

# 10 Needs Analysis and Recommendations

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

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

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

## 10.1 Parks

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

### Population Distribution in El Dorado County

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

the facilities. The General Plan provides the following classification of community types within the County.

**Community Region:**

The General Plan defines Community Regions as “those areas which are appropriate for the highest intensity of self-sustaining compact urban-type development or suburban type development within the County.” For purposes of park and trail planning, it is useful to recognize that public services, including parks and trails, are provided to Community Regions in various ways depending on how the region is organized. Types of Community Region organization include:

Incorporated City: Public services including parks and recreation are provided primarily by the city. Placerville and South Lake Tahoe are the two incorporated cities in El Dorado County.<sup>15</sup>

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

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

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

**Rural Region:** All areas not included in a Community Region or Rural Center are classified as Rural Regions. In these areas there is limited availability of infrastructure and public services, with an emphasis on preservation of agricultural and forest/timber land uses.

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<sup>15</sup> Rural communities in the Tahoe Basin are not listed because they are addressed by the Regional Plan for the Tahoe Basin as adopted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

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

## Existing Types of County Parks

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

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

## Neighborhood Parks

### *Needs*

Neighborhood parks are intended to be used primarily by people living within walking or biking distance, or approximately ½ mile for children. County residents living outside of the areas officially served by Placerville, El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Park CSD, and Cosumnes River CSD have very limited access to neighborhood parks. Bradford Park is the only County-operated neighborhood park and is located in Shingle Springs. Pioneer Park and Henningsen Lotus Park are both much larger County facilities, but they also function as neighborhood parks for nearby residents in Somerset and the Coloma-Lotus areas respectively. The General Plan specifies that the County will assist with the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks

While many areas of the County do not have access to neighborhood parks, developing a new neighborhood park in a sparsely populated area provides much less benefit than developing the same park in an area with more residents. For example, the focus of the Georgetown Divide Recreation District is specifically on community parks rather than neighborhood parks because there is such a low residential density in the District.

Neighborhood parks need to be built in areas where the residential density warrants the investment. The emphasis for neighborhood park development should be on the more densely populated Community Regions lacking such resources.

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

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

### *Recommendations*

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

#### **NP1. Assist with Establishing Neighborhood Parks**

Provide neighborhood parks in the more densely populated areas of the County not served by a special district. These areas are Diamond Springs, El Dorado, Shingle Springs, Camino/Pollock Pines, and the areas surrounding the City of Placerville. The need for neighborhood parks in these areas is already significant and they are targeted by the General Plan for future high density, low cost housing. These areas also have the greatest impact on overutilization of parks in the City of Placerville.

- NP1.A. Where parks are lacking in already developed areas, work with residents to identify potential neighborhood park sites as close by as is feasible. Acquire and improve these parcels through a combination of donations, volunteers, partnerships with other public agencies, grants, and CSD assessments. Ideally, at least 4 neighborhood parks totaling 20 acres would be located in the El Dorado/Diamond Springs area, and 1 additional 5 – 8 acres neighborhood park would be located in the Shingle Springs area.
- NP1.B. Continue to require neighborhood park land dedication or fees-in-lieu as part of the residential development review process.
- NP1.C. Work with residents to facilitate establishment of Community Service Districts with associated assessments to build, operate, and maintain neighborhood (and community) parks.
- NP1.D. Establish joint use agreements with schools to secure public access to play areas, sports fields, and gymnasiums particularly in areas where vacant land for neighborhood park development is limited.

**NP2. Establish Neighborhood Park Standards**

Neighborhood parks should include facilities and improvements that will provide recreational opportunities for all age groups as well as families. There should also be a consistent level of improvement in each park, but with specific features designed to reflect the neighborhood needs and preferences. Neighborhood residents should have a role in selecting which improvements will be provided in their neighborhood park. Standards for facilities and design of neighborhoods parks are provided in the Park Design Standards included in Chapter 11 of this Master Plan

**NP3. Neighborhood Park Access**

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

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

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

## Community Parks

### *Needs*

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

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

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

### *Recommendations*

The following recommendations address the needs related to community parks.

#### **CP1. Camino/Pollock Pines Community Park**

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

#### **CP2. Assist Georgetown Divide Recreation District with Community Parks**

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

**CP3. Henningsen Lotus Park Improvements**

- CP3.A. Demand for the pavilion at Henningsen Lotus Park is often in excess of capacity. Constructing a second pavilion feature or at least another shade structure would increase the number of reservation based activities that could be going on at once. Overall park carrying capacity as a function of available parking would still need to be maintained.
- CP3.B. Access to the sports fields could be improved by changing the reservation process from an annual meeting to a real-time online reservation process similar to that used by the Georgetown Divide Recreation District and Black Oak Mine School District to coordinate reservations at their facilities.
- CP3.C. Georgetown Divide residents are interested in using Henningsen Lotus Park for local events and community festivals because there are no comparable facilities developed yet in District parks. However, coordination and planning for these events require dedicated County staff which is in short supply. GDRD staff could partner with County staff to share the burden of coordinating these events and reservations.
- CP3.D. The community input process resulted in several other suggestions for possible future facilities at Henningsen Lotus Park, including tennis courts, a dog park, a small gymnasium, more barbecues, and a white water facility in conjunction with shoreline restoration. A build-out concept plan should be developed to identify which of these features should be added to the park and the cost to make the improvements.

**CP4. Establish Community Park Standards**

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

**CP5. New Community Parks**

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

- CP5.A. Continue to require land dedication or fees-in-lieu towards meeting the General Plan community park guidelines as part of the development review and entitlement process.
- CP5.B. Support establishment of Community Service Districts with associated assessments to build, operate, and maintain community (and neighborhood) parks.
- CP5.C. Encourage alternative ways to secure public access to the types of resources found at a community park through partnerships with private businesses and organizations.

## Regional Parks

### *Needs*

Regional parks are intended to serve a much larger area, and typically have unique or special features that may very well attract visitation from outside of the County. Regional parks may also function as neighborhood or community parks depending on the types of improvements provided. The County has been very successful in acquiring regional park land and currently has 172 acres, or 65 acres in excess of the General Plan guidelines. However, all of this land is not fully improved for recreation use. Another 50 acres would need to be improved to meet the guideline.

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

### *Recommendations*

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

#### **RP1. El Dorado Fairgrounds**

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

The County has also received a grant of \$133,000 in 2003 to refurbish two ball fields for Girls' Softball use located on Fairgrounds property near Ray Lawyer Drive. A second grant for \$1.73 million was requested in 2010 to reconstruct and configure the historic Dub Walker American Legion regulation size baseball field in the Fairgrounds and create parking to serve all three fields. Field configuration as proposed will also allow for regulation league and junior soccer fields to be laid out in the infields. The grant was not successful, but concept plans and the CEQA Initial Study have been completed. The ball fields are currently being used for staging race activities at the Fairgrounds, which have increased significantly since the original grants were submitted. If the conflicting demands for the space can be resolved, these ball fields should be completed and made available on a reservation basis similar to the fields at Pioneer Park and Henningsen Lotus Park to help meet the significant demand from local sports leagues for baseball fields, especially in the populous areas surrounding Placerville.

**RP2. Chili Bar**

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

**RP3. Cronan Ranch**

El Dorado County owns a 64-acre parcel within the greater 1,400 Cronan Ranch Plan located at the Pedro Hill Road entrance. There are various uses that could be implemented at this location that would provide recreation value to County residents and visitors without degrading the open space values of Cronan Ranch. Community input gathered for this Master Plan suggested uses for this parcel including an equestrian arena, overnight camping, covered picnic area, restrooms, play structures, and disc golf. A concept plan needs to be developed for this parcel that identifies which uses are most appropriate for the site and provide the greatest value to local residents as well as visitors. With a concept plan in place, efforts to secure implementation resources and operational agreements can be pursued.

**RP4. Bass Lake Regional Park**

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

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

that are revenue generating and may be suitable for a public/private development and operation agreement.

#### **RP5. Railroad Park**

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

## ***10.2 Recreation Facilities***

### **Needs**

In addition to looking at what types of parks are needed and where they should be located, it is also important to identify specific significant facilities that are lacking based on residents' recreation needs. The analysis of existing facilities in Chapter 7 (Existing Level of Service) and input from the residents suggest there are several types of recreation facilities for which demand is exceeding availability. The need for access to these facilities is primarily to serve residents who live outside of the service areas of the other regional recreation partners, and who are largely relying on these other providers and schools for access to these facilities. The specific number of these facilities needed is based on an analysis of population and existing facilities as shown in Table 22.

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

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

Table 22 - Facilities per Population Served

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

## Recommendations

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

### TR1. Play Areas and Outdoor Basketball Courts

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

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

### **TR2. Tennis Courts**

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

### **TR3. Sports Fields**

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

TR3.A. The use of school fields is very helpful, and should be continued. However, the use terms typically must be re-negotiated every year. Planning and arranging for facility access from season to season is highly unpredictable and a significant drain on the all-volunteer resources of these organizations. The County may be able to streamline the process through formal joint-use agreements. The County should also enter into long-term joint-use agreements with the schools in the Plan Area that are not already sharing facilities with other park providers. The County could then include school fields with other County park facilities in a comprehensive management and scheduling approach.

TR3.B. To help meet the need for additional fields it is recommended that the County pursue renovation of the 2 softball and 1 baseball field at the Fairgrounds, as noted above, providing the issues with Fairground race venue

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

TR3.C. It will also be important to identify resources through grants, donations, and public/private partnerships to get additional sports facilities built that are suitable for league and tournament play. Such facilities are potentially important regional recreation features that could bring recreation based tourism spending to the County, and should include provisions for business concessions in the park.

#### **TR4. Equestrian Arena**

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

#### **TR5. Swimming Pool**

None of the County parks has a swimming pool. County residents utilize pools owned and operated by the City of Placerville, the El Dorado Hills CSD, and the Cameron Park CSD. The El Dorado Hills CSD and Cameron Park CSD pools were designed with capacity for CSD residents. Only the Placerville pool was built with capacity intended to serve non-residents. The YMCA and swim leagues also use the pools at the three area high schools on a very limited basis during the summer months.

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

staffing costs during an extended season should also be explored, as well as funding options.

#### **TR6. Indoor Recreation and Event Space**

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

#### **TR7. Group Picnic Areas**

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

#### **TR8. Skateboard Park**

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

#### **TR9. Disc Golf**

The disc golf course at Pioneer Park is one of the most consistently used features at the park. It is especially popular with older teens and young adults who perhaps are not interested or involved with organized team sports. A second disc golf course should be located in the Coloma/Lotus or Georgetown Divide area. This type of facility is easily

integrated with a more natural area and could be suitable for Henningsen Lotus Park, Cronan Ranch, or one of the existing GDRD parks.

#### **TR10. Amphitheater**

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

#### **TR11. Dog Park**

While many County residents live on large rural parcels, those who live in the more densely developed communities along U.S. Highway 50 expressed a desire for a dog park where their pets could run off safely off-leash. If a dog park is included as planned as part of the new animal shelter that is to be constructed in the community of El Dorado, this should meet the need.

### ***10.3 Trails***

#### **Needs**

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

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

The 1990 plan also does not reflect some of the trail use trends of the last 20 years. These include: a much greater diversity of trail users such as mountain bikers; more emphasis on trails as an urban recreation amenity; and the increasing interest in the overlapping recreation and transportation uses of trails. Most notably, the plan does not address local trails, except to say that neighborhood plans should include local trails where possible. The trails component of this Master Plan is focused specifically on the corridors identified in the 1990 plan that remain a priority today, and a broader view of trail needs as represented by the three functional types of trails characterized in Chapter 7: nature trails, park paths, and connectors.

## Recommendations

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

### **TR1. El Dorado Trail**

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

- TR1.A. The alignment of the western portion from the Sacramento county line to Placerville is established by the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor. Efforts to implement this section of the trail should focus on grants and volunteer resources.
- TR1.B. An analysis of various alternative alignment options for the segment from Halcon Road to Pacific House was completed in 2009. The County should move forward with identifying the preferred alignment for this segment and begin working on securing implementation resources.
- TR1.C. Implementation of the eastern most segment of the El Dorado Trail from Pacific House to the City of South Lake Tahoe should continue to be pursued. While much of the trail already exists via various unpaved trails through the Eldorado National Forest, significant technical analysis is needed to identify the specific alignment, design, and acquisition details. The terrain may also limit the range of potential trail uses in certain areas.
- TR1.D. The segment of the trail from Halcon Road to the City of South Lake Tahoe corresponds with a portion of the Pony Express National Historic Trail. As such, it is regarded as a transportation feature by the Federal Highway Administration and is eligible for Transportation Equity funding. Assistance with design, signage, and promotion, as well as letters of support for grants

are also available from the National Historic Trails division of the National Park Service.

### **TR2. Pony Express National Historic Trail**

From Diamond Springs east to the City of South Lake Tahoe, the Pony Express National Historic Trail generally corresponds to the El Dorado Trail as described above, with spurs in the Echo Lake area that veer southeast towards Highway 88. From Diamond Springs west to the County line, it generally follows U.S. Highway 50 towards Sacramento with a spur that terminates in Folsom. The annual re-enactment of the Pony Express ride follows the historic route as much as possible, given modern day obstructions and traffic considerations. The Pony Express National Historic Trail is a significant draw for geo-tourism. In order to bring more year-round attention to the Pony Express Trail, a comprehensive signage program should be developed in coordination with the National Historic Trails division of the National Park Service.

### **TR3. Mormon-Carson Emigrant Trail**

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

### **TR4. Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plans**

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

Plans identifying priority routes and development strategies for multiple use trails connecting neighborhoods and the community should be developed for each community in the unincorporated Plan Area. This focus on non-motorized local transportation and recreation options is a key element in the federal *Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities*.<sup>16</sup> As a participating agency, the Federal Highway Administration has developed a *Livability Initiative*, through which funding and support are available to plan for and implement such facilities.<sup>17</sup> These plans would

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<sup>16</sup> EPA, "Partnership for Sustainable Communities: A Year of Progress for American Communities," 2010. [http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/partnership\\_year1.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/partnership_year1.pdf). Accessed 04/08/2011

<sup>17</sup> FHWA, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/faq/>

compliment the El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan by focusing at the local level and including the needs of pedestrians and also equestrians where appropriate.

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

There is also a need for similar non-motorized trails in the Camino/Pollock Pines community. One suggested route would be adjacent to Pony Express Trail, providing a safe non-motorized alternative through the commercial center. Another important trail would be one connecting Pollock Pines with the Sly Park Recreation Area. A third potential route would provide access to EID's Forebay recreation facilities, potentially utilizing easements along the canals. These are trails that would clearly serve local transportation and recreation function, while contributing to the livability of the community by reducing automobile trips.

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

#### **TR5. El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan**

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

#### **TR6. Other Regional Connections**

There is a need to provide other regional connectors to provide linkages for the south County, the Georgetown Divide communities, from the El Dorado Hills area to the El Dorado Trail/SPTC, and to connect regional parks. Table 23 lists the corridors from the

1990 Trails Plan that address these needs with some refinements. These corridors should be a priority for future implementation. For most of these corridors, additional study will be required to identify the specific preferred alignment of the route considering terrain, ownership, existing roads, and other constraints. Nevertheless, it is important to identify these corridors at a conceptual level so that future development does not preclude eventual implementation.

The remaining corridors identified in the 1990 Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan are still potential future alignments, but are considered lower priority for implementation than the selected corridors noted in Table 23 due to significant feasibility issues and/or less functional value. They are retained in this Master Plan as corridors for future study and are listed in Appendix E.

**Table 23 – Recommended Priority Regional Multiple Use Trail Connections**

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

Trail Name (from 1990 Plan)	Description	Estimated Length
	Coloma business district.	
C-12 Black Oak Trail (portion)	From Kelsey to Coloma along Bayne Road	5 miles

**TR7. Trailhead Locations**

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

**TR8. Trailhead Design Standards**

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

**TR9. Trail Design Standards**

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

**TR10. Trail Signage Format Standards**

Standards need to be established for signage format to ensure that a consistent and clearly understood message is conveyed to all users. The standards should address content as well as graphic conventions. There are many trail advocacy organizations and agencies that have developed trail signage standards. The El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan identifies sign standards for bicycle transportation routes. The USFS

and BLM also have sign standards for their facilities. The County should work in collaboration with the other trail agencies in the Plan Area to examine standards already in place and establish a standard for County trails that incorporate existing conventions where feasible to minimize confusion.

**TR11. Trail Use Standards**

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

**TR12. Trail User Education and Advocacy Group**

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

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

## ***10.4 Administration***

### **Needs**

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

Lack of funding for both development and operation of parks and trails has been a significant issue for many counties in California for the last several years. Future General Fund revenues tied to property taxes are like to remain depressed for at least the near future. Funding strategies that do not rely on the traditional tax base need to be emphasized in order to keep providing the park and trail facilities that are so important to the health and well being of County residents and communities.

Operational issues include both the day-to-day oversight and management of the County's parks and trails as well as the maintenance of facilities. Specific needs in this area emphasize maintaining a consistent vision in all County efforts that impact parks and trails, providing for the continued high quality maintenance of existing and future facilities, and improving visibility and access to facilities through better information and scheduling.

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

## Recommendations

### *Funding*

#### **AD1. Aggressive Grant Strategy**

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

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

- broaden awareness of which grants are available;
- have a list of well-defined projects that have been vetted for feasibility, regulatory compliance, and value to the community;
- match grants with projects that are clearly aligned with the objectives of the grantor;
- develop relationships with partner organizations who will provide letters of support;
- demonstrate the administrative capacity to manage grants; and
- submit well-crafted and realistic proposals.

#### **AD2. Park Impact Fee Nexus Study**

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

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

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

Additional development park impact fees are collected by El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Park CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, and the City of Placerville pursuant to the "Mitigation Fee Act" as found in Government Code § 66000 et seq. The intent of the impact fees is to fund park and recreational facility improvements needed to serve new residents so that access to such facilities, including trails, for existing residents is not degraded.

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

### **AD3. Sponsorship Outreach**

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

## *Operations*

### **AD4. Oversight for Administrative Consistency**

As new park and trail projects are designed and implemented, either by the County alone or by developers, there must be consistency between the Parks and Trails Master Plan requirements and design standards and direction in the Design and Improvements

Standards Manual and Minor Land Division Ordinance for dedications. This will help project proponents have a clear idea of what they will encounter during the entitlement process, and ensure consistent quality between County and privately developed improvements.

**AD5. Dedicated Staffing**

Dedicated professional staffing is needed to plan for and manage the County's parks and trails and be responsible for the coordination and collaboration with the many regional and community park and trails partners. This type of oversight is critical to maximizing the value of park and trail resources. While contract services may be used for specific projects, permanent staff is needed to direct these projects and interface with the public in a consistent and knowledgeable manner. Many of the recommendations in this Master Plan will be best implemented as a work plan for dedicated park staff.

**AD6. Preventive Maintenance**

Maintaining existing County park and trail facilities is critical both for public safety and to avoid expensive repairs resulting from ongoing neglect. The County should continue to plan and budget for preventive maintenance at existing facilities, and factor preventive maintenance in the operational budget for new facilities.

**AD7. Planning for Low Maintenance**

As new facilities are planned, consideration must be given to how the appropriate levels of maintenance will be provided and sustained. Strategies for reducing ongoing maintenance costs should be explored early in the project planning process. Facilities should not be constructed if maintenance cannot be provided either through County staff or some other reliable combination of contract and/or volunteer resources.

**AD8. Coordinated Online Information Resources**

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

**AD9. Online Reservation Services**

Another information need is for online reservation services. Many park agencies are using this approach to accept facility bookings, show real time availability of facilities,

and notify users of policies or facility changes. This saves time for the public and staff and potentially increases facility usage by allowing last minute re-bookings and schedule adjustments. County facilities are used by many recreation programs who would benefit from this improved administrative capability.

### *Collaboration*

#### **AD10. Public/Private Partnerships**

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

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

#### **AD11. Public/Public Partnerships**

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

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

#### **AD12. Park and Trail Promotion**

There are numerous opportunities to gain additional recognition for El Dorado County park and trail resource that would help attract geo-tourism and potentially increase grant success. The National Historic Trails signage program is one such opportunity. Another opportunity would be to seek National Recreational Trail status for important regional trails such as the South Fork of the American River trail. A focused effort should

be undertaken with the participation of recreation oriented businesses to identify and implement these types of promotion for County parks and trails.

**AD13. Volunteers**

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

While there are various issues associated with the use of volunteers related to liability and oversight, there is a significant body of experience in the region from other jurisdictions and organizations who have successfully addressed these issues to create highly effective volunteer programs with many hundreds of participants. The benefit of embracing volunteer resources is not just in the financial value of the services they provide, but also in the greater sense of community cohesiveness and belonging experienced by the volunteers.

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

Table 24 in Chapter 11 (Implementation Strategy) highlights the many valuable ways in which volunteers could assist with implementation of the recommendations in this Master Plan.

# 11 Implementation Strategy

This first comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan for El Dorado County is being developed at a time of great economic uncertainty, when funding sources are scarce, and demand for public services is increasing. The implementation strategy for the Plan responds to these circumstances in several ways. Project phasing is emphasized to break large projects into smaller efforts that will provide near-term benefit while utilizing funding as it becomes available. Implementation priorities are expressed in relative terms rather than by specific dates to provide the flexibility to take advantage of focused funding and other resources that may unexpectedly appear. Lastly, implementation responsibility is focused on collaborative efforts involving the business community, park and trail users, and other significant stakeholders with County staff used to leverage these resources.

The framework for implementation includes three elements. Level of Service guidelines establish quantitative and qualitative targets the County seeks to achieve in order to provide high quality park and trail resources for residents and visitors. The framework also includes Feasibility Criteria against which future projects are to be evaluated as they move through from concept to implementation phases. The purpose of these criteria is to identify project issues and corresponding solutions as early as possible, and make sure the limited available resources are spent wisely. Finally, Design Standards provide direction to achieve consistency in the quality of park and trail projects for public safety, quality of experience, and sustainability.

## *11.1 Level of Service Guidelines*

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

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

The standards are designed to provide flexibility in how the future park resources develop, while still setting a threshold for the level of service those resources are

expected to provide. As new facilities are developed in the Plan Area, consideration will be given to these standards to determine if the proposed action is consistent with the County's defined level of service for parks and trails.

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

## Park Classifications

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

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

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

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

## Trail Classifications

The El Dorado County Bicycle Master Plan identifies four types of bikeways: Class I Bike Path, Class II Bike Lane, Class III Bike Route, and Class IV Shared Use Roadway. Any unpaved track or fire road is identified generally as a "trail". For purposes of this Master Plan which focuses on recreational trail use, three more refined classifications for trails

are needed in order to describe the variety of functional uses and associate planning considerations.

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

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

**Connectors** are characterized by the function they serve in providing ways for people to move between neighborhoods and communities. They have both a recreation and transportation function, but for recreation purposes are typically separated from a vehicular route. They may be paved and/or unpaved, depending on their location and expected use. Connectors may function at the scale of a neighborhood, community, and/or region and provide alternative transportation options for people to get from home to schools, parks, and businesses without relying on an automobile. These are also very important recreation features especially for people who can't drive to a trailhead, such as children, people without cars, and the elderly who no longer drive.

## Park Service Area

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

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

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

## Acres per 1,000 Population

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

## Facilities per 1,000 Population

Facility guidelines describe how many people can reasonably be served by a facility and are used to help determine if additional facilities are needed. These standards are based on comparisons with other cities, existing facility usage, and community demand for certain facilities. Table 22 in Chapter 10 shows the proposed facility guidelines and analysis of how many facilities are required to meet the current need of Plan Area residents. The standards for typical facilities are as follows:

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

## Non-vehicular Access

All new neighborhood parks should be on an existing or proposed Class I bike path or Class II bike route. Neighborhoods that include parks on Class II bike routes should have sidewalks connecting homes to the park. This standard is intended to facilitate safe

pedestrian and bicycle access to parks and to make it feasible for children to visit neighborhood parks without being driven there. Improved non-vehicular access will also reduce the need for parking lots, help prevent overflow parking into neighborhoods, and reduce traffic congestion and associated air pollution.

## Park Site Characteristics

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

- a. The service area standards determine how far park users can reasonably be expected to travel to access the park. Land that is to be dedicated for a neighborhood park should generally be within ½ mile of the population it will serve. Community park land should be within 5 miles of the intended user population except in rural areas where population density may necessitate increasing this distance.
- b. Proposed park land should have access to appropriate infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, and power.
- c. The types of land uses surrounding the potential park site should be considered. Land adjacent to an existing or proposed school site is desirable because it offers future joint use opportunities. Land that provides opportunities to connect to trails or bikeways is also desirable. If a proposed park site is adjacent to land uses that are incompatible with the proposed park use, the land may not be suitable.
- d. The types of improvements that are typically developed in an active use park include, but are not limited to: playgrounds, sports fields, hard surface courts, meeting rooms, paths, and gymnasiums. The size of a site, as well as its topography, geology, presence of water courses, and any other physical constraints must be suitable for these and any other intended uses.
- e. The site should be no less than 4 acres for a neighborhood park and no less than 8 acres for a community park.
- f. Land that is constrained by the presence of special status species, jurisdictional wetlands, cultural/historical resources, or other protected resources may not be suitable, depending on how much of the site is constrained and the extent of the constraint. In situations where the resources may offer meaningful interpretive opportunities, provide additional passive recreation opportunities, and/or would not be damaged by the proposed uses, the presence of these resources would not necessarily make a site unsuitable for active park uses.

- g. A site may be deemed unsuitable for park land dedication if previous uses have resulted in the presence of hazardous materials, excessive erosion, unstable ground, or any other condition that cannot be corrected without excessive remediation costs. If such conditions can be remediated to the satisfaction of the County, at no cost or an acceptable cost to the County, the land may be considered suitable.
- h. The County reserves the right to make the final determination on the suitability of a proposed park land dedication for both active and recreational open space uses because individual site conditions are unique and cannot fully be anticipated in these guidelines. The County may also determine what portion of a proposed site is suitable.

## ***11.2 Feasibility Considerations***

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

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

- j. Degree of stakeholder support and community consensus on the merit of the project

### *11.3 Park Design Standards*

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

#### Facilities

- a. The standard minimum improvements at all neighborhood parks developed in the future by the County, or as turn-key projects by other parties, should be similar so that the overall quality of park resources throughout the Plan Area is consistent. Neighborhood parks should include the following minimum improvements:
  - Turf area for unstructured play
  - Landscaping
  - Irrigation
  - Bicycle parking
  - Vehicle parking (ADA accessible)
  - Restrooms (ADA accessible)
  - Multi-age play structures
  - Site furnishings such as drinking fountains, trash cans, and benches (ADA accessible)
  - Paths (ADA accessible)
  - Covered picnic tables (ADA accessible)
- b. Sports fields and/or courts or other improvements may be included in neighborhood parks as guided by needs identified in this Master Plan and the preferences of the residents the park is primarily intended to serve.
- c. Community parks should generally include the same minimum facilities as neighborhood parks with additional improvements as identified by the facilities needs in this Master Plan. Exceptions are special use community parks such as skateparks.
- d. Community parks should also function as neighborhood parks for areas that lack neighborhood parks by providing comparable improvements.
- e. Regional parks may or may not include the same improvements as neighborhood and community parks depending on the purpose of the park.
- f. Conjunctive use and multi-use recreation areas and facilities should be emphasized to efficiently utilize park resources.

- g. Facilities within parks should be sited to optimize recreation value by locating features with synergistic uses adjacent to each other.
- h. Play areas shall be a minimum of fifty feet (50') from the street or parking lot, or surrounded by an enclosure that will effectively prevent movement between the play area and street or parking lot.
- i. Play areas should be located near the main circulation route, picnic areas, and open lawn areas.
- j. Sport courts should be located near park edges or adjacent to streets to maximize visibility for security. However, some physical separation should be provided between courts and the street such as a low berm or landscape buffer approximately fifteen feet (15') in width.
- k. Sport courts and fields should generally be oriented with the long axis running north south as feasible.
- l. Where night lighting is included in parks for safety and anticipated recreational uses, glare impacts on nearby residential areas shall be mitigated through appropriate equipment choices and placement.

## Design Process

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

## Location

- a. Parks should be located with consideration for proximity to expected users consistent with the Park Service Area Level of Service guidelines.

- b. Park locations should be selected based on compatibility the adjacent land uses, site suitability, and opportunities to optimize existing infrastructure.
- c. Barriers and screens such as landscaping, earth berms, and fences should be included as buffers between parks and residential or other land uses where park use adversely impacts or is adversely impacted by the adjacent land use.

## Parking and Circulation

- a. Adequate parking shall be provided at parks in accordance with anticipated levels of use. On-street parking shall not cause traffic congestion or interfere with parking for and access to adjoining land uses, particularly residential neighborhoods.
- b. The main entrance to the park should be located near public transit stops or crosswalks if possible.
- c. Park entrance improvements shall include a park name sign with hours of operation.
- d. Circulation for maintenance vehicles shall be provided that does not interfere with pedestrian or bicycle circulation in the park.
- e. Adequate access for fire, emergency, and safety vehicles and equipment shall be provided.
- f. An ADA accessible circulation route shall be provided connecting all accessible features in the park.
- g. The circulation route shall provide safe access to all improvements so that users do not create their own pathways through landscape or turf areas.
- h. Sight lines shall be maintained along circulation routes so that users have adequate opportunity to see oncoming pedestrians and cyclists and to eliminate blind spots.

## Sustainability

- a. Promote water conservation by using efficient irrigation controls with seasonal adjustment.
- b. Where appropriate, use drought tolerant and native plant materials in parks.
- c. Design park facilities to minimize maintenance requirements.
- d. Preserve natural site characteristics as feasible in park design.
- e. Incorporate techniques to manage stormwater discharge from the park site such as permeable surfaces, erosion control planting, and detention/retention swales.
- f. Select energy and water efficient equipment options when possible.
- g. Provide recycling containers in parks along with standard trash receptacles in communities with recycling programs.

- h. Minimize grading and import/export of fill material.
- i. Preserve mature healthy trees as feasible by locating park improvements outside of the trees' drip line and preserving natural drainage

## *11.4 Trail Design Standards*

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

### Parking and Trailheads

- a. Designated parking lots should be provided whenever possible at trailheads, particularly at heavily-used trails and trailheads. Parking lots shall be of sufficient size to accommodate known or anticipated demand. Consideration should be given to joint-use parking with schools, churches, restaurants, and commercial uses.
- b. Where parking lots are not provided at trailheads, sufficient on-street parking should be available that will not cause traffic congestion and interfere with parking for and access to adjoining land uses, particularly residential neighborhoods.
- c. To the extent possible, trailheads to heavily used trails should be located in close proximity to major streets and highways and away from residential neighborhoods and other sensitive land uses.
- d. Frequent, convenient access/egress points should be located along trails in neighborhoods and communities to facilitate use and trail security.
- e. Parking lots shall be designed to minimize disturbance of the natural environment. Grading and tree removal should be the minimum necessary. Appropriate measures shall be employed to reduce air- and water-borne erosion both during construction and during subsequent use.
- f. Barriers shall be used to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access beyond designated parking areas. To the extent feasible, barriers should consist of natural materials such as native boulders and logs, but other materials such as bollard may be used as appropriate.
- g. Where horses are permitted, trailheads shall be designed to accommodate parking and turning movements of vehicles towing trailers.
- h. At a minimum, trailheads heavily used by equestrians should include hitching rails. Where practicable, corrals and a water spigot should also be provided.
- i. Restrooms (permanent or portable) should be provided and maintained within all major trailhead parking lots.

- j. Trash receptacles shall be provided and maintained in sufficient number and size to accommodate trailhead use.
- k. Whenever practical, potable water shall be provided at trailhead parking lots.

## Signs

- a. Signs shall be placed at all trailheads, in clear view of parking lots or adjacent streets (where parking lots are not used), directing trail users to trails. Signs at trailheads should include the following information, at a minimum:
  - Trail name and route number
  - Destination(s) and distance to destination(s).
  - Overall length and length of segments (where applicable).
  - Types of users (i.e., pedestrians, equestrians, bicyclists) permitted.
  - Trail etiquette and safety considerations, including respect for private property, litter control, fire control, and protection of sensitive plants and animals.
- b. Signs should be placed at various points along trails to identify junctions with other trails, water features, streets, and hazardous or sensitive areas.
- c. Interpretive signs may be placed at environmentally-sensitive areas to educate trail users of the value of the natural resource. Culturally-sensitive sites shall not be identified in order to discourage disruption, theft, and vandalism.
- d. Signs located at trail heads and at forks in the trails should include the name of the trail and the distance to known points or destinations. Degrees of difficulty, use limitations, and timing are additional desirable pieces of information.

## Proximity to Developed Areas

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

## Sensitive Environmental or Cultural Areas

- a. Trails and trailheads should avoid environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, such as streambeds, wetlands, special-status plant and animal species areas, and archaeological sites.
- b. Where trails must come in close proximity to environmentally or culturally-sensitive areas, barriers should be used, as appropriate, to discourage damage in these areas. To the extent practicable, barriers should utilize natural vegetation.

- c. Culturally-sensitive sites and areas shall not be identified by signs or other means in order to prevent disturbance.
- d. Stream crossings shall be minimized whenever possible. Where crossings occur, bridge and culvert designs should be used that result in the least disturbance of the watercourse.
- e. Trails shall be designed to avoid disruption of drainage patterns that contribute to seasonal wetland. Consideration should be given to the use of elevated pathways (i.e., boardwalks) in order to avoid soil disturbance and erosion impacts near environmentally sensitive areas.

### Grading and Erosion Control

- a. Grading for trails and trailheads should be minimized to the extent feasible. Where trails traverse cross slopes, large upslope cuts and downslope fills should be avoided through the use of retaining walls.
- b. Trail design shall include effective measures to control or reduce erosion. Recommended measures include seeding (e.g., hydro-seeding) of disturbed ground with native grasses, use of shallow diversion ditches, water bars, and other mechanisms to reduce water velocity and volume on trails surfaces and adjoining areas.
- c. Erosion control measures that comply with the County Design and Improvement Standards Manual shall be employed in all trail construction projects. Appropriate erosion control measures shall be determined by a qualified professional based on local soil conditions, topography, and vegetation.
- d. Where grading is required to construct trails on hillsides, all cuts and fills shall be the minimum necessary and shall be contoured to blend with the natural slope.
- e. Trail alignments should be selected that will result in the least impact on the existing topography and vegetation.
- f. Vegetation removal and grading should be the minimum necessary to meet the horizontal and vertical clearance requirements identified in this section.

### Proximity to Hazardous Areas

- a. To the extent practicable, trails should avoid proximity to potentially unsafe situations, such as railroad tracks, busy streets and highways, abandoned mines, and steep cliffs. Where trails must be in close proximity to such areas, fencing or other appropriate barriers shall be installed.
- b. Trail crossings of busy streets should be minimized. Where crossings are needed, a location with adequate sight distance shall be selected and appropriate signage installed,
- c. Where trails are designed within an active or potentially active railroad corridor, trails should be located downslope of tracks whenever possible, should employ

- physical barriers when necessary, and always be separated by the maximum available distance.
- d. Trails should not be constructed where cross slopes exceed 20 percent, unless appropriate downslope barriers are provided. In certain instances, upslope barriers may be necessary to intercept falling rocks.
  - e. Barriers constructed of local trees and logs should be provided between trails and steep and hazardous areas.
  - f. Trails located next to steep or other hazardous areas shall be at least four feet in width.

## Trail Design Details

- a. Tread width minimum requirements:
  - Single-use trails : 4 feet
  - Dual- or multiple- use trails : 8 feet
- b. To accommodate the minimum tread widths specified in 'a', trail easements for single-use trails shall be a minimum width of 8 feet. Easements for dual or multiple trails should be a minimum of 12 feet in width.
- c. When equestrian uses are anticipated adjacent to a paved trail a separate unpaved track shall be provided at least 4 feet in width and at least 6 feet from the paved trail.
- d. To the extent feasible, trails should be designed in compliance with the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and should be designed to allow access and use by those with disabilities. As accessibility standards are updated, trail design should respond to the updated standards as feasible.
- e. Trail surfaces should be as smooth as possible, using existing ground in most instances. In certain instances, due to the presence of rock, poor soils, or perennial wetness, crushed rock or wood chips may be imported to the site and employed as a trail surface material.
- f. Horizontal clearance for all trail types shall be two (2) feet beyond the trail tread.
- g. Minimum vertical clearance standards are as follows:
  - Hiking trail : 7 feet
  - Bicycling trail : 12 feet
  - Equestrian trail : 12 feet
- h. Trails should not be greater than 15% in slope except where necessary for short runs of up to 20%.
- i. Where retaining walls are employed, natural materials, such as logs and native stone, should be used to the extent possible.
- j. Landings at the end of switchbacks should be at least 8 feet in width.

- k. Hiking and equestrian trails located within a public right-of-way shall be at least 5 feet from the traveled way unless a barrier is constructed between the trail and the edge of the traveled way.
- l. Regional connectors should ideally provide facilities for pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian users. However, ownership and terrain may preclude the ability to secure a sufficiently wide easement for all uses. In such cases, uses will be selected based on community priorities and feasibility

### *11.5 Implementation of Recommendations*

Chapter 10 of this Master Plan includes numerous specific recommendations to address the identified needs for parks and trail in the Plan Area. The following table lists each of these recommendations, and suggests the relative priority, lead implementation responsibility, potential support roles, and estimated costs. Initiatives that are procedural are identified as such. For certain recommendations, the costs may be significantly less than indicated depending on value of donated goods and labor.

Priority is expressed as Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3. Tier 1 projects are those that have the highest priority because they address an immediate critical need, provide a strategic benefit, and/or are relatively simple to implement. Tier 2 projects are those that address less urgent needs, are dependent on Tier 1 projects for functionality, and/or have more complex issues associated with implementation. The remaining projects are classified as Tier 3. These projects are still important but provide less immediate or strategic value than Tier 1 or Tier 2 projects.

**Table 24 – Recommendations**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>PARKS</b>				
<i>Neighborhood</i>				
NP1. Assist with Establishing Neighborhood Parks				
NP1.A. El Dorado/Diamond Springs area: 4 parks ; Shingle Springs area: 1 park	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$8.4 million
NP1.B. Continue land dedication/fees-in-lieu requirements	Tier 1	Planning Staff		Procedure
NP1.C. Establishment of Community Service Districts and/or assessment districts	Tier 1	Various Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
NP1.D. Joint-use agreements with schools	Tier 1	Parks Staff	Schools, Sports Leagues	Procedure
NP2. Establish Neighborhood Park Standards	Tier 1	Parks Staff		Procedure
NP3. Neighborhood Park Access				
NP3.A. Require pedestrian/bicycle access routes	Tier 1	Planning Staff		Procedure
NP3.B. Coordinate park and school locations	Tier 1	Parks, Planning Staff		Procedure
<i>Community</i>				
CP1. Camino/Pollock Pines Community Park				
CP1.A. Identify/Implement Phase 1 project	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	TBD
CP1.B. Collaborate with EID on Forebay Reservoir improvements	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
CP1.C. Explore alternatives/need for non-Phase 1 improvements	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 20,000
CP2. Assist Georgetown Divide Recreation District with Community Parks				
CP2.A. Complete the transfer of ownership of the Greenwood Community	Tier 1	Legal Staff		Procedure
CP2.B. Explore teaming on Bayley House site improvements as regional park	Tier 3	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
CP2.C. Collaborate with GDRD on grants and support for community parks	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
CP2.D. Coordinate with GDRD on Georgetown Airport area trail easements.	Tier 1	Legal Staff		In Process
CP3. Henningsen Lotus Park Improvements				
CP3.A. Build a second pavilion	Tier 3	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 175,000

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Cost</b>
CP3.B. Real-time online reservation process	Tier 1	Parks Staff		\$ 40,000
CP3.C. Collaborate with GDRD coordination and planning for community events	Tier 1	Parks Staff		Procedure
CP3.D. Develop build-out improvement concept plan	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 25,000
CP4. Establish Community Park Standards	Tier 1	Parks Staff		Procedure
<b>CP5. New Community Parks</b>				
CP5.A. Continue land dedication/fees-in-lieu requirements	Tier 1	Planning Staff		Procedure
CP5.B. Establishment of Community Service Districts and/or assessment districts	Tier 1	Various Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
CP5.C. Partner with private businesses and organizations to repurpose underutilized facilities	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	TBD
<b>Regional</b>				
RP1. El Dorado Fairgrounds Ball Fields	Tier 1	Parks, CAO Staff	PRC	TBD
RP2. Chili Bar Finalize Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 15,000
RP3. Cronan Ranch Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 25,000
RP4. Bass Lake Regional Park Updated Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 20,000
RP5. Railroad Park Implementation Strategy	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	In Process
<b>Facilities</b>				
RF1. Play Areas and Outdoor Basketball Courts Joint-use	Tier 2	Parks Staff	Schools, Sports Leagues	Procedure
RF2. Tennis Courts	Tier 2	Parks Staff		TBD
<b>RF3. Sports Fields</b>				
RF3.A. Joint Use	Tier 1	Parks Staff	Schools, Sports Leagues	Procedure
RF3.B. Complete/Renovate Fields (Fairgrounds and Office of Education)	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	TBD
RF3.C. Private/Public Partnerships	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	TBD
RF4. Equestrian Arena in North County	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 70,000

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Cost</b>
RF5. Swimming Pool Community Operations Groups	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
RF6. Explore Underutilized Space for Indoor Recreation and Events	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	TBD
RF7. Group Picnic Areas	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 420,000
RF8. Skateboard Park in North County	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 75,000
RF9. Disc Golf in North County	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 20,000
RF10. Amphitheater at Pollock Pines	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	TBD
RF11. Dog Park	Tier 1	Parks Staff		In Process
<b>TRAILS</b>				
TR1. El Dorado Trail				
TR1.A. Sacramento County to Placerville	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	Per BTP
TR1.B. Halcon Road to Pacific House Planning/Implementation	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	TBD
TR1.C. Pacific House to Tahoe Planning	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	\$ 25,000
TR1.D. National Historic Trail Support/Signage	Tier 3	Parks Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	\$ 5,000
TR2. Pony Express National Historic Trail Signage	Tier 2	Parks Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	\$ 5,000
TR3. Mormon-Carson Emigrant Trail Signage/Improvements	Tier 2	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	\$ 15,000
TR4. Neighborhood and Community Connectivity Plans				
TR4.A. Georgetown Divide	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	\$ 40,000
TR4.B. Camino/Pollock Pines	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	\$ 40,000
TR4.C. El Dorado/Diamond Springs	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	In Process
TR4.D. Shingle Springs.	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	\$ 40,000
TR5. El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan Implementation	Per BTP	DOT, EDCTC		Per BTP

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>TR6. Other Regional Connections</b>				
C-1 Cosumnes Trail	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Public	TBD
C-1 Cosumnes Trail Alternative A/B (Old Diamond-Caldor RR/Southern Loop)	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	TBD
C-5 Latrobe Trail (portion)	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Public	TBD
C-6 Salmon Falls-Knickerbocker Trail (portion)	Tier 2	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	TBD
C-7 Pilot Hill Trail (portion)	Tier 2	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Public	TBD
C-12 Black Oak Trail (portion)	Tier 3	Parks, DOT Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	TBD
<b>TR7. Trailhead Locations</b>	Tier 1	Parks Staff		Procedure
<b>TR8. Trailhead Design Standards</b>	Tier 1	Parks Staff		Procedure
<b>TR9. Trail Design Standards</b>	Tier 1	Parks Staff		Procedure
<b>TR10. Trail Signage Format Standards</b>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Public	Procedure
<b>TR11. Trail Use Standards</b>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Public	Procedure
<b>TR12. Trail User Education and Advocacy Group</b>	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff	EDCTD, PRC, TAC, Public	Procedure
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
<i>Funding</i>				
AD1. Aggressive Grant Strategy	Tier 1	Parks, EDCTC Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	Procedure
AD2. Park Impact Fee Nexus Study	Tier 1	Planning Staff		\$ 25,000
AD3. Sponsorship Outreach	Tier 1	Parks Staff	Parks Staff	Procedure
<i>Operations</i>				
AD4. Oversight for Administrative Consistency	Tier 1	Parks, CAO Staff		Procedure
AD5. Dedicated Staffing	Tier 1	CAO Staff	PRC, TAC, Public	\$ 120,000
AD6. Preventive Maintenance	Tier 1	Parks, DOT Staff		Ongoing

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Cost</b>
AD7. Planning for Low Maintenance	Tier 1	Parks Staff		Procedure
AD8. Coordinated Online Information Resources	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 40,000
AD9. Online Reservation Services	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	\$ 20,000
<b><i>Collaboration</i></b>				
AD10. Public/Private Partnerships	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
AD11. Public/Public Partnerships	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
AD12. Park and Trail Promotion	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure
AD13. Volunteer Strategy and Coordination	Tier 1	Parks Staff	PRC, Public	Procedure

DRAFT

## *11.6 Land Development Process*

IN PROCESS

## *11.7 Financing Plan*

IN PROCESS

DRAFT

## Appendix E - Future Trail Corridors

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

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