



# County of El Dorado

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**Date:** July 18, 2024  
**To:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**From:** Zachary Perras, Parks Manager  
**Subject:** Project Updates

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This update is to provide the Parks and Recreation Commission with details on parks projects. In addition to those specific projects outlined below, staff is in full swing of peak season operations at the Rubicon, River, and at all our parks.

## **Ellis Creek Building**

On January 26, 2021 (Legistar Item #21-0041) the Board approved the development grant from State Parks Off Highway Motor Vehicle Division (#G19-03-06-D01) for the construction of a maintenance building at Ellis Creek off the Rubicon Trail. The grant will fund the construction of an oversized two car garage (45'X23') to securely store the pumper truck and pumper trailer in the Ellis Creek drainage as well as house a small emergency shelter for the County and Forest Service employees. On December 12, 2023, the Board awarded the bid to MWCH Construction LLC (name changed to Crystal Basin Construction LLC) to complete the foundation and installation of the structure. The contractor (Crystal Basin Construction LLC) has procured the building and received final approval from the Building Department for the building. The Ellis Creek building site is now accessible due to the snow melt and maintenance staff clearing of downed trees at the access road 14N05. The contractor will have 60-days to complete the work from issuance of the second notice to proceed. The Facilities Project Manager is updating the contractor's schedule, and we anticipate they will begin work the end of June or early July 2024. A kickoff meeting with County Staff and the contractor will be held before the start of construction the last week of June. The kickoff meeting for the project was completed Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup>, with the contractor (Crystal Basin Construction), Inspector (Youngdahl Consulting Group), and County staff all in attendance. Discussions included timing and scheduling for site mobilization and commencement of work. The second notice to proceed starting the 60-day construction window was issued July 10<sup>th</sup> with a projected project

completion date of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Project progress report will be documented in subsequent park project updates.

State OHV Grant: \$171,841

SMUD: \$60,374

OHV registration (Green Sticker) funds: \$103,124

## **Railroad Dog Park and Playground**

In 2009, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved the concept plan for the El Dorado County Historical Railroad Park to be located within the SPTC corridor at Oriental Street in the community of El Dorado. Railroad Park is a 6.3-acre site with a section of operational track, and multi-use pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails. The concept plan has not yet been fully implemented.

A major source of funding over the last several years has been through the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Prop 68) funding through the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Prop 68 awarded funding for individual projects throughout the state through an application process, but also provided funding on a per capita basis. The County was allocated \$400,000 for capital outlay; that is, acquisition of land, or improvements to existing property beyond its original condition. Three projects were approved for use of the County's allocated Per Capita funding by the Board on September 1, 2020 (Legistar Item 20-1141). Of the \$400,000, \$50,000 was allocated for a dog park and \$50,000 was allocated for a playground at Railroad Park.

The dog park was moved to the Railroad Park location from the previously approved site adjacent to the El Dorado Trail off Jacquier Road (Legistar Item #23-0937). The relocation of the park means that the funding now needs no match requirement, since it is located in a severely disadvantaged area. Work on the dog park started in late 2023 and is nearing completion. Staff finalized the dog park rules with guidance from County Council and input from the Animal Services Department (Legistar Item #24-0465). The dog park ordinance establishing the rules for the dog park went to the Board of Supervisors for first reading Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Feedback was received and incorporated into the final version which continued to the April 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting where it was passed unanimously on consent. The item returned for the second reading on May 14<sup>th</sup>, and the ordinance was unanimously approved for adoption and with effective date of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Staff is currently finishing punch list items including completing the installation of the children's playground, shade covers and a seating area for dog owners, drinking fountains, and improved parking areas. An item for the Board to Adopt and authorize the Chair to sign Resolution 107-2024 approving the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Addendum 1 to the Historical Railroad Park Project Initial Study/Mitigation Negative Declaration (IS/MND), certified in February 2016 (State Clearinghouse Number 2016022037), to add the dog park feature, is on the agenda for June 18, 2024. A park grand opening is being planned for Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. We are partnering with the Western Railroad Foundation who operates an excursion train on Sundays from the El Dorado Station located at the park. The grand

opening will feature the excursion train, a celebratory ribbon cutting, partner and vendor booths including County Animal Services, Friends of El Dorado Trail, and local organizations and pet stores. As of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, all punch list items have been completed with the exception of the drinking fountain retrofit which is still waiting on equipment but will be installed as soon as we have the necessary materials in hand. The opening celebration was also featured on KCRA on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> so hopefully we have gotten the word out and have a great turnout.

Prop 68 Per Capita Funding: \$100,000

### **Diamond Springs Park**

The subject property located at 3447 Clemenger Drive was purchased by an anonymous donor through the Marshall Foundation in 2019. In January of 2022, the Board approved a Dedication Agreement and the conditional acceptance of the donation from the Foundation of the property. The proposed project is in an area of the County that is underserved by parks. In addition to the offer of donation, community partners including the Boys and Girls Club, Mother Lode School District, Union Mine High School, and other anonymous donors, have also expressed commitment to help with the development of the proposed project.

Then in March of last year, the Board amended the agreement with Marshall Foundation for Community Health (Foundation), to extend the due date to complete the CEQA process to December 31, 2023, and make changes to the reversion provision as so that if the County does not commence construction of the park within five years of acceptance of the property or if the County ceases to use the property for a park, the property may revert to the Boys & Girls Club of El Dorado County Western Slope.

On December 12, 2023, just under the wire, the Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and accepted the property. Then on February 27, 2024, the Board authorized the CAO to enter into negotiations with the Boys and Girls club on this property to work on development of the park. Future financial impacts could include costs associated with vegetation management and park development. Staff is pursuing volunteers, donations, and grant funding to cover any unfunded costs. We are currently working with the Boys and Girls club to move forward with the development of this park. This will be a phased project, so there is no completion date that this time. There is a Board item on the agenda for June 18, 2024 to adopt and authorize the Chair to sign Resolution of Intent 108-2024 to amend Title 130 of the County Zoning Ordinance for the development of the park. Coordination with the Boys and Girls Club and county staff is ongoing. County staff continues to move this project forward in coordination with the Boys and Girls Club and their consultant team comprised of Kimley-Horn and Roach & Campbell. At our most recent July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting the topics of discussion were focused on park development strategies and the proposed scope of work.

Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT): \$1,000,000

General Fund Park Designation: \$3,000,000

Bass Lake Property proceeds: \$250,000

## **Forebay Park Renovation**

The Forebay Reservoir, located in Pollock Pines on Forebay Road, is owned and operated by EID. The County acquired Forebay Community Park on December 16, 2014, Legistar #14-0132 from EID. The park features a little league ball field, batting cage, bleachers, a scorer's booth, snack shack, championship horseshoe pits, and a recreation center.

In its current state, the Park is in need of several improvements. Parks staff applied for a Prop 68 grant for improvements in 2019 and 2020, but the grant application was unsuccessful (Legistar #19-0687 and 20-1141). The County has since allocated substantial funding for park renovation (see below). The community has also been working to fundraise for improvements at the park, including a senior exercise area. On January 23, 2024 (Legistar Item #23-1967) the Board approved an agreement with Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE) to provide schematic planning and civil engineering design services for Phase 1 of the Forebay Community Park renovations, which will include the parking lot, access roads and entry gates, major grading, fuels management, utilities, and the playground. Parks and Facilities staff will be working together with NCE to complete this phase of the project in 2024, with the intention to commence construction in 2025. Staff is currently in communication with NCE design staff providing feedback on the provided options for the Conceptual Master Plan. Staff also conducted a site visit 5/3/2024 to provide more specific feedback to NCE around location of park amenities in relation to existing trees on the site and had a follow up visit with the consultant 5/9/2024 on site to clarify our expectation as well as discuss ultimate location of park amenities. NCE is currently working on the final design based on the site visit and Staff feedback. Once the Conceptual Master Plan is complete, staff will coordinate outreach to the public for any feedback before proceeding with engineering and construction documents. The intent is to release this project for competitive bidding this winter. Since our last meeting County staff has reviewed and finalized the conceptual master plan for the park and are now starting to work on the project design and engineering. Our project consultant (NCE) will be providing an updated project design schedule in the coming weeks which will be shared with the commission in my next update.

General Fund: \$100,000

Accumulative Capital Outlay Fund: \$43,000

Prop 68 Per Capita: \$300,000

American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA): \$3,000,000

(Plus donations from the community!)

## **Chili Bar**

Chili Bar is a rafting/kayaking put-in downstream of the Highway 193 Bridge over the South Fork of the American River. The site is approximately 16 acres and is owned by El Dorado County. The lower area of the property, located adjacent to the river, is operated for rafting activities by the American River Conservancy (ARC) under the terms of a conservation easement. The upper level includes parking,

structures, and the site of a previously existing mobile home park. Chili Bar is a heavily used access point for the South Fork of the American River.

Following the review of the Chili Bar Feasibility Study (Legistar Item #21-1199), the Board of Supervisors directed staff to explore a concessionaire model for management of the site, explore grant and revenue-generating opportunities, and coordinate with the American River Conservancy, who holds a conservation easement for the lower portion of the site and manages and operates the park. As a result of site investigations and review of old plans and documents, it was also determined that an in-depth site assessment would be needed to determine the infrastructure needs (including wastewater, water, and electrical), site layout, and costs. On February 6, 2024, the Board approved an agreement for Lebeck Engineering to evaluate the site and provide four feasible, preliminary development options, with deliverables to include site plans and cost estimates (Legistar Item #24-0198). The site assessment being conducted by Lebeck Engineering is ongoing. Staff is also continuing to work with the American River Conservancy to identify possible grant funding, especially for a permanent restroom at the site. The store building will not be completed for occupancy until the installation of septic, water lines, and a new electrical panel, which will occur following the completion of engineering and design work by Lebeck Engineering and her subconsultants. Facilities staff is nearing completion of the renovation of the building on the site, which included new siding, windows, interior walls, renovated restroom, and exterior and interior paint. Building renovations have been completed, we are now focusing on the engineering side of the project to address the septic system, water service to the site, and sizing for the updated electrical panel.

Transient Occupancy Tax: \$250,000

River Trust Fund: \$100,000

General Fund: \$1,000,000

### **Rubicon Parking Lot Expansion**

The Rubicon Trail is a 22-mile trail that traverses through El Dorado County, in the Eldorado National Forest, and through Placer County within the Tahoe National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. 23-2156. On January 9, 2024, the Board approved Resolution 008-2024 accepting grant funds in the amount of \$357,586 from the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Division, with a portion for the planning phase of a parking lot expansion project at the Tahoma Staging area on the Tahoe side of the trail along McKinney Springs Road. When current parking lot is full, parking on the road can cause overcrowding and resource damage to the adjacent lands. This project will provide expanded parking to alleviate parking issues on the road. Staff will be returning to the Board with an agreement for biological studies, aquatic studies, cultural studies, and environmental review for this project in the near future. This project is part of our ongoing maintenance of the Rubicon, improvements to user experience, and reduction of impacts to the environment. County staff participated in a kickoff meeting Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were representatives from the US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, County of El Dorado Department of Transportation, County of El Dorado Parks and Trails Division, and Project engineers from NCE (the County's design firm

for the project). A conceptual design was provided by NCE and options were discussed amongst the group. Analysis of the proposed alternatives is ongoing, once the group identifies the preferred alternative, we will then start the biological resource assessment, and heritage resource inventory report for the project.

OHV Division Grant Funds: \$278,909

### **Henningsen Lotus Park**

Henningsen Lotus Park is a 51-acre park located along the south bank of the South Fork American River in Lotus. The park is located within the floodplain which is inundated up to 15+ feet during large floods. The multiple atmospheric river precipitation events in December 2022 and January 2023 flooded the park damaging the well pump structure and created large mounds and scour channels in the boat ramp, beach, and gravel bar areas. Staff have obtained permits to remove material from the boat ramp area to regrade the area and remove larger rocks and are targeting April 2024 for completion. Staff is also pursuing FEMA funding in the form of mitigation funds to prevent these damages from happening in the future. With additional funds, we hope to be able to clear out the vegetation and repair the swales at the undeveloped part of the property. There is also the possibility of expanding the park to include the currently undeveloped portion of the property, to be funded with a potential California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways grant. Staff will return to the Board at a later date with any recommendations for grant applications for funding this project. Grounds maintenance staff recently completed the reconstruction of the boat ramp that was damaged in the 2023-24 storm season. Current projects include installation of ash cans near the large gazebo on the east side of the park and updated signage. Grounds Maintenance staff completed start up procedures for the irrigation system and completed all necessary repairs. Staff continues to look into potential grant opportunities for park expansion and additional amenities, we do not have any pending applications at this time but will keep the commission apprised as opportunities arise.

Insurance Funding: \$107,355.51

### **Pine Hill Preserve Trail Feasibility Analysis**

The Pine Hill Preserve is a cooperative conservation effort among 10 federal, state, and local entities to protect the habitat of eight rare plant species. Four of the plant species that grow in the Pine Hill Preserve are endemic, which means they grow nowhere else in the world. One species is nearly endemic, with only a few plants found elsewhere. This assemblage of rare plants is part of a unique community confined to soils known as the Rescue soils, named after the nearby community of Rescue, CA. Parks staff is assisting the Planning and Building Department, Long Range Planning Division, in assessing the feasibility of creating improved parking areas as well as some natural walking trails, and interpretive signage within the preserve area. We are currently in the process of acquiring proposals to establish a rough order of magnitude of costs and permitting requirements that will ultimately be one of several options presented to the Board of Supervisors to make a recommendation to staff on how to move forward in the

stewardship of this area. Staff will be hosting a meeting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) the last week of June to get input on trail and parking configuration as well as best practices as they are the majority landowner of the preserve and lead agency on preservation of the area. The eight rare plants found in the preserve are listed below, for more information on the preserve staff has also provided a link to BLM's Pine Hill Preserve webpage. County Staff met with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) June 25<sup>th</sup> on site to explore improvement options on the county owned Durock Rd. site. Topics of discussion were parking facilities, potential construction and maintenance needs, and their associated costs. Lastly the group brainstormed around interpretive signage for the site, what it should contain, and how much it would cost.

**BLM Pine Hill Web Page <https://www.blm.gov/visit/pine-hill-preserve>**

1. El Dorado bedstraw
2. Pine Hill Ceanothus
3. Pine Hill Flannelbush
4. Stebbins' morning-glory
5. Layne's butterweed
6. Red Hill soaproot
7. El Dorado mule-ears
8. Bisbee Peak rush-rose

Rare Plant Fund:TBD

**SPTC Natural Trail**

In 1991, the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC) Joint Power Authority (JPA) was established to purchase the Sacramento-Placerville railroad corridor from the Southern Pacific Railway Corporation. Members of the JPA include the counties of El Dorado and Sacramento, the City of Folsom, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District. The Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Master Plan was developed under direction from the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors in order to identify alternative uses of the portion of the SPTC in El Dorado County. The SPTC Master Plan and associated programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) allowed consideration of all trail uses throughout the entire corridor. The 19-mile natural trail segment, beginning west of Latrobe Road and east of Old Station Lane in the community of Latrobe extending north-northeast to Missouri Flat Road in the City of Placerville, is known as the SPTC Natural Trail. The project includes establishing a non-paved trail for walking, biking, and equestrians within the historic railroad corridor, following the trail established by users, with strategic re-routing to avoid sensitive areas.

Some recent progress made on this project was successfully being issued permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The next steps for implementation of this project are completion of all required surveys for sensitive species and mapping of their locations which will be completed through an

agreement we have with EN2. This work has been scheduled for the week of June 17<sup>th</sup> and should be completed by the end of the month. Once completed, we will then be able to begin phased construction of this portion of the trail.

We currently have a few volunteer groups (FATRAC, MLTS, and Friends of the El Dorado Trail) that are eager to get started once the surveys have been completed. Staff estimate this work will be able to begin later this summer. County Staff attended the Mother Lode Trail Stewardship (MLTS) meeting June 26<sup>th</sup> to introduce new county staff and to explore potential partnership opportunities and discuss projects of significance to the group. Biological surveys have been completed on the natural trail from Latrobe Road to Missouri Flat Road. Staff will be receiving the survey report Monday July 15<sup>th</sup> from our environmental consultant (EN2) and once review, will begin coordination of volunteer trail building events.

SPTC: TBD

### **FEMA Projects (Latrobe Washout, Bridge damage)**

This issue originally arose in 2017 during a sever storm event where the site experienced significant erosion due to high flows and sustained significant damage to the tracks and rail bed. At that time County Staff began working with FEMA and the El Dorado County Department of Transportation to prepare a Hydrology Report for the area which assisted in the development of plans to correctly address the needed repair. At that time FEMA made the decision to have the area repaired in-kind and not follow the recommendation of the report and provide an adequate repair for the area based on current hydrologic factors. This resulted in a repair that was undersized for the projected flows identified in the hydrology report that was created.

In January 2023, this area again received a substantial amount of precipitation and sustained additional damage that previously experienced in 2017. Currently the washout section is now 10' below the tracks and extremely dangerous. During the subsequent site visit the FEMA inspector assigned to the project advised staff to have the Hydrology Report updated and to provide recommendation on a suitable repair. The Department of Transportation did not have capacity to assist, so a consultant was hired to update the report on their behalf. The contract was executed, and staff is currently reviewing the updated report and resulting recommended repair memo that once complete, will be routed through CalOES and then to FEMA for approval and ideally funding of the needed repairs. The alternatives analysis memo has been completed, reviewed by County staff, and uploaded to the grants portal for review. Once FEMA completes their review, we will receive a clear determination of what repair methodology they would like us to use and the corresponding budget to make said repairs. Staff will be bringing updates back to the commission summarizing FEMA's determination once it is received.

Similar repairs are also needed on both the Slate Creek and Latrobe Creek bridges as a result of damaged sustained from the same high flow events in 2023. The bridge repairs are being applied for under a separate application and are tracking a similar critical path for their repairs. County staff has issued a notice to proceed to our engineering consultant (NCE) to conduct an assessment of these sites and



produce a memo summarizing the damage to the affected bridges as well as recommendations of necessary repairs. Once complete Staff will provide additional updates to the commission on the scope of the repairs and time frame for completion.

FEMA Funding: TBD

### **CAL FIRE Cone Survey Agreement**

The CAL FIRE L.A. Moran Reforestation Center reached out to staff in March 2024 about partnering on reforestation efforts through cone surveys and collection on County Park properties. CAL FIRE's reforestation program serves all of California forestlands by providing resources to protect and restore disturbed and degraded forests. The Reforestation Center surveys vast locations throughout California. Once harvested, the cone seeds return to the Reforestation Center where CAL FIRE staff begin the rigorous procedure of processing and laboratory testing. The cone survey agreement with CAL FIRE was approved by County Council and is making its way through Central Contracts and once executed it will allow CAL FIRE to survey and collect cones at Bradford Park, Forebay Park, Pioneer Park, Henningsen Lotus Park, and along the El Dorado Trail. This agreement has been executed and there is no further action necessary from the Parks Division at this time.

No costs to County.