Tennis Court	5
Outdoor Basketball Court	9
Baseball Field	2
Softball Field	5
Little League Baseball Field	7
Soccer or Multi-use Field	1
Gymnasium	2
Clubhouse or Multipurpose Room	1
Community Center	2
Group Picnic Area	5
Bike/Pump Track	1
Dog Park	1
Amphitheater	1

Other facilities for which no standard is established that were desired by the community include pickleball courts, a climbing wall, a zipline, and bocce ball courts. Some of these facilities could potentially be located at Lions Park if existing facilities were to be reconfigured. For example, if a full 18-hole disc golf course is built at Gold Bug Park, the existing non-standard course at Lions Park could be removed freeing up space for a variety of other facilities that don't require a large area. Before adding new facilities to Lions Park, consideration needs to be given to the impact on parking and the City's maintenance staff.

Priority areas for new parks include the unincorporated areas immediately around Placerville, Diamond Springs, and the Camino-Pollock Pines corridor based on the relatively higher population densities in these areas. It is unlikely that El Dorado County will have the resources to acquire and develop parks in these areas in the near future. Innovative ways to meet the demand for recreation resources will need to be explored including expanded joint-use of school facilities and public-private partnerships. The County will also need to complete more detailed analysis of these areas with respect to the rest of the County to establish relative priority for park development. These and other related issues should be considered by the County in the pending update to the El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan.

**Strategy NP-1:** Coordinate with the forthcoming update of the El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan to develop strategies to address the existing deficit of parks in the unincorporated area.

In order to maintain the level of park acreage in the City, and prevent the deficit from growing in the unincorporated areas, both jurisdictions should require park land dedication or fees in-lieu along with recreation impact fees for new residential development in order to fund acquisition and development of new parks to serve new residents. These fees in-lieu and impact fees must be set at a realistic level to fund a level of improvements that is consistent with the facility standards of this Master Plan.



**Strategy NP-2:** Formalize City and County development approval procedures to provide adequate review of proposed park improvements to make sure they are consistent with this Master Plan in terms of the quality of land, and type and quantity of improvements. Use this process to coordinate locations for new facilities to best serve the community.

**Strategy NP-3:** Review and update City and County land dedication and impact fee requirements to reflect realistic costs associated with providing the level of service outlined in this Master Plan.

### 7.3 Paths and Trails

Community input to this Master Plan consistently emphasized enhanced access to natural areas and a desire for more walking and biking opportunities. The following capital planning strategies will help address these concerns.

As new parks and recreational open space areas are established, the City should require the components of the trail standard addressing ADA accessible paved paths in parks and unpaved trails in recreational open space to be integrated into the site plans. Class I trails and paved ADA paths may also be located in recreational open space where site conditions and anticipated usage are appropriate.

**Strategy PT-1:** Require all new neighborhood and community parks to have ADA accessible paths for pedestrian and compatible uses.

**Strategy PT-2:** Require development and redevelopment projects that will include recreational open space to provide trail access through the open space to facilitate access and meaningful connections between the open space and adjacent neighborhoods and parks.



Coordination with regional trail partners to establish regional networks and connections to Placerville area parks should continue to be pursued. The City and County transportation planning departments, together with the El Dorado County Transportation Commission, Sacramento-Placerville Trail Corridor Joint Powers Authority, and local trail advocacy group Friends of the El Dorado Trail, should continue to work together to establish alignments, obtain easements, and secure grant funding to facilitate trail implementation.

**Strategy PT-3:** Actively engage in regional trail planning and development efforts with local and regional partners.

**Strategy PT-4:** Look for opportunities to include paths and/or Class 1 trails in City-owned property within creek corridors to expand walking and biking options within the regional trail network.

**Strategy PT-5:** Adopt a City of Placerville trail level of service standard of 0.55 miles per 1,000 people based on the current inventory of 5.9 miles of trails. Both paved bike paths and unpaved multi-use trails would be included in this standard in an approximate ratio of 2 to 1.

## 7.4 Programs

While plan area residents are very positive about the diversity and quality of recreation programs offered by the City, demographic trends and input from residents suggest some additional areas of program focus will be needed to keep pace with future demand.

More recreation programming for active adults is likely to be needed as the baby boomer generation ages. This demographic is distinct from traditional seniors in that they have a higher level of physical ability and, in some cases, more disposable income and free time. They are also often very interested in making a contribution back to the community through volunteerism, and in pursuing continuing education and life enrichment.



**Strategy P-1:** The City should seek input from mature adults and seniors to diversify and expand life enrichment and physical activities specifically for these groups. Such activities may include travel, cultural events, health management, community stewardship, etc.

Recreation programs for teens were also identified as a priority by the community. There is a particular need to provide activities for teens who are not participating in organized school activities and teams. While the City offers a number of programs appropriate for teen participation, public input to this Master Plan suggests that perhaps other types of programs and events are needed.

**Strategy P-2:** Continue to work with the El Dorado County Youth Commission to get input from teens on program and event preferences, in collaboration with local schools and other youth organizations. In particular, identify ways to involve underserved teens in identifying the types of activities and facilities that would best meet their needs.

Demographic trends for the plan area indicate that cultural diversity is expected to increase as the plan area grows. It will be critical for the City to bring awareness of this trend to all aspects of recreation programming and planning in order to meet the evolving needs and expectations of all residents. This cultural diversity will provide opportunities for new types of programs, events, and festivals that will enrich the recreation experience of the whole community.

**Strategy P-3:** Integrate measures in all aspects of program development, selection, publicity, and implementation to facilitate the inclusion of residents with diverse cultural backgrounds.

More programs and facilities are needed that are universally accessible and inclusive to allow residents with disabilities recreation opportunities comparable to those enjoyed by other residents. Collaboration with the Placerville Mobility Support Group, disabled residents, and other communities providing such programs should be pursued in order to identify solutions that are a good fit for the plan area. These could include special programs or accommodations for the disabled to participate in existing programs.

**Strategy P-4:** Develop a process for providing recreation opportunities for people with disabilities through both adaptive and inclusive recreation programs.

Plan area residents expressed a strong desire for more community festivals, events, fairs, and concerts. Specific ideas include a Concert in the Park series at Lions Park or Movies in the Parks sponsored by the local theaters. The City of Placerville should be an active collaborator with other local partners such as the Placerville Downtown Association, the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, the El Dorado County Fair Association, and special interest groups and clubs to organize and promote appropriate events. These events not only provide recreation for local residents, but in some cases, may also generate revenues from out-of-area visitors.

**Strategy P-5:** Actively engage with other community partners to increase the number and variety of community festivals, events, fairs, and concerts to provide more recreation opportunities.

City Recreation staff are encouraged to continue to establish cooperative partnerships with other community groups to implement these strategies in a manner that leverages the diverse knowledge and expertise within the community, at a reasonable cost to participants. Fees for recreation programs are established with the following goals: (1) Make the programs affordable to the community; (2) reach a level of self-sufficiency for each program; and (3) establish fees that are comparable with like programs of agencies in the area. Self-sufficiency is defined as fees that equal the direct costs of operating each program. Direct costs include: all part-time staff, materials, and supplies necessary to offer the program.

## ***7.5 Administration***

The following strategies are intended to facilitate the ongoing operation of City parks and programs consistent with the direction established by this Master Plan. The Director of Community Services will have primary responsibility for implementation of these strategies while collaborating with other City staff and elected officials as needed.

An important function of the Community Services Department is to make sure that the current high quality of recreation experience enjoyed by Placerville residents is maintained in the future as new development occurs. It will be important to implement standards to guide this future development before it occurs so that potential developers will know what is expected of them and are able to design projects accordingly. This is ultimately more cost-effective for the City and the developers than reworking plans to achieve conditions that are developed on a project-by-project basis.

**Strategy A-1:** The City should formally adopt the Level of Service Standards described in this Master Plan (Chapter 6) and encourage El Dorado County to adopt similar standards in the County park planning and review process. Standards are defined for:

- Park Classifications
- 5 Acres of Active Use Park Land/1,000 population
- Trails and Paths
  - walking paths in all parks
  - unpaved trails in all recreational open space
  - 0.55 miles of trail/1,000 population in City of Placerville
- Park Service Area
  - 1/2 mile neighborhood parks
  - 2 miles community parks
- Non-vehicular Access to Parks
- Park Site Characteristics
- Standard Park Improvements
- Facility Standards/1,000 population

The City’s ability to provide quality parks and recreation programs is heavily dependent on having appropriate fiscal policies and processes in place to optimize revenues from a wide variety of sources. The following strategies focus on various aspects of revenue generation as well as cost reduction in order to achieve this objective.

**Strategy A-2:** Review existing Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District assessment periodically to make sure the level of assessment remains consistent with the cost of services provided. Implement or update annual cost factor increases as needed.

**Strategy A-3:** Continue to pursue joint use agreements with the school districts to secure access to recreation facilities and optimize use of public resources and to limit the need for new facility development as feasible.

**Strategy A-4:** Provide training to staff to enhance grant writing skills to successfully collaborate with regional partners and compete for grant funding.

**Strategy A-5:** Look for new revenue opportunities from expanded use of existing park facilities and events. Also consider non-traditional revenue generation through ground leases for cell towers, advertising sales, donations, sponsorships, etc.

**Strategy A-6:** Pursue opportunities to leverage volunteers for appropriate uses that could help offset the need for additional staff, or free up staff for more cost-effective uses. Continue to build on the City’s long history of working with community groups such as Rotary and the Lions Club in support of park initiatives.

**Strategy A-7:** Design all new facilities and facility renovations to include energy and resource cost management strategies, such as low water-use plantings, solar activated safety lights, etc.

## 8 Cost Analysis

### 8.1 Master Plan Costs

Implementation of the strategies and recommendations for park facilities and recreation programs described by this Master Plan will require substantial financial resources. Because availability of resources is often constrained by the type of proposed expenditure, the Master Plan costs are separated into two categories: park/trail improvements, and maintenance and operations (M&O).



*Yoga Class*

Improvement costs comprise the funding needed to implement the various capital improvements described in this Master Plan. The cost estimates for each improvement include both materials and labor and are based on regional pricing for comparable improvements.

Maintenance and operations costs include all the other expenses required to run the City of Placerville Recreation and Parks Division. These expenses include staff salaries, associated benefits, and other maintenance and operation costs.

Chapter 9 of this Master Plan identifies various funding strategies that are expected to provide the resources required to meet these various costs.

### 8.2 10-Year Park/Trail Capital Improvement Plan

This Master Plan identifies approximately \$3.1 million worth of facility improvements at 2017 costs to be implemented in the City of Placerville parks within the next ten years. The costs associated with these projects are shown in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) presented in Table 29. Over the 10-year implementation period, assuming a 2.5 percent annual inflation factor, the total cost for all listed improvements would be about \$3.5 million. The CIP is coordinated with the proposed phasing of improvements described in Section 7.1. While the phasing plan identifies target dates by which improvements are to be completed (for example, within three years), in general, the CIP distributes the total improvement cost over the multiple years during the projects' construction.

In addition to these facilities, other parks will be built as new developments occur within the plan area. Since these new parks will be entirely funded by development impact fees and land dedication or in-lieu fees collected when and if development occurs, neither the costs nor revenues are shown here. It is expected that the types of improvements at these parks will respond to the various facility standards described earlier in this Master Plan.

An effort has been made to spread improvement costs evenly across each year in the CIP, recognizing priorities and the fact that some projects cannot be spread over multiple years while others can. The CIP costs include a 15 percent mark-up on each project for plans, specifications,

and estimates (PSE) and a 15 percent contingency. The CIP is intended to be revisited each year and updated to reflect projects that have been completed or rescheduled.

### 8.3 10-Year Operating Cost Projections

The operating budget for the City of Placerville parks, recreation programs, and trails for the last four fiscal years is summarized in Table 28.

Table 28 – Parks, Recreation Program, and Trails Operating Budget Summary

	FY 13/14 Actual	FY14/15 Actual	FY 15/16 Actual	FY 16/17 Estimated
<b>Revenues</b>				
General Fund (Other Revenues)	\$ 977,328	\$ 1,063,988	\$ 1,205,937	\$ 1,371,226
General Fund (Recreation Fees)	565,832	641,324	651,988	682,161
Orchard Hill/Duffey LLMDs	38,204	24,425	30,709	31,993
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,581,364</b>	<b>\$ 1,729,737</b>	<b>\$ 1,888,634</b>	<b>\$ 2,085,380</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel Services				
Administration <sup>1</sup>	149,836	162,740	190,196	163,803
Park Maintenance <sup>2</sup>	396,592	424,708	465,920	479,709
Recreation	551,967	601,035	584,119	749,964
City Pool Maintenance	107,309	133,344	143,379	149,013
Town Hall Maintenance	53,514	52,511	52,271	54,326
Materials and Supplies	85,215	109,302	97,627	167,080
Contract Services	185,479	193,223	279,785	257,774
Other Expenses	44,921	50,676	48,586	63,711
Capital Equipment	6,531	2,198	26,751	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,581,364</b>	<b>\$ 1,729,737</b>	<b>\$ 1,888,634</b>	<b>\$ 2,085,380</b>

<sup>1</sup> 68.00% of CSD Administration Division costs.

<sup>2</sup> Includes community gardens, City cemeteries, Hangtown Creek, and other grounds.

The single largest operating expense for the City of Placerville parks, recreation programs, and trails is for staffing which accounts for about two-thirds of the annual operating budget. Staffing is allocated among Administrative, Recreation, and Maintenance positions. About 68 percent of the Director of Community Services and the Administrative Secretary positions comprise the allocated Administrative staff. There are five full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for Maintenance, and 3.5 FTEs for Recreation Programs. In addition, three part-time people provide assistance to the administrative staff for the equivalent of another one FTE. Other permanent part-time staff include five people who work 10 to 15 hours per week year-round in support of adult sports programs

The City supplements permanent staff with seasonal part-time employees to meet fluctuating needs throughout the year. These include about 20 people working a total of 60 hours each over the 3-month youth basketball season; 20 people working at Gold Bug Park about 20 hours per month for

9 months; and about 40 people who work about 30 hours per week during the 10 weeks that the Placerville Aquatic Center is open.

For purposes of the Finance Plan in Chapter 9 of this Master Plan, it is assumed that current full and part-time staffing levels will be maintained as significant new park acreage is not anticipated to be developed in the City within the next ten years. An annual 2.5 percent inflation rate has been built into the Personnel Services cost projections in the Finance Plan which includes salary, benefits, and all other personnel related expenses.

Maintenance for the Placerville Aquatic Center and Town Hall are also included in the operating budget for the Community Services Department as both are used to varying degrees for recreation purposes and as such generate recreation fee revenues. The combined maintenance costs for these two facilities is about 10 percent of the annual operating budget.

Materials and supplies are another component of operating costs accounting for about 6 percent of the annual budget. These expenses include office equipment, furniture, utilities, building and equipment maintenance materials, advertising and promotions, and concession stand supplies. Some equipment purchases are classified as capital expenditures depending on the total cost and depreciation schedule. The projected material and supply costs have been inflated by an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the Finance Plan.

Contract services and miscellaneous other expenses are also reflected in the Finance Plan (Chapter 9) based on an analysis of the prior three years of actual budgets for the portion of the Community Service Budget that is used for parks, recreation programs, and trails.

## **8.4 *Other Costs***

Costs beyond those projected for construction, staffing, and operations and maintenance may arise as Master Plan projects are implemented. Such costs would include activities or services that cannot reasonably be estimated until more detailed project development is completed such as specialized facility engineering, permitting, and environmental impact mitigation.

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Table 29 – City of Placerville Parks 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan

PROJECT	Total Cost	Year										Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>Benham Park/Placerville Aquatic Center</b>												
Wheelchair Access	\$40,800	\$40,800										\$40,800
Traffic Calming on Benham Street	\$40,880					\$40,880						\$40,880
Basketball Court ADA Access	\$3,887				\$3,887							\$3,887
Scout Hall Improvements	\$76,050						\$76,050					\$76,050
Slope Stabilization/Climbing Structure Installation	\$144,495					\$144,495						\$144,495
Placerville Aquatics Center Security System	\$8,450				\$8,450							\$8,450
Other Park Improvements	\$20,956				\$20,956							\$20,956
<b>Rotary Park</b>												
Wheelchair Access	\$48,000	\$48,000										\$48,000
Other Access Improvements	\$71,179	\$37,566	\$33,613									\$71,179
Parking Lot Renovation	\$53,977				\$53,977							\$53,977
Little League Outfield Renovation	\$32,375				\$32,375							\$32,375
<b>Lions Park</b>												
Chip Seal Repairs to Access Road	\$60,000			\$60,000								\$60,000
Parking Barrier Replacement	\$8,890		\$8,890									\$8,890
Maintenance Building Roof Replacement	\$6,000	\$6,000										\$6,000
Tennis Court Reconstruction	\$54,000		\$54,000									\$54,000
ADA Access Improvements	\$180,000	\$100,000	\$80,000									\$180,000
Install Hand Dryers (2)	\$16,000		\$16,000									\$16,000
Add Tennis Court Lighting	\$225,000							\$225,000				\$225,000
Park Drainage Improvements	\$152,385			\$152,385								\$152,385
Maintenance Building Replacement/Renovation	\$159,947						\$159,947					\$159,947
North Parking Lot Renovation	\$203,290								\$203,290			\$203,290
West Parking Lot Entry Renovation	\$71,555					\$33,000	\$38,555					\$71,555
Softball Field Dugout Improvements	\$128,608				\$96,000	\$32,608						\$128,608
Foul Ball Pole Replacement	\$24,518				\$24,518							\$24,518
<b>Gold Bug Park</b>												
Asphalt Repairs	\$60,000			\$60,000								\$60,000
Install Boulder Barrier	\$3,522	\$3,522										\$3,522
Concrete Patio Repair	\$18,000				\$18,000							\$18,000
Access Road Repairs	\$3,750		\$3,750									\$3,750
Install Security Gate	\$2,400	\$2,400										\$2,400
Tree Care and Removal	\$48,000	\$48,000										\$48,000
Wheelchair Access	\$60,000	\$60,000										\$60,000
Add 18-hole Disc Golf Course	\$45,000								\$45,000			\$45,000
Amphitheater	\$84,500										\$84,500	\$84,500

PROJECT	Total Cost	Year										Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Meager House Renovation/Restoration	\$485,875								\$17,875	\$276,000	\$192,000	\$485,875
<b>Lumsden Park</b>												
ADA Access Improvements	\$156,000		\$56,000	\$100,000								\$156,000
Picnic Area ADA Enhancements	\$17,576				\$17,576							\$17,576
Restroom Renovation (Roof and ADA)	\$16,900	\$16,900										\$16,900
Playground Safety and ADA Improvements	\$36,065	\$36,065										\$36,065
Asphalt Repairs	\$30,000			\$30,000								\$30,000
Pond Enhancement/Retention Basin Study	\$30,000							\$30,000				\$30,000
Add Interpretive Signs to Nature Trail	\$30,000							\$30,000				\$30,000
<b>Orchard Hill Park</b>												
New Playground Equipment	\$48,000		\$48,000									\$48,000
Minor Erosion Control	\$1,690	\$1,690										\$1,690
<b>Duffey Park</b>												
Install Shade Structure	\$36,000		\$36,000									\$36,000
<b>El Dorado Trail</b>												
Trail Enhancement Plan	\$25,000					\$25,000						\$25,000
Trail Repair/Renovation	\$48,247		\$48,247									\$48,247
Culvert Repair	\$15,000		\$15,000									\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$3,132,766	\$400,942	\$399,500	\$402,385	\$275,740	\$275,983	\$274,551	\$285,000	\$266,165	\$276,000	\$276,500	\$3,132,766
<b>Future Inflated Cost (2.5 % Annual Inflation)</b>	\$3,473,879	\$400,942	\$409,487	\$422,755	\$296,941	\$304,633	\$310,630	\$330,513	\$316,387	\$336,279	\$345,311	\$3,473,879

## 9 Finance Plan

The proposed Finance Plan evaluates the costs of park/trail improvements, operations, and maintenance for the City's parks, recreation programs, and trails against anticipated revenues and identifies how much, if any, additional revenues will be needed. The Finance Plan (Table 30), like the Capital Improvement Plan (Table 29), focuses on a 10-year horizon because projections beyond that period are highly speculative.

### 9.1 Revenues Needed

This Master Plan identifies approximately \$3.1 million in capital improvements at 2017 costs for the City of Placerville parks, recreation programs, and trails to be implemented within the next 10 years. The inflated cost assuming 2.5 percent annual cost inflation is about \$3.5 million. The corresponding operational costs similarly adjusted for inflation to cover maintenance, operations, staffing, and benefits is estimated to be approximately \$23.9 million.<sup>10</sup> The result is a total of about \$27.4 million needed for the first 10 years of the implementation of this Master Plan.

### 9.2 Revenue Sources

The City of Placerville Recreation and Parks Department currently derives funding from five primary sources. These are:

- General Fund
- Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District
- Recreation Fees
- Grants
- Development Fees

Historically, these funding sources have been adequate for developing and maintaining parks and operating recreation programs at the current level of service. However, many of the City's parks are in need of renovations as existing facilities are approaching the end of their useful life, and significant repairs have been deferred. Implementing these capital projects will add considerable costs to the total parks, recreation program, and trails budget and additional funding will be needed. It will be critical for the City to aggressively monitor revenues, adjust fees and assessments, pursue additional revenue sources, and control costs over the next 10 years to preserve the quality of parks and recreation programs in a fiscally responsible manner. A discussion follows for each of these revenue sources and strategies for managing these concerns.

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<sup>10</sup> Based on applying an average annual inflation factor of 2.5% to the total FY 2016/17 operating budget for parks, recreation programs, and trails. Inflation assumptions derived from Engineering News Record average historic construction and building cost indices for national and San Francisco for the 10-year period 2007 - 2016.

## General Fund

The General Fund is the major source of funding for the City parks, recreation programs, and trails and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. The proposed Finance Plan shows \$15.7 million, or about 57 percent of the total budget, coming from the General Fund during the next 10 years. General Fund revenues are projected to increase by an annual inflation factor of 2.5 percent due to increased property values and a limited amount of new development.

## Lighting, Landscape, and Maintenance District

The City currently has two benefit assessment districts: a Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District (LLMD) that encompasses the Orchard Hill development and one for the Cottonwood development. Funding from both LLMDs is static with no provision for an increase if maintenance costs should exceed the assessment. Approval of district property owners should be pursued to add an inflation provision to the assessments. The Finance Plan uses the current level of assessment revenues and includes a 2.5 percent annual increase to reflect anticipated increases in the cost of providing services. Revenue from the LLMDs is relatively minor accounting for only about 1 percent of total revenues for parks and recreation programs.



*Orchard Hill Park Play Structure*

All new developments should be subject to a similar assessment to provide an ongoing source of operational maintenance funding for new park facilities.

## Recreation Fees

Recreation fees come from programs fees, facility rentals, and some concession sales. Many of these fees are paid by non-City residents who utilize City programs and facilities. Revenues from these activities are expected to comprise about 29 percent of the total annual parks, recreation program, and trails budget over the next 10 years. They are expected to contribute about \$7.8 million in revenue during this period. This projection assumes a 2.5 percent annual inflation factor.

To increase this amount, the City should consider expanding the list of available facilities. For example, a small fee could be assessed when some of the smaller group picnic areas are reserved. This fee would help cover the administrative costs associated with reservations and opening/closing restrooms.

Table 30 – 10-Year Finance Plan

	Base (FY 2016/17)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
<b>Expenses</b>												
Personnel Services	\$ 1,393,476	\$ 1,428,313	\$ 1,464,021	\$ 1,500,621	\$ 1,538,137	\$ 1,576,590	\$ 1,616,005	\$ 1,656,405	\$ 1,697,815	\$ 1,740,261	\$ 1,783,767	\$ 16,001,935
Materials and Supplies	167,080	171,257	175,538	179,927	184,425	189,036	193,762	198,606	203,571	208,660	213,877	1,918,658
City Pool Maintenance	149,013	152,738	156,557	160,471	164,482	168,595	172,809	177,130	181,558	186,097	190,749	1,711,186
Town Hall Maintenance	54,326	55,684	57,076	58,503	59,966	61,465	63,002	64,577	66,191	67,846	69,542	623,851
Contract Services	257,774	264,218	270,824	277,594	284,534	291,648	298,939	306,412	314,073	321,924	329,973	2,960,139
Other Expenses	63,711	65,304	66,936	68,610	70,325	72,083	73,885	75,732	77,626	79,566	81,555	731,623
Park/Trail Improvements	0	400,942	409,487	422,755	296,941	304,633	310,630	330,513	316,387	336,279	345,311	3,473,879
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,085,380</b>	<b>\$ 2,538,457</b>	<b>\$ 2,600,440</b>	<b>\$ 2,668,482</b>	<b>\$ 2,598,811</b>	<b>\$ 2,664,049</b>	<b>\$ 2,729,031</b>	<b>\$ 2,809,374</b>	<b>\$ 2,857,220</b>	<b>\$ 2,940,633</b>	<b>\$ 3,014,773</b>	<b>\$ 27,421,270</b>
<b>Revenues</b>												
General Fund	\$ 1,371,226	\$ 1,405,507	\$ 1,440,644	\$ 1,476,660	\$ 1,513,577	\$ 1,551,416	\$ 1,590,202	\$ 1,629,957	\$ 1,670,706	\$ 1,712,473	\$ 1,755,285	\$ 15,746,428
Orchard Hill/Cottonwood LLMDs	31,993	32,793	33,613	34,453	35,314	36,197	37,102	38,030	38,980	39,955	40,954	367,391
Recreation Fees	682,161	699,215	716,695	734,613	752,978	771,803	791,098	810,875	831,147	851,926	873,224	7,833,573
Other Revenue Sources	0	400,942	409,487	422,755	296,941	304,633	310,630	330,513	316,387	336,279	345,311	3,473,879
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,085,380</b>	<b>\$2,538,457</b>	<b>\$2,600,440</b>	<b>\$2,668,482</b>	<b>\$2,598,811</b>	<b>\$2,664,049</b>	<b>\$2,729,031</b>	<b>\$2,809,374</b>	<b>\$2,857,220</b>	<b>\$2,940,633</b>	<b>\$3,014,773</b>	<b>\$27,421,270</b>

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Another strategy to generate additional program fee revenues, would be for the City to expand programs for mature adults. This is a population that has relatively more leisure time and disposable recreation income than most families or young single adults.

## Other Revenue Sources

In order to implement the park and trail improvements suggested by this Master Plan, additional revenues will be needed. Two potential sources include grants and development impact fees. Over the last four years, the City has secured funding from both of these sources to facilitate implementation of specific park or trail improvements (Table 31).

Table 31 — Parks and Trail Improvement Projects Summary

	FY 13/14 Actual	FY14/15 Actual	FY 15/16 Actual	FY 16/17 Estimated
<b>Revenues</b>				
General Fund	\$ 29,191	\$ 70,945	\$ 31,014	\$ 37,082
Grants	62,834	573,957	4,511	
Park Development Impact Fees	10,795		13,463	23,338
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 102,820</b>	<b>\$ 644,902</b>	<b>\$ 48,988</b>	<b>\$ 60,420</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Parks and Trails	\$ 97,820	\$ 612,227	\$ 48,988	\$ 60,420
Town Hall	5,000			
Placerville Aquatic Center		32,675		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 102,820</b>	<b>\$ 644,902</b>	<b>\$ 48,988</b>	<b>\$ 60,420</b>

However, funding from grants and development impact fees is not guaranteed from year-to-year and is subject to certain restrictions on how the funds may be utilized.

## Grants

Grants are a very important source of revenue for park facility development. Most grants are limited to capital uses or planning for capital projects. Used in this way they help free up funds for other non-capital expenditures. Given the limited availability of state revenue, it is anticipated that most available state grants for the next several years will be for trails and recreational open space. However, there may be focused grants available from certain industry groups, advocacy organizations, or foundations that may be successfully matched with proposed park and trail improvements.

Several approaches may be used to improve the City's chances of securing this level of grant funding, ranging from contract grant writing services to providing additional training to existing staff to help develop grant writing skills.

## Development Impact Fees

The City of Placerville requires new residential development to pay a fee towards the costs of acquiring and developing new parks to serve the residents associated with the development. The

intent behind this assessment is that the level of park and recreation services for existing residents will be preserved as the City grows. However, the current level of park impact fees fall far short of covering these costs. This fee is currently set at \$1,320 per dwelling unit. Assuming 2.5 people per dwelling unit, this is only \$528 per capita. With park development costs alone typically running about \$575,000 per acre of active use park land, and assuming 5 acres per 1,000 residents, a more realistic fee needs to be established.

As the real estate market continues to recover from the recent recession, new development may increase the amount of impact fees accruing to the City. However, this is not a guaranteed revenue stream and it is important to remember that there are restrictions on how development impact fees may be utilized. Revenues from development impact fees are required to be spent on the expenses associated with development of the new parks or improvements at existing parks to expand the capacity of those parks consistent with the Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code 66001 et seq.) and the Subdivision Map Act (California Government Code Section 66577). The proposed Finance Plan takes a conservative position on revenue expectations and does not include any park impact fees at this time. If development activity resumes, park impact fee revenues may help offset a portion of the costs for certain park improvement projects provided they meet the legal requirements for the use of such fees.

Developers are also required to either dedicate land for active park use to preserve the City's 5 acres per 1,000 population standard or pay fees in-lieu of the land dedication. The fees in-lieu must be adequate to purchase the same amount of land that would have been dedicated at current market rates. The ordinance which enacts this requirement is called the Quimby ordinance. As with the amount of development impact fees, the formula in the Quimby ordinance for establishing in-lieu fees needs to be periodically revisited to make sure that in-lieu fees when collected are keeping pace with land costs.

The 2009 City of Placerville Park Master Plan identified the need for both development impact fees and the Quimby ordinance to be revisited. At that time, increasing the fees charged to new development was a complicated issue due to the downturn of the economy and communities trying to encourage new growth as a source of revenue. However, it is important to realize that failure to collect fees that reflect realistic park acquisition and development costs will make it impossible to maintain the level of parks resources the community currently enjoys. Therefore, it is essential for the City of Placerville to adjust the existing development park impact fee to be more in line with current costs. Many communities and parks districts throughout the region have gone through a



*Rotary Park Ball Field*



similar exercise in recent years and now assess fees in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range. Once the development park impact fee is increased, it must also be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in construction labor and materials costs. The City may also allow developers to provide turn-key parks in lieu of paying fees, provided the park design and location are approved by the City.

### **9.3 *Other Revenue Considerations***

This Finance Plan relies on numerous projections and assumptions about future unknown factors. Because some of the projections may fall short of expectations, the City will need to aggressively pursue the suggestions provided above for maximizing income from each of the identified sources. The City will need to consider several other variables as periodic adjustments to expenses and revenues are required.

#### **Fees Adjustments**

The City may, at some point, need to consider more substantial fee increases for facility rentals and programs. Properly managing any such increases will be critical so that they do not discourage facility use or program participation to the extent that residents are unable to realize the important social and physical benefits of these resources. Declining rates of participation because of fee increases may also ultimately result in a net loss in revenues rather than the desired increase.

#### **Other Revenue Sources**

In addition to the funding sources already discussed, the City should be evaluating and pursuing non-traditional revenue sources. These sources include such mechanisms as sponsorships, donations, revenue bonds, selling advertising space, and site leases for infrastructure such as cell phone towers. Public-private partnerships for facility development and operation should also be examined. Lastly, the City may wish to consider an assessment specifically for parks and recreation programs at some point in the future if there is adequate public support. Public reaction to a potential park assessment was relatively positive in the surveys conducted as part of the 2009 Master Plan analysis, with the condition that the public would have an opportunity to participate in determining the level of assessment and how funds would be used.

The City should also implement periodic adjustments to the level of assessment for the two existing benefit assessment districts so that revenue collected keeps pace with the costs associated with providing the services covered by the assessment. The Finance Plan assumes an annual increase of 2.5 percent; however, this rate may not be adequate depending on future costs of goods and services.

Conversely, the most effective revenue strategy is cost avoidance. The City should continually be looking for opportunities to leverage community volunteerism to offset operational costs, and to factor energy conservation into all new facility designs and renovations to help reduce operational expenses.

The City of Placerville has a long history of community volunteerism on behalf of the development and maintenance of public parks. Over the years, local residents and service clubs have raised considerable amounts of money for park land acquisition, and many improvements enjoyed by

current residents were made possible by the labor, services, funding, and materials donated by these individuals. This spirit of community service has played an important role in building the City's park system by supplementing limited public funds to meet the community's need for park resources. It is especially important for the City to actively pursue this ongoing collaboration with groups such as the Lions, Rotary, and Active 20/30 Club that are well-known in the community and able to mobilize volunteer expertise, labor, and services as well as fund raising for the specific park improvements described in this Master Plan.

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## Appendix A - Written Survey

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# PLACERVILLE AREA

## PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The following questions are designed to obtain your views on the Parks and Recreation services and facilities in the Placerville area. Your participation in this survey is very important and will help guide future park planning for the Placerville area. Please read each question carefully and check the response that best reflects your views.

### A. OVERALL PARK AND RECREATION EXPERIENCE

Please rate how well the following statements reflect your views, in general, on the City of Placerville and County of El Dorado Parks and Recreation facilities and programs.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. The variety of facilities at the parks meets your recreational needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. You are satisfied with the quality of the facilities in the parks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The parks are conveniently located for you.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. There are enough parks to meet your needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The parks are well-maintained.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. It is safe for young people to play in the parks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. You know where to get information about recreation programs provided by the City of Placerville.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. You are satisfied with the variety of recreation programs offered by the city of Placerville.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The City's recreation programs are offered at locations that are convenient for you.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. The City's recreation programs are offered at times that are convenient for you.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### B. PARK DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING

Please rate the following statements about how to pay for park and recreation facilities in the Placerville area.

	Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
1. Developers should pay fees to cover the cost of new parks when new residential developments are approved.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. You would consider paying a new assessment or tax specifically for parks as long as you had the opportunity to approve the amount of the assessment or tax before it was implemented.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The City and County should aggressively pursue grants and contributions to help fund park facilities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The City and El Dorado County should continue to use existing assessments and the City and County general funds to pay for parks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### C. INDIVIDUAL PARK EVALUATION

Please tell us which parks you visit and if you have concerns about park facilities, safety, or cleanliness.

Park Name	I visit this park ...			I have concerns about the following at this park (Check all that apply):			
	Often	Occasionally	Never	Condition of Facilities	Daytime Safety	Safety After Dark	Cleanliness
Gold Bug Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benham Park or City Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rotary Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lions Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lumsden Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orchard Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henningsen Lotus Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pioneer Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe's Skate Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bradford Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**D. RECREATION PROGRAMS**

- 1 Have you or has anyone in your household participated in a City of Placerville recreation program in the past three years?  
 Yes (continue to question 2)  
 No (skip question 2)  
 Don't Know/Not Sure (skip question 2)
- 2 Were the people in your household who participated in the recreation programs satisfied?  
 Very Satisfied  
 Somewhat Satisfied  
 Not Very Satisfied  
 Not at all Satisfied  
 Don't Know/No Opinion

Please rate the importance of providing future recreational programs and activities in the following age groups and areas.

	High	Moderate	Low	No Opinion		High	Moderate	Low	No Opinion
Preschool, Age 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Young Adults, Age 19-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Age 5-12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adults, Age 26-50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenagers, Age 13-18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mature Adults 51-70	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seniors, Age 70+	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature Education Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts & Cultural Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Summer Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual & Team Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fitness Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	After School Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer & Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**E. ADDITIONAL PARK FACILITIES**

What additional park facilities do you think are needed in Placerville to meet the needs of the community? (Please select up to five facilities.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Centers	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/> Disc Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Basketball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meeting Rooms	<input type="checkbox"/> Gymnasiums	<input type="checkbox"/> BMX Bike Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Volleyball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Courts
<input type="checkbox"/> Teen Centers	<input type="checkbox"/> Skate Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Group Picnic Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Water/Spray Play Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Space
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking and Biking Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Play Areas (Ages 6-12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Bocce Ball Courts
<input type="checkbox"/> Amphitheater	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Tot Lots (Ages 3-5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>

**F. TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF**

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and your household to assist us in planning future services. Please be assured that all responses are confidential and are for statistical purposes only.

1. What is your gender?  
 Male  Female
2. What is your age?  
 10 or younger  
 11 - 15  
 16 - 20  
 21 - 30  
 31 - 50  
 51 - 65  
 66 or older
3. Do you have children in your home? (Check all ages that apply.)  
 5 or younger  
 6 - 10  
 11 - 15  
 16 - 18
4. Please refer to the map at right, and tell where you live.  
 Coloma  
 Diamond Springs  
 Lotus  
 Placerville  
 Pollock Pines  
 Other



**THANK YOU!**

Please drop this completed survey in box provided or return to one of the following:  
 City of Placerville Parks and Recreation Department • 549 Main Street, Placerville, CA 95667  
 County of El Dorado Parks Recreation • 3000 Fairlane Court, Suite 1, Placerville, CA 95667

Would you like to join our Master Plan mailing list? If so, please provide either a mailing address or an e-mail address below:

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking valuable time to assist us with this most important survey.  
 If you have any questions about the survey or the Parks Master Plan process, please visit:  
<http://www.cityofplacerville.org/> or contact Steve Youel at (530) 642-5232.



## Appendix B - Telephone Survey

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Interviewer:	Red Checked by:	Checked by:	Re-checked by:	Corrected by:	Correction Checked by:	Coded by:	Coding Checked by:
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JDFR #825  
PROGRAMMING

## CITY OF PLACERVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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RESIDENT SURVEY

### Introduction

Hello, this is YOUR FULL NAME calling on behalf of the City of Placerville and El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Departments. We are doing a short survey about parks and recreation services in the Placerville area and would like to include the opinions of your household. (I only need two or three minutes of your time.)

### Screening

Q:QA

T:

I would like to interview the youngest male adult aged 18 **or older** who is at home now.

➤IF NO MALE ADULT OR MALE ADULT NOT AVAILABLE, SAY:

Q:QB

T:

Then I would like to interview the youngest female adult aged 18 **or older** who is at home now.

I:

WHEN YOU HAVE ELIGIBLE ADULT, REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NEEDED AND CONTINUE WITH INTERVIEW.

Q:Q1

T:

First, I am going to read you a list of the parks in Placerville and in the surrounding areas of El Dorado County. As I read each one, please tell me how often you visit that park in a typical year.

	NEVER	1-5 TIMES	6 – 10 TIMES	11-20 TIMES	MORE THAN 20 TIMES
a. Benham Park or City Park	1	2	3	4	5
b. Bradford Park	1	2	3	4	5
c. Gold Bug Park	1	2	3	4	5
d. Henningsen Lotus Park	1	2	3	4	5
e. Joe's Skate Park	1	2	3	4	5
f. Lions Park	1	2	3	4	5
g. Lumsden Park	1	2	3	4	5
h. Orchard Hill	1	2	3	4	5
i. Pioneer Park	1	2	3	4	5
j. Rotary Park	1	2	3	4	5

I:

Q:Q2

T:

Now I am going to read you some statements about parks and recreation services in the City of Placerville and the surrounding areas of El Dorado County. As I read each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree. Here's the first statement...

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE SOMEWHAT	DISAGREE SOMEWHAT	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
11. The variety of facilities at the parks meet your recreational needs	4	3	2	1	5
12. You are satisfied with the quality of the facilities in the parks	4	3	2	1	5
13. The parks are conveniently located for you	4	3	2	1	5
14. There are enough parks to meet your needs	4	3	2	1	5
15. The parks are well-maintained	4	3	2	1	5
16. It is safe for young people to play in the parks	4	3	2	1	5
17. You know where to get information about recreation programs provided by the City of Placerville	4	3	2	1	5

18. You are satisfied with the variety of recreation programs offered by the City of Placerville	4	3	2	1	5
19. The City's recreation programs are offered at locations that are convenient for you	4	3	2	1	5
20. The City's recreation programs are offered at times that are convenient for you	4	3	2	1	5

I:

Q:Q3

T:

Have you or has anyone in your household participated in a City of Placerville recreation program in the past three years?

1 YES (CONTINUE)

2 NO (SKIP TO Q5)

3 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE (SKIP TO Q5)

I:

☛ IF YES, ASK:

Q:Q4

T:

Overall, were the people in your household who participated in the recreation programs very, somewhat, not very, or not at all satisfied with the program or programs?

4 VERY SATISFIED

3 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED

2 NOT VERY SATISFIED

1 NOT AT ALL SATISFIED

9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

I:

Q:Q5

T:

Now I am going to read you four statements about how to pay for park and recreation facilities in Placerville and the surrounding areas of El Dorado County. After I have read each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
a. Developers should pay fees to cover the cost of new parks when new residential developments are approved	1	2	9
b. You would consider paying a new assessment or tax specifically for	1	2	9

parks as long as you had the opportunity to approve the amount of the assessment or tax before it was implemented			
c. The City and County should aggressively pursue grants and contributions to help fund park facilities	1	2	9
d. The City and County should continue to use existing assessments and the City and County general funds to pay for parks	1	2	9

Q:Q6

T:

RECORD GENDER

1 MALE

2 FEMALE

Q:Q7

T:

Now in order to classify your responses along with others, I need to ask a few questions about you. First do you live in Cameron Park, Coloma, Diamond Springs, Lotus, Placerville, Pollock Pines, Shingle Springs, or somewhere else? (And where would that be?)

1 CAMERON PARK

2 COLOMA

3 DIAMOND SPRINGS

4 LOTUS

5 PLACERVILLE

6 POLLOCK PINES

7 SHINGLE SPRINGS

8 SOMEWHERE ELSE: \_\_\_\_\_

9 REFUSED

Q:Q8

T:

What is your age, please?

\_\_\_\_ \_  
999 REFUSED

I:

Q:Q9

T:

Are there any children under the age of 19 living at home with you?

1 YES (CONTINUE)

2 NO (THANK AND TERMINATE)

3 REFUSED (THANK AND TERMINATE)

I:

☛IF YES, ASK:

Q:Q10

T:

And how many children under the age of 19 live in your home?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
999 REFUSED (THANK AND TERMINATE)

I:

☛IF >0, ASK:

Q:Q11

T:

How old are these children? RECORD ALL THAT APPLY. MAKE SURE ALL CHILDREN ARE ACCOUNTED FOR. ROUND TO NEAREST YEAR TO CODE IF ONE YEAR OR OLDER.

CHILD 1 \_\_\_ \_\_\_

CHILD 2 \_\_\_ \_\_\_

CHILD 3 \_\_\_ \_\_\_

CHILD 4 \_\_\_ \_\_\_

CHILD 5 \_\_\_ \_\_\_

CODE "0" LESS THAN ONE YEAR OLD

999 REFUSED

I:

**THANK RESPONDENT!**