



County of El Dorado

Chief Administrative Office

Parks Division

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Date: October 25, 2021

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Vickie Sanders, Parks Manager

Subject: **Parks FY 2021-22 Workplan and Opportunities**

The last park update was before the board on September 1, 2020 (Legistar #20-1141). This item provides you with an update as to where we are with the direction given last September, as well as providing direction for the year ahead.

We have a lot going on in the Parks Division and we have had a very active summer season. With the COVID situation our outdoor spaces have been heavily impacted as everyone wants to get outside. Henningsen Lotus Park saw a 65% increase last year. People have found El Dorado County and they come here to recreate and enjoy what El Dorado County has to offer. We have a lot to offer in our natural resources and recreational opportunities. The workplan for this year includes a focus on expanding recreational opportunities at our existing parks, and the potential to create new parks, allowing us to serve a growing number of visitors. Current projects, new opportunities, and a summary of staff recommendations are provided below.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING

In the FY 2021-22 Budget, the following park improvements have been funded, and are anticipated to be completed within the Fiscal Year:

<u>Parks / Trails Improvements</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Forebay Park Playground	\$50,000	General Fund
Forebay Park ADA	\$43,000	ACO Fund

Bradford Park Playground Cover	\$50,000	\$38,267 General Fund, Quimby \$11,733
SPTC Natural Trail Permits	\$43,000	ACO Fund
Pioneer Park Skatepark Pad	\$50,000	\$44,850 ACO Fund, Quimby \$5,150
HLP Shade Structure	\$25,000	General Fund
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$261,000</u>	

PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Per the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan, Policy 9.1.1.8, the County must prepare and implement a Parks and Trails Master Plan. The current Parks and Trails Master Plan was finalized in 2012. Given changes over the last ten years, including the many new opportunities that have become available to Parks in the form of grants and community partnerships, an update is needed.

The plan will focus heavily on community outreach and stakeholder feedback. The new Plan will also update the inventory and needs analysis, and create a schedule for pursuing recreation opportunities based on anticipated resources. The Parks Division will complete this project with the assistance from the Administration and Budget Division and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

STATE PARKS GRANTS RECEIVED

Prop 68 Round 3: Old Depot Bike Park

Consistent with the 2012 El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan, Parks prioritized the development of a bike park. On May 15, 2018, the County acquired two parcels located at Old Depot Road, adjacent to the Class I section of the El Dorado Trail at Missouri Flat Road. The Division applied for and received approximately \$2 million in grant funding through Round 3 of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Prop 68) through the California Department of Parks and Recreation. This program provides funding for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. There are no matching funds required for this grant program (Legistar Item #18-0696).

With the assistance of Helix Environmental Planning, Inc., the preliminary design was approved by the board on June 30, 2020 (Legistar #20-0764). On this same date, the Board also authorized staff to move forward with the environmental review process.

This project is currently out to bid and it is anticipated that we will be back to the Board on October 5, 2021 to award the contract, with estimated completion in Summer 2022. Some site work has been completed such as removal of the buildings, the well has been sealed and the

California Conservation Corps has completed tree removal and brush removal per the grant requirements.

Prop 68 Per Capita Funding: Forebay Park, Rail Park, and Dog Park

Prop 68 awards funding on a per capita basis, with a Minimum of \$400,000 for populations below 247,577. The County was allocated \$400,000. Each agency must submit one or more complete project applications in the amount equal to its allocation by December 31, 2021. The funding is 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. The application has been submitted for these projects and the contract is on the September 21, 2021 agenda for Board approval (Legistar item 21-1449).

Forebay Park Restroom - \$300,000

The grant will install the restroom, and fund a portion of the conceptual plan and environmental analysis as part of this larger project. It is estimated that the environmental review process will be completed by Summer 2022, and the restroom will be installed by Fall 2022. There is no grant match required for this project.

Rail Park Playground - \$50,000

Railroad Park is a 6.3 acre site located within the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor right-of-way in the community of El Dorado. In 2009, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved the concept plan for the El Dorado County Historical Railroad Park to be located within the SPTC corridor at Oriental Street in the community of El Dorado as a satellite facility of the El Dorado County Museum and park site.

Proposed improvements at this site include facilities to house El Dorado County Museum's collection of railroad Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park artifacts, a section of operational track, and multiple use pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails. This grant will fund the installation of a playground, to be completed in Spring of 2022.

Dog Park - \$50,000

The Parks and Trails Master Plan lists a Dog Park as a Tier 1 priority and describes the recommendation for such as park under Recreation Facility Recommendation RF11: "While many County residents live on large rural parcels, those who live in the more densely developed communities along U.S. Highway 50 expressed a desire for a dog park where their pets could run safely off-leash. This type of facility would ideally be located adjacent to a pet-oriented business so that people could use the park when they come to shop, or within a park that provided other recreation choices. This would allow families to bring dogs and children to the park at part of a single outing." The proposed location for this park is adjacent to the El Dorado

Trail off Jacquier Road, and is currently vacant and owned by the County. It is also adjacent to the City limits. In conjunction with the City of Placerville, the County anticipates adding fencing and other amenities to be completed in Summer 2022.

PARK SITE DEVELOPMENT

Chili Bar

Chili Bar is a public access point and rafting/kayaking put-in downstream of the Highway 193 Bridge over the South Fork of the American River. On June 29, 1994 t acquired the land with a grant and deeded the property to the County. Though the County owns the approximately 16-acre site, under the terms of a conservation easement, the American River Conservancy (ARC) operates the put-in and parking on the lower area of the property adjacent to the river.

On June 23, 2020, the Board conceptually approved the use of Sacramento Municipal Utility District Cooperation Agreement funding (SMUD funding) for a proposed Chili Bar Feasibility study (Legistar #20-0420), in order to provide the County information on existing infrastructure, recommendations on the use of the property based on public input, and the cost to implement.

On July 27, 2021, the Board received a presentation on the Chili Bar Feasibility Study. At that time the Board provided the following direction to staff:

- 1) Work with the American River Conservancy;
- 2) Explore a concessionaire model; and
- 3) Explore grant and revenue generating opportunities. The Board conceptually supports pursuing Option 3 and making it a high priority of the Board to explore building a restroom onsite.

Staff has been meeting with American River Conservancy (ARC) on the management of the site. While doing so, we are looking at a concessionaire model and how to move forward with the management agreement and how that will affect the concessionaire agreement.

Forebay Park

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

The FY 2021-22 budget contains several sources of funding for improvements at Forebay Park. For the new restroom, \$300,000 has been allocated from the Prop 68 Per Capita funds. The budget also includes \$50,000 in General Fund for a playground, and \$43,000 for ADA improvements. A grant application was submitted for this site in the Prop 68, Round 4 process. We are waiting to hear the grant awards. In addition, the Community Economic Development Association Pollock Pines (CEDAPP), a volunteer community group not affiliated with the

County, has been actively fundraising with the intent to fund the playground and build a bike park on the north side of Forebay Park. In order to develop the park with each of these elements, a conceptual design and environmental analysis is needed for the north side of the park. This will locate the restroom, playground and bike park for this site. In order to plan for each of these improvements, a conceptual plan is needed. Environmental review is to follow for the site as a whole.

Sports Complex

In 2019, a Prop 68 grant application was submitted for a sports complex at a property for sale near Charles Brown School on Missouri Flat Road. The site is 30 acres and would accommodate such a complex. Needs for the development of this park would include property purchase, design and permits, all of which were included in the application. Four ball fields, 3-4 soccer fields, disc golf, natural area, snack shack, restroom and playground are proposed for this property. The grant application was not successful.

Since that time, the Marshall Foundation acquired the property, with the intent that it be used for this purpose. The property does not belong to the County at this time, and no agreements with the Foundation currently exist. However, this provides an opportunity to develop an active recreation center for the community, located in the Missouri Flat / Diamond Springs area.

A grant application was submitted for this site in the Prop 68, Round 4 process. We are waiting for notification of the grant awards. If awarded, staff will return to the Board for further direction on this project.

Red Hook Property

On October 30, 2018, The Board declared a 26-acre parcel located at the end of Red Hook Trail Road in the Pollock Pines area as surplus (Legistar #18-1565). This property was originally meant to be a park, but the work needed at the site was cost-prohibitive. At this time, the property belongs to the County. The Facilities Division brought an item to the Planning Commission on October 14, 2021 (Legistar Item #21-1555) to make findings of consistency with the General Plan, as required prior to declaring the property as surplus.

NEW OPPORTUNITES

Rural Recreation & Tourism Program and Regional Park Program – Applications due January 15, 2022

The Regional Park Program and the Rural Recreation and Tourism Program are two distinct grant programs. That is, each grant program has its own purpose/intent. For instance, the Regional Park Program focuses on creating, expanding or improving Regional Parks which focuses on creating at least one recreation feature that attracts visitors from a least a 20-mile radius or countywide population.

On the other hand, the Rural Recreation Parks Program focuses on projects that must create new or renovate at least one recreation feature that is in support of economic, tourism, and health related goals.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PRIORITIES

At their September 16, 2021 meeting (Legistar #21-1329), the Parks and Recreation Commission prioritized park sites as follows:

1. Forebay Community Park - County owned Park/needs renovation
2. Sports Complex - Property Donation County has not accepted
2. Thomas Property - Possible property for sale
3. Chili Bar - County owned possible campground, recommend looking for grants to provide just the restroom
4. Cronan Ranch - County owned working with BLM on improvements

Based on the Parks Commission priorities, it is staff's recommendation that the following grants be submitted. (Note that some of these priorities have grant applications pending review by the State, but it is recommended that new applications be submitted since no awards have yet been made.)

Regional Park Program - No sites in El Dorado County fell under the household median. There is no match to this grant.

1. Forebay Community Park - Application for construction of the Playground, amphitheater & community building improvements, T-Ball field, Bike Park, Amenities would be parking lot and sidewalks.
2. Sports Complex - Develop 2 sports fields, Amenities would be restroom, Parking lot and road.
3. Thomas Property - Property acquisition, conceptual plan development and CEQA, natural trails and river access
4. Chili Bar Park-Application for playground, campground. Amenities would be restroom, road access

Rural Recreation and Tourism Program

1. Forebay Community Park-Application for Playground, amphitheater & community building improvements, T-Ball field, Bike Park, Amenities would be parking lot and sidewalks. No match required.
2. Sports Complex-Develop 2 sports fields, Amenities would be restroom, Parking lot and road. No match required.

3. Thomas Property-Property acquisition, conceptual plan development and CEQA, natural trails and river access. 20% match is required. Cost of the property is unknown and one recreational element is required to be developed. Match for \$3,000,000 would be \$600,000.
4. Chili Bar Park-Application for playground, campground. Amenities would be restroom, road access. (Parks Commission recommends looking for grants to provide just the restroom). 20% match is required. Match for \$3,000,000 would be \$600,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The following additions to the workplan are based on the capacity of staff to complete projects within required deadlines, while maximizing funding opportunities and Parks improvements:

1. Submit the following grants for Prop 68 Regional Park Program:
 - Forebay Community Park (unless received from round 4)
 - Sports Complex (unless received from round 4)
 - Thomas Property
 - Chili Bar Park
2. Submit the following grants for Prop 68 Rural Recreation and Tourism Program
 - Forebay Community Park (unless received from round 4)
 - Sports Complex (unless received from round 4)
 - Thomas Property

Staff will continue to look for other grant opportunities for to fund projects for future workplans.