

**2024**

**EL DORADO COUNTY**

**PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

COMPLETE DRAFT VERSION

12-13-24

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2024 El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan was developed over through a collaborative effort between staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, our collaborative partners, and community members. We appreciate the input, ideas, and guidance provided by all who contributed to this plan.

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# LETTER FROM THE PARKS MANAGER

On behalf of the Parks Division of the Chief Administrative Office, I'm pleased to present the 2024 update of the Parks and Trails Master Plan. The Plan is our long-term vision and overall direction for planning, implementing, and managing parks and trail resources on the west slope side of El Dorado County.

El Dorado County has an exceptional array of unique recreational resources that residents hold dear and that draw tourists from all over the world. The County's parks, trails, and open space provide ways to access and enjoy these recreational resources that have long been recognized for their spectacular beauty.

This Plan reflects the vision and desires of County residents gathered through a robust outreach and public engagement process. Extensive analysis was then conducted by Parks staff to co-create the Plan with community, partners, and the Parks and Recreation Commission to provide a roadmap for the County's parks and trails system.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the residents and stakeholders that have contributed meaningful input along the way and to their dedication to the process. Further, I would like to thank the Parks and Recreation Commission for their commitment and enthusiasm for this project. I am grateful for their support and for the incredible staff team that prepared this Plan.

I'm excited for what the future holds for El Dorado County Parks and Trails and look forward to working with the community and partners to realize our vision for the parks and trails system.

Warmly,

Zachary Perras  
El Dorado County Parks Manager

# INTRODUCTION

This updated Parks and Trails Master Plan for the County of El Dorado has been developed to address parks, trails, and recreation at a countywide level. Pursuant to 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 previous Parks and Trails Master Plan, finalized in 2012, was developed to provide a long-term vision and direction for the planning, implementation, and management of the west slope park and trail resources provided by the County. Given changes in El Dorado County over the last ten years, including implementation of many of the priorities in the Master Plan, the 2012 Master Plan is outdated, and the Board of Supervisors provided direction to complete the Master Plan update in the 2024 Countywide Strategic Plan.

## PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

This plan is a result of a multi-year effort performed almost entirely in-house, allowing Parks Division staff to conduct our own research, think through issues on a local level, and to thoroughly review our own programs. The public, County staff, consultants, and policymakers started this effort by forming a team to examine the County's existing park and trails system and identify its strengths and challenges. The goals for this effort were to:

1. Conduct a robust public engagement process.
2. Consider other public and private recreation providers' current inventory and future plans.
3. Assess needs based on current population, public comments, and emerging trends.
4. Analyze the County's current organizational structure for planning, building, improving, operating, and maintaining park and recreation facilities.
5. Consider all current and possible internal and external funding sources for one-time and ongoing expenses.
6. Provide a strategy for future operations, amenities, and new facilities.

Throughout the process the team discovered how park and recreation needs have changed based on population trends and input from stakeholders and the overall community. Based on the current recreation facility inventory, anticipated needs, and popular trends, we identified key needs for the program, improvements, and partnerships to forge in order to implement the plan.

The result is an updated roadmap for how the overall system of parks and trails will be developed

and managed to reflect the fiscal constraints, relative priorities, and needs, drawn from our own understanding of our unique County. We intend to reference this document often, and because Parks Division staff put it together in-house, we believe that the direction it contains will be achieved.

## **PLAN PURPOSE**

The purpose of the El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan is to provide direction and strategies to guide the acquisition, development, and operation of County-owned parks and trails in the Plan Area. This plan:

- Addresses parks and trails currently owned and/or operated by the County; the provision of parks and trails to serve areas not otherwise served by local park and trail providers; and opportunities to collaborate with and assist other regional providers to enhance the availability and recreational value of parks, open spaces, and trails for residents and visitors.
- Reflects the community's priorities for recreation opportunities.
- Provides direction for acquisition, planning, operating, and maintaining parks, open space, and trails so that current and future management of these resources is consistent with and advances this vision.
- Identifies and recommends specific tasks to achieve our goals.

The final Plan provides a roadmap for how the overall system of parks and trails will be developed and managed while staying mindful of the public's needs and priorities, and the County's fiscal constraints currently, and into the future.

## **PLAN ORGANIZATION**

An important objective of this Master Plan is to document the existing state of public park and trail resources in El Dorado County and to clarify the role of the County in planning, implementing, and managing those resources. The plan includes an extensive Existing Conditions Chapter that serves as a review of current County assets, processes, and relationships to provide an understanding of the framework we work within to provide service to the public. There are many other public and private recreation providers in El Dorado County, and the County's objective is to efficiently coordinate with these partners to meet the park and trail needs of residents and visitors alike. To this end, this Master Plan has a special focus on acknowledging

the collaborative opportunities with special districts, local government, private businesses, state, and federal recreation providers. Working in cooperation with these regional partners, there is tremendous potential to achieve our collective overall goals. This Chapter also includes a review of existing County guiding documents, including the General Plan, provides comprehensive information and analysis of funding sources, and reviews County demographic data.

The process for development of this plan focused heavily on community outreach and stakeholder feedback. The plan analyzes the outcomes of our robust outreach and public engagement effort and compiles and relays the variation in needs for parks facilities in the County. Staff involved the Parks and Recreation Commission for community engagement and for direction on project priorities, and completed a countywide survey, which served as the baseline from which to build the Plan.

Outreach objectives focused on building community awareness of the project and the process for Plan development, coming to a shared understanding of the County's goals and constraints, and obtaining community input to inform and guide our final product. Stakeholder meetings were held in October and November 2022, and a series of five public workshops were conducted in the Winter and Spring of 2023. Staff also assembled a Master Plan Advisory Committee in February 2024, composed of representatives from other agencies, and engaged the public in other more informal ways, all to gain insight into the parks and trail system needs. The park needs expressed by County residents vary significantly depending on where they live and the types of recreational activities they prefer. During the public engagement process several needs related to neighborhood, community, and regional parks were consistently identified throughout the process of gathering public input. Participants expressed an appreciation for the role of recreation to provide and maintain recreational opportunities that support healthy lifestyles, build community, and accommodate tourism along with its associated economic development. Overall, several themes emerged from these efforts:

- 1) **Open Space Trails:** The community wide survey, especially, showed the importance placed upon open space accessible for walking and enjoying nature, hiking, and unimproved, natural trails.
- 2) **Volunteerism:** Consistently throughout all forms of outreach, the community conveyed a willingness to volunteer to improve parks, maintain them, and organize themselves in support.
- 3) **Sports Team Fields:** Several concerns focused on the high costs for sports teams, field availability, travel time, and lack of lighting at available fields, with a focus on the

positive impact to youth as a result.

- 4) **Accessibility:** Common themes were ADA accessible spaces, including sports fields, water access points, and trails.
- 5) **Trail Connectivity:** Connectivity between existing trails, especially connections or expansion of the El Dorado Trail, including trails in other Counties or under other park providers, with an emphasis on open, maintained multi-use trails.
- 6) **Water Recreation Access:** Another theme was providing access to water, especially natural water resources including the Cosumnes and South Fork of the American River, for swimming, fishing, and other watersports.
- 7) **Facility Amenities:** Many survey results and outcomes from conversations concerned lighting, parking, drinking water, and access to restrooms.

Over the course of implementing this Master Plan, it is possible that additional park or trail projects will be identified that were not anticipated. It is important that the planning, implementation, and management of all County park and trail initiatives proceeds in a manner that consistently provides for public safety, efficient use of public resources, high quality user experience, and resource protection. For this reason, this Master Plan provides a Park Standards Chapter that includes guidelines for the physical design of new County parks and trails. This chapter also provides the process for evaluating feasibility of future projects so that valuable resources are expended only on projects that are carefully examined and found to have a reasonable likelihood of success.

The Level of Service and Needs Analysis Chapter compares our current system of parks and trails with other similar agencies in order to identify the gaps and opportunities in the County's allocation of resources for recreational opportunities. Through this assessment, the County is better equipped to strategically plan for future park development and ensure that resource distribution aligns with community needs and regional best practices. This chapter also identifies service gaps and needs.

Last, this document provides Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives to guide us in pursuit of the long-term vision and direction for the planning, implementation, and management of west slope park, trail, and open space resources provided by El Dorado County for the benefit of residents and visitors. The Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives Chapter expands on the guidance found in the El Dorado County General Plan for parks and trails and were derived from stakeholder and community input and reflect needs based on best practices and regional trends. The goals

provide the overall direction for County parks, trails, open space, and recreation. The objectives offer more specific direction to help accomplish the goals. Each initiative is an actionable step for the County to pursue over the life of the Master Plan to reach the objectives. The collective purpose of the chapter is to provide direction for how parks and trails should be planned, operated, and maintained so that current and future decisions about these resources are consistent with the County's long-range vision for parks and trails. The five goals are as follows:

- 1) Preserve and enhance access to natural areas and resource-based recreation, including rivers, trails, and open space.
- 2) Manage recreational opportunities within a regional context to accommodate public access, leverage funding, and provide interconnected trails.
- 3) Prioritize maintenance of public assets and improvements to existing parks and trails to continue to provide safe and diverse recreational experiences.
- 4) Engage the community to refine ongoing recreational needs, encourage participation, and promote volunteer support.
- 5) Invest in and support recreation features in recognition of the importance of recreation as a draw for tourism and quality of life for residents.

Implementation of the Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives recommended in this Master Plan will take place over an extended period of time depending on available financial and other resources. This Master Plan does not provide detailed planning or design for individual park or trail resources. Rather, it is concerned with how the overall system of parks and trails will be developed and managed to reflect the relative priorities and needs of the current and future County population. Notably, while the plan is meant to be a long-term document, it includes direction for the Parks Division to pursue the creation of a multi-year Capital Improvement Program, to be evaluated annually, to create a schedule for pursuing recreation opportunities based on anticipated resources. As a guiding document, the Plan itself is to be referenced when making future decisions on parks and will provide a roadmap for the Board of Supervisors and County staff. New ways of funding acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks and trails also need to be implemented, especially through our community partnerships.

While there will be many challenges associated with implementing this vision, there is also tremendous motivation on the part of residents and regional partners to work with the County in making this vision a reality. This document endeavors to provide a framework for decision-making and guidance to the Parks Division of the El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office to ensure the County's parks, trails, rivers, and open spaces reflect community values, current standards, funding, and operational considerations.



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Parks and Trails Master Plan is intended to articulate specific goals, objectives, and initiatives to implement and manage County parks and trails in a manner that is consistent with existing direction and to complement our current program. This Parks and Trails Master Plan provides planning direction for County parks and trails consistent with guidance from the County’s General Plan and other local planning documents, and with an understanding of what resources and facilities we currently manage. This chapter provides an overview of existing planning documents, County demographics, and existing County parks and trails resources, setting the stage for addressing the needs articulated by the public and analyzed in later chapters.

## EXISTING PLANNING DOCUMENTS

El Dorado County has adopted multiple plans which contain guidance related in varying degrees to County parks and trails. This Master Plan is intended to complement, not replace, the direction in these plans, while providing comprehensive direction on the many aspects of planning, implementation, management, and operation of County parks and trails not otherwise addressed. Table 1 below identifies the relevant planning documents adopted by the County, and plans adopted by other jurisdictions that pertain to County parks and trails. A detailed list of the planning documents and their descriptions are included in Appendix A.

Table 1 Relevant Planning Documents

Date	Document	Description
El Dorado County Planning Documents		
2004	General Plan	Includes information that is relevant to coordination with the types of recreation resources provided by cities and community services districts in the County as well as the standards it establishes for recreation in the County.
2004	Parks and Recreation Element	Addresses the provision and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities, and trails to serve El Dorado County.
2017	Conservation and Open	Addresses aspects of natural resource management, including the conservation of open space for outdoor

	Space Element	recreation.
2019	Land Use Element	Addresses the desired location and amount of open space (which may include parks, ball fields, or picnic areas) required to maintain the rural character of the County.
2019	Transportation and Circulation Element	Includes policies regarding bicycle and pedestrian routes which may function as transportation as well as recreation features.
2017	Oak Woodland Management Plan	Meets General Plan goals to protect and conserve oak woodland and oak tree resources for their recreation value.
2018	River Management Plan	Provides management direction of whitewater recreation and addresses environmental protection, user experience, and safety.
2014	Henningsen Lotus Park Conceptual Master Plan	Reexamined the community's suggestions during the 2011 Master Plan outreach process, solicited additional community input, and identifies conceptual improvements to HLP for future implementation as funding becomes available.
2024	Forebay Park Conceptual Master Plan	Provides a phased approach to park renovations including improvements to the parking lot, and the installation of a restroom, playground, and senior exercise equipment.
2016	Historical Railroad Park Conceptual Plan	A concept plan was Board approved in 2009 and an environmental report was completed in 2016. The plan identifies improvements to further develop the park.

#### El Dorado County Transportation Commission Planning Documents

2020	Active Transportation Plan	Evaluates existing conditions, recommends goals and strategies to make El Dorado County more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, and recommends programs and
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infrastructure improvements to make bicycling and walking easier and safer.

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 2019 | Coloma Sustainable Community Mobility Plan | A guiding document to aid decision-makers in the funding and implementation of multimodal improvements to enhance the safety and efficiency the Coloma-Lotus transportation system. |
|------|--|---|

#### Other Planning Documents

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 2003 | Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Master Plan | Describes alternative uses for the Sacramento-Placerville railway corridor that was purchased from the Southern Pacific Railway Corporation by the SPTC Joint Powers Authority (JPA). |
| 2014 | South Lake Tahoe Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan | Represents a coordinated effort to align recreation resources and obtain community support to enhance recreation facilities and services for the Eastern Slope of El Dorado County.   |
| 2017 | Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan          | Provides planning direction for the existing park and recreation resources of the City of Placerville and the surrounding unincorporated areas of El Dorado County.                   |
| 2020 | City of Placerville Active Transportation Plan             | Serves as an outline for the City of Placerville to create a more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community.  |
| 2022 | 56 Acres Master Plan                                       | Collaboration between the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County, aims to create a signature park in the heart of South Lake Tahoe to focus on recreational and civic needs.   |
| 2018 | SACOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan          | Calls for the development of trail systems that provide necessary inter-jurisdictional bicycle and pedestrian connections.  |

#### Other Relevant Documents

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Department of Transportation Capital | Planning document that identifies capital improvement projects including roads, bridges, and airport facilities |
|--------------------------------------|---|

Improvement Program      the County intends to build over a 20-year time horizon.

#### Special Services District Planning Documents

2014	Cameron Park Community Services District Master Plan	Examines existing park facilities, community needs, and projected growth within the CSD to provide a prioritized framework for future park acquisition, development, and operations.
2021	El Dorado Hills Community Services District Master Plan	Vision for how parks, facilities, and recreation programs will be managed in the CSD to respond to anticipated growth and changing recreation trends.
2008	Georgetown Divide Recreation District	Identifies the various land acquisition and capital projects the district hopes to implement and assigns costs and priorities.
2007	El Dorado Irrigation District Sly Park Recreation Area Master Plan	Provides a twenty-year vision for the improvements, management, operation, and protection of Sly Park and Jenkinson Lake.
2016	Tahoe Paradise Recreation and Park District Master Plan	Developed to help the park better fulfill its mission as a recreational asset for the property owners and residents of the district and the broader community.

#### State Agency Planning Documents

1979	Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park General Plan	Provide guidelines for management and development of the historic park located along the South Fork American River in the town of Coloma.
2021	Auburn State Recreation Area and Auburn Project Lands General Plan and Resource Management Plan	Comprehensive framework for the management of ASRA/APL in its current condition, consistent with the missions of CSP and Reclamation.
2010	Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom	Provides management direction for roads and trails within a park unit, guiding the operation, maintenance,

	Powerhouse State Historic Park General Plan/Resource Management Plan	and development of the road and trail system.
2002	California Recreational Trails Plan	Provides guidance for all California agencies and recreation providers that manage trails.

#### Federal Agency Planning Documents

2004	Bureau of Land Management  The South Fork American River: A Management Plan	Guides management activities on public BLM lands along the South Fork American River between Salmon Falls Bridge and Chili Bar Dam.
2007	Bureau of Land Management  The Cronan Ranch: A Management Plan	Provides direction for public access and use of the 1,400-acre Cronan Ranch property located along the South Fork of the American River in El Dorado County.
1988	Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Provides comprehensive management direction. However, it was only intended to address a 10-to-15-year planning period and is pending an update. Several interim planning initiatives have been undertaken to address specific aspects of managing the ENF.

## COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

To determine how well County parks and trails will be able to meet the needs of El Dorado County residents, it is important to understand the demographic characteristics of the current and projected future population. The following demographic data is from the 2020 U.S. Census, 2020 U.S. Census American Community Survey 2020 Estimates, and California Department of Finance Total Population Projections, California Counties, 2020-2060.

For purposes of this population analysis, the Plan Area is separated into the unincorporated rural

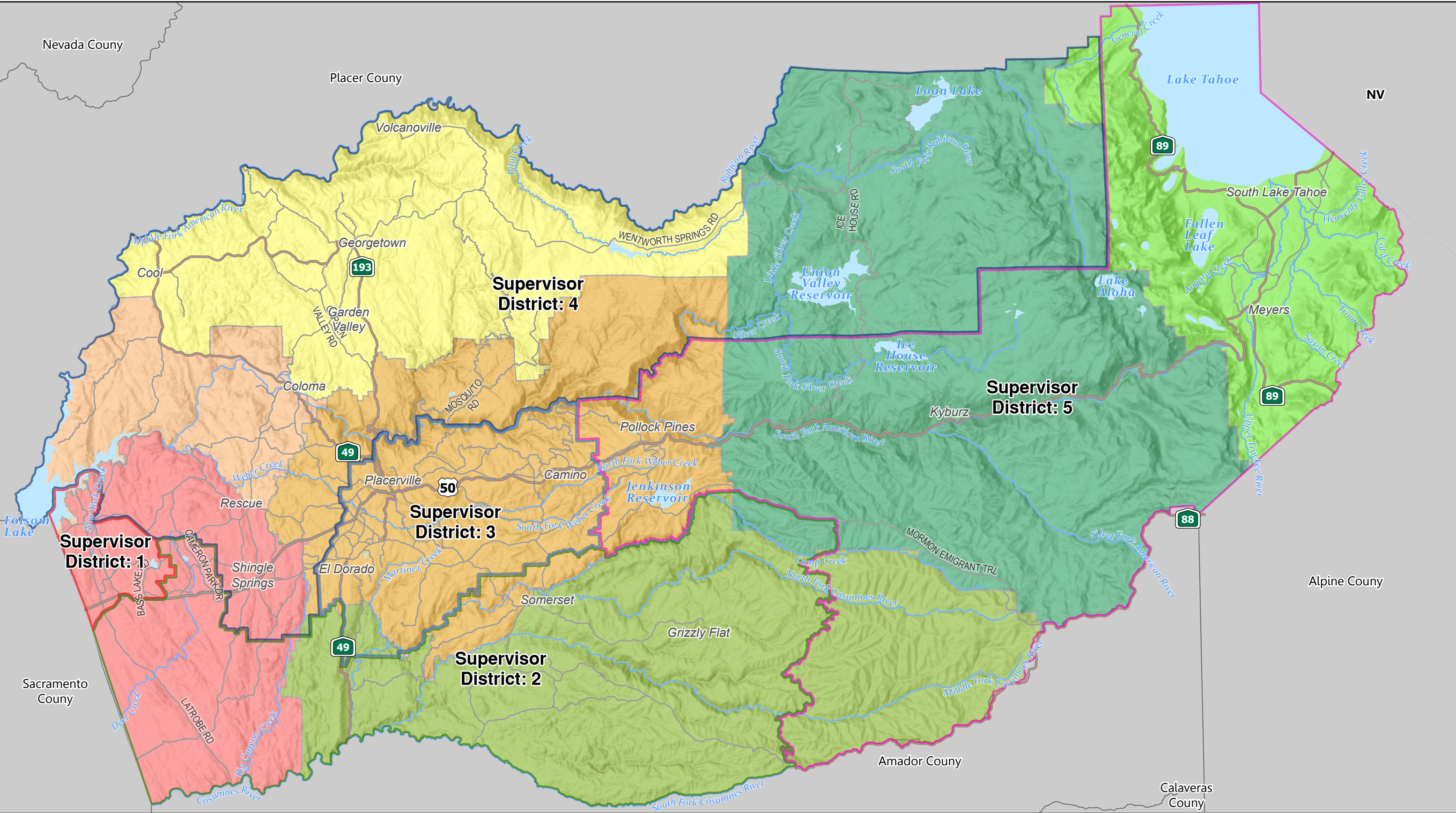
communities that are served by the County and into the communities that are served by a city or community services or recreation district. The General Plan recognizes six distinct rural communities within the unincorporated county: Camino, Coloma/Lotus, El Dorado/Diamond Springs, Grizzly Flats, Pollock Pines, and Shingle Springs. The communities that receive park services primarily from an entity other than El Dorado County are Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, Georgetown Divide, the City of Placerville, and the City of South Lake Tahoe.

The Plan Area recognizes seven regions that were determined based on geographic location of rural communities and input received from a County-wide survey. It should be noted that this plan focuses primarily on the West slope of the County, as an existing plan, the South Lake Tahoe Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan, the current plan for recreation in the Tahoe Basin.

Plan Area regions include:

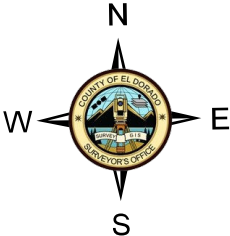
- North County: Cool, Garden Valley, Voganoville
- Northwest County: Coloma, Lotus, Pilot Hill
- West County: Rescue, Shingle Springs
- Northeast County: Tahoe area
- East County: Kyburz, Twin Bridges, Echo Lake
- Mid County: Diamond Springs, El Dorado, Camino, Pollock Pines
- South County: Somerset, Grizzly Flats, Outingdale



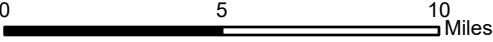


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NOTES:  
LAYER INFORMATION MAY COVER ADDITIONAL AREAS OUTSIDE OF THE DISPLAYED AREA.  
PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF: EDC Parks DATE: 11/20/2024  
MAP PREPARED BY: EDC GIS DATE: 12/2/2024  
G.I.S. PROJECT ID: 0075339, RELATED REPORT: N/A  
EL DORADO COUNTY SURVEYOR/G.I.S. DIVISION  
EMAIL: [gis@edcgov.us](mailto:gis@edcgov.us) PHONE: (530) 621-5440  
MAP DISPLAYED IN STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM  
(NAD 1983 CALIFORNIA ZONE 2, FEET)



# Recreation Plan Areas by Board Supervisor District



**Legend**

**Region**

- East County
- Mid-County
- North County
- North East County
- North West County
- South County
- West County

**Roads**

- Highway
- Major Road
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Other Counties

**Supervisor District**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

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The total population of El Dorado County has grown approximately six percent from 181,058 residents in 2010 to 191,185 residents in 2020 (Table 2). The Plan Area consisting of unincorporated rural communities served by the County has minimally grown between 2010 and 2020, at a rate of less than one percent. The Plan Area consisting of communities served by a city or community service, or recreation district has grown more substantially, at a population change rate of eleven percent between 2010 and 2020. The community of El Dorado Hill, served by the El Dorado Hills Community Service District, has experienced the most significant population growth, adding over 8,000 residents between 2010 and 2020.

Table 2 Population Change by Plan Area

	2010 total Population	2020 total Population	Net Population Change	Percentage Population Change
El Dorado County (All)	181,058	191,185	10,127	6%
Total Population Served by County, outsider of Cities and CSDs	86,552	86,711	159	0.2%
Total Plan Area Population Served by a City or CSD	94,506	104,474	9,968	11%
Cameron Park	18,228	18,881	653	4%
El Dorado Hills	42,108	50,547	8,439	20%
Georgetown	2,378	2,969	591	25%
City of Placerville	10,389	10,747	358	3%
City of South Lake Tahoe	21,403	21,330	-73	-0.3%

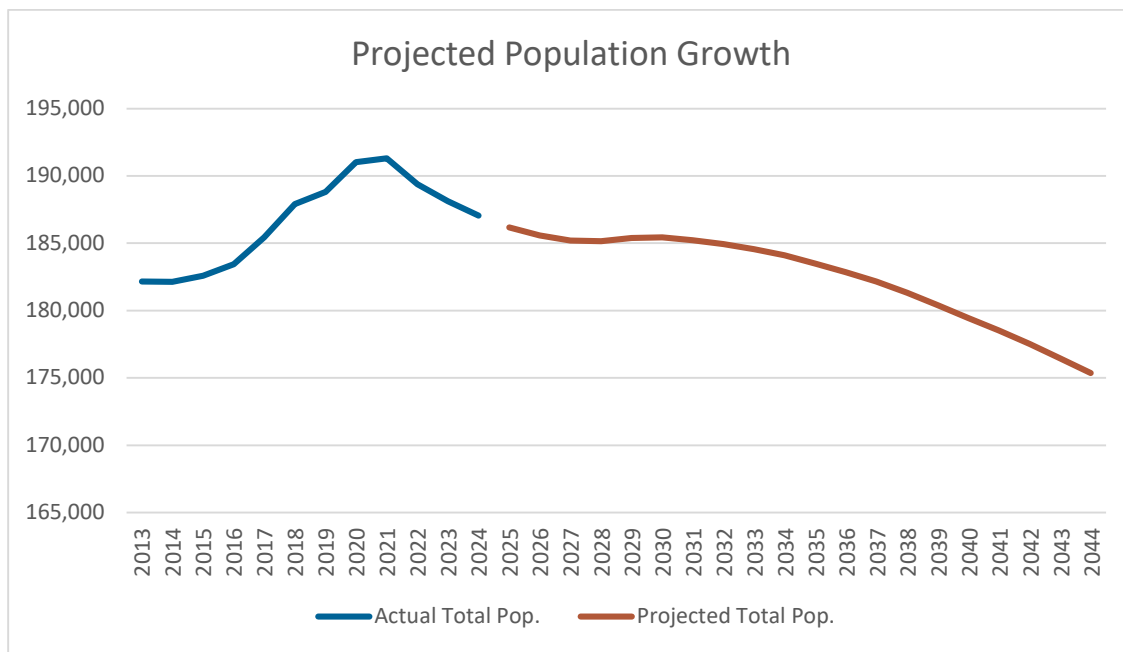
Source: 2010 and 202 U.S. Census Data; 2010 and 2020 American Community Survey

Growth in the areas not served by a CSD was low at 0.2 percent over the ten-year period. However, demographic projections from the California Department of Finance indicate that the County's population growth peaked in 2021 at 191,309 residents and is anticipated to contract over the next several decades. The County population is projected to decrease to 184,106



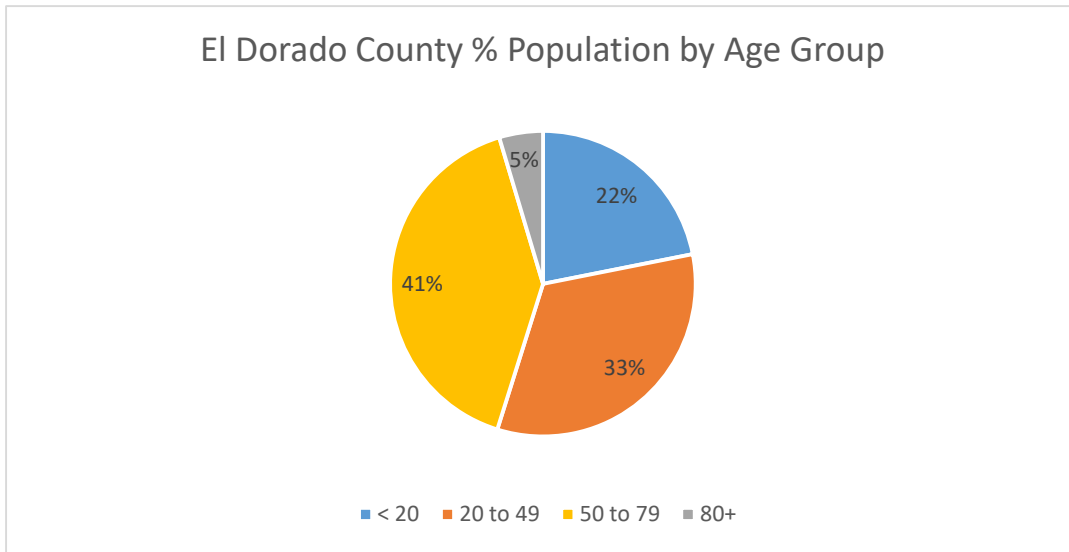
residents by 2034 and to 175,367 residents by 2044 (Figure 1). These trends indicate that while recreation needs may change or existing gaps in service may need to be addressed, needs for additional facilities may be low and pursuit of new facilities should be carefully considered.

Figure 1 Projected Population Growth



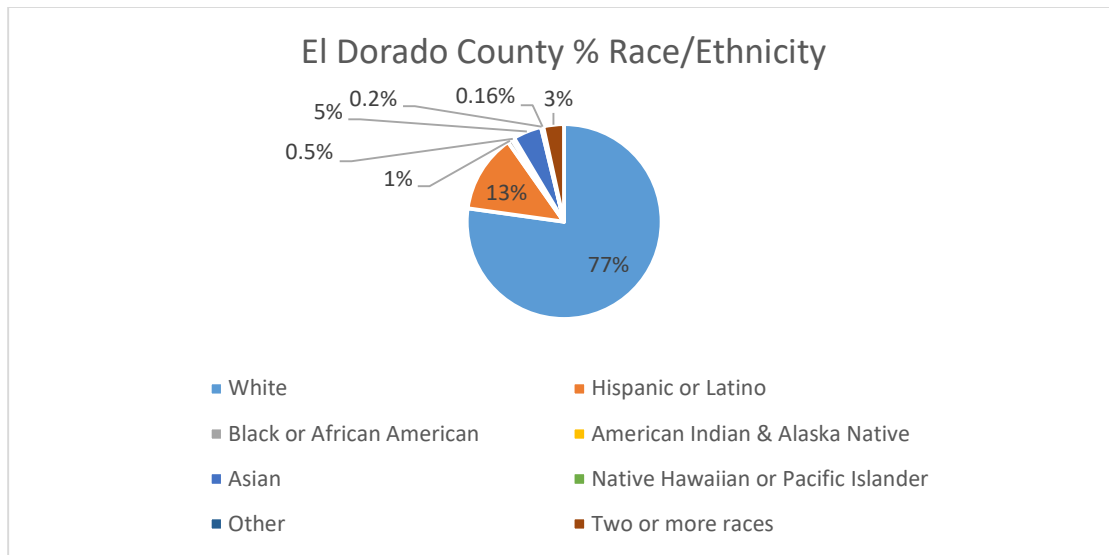
El Dorado County has a population (Figure 2) weighted towards older adults over the age of 50, consisting of forty-six percent of the population. In addition, the overall County population consists of thirty-three percent aged 20 to 49 and twenty-two percent under the age of 20. The percentage of working adults is expected to stay flat over time ranging from thirty-four to thirty-five percent of the projected population, while the percentage of youth is projected to slightly decrease from twenty to eighteen percent by 2060. The 2012 Parks and Trails Master Plan anticipated that the demand for recreation facilities and programs well-suited to older adults would increase more quickly as that segment of the population grew. The 2020 Census data shows a less drastic increase than anticipated. The 50+ age population is projected to increase slightly in comparison to other age groups from forty-six to forty-eight percent by 2060. The County's large older adult community will likely continue to seek age-appropriate activities and facilities to address these health needs. Due to the relative decrease in the older adult population over the coming years and the increase in the percentage of the population under 50, the demand for facilities that benefit all ages, including trails, active recreation areas, sports fields open space areas, may increase.

Figure 2 Population Percentage by Age Group



Both race and ethnicity may provide indications of cultural heritage and consequently these demographic factors are of interest in planning for future park and trail facilities. According to the 2020 Census, Plan Area residents identify themselves as eighty-four percent white, ten percent Hispanic or Latino, three percent two or more races, and less than one percent each Black or African American, American Indian or Native Alaskan, Asian or Asian American, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (Figure 3). The more urbanized areas of the Plan Area tend to have a greater degree of racial diversity than the more rural areas. Twenty percent of Placerville residents and twenty-eight percent of South Lake Tahoe residents identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino. In El Dorado Hills, residents identify as eight percent Hispanic or Latino and eleven percent Asian or Asian American. Similarly in Cameron Park, residents identify as eighteen percent Hispanic or Latino and three percent Asian or Asian American. Peoples' preferences for recreational activities and feelings about nature are often influenced by their cultural heritage. For example, people from an ethnic tradition that values large, multi-generational families may desire more facilities that support large gatherings than people whose heritage focuses on the nuclear family or non-group activities.

Figure 3 El Dorado County % Race/Ethnicity



Overall, the population over 25 years old in El Dorado County have high levels of educational attainment with thirty-five percent holding a bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately six percent of residents over the age of 25 have not graduated from high school, twenty-one percent have graduated high school, and thirty-seven percent have some college or associate degree.

Poverty and income status are important recreation planning considerations for several reasons. They reflect residents' ability to pay fees to use facilities, purchase equipment that might be needed to participate in recreational activities, and travel to locations to utilize facilities. Approximately nine percent of residents in El Dorado County are living below poverty level. The burden of poverty is disproportionately felt by children, of whom twenty-three percent under the age of 11 years old live below poverty level as compared to the overall population of the County. For youth 12 to 17 years old, seven percent live below poverty level and for adults aged 18 to 59 years old, nine percent live below poverty level as compared to the overall population of the County. Among seniors 60 to 74 years old, seven percent live below poverty level, and for seniors over the age of 75 it is thirteen percent. These County residents have a need for local access to free or very low-cost recreation experiences such as would be available in neighborhood parks or local trails. Additionally, grant and loan opportunities at the state and federal level provide funding specifically for low-income areas to address park access inequity that the County can pursue.

Disability status is another important metric to consider as it helps to understand the need for accommodating disabled park users and providing accessible facilities. In El Dorado County, forty-five percent of seniors 75+ years old and nineteen percent of seniors 65 to 74 years old have a disability, which is comparable to the overall disability rate for the population of California at

forty-seven percent and twenty-four percent respectively. The population under 17 years old with a disability is four percent, while the population 18 to 34 years old with a disability is eight percent.

## EXISTING PARK AND TRAIL RESOURCES

El Dorado County Parks and Trails Division is responsible for managing and maintaining eight existing park facilities, 60.15 miles of trails, 21.7 miles of South Fork of the American River, and 64 acres of open space land. This section provides an overview of the existing El Dorado County parks, trails, and river recreation resources, as well as those provided by the many other agencies and jurisdictions that play an important role in providing parks and trails recreation in the county.

### COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS

**Henningsen Lotus Park** occupies 51 acres on the site of an old gravel mining operation in the community of Lotus. Henningsen Lotus Park contains little league ballfields, softball fields, a regulation soccer field, a junior soccer field, a playground, enclosed pavilion and shade structures, individual picnic tables, group picnic area, and restrooms. The park is adjacent to the South Fork of the American River, a very popular rafting and kayaking venue, and there is a boat launch area and beach located on the downstream end of the park. The ballfields are lighted, which allows nighttime use of the facilities. The park is heavily used during the summer season. The soccer fields, ballfields, and pavilion may be rented for private use.

### COUNTY COMMUNITY PARKS

**Forebay Park** is located on Forebay Road in Pollock Pines adjacent to El Dorado Irrigation District's Long Canyon Forebay. It is a 12-acre park that serves residents of Pollock Pines and the surrounding unincorporated areas. The park includes a Little League ballfield, a multipurpose meeting building, six horseshoe pits, and picnic tables. Efforts are currently underway to revitalize this park with a new playground, ballfield renovations, a new restroom, senior exercise equipment, and improved parking.

**Pioneer Park** is a 21-acre park located in southern El Dorado County. The park features a disc golf course, soccer field, regulation size baseball field, play structures, tennis/pickleball court, picnic tables and barbeque grills, two parking lots, community center, and equestrian arena. The community center offers two meeting rooms and a food/snack bar service kitchen available to

rent. The full-size equestrian arena is available to host livestock events, horseshows, and other equestrian activities.

### *COUNTY SPECIALTY PARKS*

**Chili Bar** is a 16-acres rafting/kayaking put-in spot immediately downstream of the Highway 193 bridge over the South Fork of the American River. The lower area is adjacent to the river and is operated for rafting activities by the American River Conservancy. Off-street parking and minimal day use facilities are available. The park operates only during the rafting season; however, the county is exploring ways to expand visitation.

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

**Old Depot Bike Park** is a 3-acres facility adjacent to the El Dorado Trail off Missouri Flat Road. The park consists of an asphalt pump track, dirt jumps, children's play area, exercise equipment, picnic tables, restroom, and bike repair station.

### *COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS*

**Bradford Park** is an approximately 3-acre neighborhood park. The park was an acre and a half that was originally built by the Lions Club and handed over to the County to own and operate. The Mirandi family donated an acre and a half in memory of their son Bradford and the park name was changed from Shingle Springs Park to Bradford Park. The park contains a large children's play area, a small sports field, a large covered picnic area, and off-street parking lot.

**Railroad Park** is a 6-acre site located within the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor right-of-way in the community of El Dorado, along 2.2 miles of the El Dorado Trail. The park contains a dog park facility with separate enclosed areas for large and small dogs, children's playground, and restroom. Proposed improvements at this site include facilities to house El Dorado County Museum's collection of railroad artifacts, a section of operational track, and multi-use trails.

### *COUNTY OPEN SPACE*

**Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park** is a 1,600-acre natural area in Pilot Hill that was acquired through the cooperative efforts of the American River Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management, and others. The County owns a 62-acre portion of the park. It is held in public trust

to be used exclusively for recreation and wildlife conservation. The county has not yet developed conceptual plans for the county owned portion, but its uses will be similarly constrained by the terms of the easement.

The El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Areas Map (Exhibit 2) shows the location of County active developed parks, regional parks, and open space, as well as the boundaries of areas served by other recreation providers, and the locations of some County recreation facilities. A table listing all County recreation facilities is included in Appendix A.

## Exhibit 2 El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Facilities

To Insert Map

## COUNTY EXISTING TRAILS

The **El Dorado Trail** is envisioned as ultimately traversing the length of El Dorado County from its western border to the Tahoe Basin. Several sections have been developed to date, through multiple projects undertaken by the County and the City of Placerville.

Beginning from the western border with Sacramento County, an unimproved natural trail traverses the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor for 23 miles to the County's Historical Railroad Park on Oriental Street in the town of El Dorado. At this juncture it becomes a Class 1 multi-use trail that runs east 2.2 miles to Missouri Flat Road immediately south of Walmart. The segment then extends 3.7 miles to the intersection of Forni Road and Main Street in the City of Placerville. The trail passes under U.S. Highway 50 at the transit station at Mosquito Road and parallels the highway to Jacquier Road where a County trailhead facility provides amenities such as parking, signage, and a small exercise/warm up area. The final segment of Class 1 trail crosses back over U.S. Highway 50 at Newton Road and proceeds to Halcon Road in the community of Camino. At the Halcon Road crossing, the trail becomes improved natural road that ends at Carson Road. The trail is planned to continue to the Tahoe Basin, but the specific alignment has not yet been determined.

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

The El Dorado County Trails and Trailheads Map (Exhibit 3) shows the location of existing Class 1 trails, natural trails, and trailheads, and includes boundaries for the Plan Area and areas served by other park and trail providers.



### Exhibit 3 El Dorado County Trails and Trailheads

To Insert Map

## COUNTY RIVERS

El Dorado County manages the 20-mile segment of the **South Fork of the American River** between Chili Bar Dam and Salmon Falls Road. The 20-mile segment is popular for water recreation activities such as whitewater rafting, kayaking, inner-tubing, paddleboarding, and recreating in other small inflatable crafts. This segment of the South Fork ranges from elevations of 940 feet below Chili Bar Dam to 460 feet at Folsom Reservoir. The segment is divided into three reaches: 1) Upper Reach, between Chili Bar and the town of Coloma, is the narrowest and steepest portion; 2) Middle Reach is open canyon walls with alluvial terraces and features Class I and II rapids; and 3) Lower Reach is a narrower canyon with sides that are lower than the Upper Reach.

The River Management Plan (RMP) was established in 1984 with updates prepared every five years for the purpose to manage and support whitewater recreation while protecting natural and social resources of the South Fork of the American River. The RMP provides regulatory, plan, and policy guidance for management of whitewater recreation and related activities. The County is responsible for managing commercial outfitters operating on the South Fork and use permit requirements for landowners, private, and other groups of boaters.

The **Consumnes River** is the County's other major river. The headwaters begin at 7,500 feet above sea level in the Sierra Nevada mountains in Amador County and flow through El Dorado County to the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. It is the last large river in California's Central Valley with relatively natural and unregulated stream flows. Due to its lack of dams, the river is warmer than the American in the Summer months and sought after due to its natural swimming holes. However, due to private land ownership along the river and the steep terrain, the river is less accessible than the American River for recreation.

## LOCAL PARKS AND TRAILS PROVIDERS

El Dorado County residents and visitors enjoy access to a variety of recreation facilities and trails that are owned and operated by local park providers. In El Dorado County, many neighborhood and community parks, recreation programs, and some trails are provided by the **City of Placerville**, **City of South Lake Tahoe**, the **El Dorado Hills Community Services District**, the **Cameron Park Community Services District**, and the **Georgetown Divide Recreation District**. These facilities are intended primarily to serve the residents of these communities but are generally open to all members of the public.

Each of these entities undertakes its own comprehensive planning process to evaluate current and projected park and trail needs for its residents. For this reason, this Master Plan does not

replicate these efforts but limits its focus to those unincorporated areas of the County not addressed by the planning efforts of these local park providers, as well as opportunities to collaborate with these entities on projects of mutual interest.

A map exhibit (Exhibit 4) for other providers of parks and recreation areas shows park and trail facilities for local providers such as a city or community service or recreation district, regional providers, State Parks, federally-owned land resources, nonprofits, private businesses, and recreation program providers.

#### Exhibit 4 Other Parks and Trails Provider Parks and Recreation Areas

To Insert Map

## REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAIL PROVIDERS

The **El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)** provides water to over 100,000 residents as well as commercial and agricultural users in western El Dorado County via an extensive system of water storage, treatment, and delivery facilities. EID also manages some of its facilities to provide a variety of recreation opportunities for County residents and visitors.

- **Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA)** is a popular camping and day-use destination centered on the 600-acre Jenkinson Lake. The SPRA offers multiple group and individual camping sites, day use areas, two boat ramps, boat rentals, meeting rooms, and fishing. Nine miles of unimproved hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking trails circle the lake and connect to some of the nearby ridges. A separate equestrian campground provides for horse camping and access to the equestrian trail system.
- **Forebay Reservoir** provides daytime recreational opportunities, including, picnicking, fishing, and a walking trail, located in Pollock Pines across from Forebay Park.
- **Silver Lake** offers campgrounds and day use areas generally open from Memorial Day through October, depending on snow conditions. Facilities at Silver Lake include the Ferguson Point Day Use Area, Sandy Cove Day Use Area, and Silver Lake West Campground. The USFS operates the Silver Lake East campground.
- **Caples Lake** offers campgrounds and day use areas generally open from Memorial Day through October, depending on snow conditions. The USFS operates the Caples Lake campground and trailhead. EID operates the Caples Lake boat launch facility and the Woods Creek Fishing and Trail Access Area, which is one mile east of Caples Lake.

## STATE PARKS AND TRAILS PROVIDERS

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) preserves and protects the most value natural and cultural resources and provides outdoor recreation opportunities. State Parks has a variety of parks and trails facilities offering recreation opportunities in the County.

- **Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park** in Coloma is located on the site where James Marshall first discovered gold in 1948, sparking the California Gold Rush. The park, acquired by the State in 1942, encompasses much of the historic town of Coloma. It features numerous exhibits and historic structures including Marshall's Monument, a recreation of Sutter's Mill, Marshall's Cabin, Pioneer Cemetery, a schoolhouse, and many other cabins and historic shops. Other facilities within the park include a museum/visitors' center, an operating post-office, park headquarters, and the American River Conservancy's Nature Center. Group and individual picnic tables are available for

day use. The South Fork of the American River flows from east to west across the northern portion of the park, and boat put-in and take-out beaches are available for rafters and kayakers. There are approximately 5 miles of trails throughout the park, and numerous off-street parking lots provide for dispersed parking throughout the site. Several trails are located around the historic structures and museum and are easily accessible by most visitors. The **Monument Trail**, **Gam Saan Trail**, and **Discovery Trail** provide access to historical interpretive displays near the river, the James Marshall Monument, and the ridge above the James Marshall's Monument with good views of the valley.

- **Folsom Lake State Recreation Area** also has an extensive trail system around the lake, which connects to regional trail systems upstream and downstream along the American River. Most of these trails are unpaved; however, just over the Sacramento County line, a paved trail follows the north bank of the American River through the town of Folsom and downstream to Lake Natoma, connecting into the American River Parkway trail system. Unpaved trails within the Placer County portion of the park follow the North Fork of the American River upstream to connect with the **Pioneer Express Trail**. Within El Dorado County, four unpaved trails run approximately 13 miles from the county line along the south shore of the lake to the Salmon Falls Bridge and continue north across the Rattlesnake Bar peninsula for approximately another 9 miles. This trail system connects at the Salmon Falls Bridge with the **South Fork American River Trail** which provides a connection upstream through the BLM's Norton Ravine, Magnolia, and Cronan Ranch Management Areas.
- **Auburn State Recreation Area** covers 40 river miles in the canyons formed by the north and middle forks of the American River in both Placer and El Dorado Counties. Over 100 miles of hiking and horse trails are located within the park. On the El Dorado County side of the canyon, visitors can access the **Olmsted Loop Trail**, **Auburn to Cool Trail**, **Pointed Rocks Trail** and the well-known **Western States Trail** from trailheads off of State Route 49 near the town of Cool. Over 100 miles long, the Western States Trail runs from Auburn to Tahoe and is the route for the Western States 100 Mile Endurance Run and the Tevis Cup, a 100-mile one-day equestrian endurance ride, held annually since 1955. Approximately 19 miles of the Western States Trail are located within El Dorado County.

#### *FEDERAL PARKS AND TRAILS PROVIDERS*

The federal agencies, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, are landowners in El Dorado County that provide a variety of trails and recreation opportunities. The National Park Service also has several trail systems that are within the County.

- The **Eldorado National Forest** is managed by the U. S. Forest Service and offers numerous recreational opportunities including campgrounds, fishing, swimming, hiking trails, biking, equestrian trails, motorized trails, white water rafting, winter activities, hunting, rock climbing, target shooting, day use areas and campgrounds.
- **Crystal Basin Recreation Area**, operated by the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD), encompasses 85,000 acres of pine and fir forests along the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Containing three reservoirs and numerous lakes and streams, the Crystal Basin's four seasons and varied terrain offer a range of outdoor recreational opportunities, including camping, fishing, boating, horseback riding, hiking, snow skiing, and biking.
- **Desolation Wilderness** is 63,960 acres of subalpine and alpine forests located west of Lake Tahoe. The area contains a variety of trails and trailheads restricted to hiking and horseback. Loon Lakes is a popular camping and staging area for forays into the Wilderness.
- **Fleming Meadows** contains approximately 9 miles of non-motorized trails of varying difficulties for day use. Located south of Sly Park, this area was damaged by the 2021 Caldor Fire.

The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** provides numerous recreation facilities in El Dorado County.

- **Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park**, approximately 12 miles of unpaved trail are located within 1,400-acres of open space along the South Fork of the American River. Trails range in degree of physical challenge and are open to mountain bicycles, hikers, and equestrians. The parking lot provides pull-through spaces for horse trailers and includes portable restrooms and directional signage.
- **Greenwood Management Area** includes the Magnolia Ranch Trailhead and the Greenwood Creek River Access. The Magnolia Ranch Trailhead provides an extensive parking area for equestrian trailers and other visitors. The Greenwood Creek River Access provides parking for a public river put-in and take-out.
- **Dave Moore Nature Area** includes an accessible mile-long loop trail from the parking area to the river, passing through several habitats. Popular uses include hiking, biking, swimming, nature study, and bird watching. Equestrian use on the trail is not allowed.
- **Pine Hill Preserve** encompasses 4,042 acres in 5 non-contiguous property units ranging in size from 222 acres to 2,999 acres. The preserve was established to protect habitat for eight rare plant species, several of which are found nowhere else in the world. A cooperative conservation effort between ten federal, state, and local agencies, including

El Dorado County and BLM, protect and manage the preserve. The El Dorado Chapter of California Native Plant Society provides guided tours in the spring when the wildflowers are their most spectacular. Hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian uses are allowed on existing trails.

- **Kanaka Valley** is a 695-acres wildlife corridor that links federal and state public lands along the South Fork American River and the Pine Hill Preserve. The public is allowed to access the property for hiking, horseback riding, mountain bikes and other non-motorized travel on designated trails only. Hunting is allowed with various seasonal restrictions. No motorized vehicles are allowed.
- **Red Shack Trail** connects State Route 49 to the South Fork of the American River below Chili Bar, and a rough trail within the 233-acre **Wildman Hill** on the north side of river canyon. This trail descends steeply towards the river from the trailhead on Highway 193 but does not provide direct river access.

The **National Park Service** National Trails System has one National Scenic Trail (NST) and two National Historic Trail (NHT) alignments that pass through El Dorado County.

- The **Pacific Crest Trail** (PCT) runs from Mexico to Canada through California following some of the high ridges of the Sierra Nevada. It crosses into El Dorado County in the upper Truckee River valley north of Caples Lake near Meiss Lake then continues north past Little Round Top Mountain and Benwood Meadow, crossing U.S. Highway 50 near Echo Summit. Continuing northward, the trail climbs the Talking Mountain-Becker Peak ridge, then descends to skirt Lower and Upper Echo Lakes before skirting the Desolation Wilderness near Aloha Lake. The trail enters Desolation Wilderness near Middle Velma Lake on the south and Lost Corner Mountain to the north and passes out of the County to the north near Sourdough Hill and Miller Meadows.
- **California National Historic Trail** is a route of approximately 5,700 miles including multiple routes and cutoffs, extending from Independence and Saint Joseph, Missouri, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, to various points in California and Oregon. From Diamond Springs, the California NHT continues east generally following Pleasant Valley Road, Starkes Grade Road, and Sly Park Road to the Gold Ridge area. Here it veers southeast along Forest Service roads to Girard Mill Road until it intercepts and then follows Mormon Emigrant Trail to Highway 88. At Highway 88 it heads east for about 2 miles before heading south to follow the **Carson Emigrant National Recreation Trail** south of Silver Lake to the county border.
- **Pony Express National Historic Trail** commemorates the route used to relay mail via horseback from Missouri to California before the advent of the telegraph. Every year,



the National Pony Express Association holds a ride along the route to reenact the historic mail delivery between Sacramento, California and St. Joseph, Missouri. The Pony Express NHT traverses from Placerville, parallel to U.S. Highway 50, to the Echo Lake area, where it splits into several spurs heading north towards Stateline and south to Highway 88.

#### *NON-PROFIT RECREATION PROVIDERS*

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

- **Interpretive Nature Center** located in Marshall Gold Discovery SHP with activities coordinated by ARC including environmental education programs, workshops, hikes, lectures, trail rides, activities for children and volunteer opportunities.
- **Gold Hill-Wakamatsu Park** provides unique recreational opportunities to County residents and visitors. ARC purchased the 272-acre site in 2010 to preserve the cultural history associated with the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony, which was established on the site in 1869 as the first Japanese colony in America. The park is currently open to the public only through organized tours or special tours upon request. ARC is continuing to develop operational and improvement plans for the site.
- **Salmon Falls Ranch Trailhead** is a 757-acres property with a trailhead containing a gravel parking lot and a restroom. The **Acorn Creek Trail** is a short trail that connects from the trailhead to the South Fork American River Trail.

#### *PRIVATE RECREATION BUSINESSES*

El Dorado County is also home to a wide variety of privately owned and operated recreational facilities and programs that are available to citizens and visitors. Outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, rafting, skiing, and horseback riding are a major component of western El Dorado County recreation.

- **Private campgrounds** operate throughout the western County including in Coloma, Lotus, Placerville, Pollock Pines, and Shingle Springs. These campgrounds offer a range of experiences including cabin camping with organized activities on-site, RV camping, and traditional tent camping.

- **River-oriented recreation** is a major source of tourism for El Dorado County with many rafting operators and guide services bringing thousands of visitors every year to enjoy the South Fork of the American River.
- **Commercial guiding** and events on the Rubicon Trail provide additional recreational opportunities that attract international visitation to El Dorado County.
- One 18-hole **golf course** is open to the public, Apple Mountain Golf Resort. There are also several private golf course country clubs that require membership.

#### *PUBLIC SCHOOL RECREATION PROVIDERS*

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

## **RECREATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

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

#### *El Dorado County*

- **El Dorado County Library** provides ongoing programs and events for all age groups at the main library in Placerville and five branch locations. Programs include book discussion groups, children's storytelling, arts and crafts, movies, and other community events.
- **Senior Services Division** within the El Dorado County Department of Human Services offers a variety of senior activities on a regularly scheduled basis including ceramics, card groups, bingo, fitness classes, computer education, dance classes, quilting, pottery,

and art classes. A variety of day trips are also offered including theater performances, festivals, and other tours. These trips feature chartered bus transportation, tickets, meals, and an escort to handle the details. Most of the senior activities take place in County buildings, rented space, or in space donated by local churches.

- **El Dorado County Historical Museum** features exhibits, informative tours, a research house, and gardens for visitors to enjoy. The museum also runs the El Dorado Western Railroad Excursion Program, which operates within the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation corridor. The museum is a valued historical resource for the community while representing the County's history in a current, accurate and engaging manner.

### *Local Recreation Providers*

The **City of Placerville**, **City of South Lake Tahoe**, **El Dorado Hills CSD**, **Cameron Park CSD**, and **Georgetown Divide Recreation District** all offer an extensive array of fee-based recreation programs to local residents of all ages. Most programs are also open to non-residents. The programs are developed and managed by professional staff in response to community demand and evolving recreation trends. Programs include adult and youth sports leagues, arts and crafts, martial arts, music, and various life enrichment classes. All four of these recreation program providers also maintain scholarship programs to support participation by disadvantaged youth.

### *Community Organizations*

- **Private sport leagues** operate in El Dorado County for baseball, softball, soccer, and more. Leagues that organize T-Ball, Farm, Minor, and Major teams: El Dorado Hills North, El Dorado Hill South, Georgetown Divide, Hangtown Little League, Pondo Patriots and Snowline Little Leagues.
  - Softball leagues include Placerville Girls Softball, a fast pitch team for girls from ages 4 ½ through 18, and the Placerville Prospectors Senior Softball for senior citizens in the area.
  - Soccer clubs offer recreational and league play for ages 4 through 18: Sierra Gold, Gold Nugget, High Sierra, and Prospectors Soccer Clubs.
  - Football and cheer activities are coordinated by the Ponderosa Junior Bruins, Union Mine Junior Rattlers and Cheer, Golden Sierra Youth Football and Cheer, and El Dorado Junior Cougars Football and Cheer.
  - Other organized sports activities are coordinated by the Sierra Storm Girls' Basketball Club, Gold Country Girls Softball Association, West Slope Youth Volleyball Club, the Special Olympics, and Hangtown Women's Tennis Club.
- **Youth clubs** offering recreation opportunities are available including the Boys and Girls

Club of El Dorado County, 4-H Youth Development, Scouting America through the Golden Empire Council, and Girl Scouts of America through the Heart of Central California Council.

- **Community events** are organized by private groups and offered throughout the year. Main Street associations promote their members' services and products through art walks, parades, and other seasonal events. Other non-profit organizations with the mission of educating the public on certain issues all host various events. Seasonal Farmer's Markets, music festivals, wine tastings, bingo, arts and crafts workshops, and flea markets are just some of the events that are offered in El Dorado County throughout the year.
- The **Cameron Park Rotary Community Observatory** is located adjacent to the Folsom Lake College El Dorado Center in Placerville. This facility, staffed by volunteer docents, is open free of charge and is fully accessible. The Observatory may also be reserved for special events by school and non-school groups interested in astronomy.
- **Imagination Theater** and the **El Dorado Musical Theater** offer county residents live music, plays, and workshops throughout the year. These theaters serve as recreation for the citizens involved in productions as well as those who attend.
- **Agrotourism** highlights El Dorado County's rich agricultural heritage and is the foundation for many popular recreation experiences enjoyed by residents and visitors. Organizations such as **El Dorado County Farm Trails**, **Apple Hill Growers Association**, and **El Dorado Winery Association**, as well as many local independent farms are direct selling their products to the public with focused marketing to advertise seasonal events, pick-your-own locations, themed meals, shuttle services, tours, and facility rentals for weddings and private events.
- **Preserving historic resources** is a focus of local groups creating interesting exhibits and events for residents and visitors to enjoy. The **Fountain-Tallman Museum**, located in Placerville is operated by the **El Dorado County Historical Society** and houses collections highlighting local history. Other groups, such as the **Clarksville Region Historical Society**, **Rescue Historical Society**, **El Dorado Western Railroad Foundation**, **Save the Graves**, and the **American River Conservancy** provide tours and maps, develop collections, and host special community events to raise awareness and funding for preservation.

## EXISTING PARK OPERATIONS

The Parks and Trails Division oversees park operations, including park planning and policies, grants, contracts, administration, communications, and daily operations of facilities such as

scheduling and reservations. Parks and Trails Division supports the Parks and Recreation Commission who acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors. This Division is responsible for the River Management Plan and recreation on the South Fork of the American River, maintenance of the El Dorado Trail, and maintenance and operations of the Rubicon Trail.

All requests to reserve park and trail facilities for private use or events are handled by the Chief Administrative Office, Parks and Trails Division. This includes scheduling sports fields for recurring use during league seasons and managing facility rentals for events. Facilities currently available to be reserved for events include the lodge at Forebay Park; the pavilion, shade structures, and lawn at Henningsen Lotus Park; and the Community Center and equestrian arena at Pioneer Park. Picnic facilities at all parks are normally available on a first come, first served basis. Parks and Trails staff collect and process the event applications, permits, insurance certificates, deposits, and fees required as part of the reservation process, and provide annual parking passes as well as onsite parking fee collection at Henningsen Lotus Park. The division also provides ongoing services including restroom cleaning and garbage removal, responds to complaint calls on parks and trails, special parks maintenance projects, and volunteer coordination.

The management of the Rubicon Trail includes coordination with the other entities containing the historic route, project management, restroom servicing, and other maintenance and monitoring activities on the trail.

The Parks and Trails Division provides oversight of all river recreation and river permit compliance. The River Management Plan (RMP) provides direction on management of whitewater recreation on the popular South Fork of the American River below Chili Bar Dam. The RMP addresses multiple issues related to environmental protection, user experience, and safety. Parks personnel handle all coordination with commercial outfitters as well as registration for non-commercial boaters to ensure compliance with the RMP. They also provide an Annual River Use Report which describes level of use and status of water quality, safety, and funding.

### *Landscaping and Maintenance*

The Facilities Division plays a crucial role in maintaining the county's parks and trails by carrying out landscaping and grounds maintenance tasks. This includes the upkeep of sports fields, ensuring irrigation systems function properly, and managing all aspects of landscaping to maintain the aesthetic and functional quality of park facilities. Additionally, they handle vegetation management along the El Dorado Trail, which involves regular clearing, trimming, and monitoring to ensure the safety and accessibility of the trail. These cross-departmental efforts help ensure that recreational spaces remain well-maintained and accessible for the community

year-round.

### *Parks and Recreation Commission*

The **Parks and Recreation Commission** is a five-member commission. Each commissioner is appointed by a Board Supervisor for a four-year term to represent his or her Supervisorial District. The Commission advises the Board on development and maintenance of recreational opportunities.

### *Other Supporting Departments*

A Division of the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), Parks and Trails also works closely with other County departments on parks and trail maintenance and in other capacities.

- **Department of Planning and Building:** Conducts the assessment on subdivision plans for park land dedication or fees in-lieu as part of the development review process for subdivisions.
- **Department of Transportation:** Leads projects to upgrade and pave segments of the El Dorado Trail and provides expertise on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Rubicon Trail.
- **Sheriff's Office:** Provides sheriff patrols on the South Fork of the American River, El Dorado Trail, and the Rubicon Trail.

## PARK AND TRAILS DIVISION FUNDING

The El Dorado County Parks Division is supported by various funding sources and a collaboration between other County departments to build and maintain the County's parks and recreational facilities for the community. This section provides information and analysis of El Dorado County Parks Division's funding sources with historical trends. By examining five years of funding data we aim to identify the gaps and opportunities in the County's allocation of resources for recreational opportunities.

Key funding streams include the County's General Fund, grants from state and federal agencies, and park fees collected for activities such as parking, facility rentals, and river usage. Additionally, the Division relies on Quimby Funds, State Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Green Sticker Fees, and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) contributions which play a vital role in funding various projects including trail development, facility upgrades, and enhanced accessibility. Other funding sources include donations from private individuals, community groups, and service organizations. Funding for Parks and Trails is complex, but the multifaceted funding approach allows the Parks Division to effectively maintain assets and provide services. For more comprehensive information on the Division's use of the General Fund, grant funding, special revenue funds, see the analysis in Appendix B.

Figure 4 Total Parks Division Expenditures Per Fiscal Year

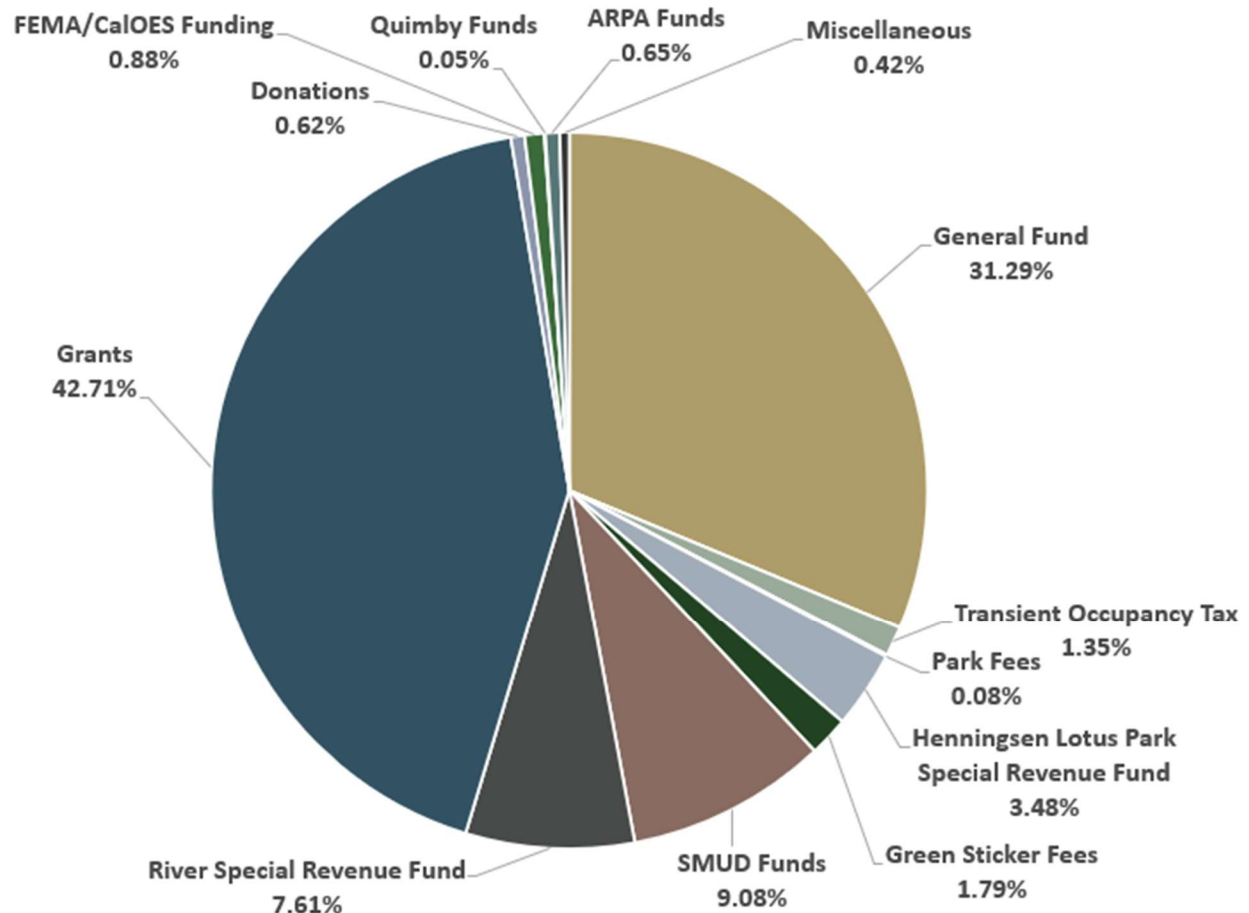


The above data reflects the Parks Division's total expenditures over five fiscal years (FY), from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24. Overall, expenditures show an upward trend, with fluctuations primarily driven by varying project demands, awarded grants, and operational costs. Understanding the specific drivers behind these fluctuations can help guide future financial planning and resource allocation strategies.

Despite the year-to-year variations, the general pattern indicates growth in expenditures over time, reflecting the influence of increasing costs and ongoing investments in projects addressing the recreational needs of the County. The total expenditures shown above include grant funding, which can influence overall annual spending levels. Given that grant funding fluctuates based on availability and project allocations, it can have an impact on annual expenditure levels. Routine maintenance is not billed to the Parks Division, but special projects or improvements outside of routine maintenance are charged to the Parks Division and would be reflected here.



Figure 5 Parks Division Funding Source Utilization (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



The above pie chart illustrates the distribution of funding sources utilized by the Parks Division over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24). Each segment of the chart represents a different funding source, with corresponding percentages indicating the proportion of total expended funding attributed to each, with grants and General Fund being the largest funding sources, followed by SMUD Funds and the River Special Revenue Fund.

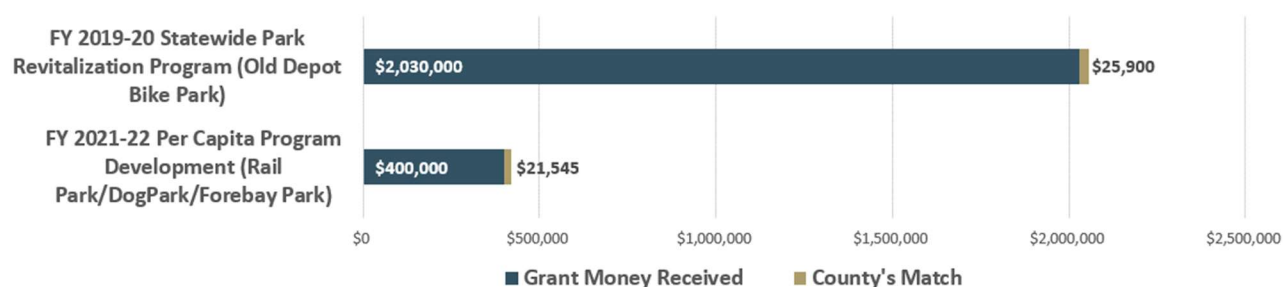
The Division utilizes all non-General fund revenues to the maximum extent possible, with the understanding that the General Fund provides funding for many other County programs, including law enforcement, roads, and other facility needs. While the majority of General Fund is expended toward operations/administrative costs, projects, maintenance/supplies, and contributions combined make up just over a third of the remainder of General Fund usage.

#### RESTRICTED FUNDING

The Division relies on grant funding, special revenue funds, and user fees for most new park projects, trail development, and some ongoing programs.

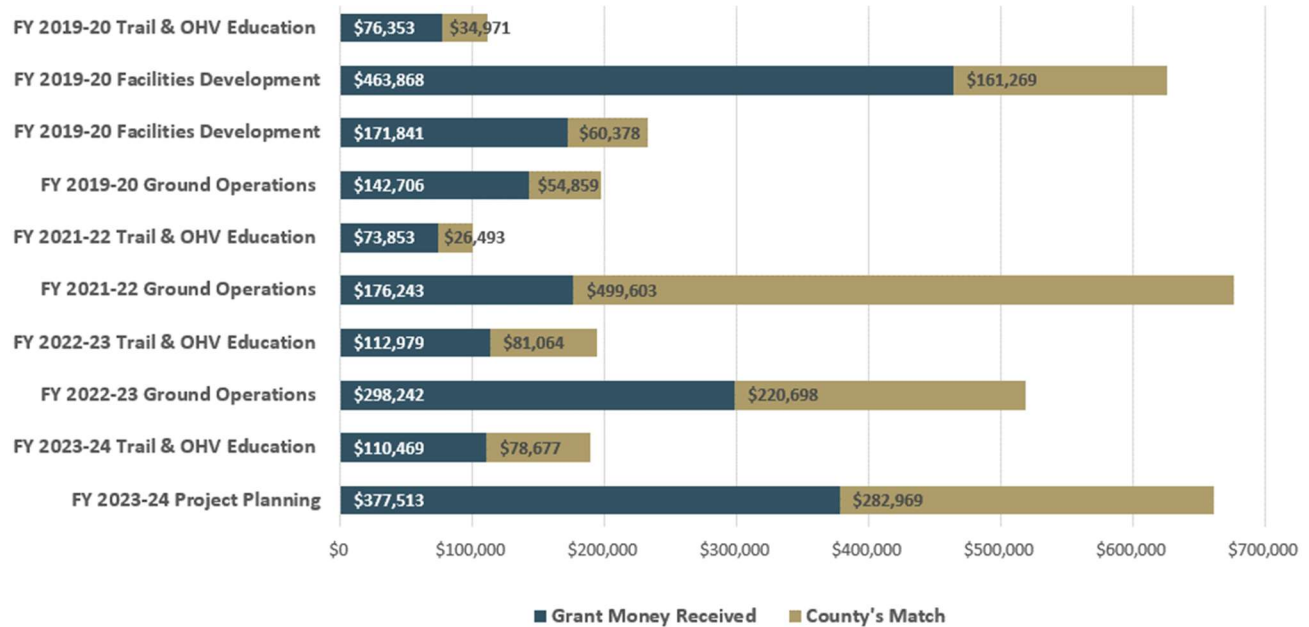
Grant funding varies significantly since most grants are for specific development or revitalization projects. State Parks has provided competitive and non-competitive (per capita) grant funding for County parks in the past, most recently with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Prop 68), which allowed for the development of the Old Depot Bike Park, as well as \$400,000 in per capita funding for parks. Other one-time funding sources include American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) \$3,000,000 for the development of Forebay Park (\$3,000,000) and \$1,000,000 in County Transient Occupancy Tax for the Chili Bar site development. Without these funding sources, these projects would most likely discontinue.

Figure 6 Prop 68 Grants Received (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



Parks staff spend a significant amount of time on grant applications, engagement with users, and ongoing maintenance and operations on the Rubicon. The Rubicon program is funded primarily through special revenue funds and grant funding, with no reliance on the General Fund. State Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Fees, commonly referred to as Green Sticker Fees, are funds collected by the state from the registration of off-road vehicles such as dirt bikes, ATVs, and other off-highway vehicles and amount to \$60,000-\$100,000 each year for support of the Rubicon program. Due to the location of the Rubicon within the Upper American River Project area, the \$150,000 of SMUD Agreement funds allocated to Parks are generally used as matching funds for Off-Highway Vehicle grant projects. Grant funding from State Parks OHV Division for projects and the ongoing management of the portion of the Rubicon Trail within El Dorado County varies in funding levels but has been awarded annually for the past decade.

Figure 7 Rubicon Trail Grants Received (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



River fees are collected from private river users parking at Henningsen Lotus Park and permitted whitewater commercial outfitters. Funds average \$150,000 each year and can be used only to support the river program as directed by the River Management Plan. This program is entirely funded with these fees.

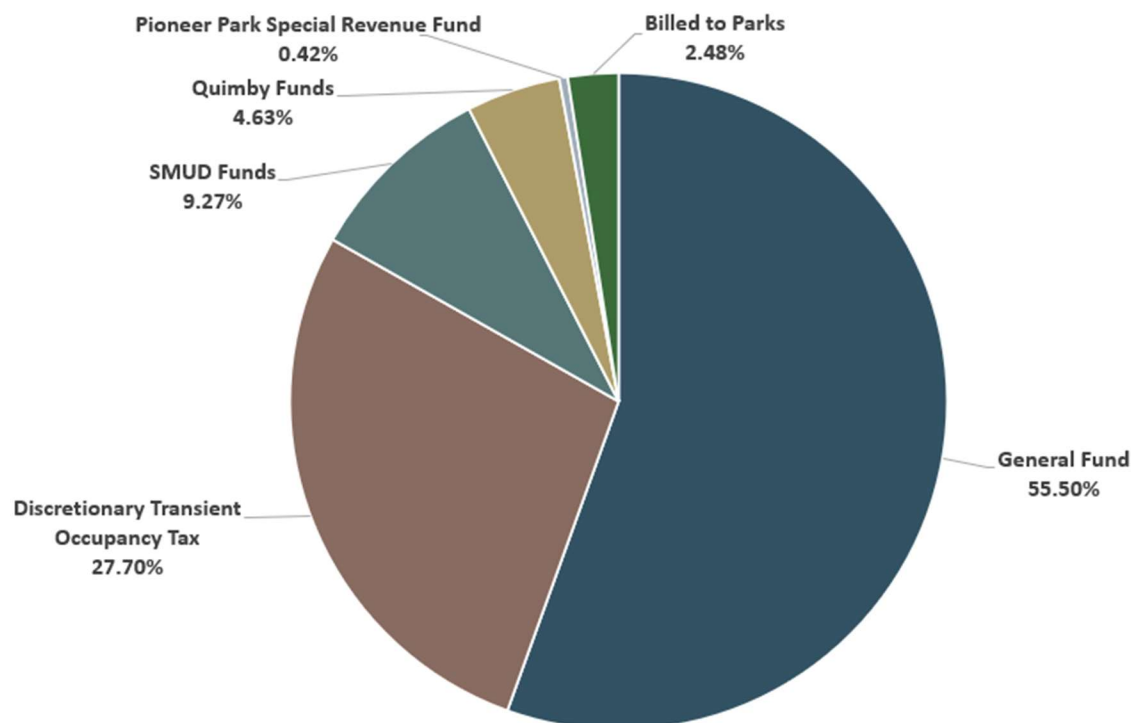
Henningsen Lotus Park, which has a parking fee in addition to facility rental and event fees generates \$80,000 to \$120,000 each year to fund ongoing park maintenance and the addition of new facilities. These fees and the popularity of this park allow for ongoing use of HLP funds for improvements and ongoing maintenance.

#### ACCUMULATIVE CAPITAL OUTLAY (ACO) FUND

The Accumulative Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund is the County budget unit used to accumulate capital project funding and to plan and track major maintenance and capital improvements to County-owned facilities, other than roads, including parks and trails. Funding from the annual Accumulated Capital Outlay funds, 1 percent of all property tax revenues, which amounts to approximately \$2 million each year, is set aside annually for capital projects, countywide. This funding is in high demand due to maintenance needs for buildings and other non-park grounds throughout the County. Most large projects are part of the overall Parks and Trails costs, but they are budgeted here. Ongoing maintenance and operation of these facilities adds to the long-term obligations.

In some years, significant funds are needed for large-scale project phases like design or construction. Other years may see lower spending as projects reach completion or if there are project delays. The variation shown above is normal when it comes to capital planning and project management, as the funding expenditures are driven by the varying number of parks projects on the schedule at any given year and specific requirements of each project phase.

Figure 8 ACO Fund Funding Sources for Parks-Related Projects on the Capital Projects Work Plan (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



The above chart illustrates the proportion of funding from various sources utilized for parks related ACO projects over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24), emphasizing a reliance on General Fund, DTOT, and SMUD funds for the park projects on the ACO project schedule during the years that are represented in the chart. Since these funds are deposited into the ACO Fund, they are not categorized under the Parks Division’s funding structure. However, 2.48 percent of the costs associated with these projects were billed directly to the Parks Division and is reflected within the expenditures located in Figure 5, Parks Division Funding Source Utilization (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24).

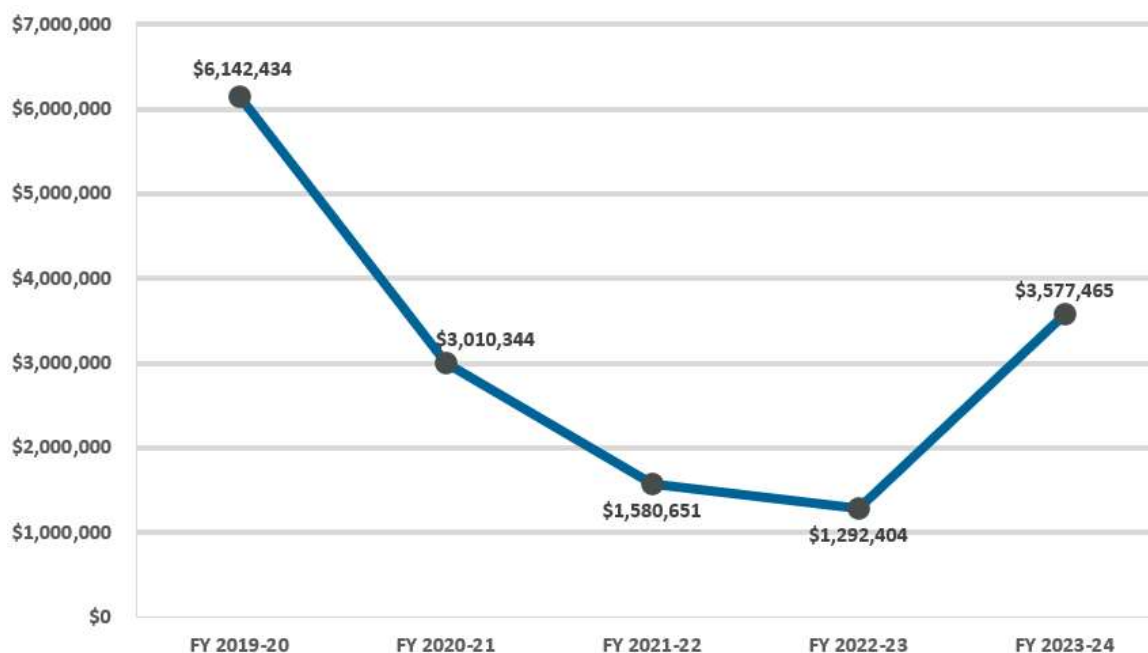
### TRAIL PROJECTS

Other county departments play a key role in supporting parks and recreation opportunities and

projects. The Department of Transportation (DOT), through its Capital Improvement Program (CIP), contributes by integrating recreational elements such as trails or bike lanes into transportation projects, improving accessibility and connectivity across the county as part of the active transportation system. Transportation's CIP serves as the comprehensive planning and implementation tool for the development, construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the County's transportation infrastructure, including trails, using state, local, and federal funding. By addressing needs to trail access and connectivity, the CIP ensures that Class I, II, or III paved trails are accessible and effectively integrated into the community's transportation infrastructure. Once constructed, the County Parks Division assumes responsibility for trail maintenance and repairs, except within the Lake Tahoe area, where maintenance and repairs are funded by Measure S funds and carried out by DOT.

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) serves as the Department of Transportation's (DOT) comprehensive planning and implementation tool for the development, construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the County's transportation infrastructure, including trails, using state, local, and federal funding. By addressing needs to trail access and connectivity, the CIP ensures that recreational trails are accessible and effectively integrated into the community's infrastructure.

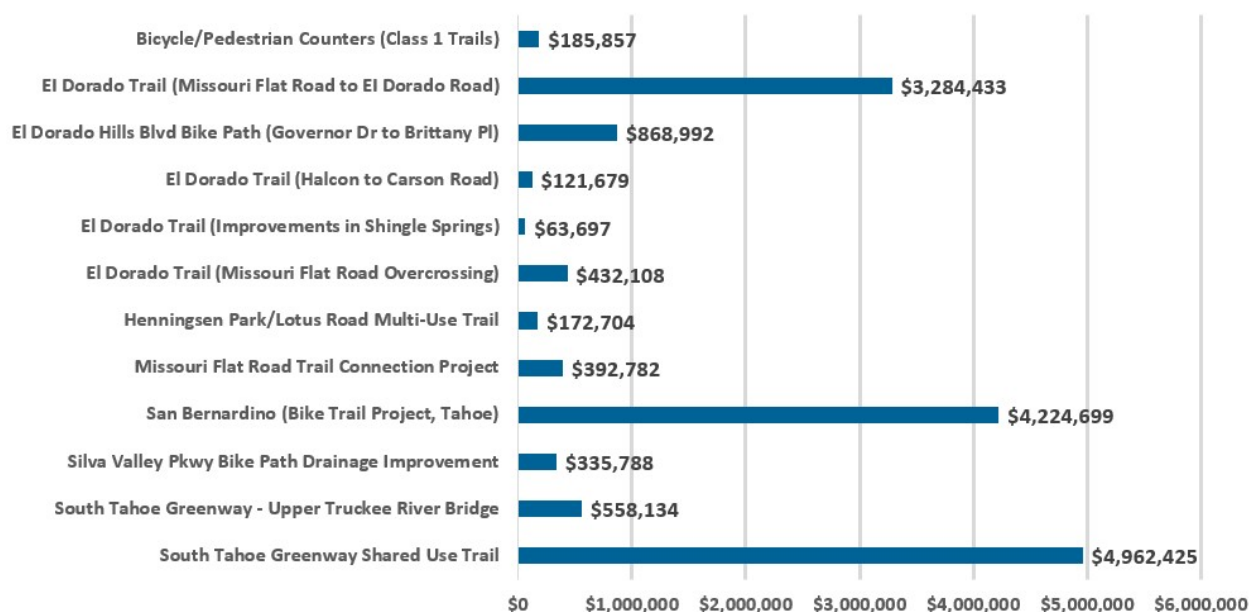
Figure 9 DOT CIP Trail Project Expenditures Per Fiscal Year



The above data shows the total DOT CIP project expenditures per fiscal year from FY 2019-20 to

FY 2023-24 for all trail-related projects. This reflects the county's commitment to enhancing and maintaining its trail infrastructure, with expenditures fluctuating based on available funding, project needs, and schedules. The data highlights the County's ongoing investment in trail infrastructure through the CIP, ensuring that trails are maintained, well-connected, and accessible to the public.

Figure 10 DOT CIP Trail Project Expenditures by Project from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24



The data showcases the cumulative project costs for individual trail projects over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24). This breakdown provides insight into the specific financial investments made toward developing, maintaining, and connecting trails throughout the county. It is important to note that the above data does not represent the total cost of each trail-related project, as some projects began prior to FY 2019-20, while others started after this period, and some are still ongoing. The data only reflects the expenditures within the past five fiscal years, meaning the full cost of multi-year projects may not be fully captured in this data. These amounts also do not include ongoing maintenance or renovation of existing trails.

Routine parks and trails maintenance by Grounds Maintenance is not billed to the Parks Division, but special projects or improvements outside of routine maintenance are charged to the Parks Division and would be reflected within the expenditures located in the "Funding Sources" section.

### PARK DEVELOPMENT FEES

In order to plan and fund new parks or improvements to existing parks needed as a result of new

housing development, there are two types of fees applied within the County. Most areas with a high volume of housing development are within Community Service District boundaries or spheres of influence, meaning that the CSD intends to expand to those areas when development occurs. However, some subdivisions or parcel maps occur outside of CSD boundaries. These are often small developments that do not warrant the addition of a new park to serve the few new residents.

The Quimby Act (California Government Code Sec. 66477) authorizes local governments in California to require developers to dedicate land or impose in-lieu fees for the creation or improvement of parks and recreational facilities as a condition of the approval of a tentative or parcel subdivision map (County Code Sec. 120.12.090). In these cases, developers or property owners pay a Quimby in-lieu fee to contribute to the development of a larger park, or for expansion or new amenities at an existing park. These fees, known as Quimby funds, are specifically earmarked for the acquisition, expansion, or enhancement of local parks. Funds cannot be used for maintenance; the County can only "use the fees only for the purpose of developing new or rehabilitating existing neighborhood or community park or recreation facilities." Quimby revenue fluctuates based on the timing and size of housing development in the County, outside of CSD and City areas, and shows that funds are only utilized once a park project occurs. The County currently manages four Quimby Funds: the Motherlode, Ponderosa, Gold Trail, and Tahoe Quimby Funds. Quimby funds help ensure that as communities grow, they maintain adequate green spaces and recreational opportunities for residents without relying solely on taxpayer dollars.

Table 3 Quimby Fund Balance at FY 2023-24 Year End

<i>FUND</i>	MOTHERLODE QUIMBY	PONDEROSA QUIMBY	GOLD TRAIL QUIMBY	TAHOE QUIMBY
Balance	<b><i>\$444.77</i></b>	<i>\$133,644.50</i>	<i>\$164.46</i>	<i>\$911.76</i>

In some areas, recreational opportunities are provided by the cities or Community Services Districts (CSDs). Although in these cases, the County doesn't own, operate, or maintain the recreational facilities, the County can sometimes still play a role in some capacity. On behalf of the CSDs, the County adopts, collects, and disburses impact mitigation fees collected upon the issuance of residential building permits for new development within CSDs (County Code Sec. 13.20). These fees can be used to fund new or expanded park and recreation improvements to accommodate the new residents from the new development. There are established agreements







# PARKS AND TRAILS PLANNING STANDARDS

An integral part of the master planning process is creating a clear vision of the community's desire for their parks, trails, and open spaces in order to establish a desired level of service. There are many aspects to consider when establishing the desired level of service, with the core criteria including 1) number of parks needed; 2) location of the parks; and 3) types of amenities to best fulfill the current and projected need of the community over the next decade.

In this chapter we provide parks, trails, and open space planning standards and planning guidelines to assist County staff in delivering the level of service desired by the community. This chapter covers types of parks, service levels, service areas, park site characteristics, park design guidelines, and standards.

## PARK STANDARDS

While the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines provides definitions for park classifications, it also acknowledges that each community is unique in terms of geographical, cultural, and socioeconomic make-up. This creates a situation where you cannot simply take a one size fits all approach to measuring performance and user satisfaction. The current Parks and Recreation Element in the County of El Dorado's General Plan was originally authored in 2004 and contains antiquated metric-based performance standards. Current schools of thought agree that the best way to measure your performance is through communication with your constituents and how well their needs are being met, and not necessarily the 1.5 acres per 1,000 that is currently in the General Plan. It is our intention to update the General Plan to be more consistent with current NRPA best practices and foresee this taking place at some point in the future in conjunction with several other updates.

In the County of El Dorado General Plan, we define parks in three different categories, and they are described below:

**Neighborhood Parks** serve a variety of age groups within a limited area or neighborhood. They generally serve residents within a half mile radius and are typically within walking or biking distance to the residents they serve. Neighborhood parks provide access to basic recreation opportunities such as field games, court games, and playgrounds. They also provide passive recreation activities that include walking, viewing, and picnicking.

- Neighborhood parks are typically 2-10 acres in size per the current General Plan but would ideally be 4 -10 acres in size.
- They should be somewhat centrally located in the neighborhood it is intended to serve.
- Biking or walking distance to a park should not exceed half a mile or ten-minute walk and should avoid arterial roadways; the ideal access would be by way of non-motorized trail or by local streets.
- At least 50 percent of the park site should be fairly level (2 percent slope max) and usable.
- These small parks typically do not have on-site parking and restroom facilities.

**Community Parks** are larger than neighborhood parks and intended to serve several neighborhoods as a gathering place and focal point for a larger community. They generally serve a larger user area of a half mile to five miles in radius. Community parks may include areas for more intense recreation activities such as competitive sports, tennis, playgrounds, volleyball, etc. They may also support facilities like restrooms and designated parking areas.

- Community parks should be centrally located within the community they serve.
- Access should be provided by way of collector or arterial streets with bike lanes and sidewalk.
- Community parks should generally range from 10 – 44 acres in size with a great area (ideally 80 percent) that is relatively level (2 percent slope or less) and usable.

**Regional Parks** are large multi-use parks that serve several communities within a particular region, generally within a one-hour driving distance. The regional park incorporates natural resources and provides both active and passive recreation opportunities, with a wide selection of recreation facilities for all age groups. They may also include areas of nature preservation for activities such as sightseeing, nature study area, wildlife habitat, and conservation. National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards for regional parks vary due to the specific site characteristics and natural resources but generally can range in size from 30 – 10,000 acres with the ideal size being several hundred acres. Regional parks may include, interpretive centers, community centers, aquatic facilities, sports complexes, camping opportunities, hiking trails, and amphitheaters.

- Regional parks should be centrally located within the service area.
- Access would be provided by highways, arterials roadways, and regional trail networks.
- They should range in size from 30 – 10,000 acres with the ideal size being several hundred acres.
- Biking and walking distances to location are not top priority for regional parks but more

so a focus on users within a one-hour drive of the park location.

In addition to these categories listed in the General Plan, the County also maintains Special Use Parks, which do not fit neatly into any of the three categories but are an important part of the overall parks system. Special Use Parks can be described as follows:

**Special Use Parks** are a park or recreation facility designed for a single, primary use, like a golf course, historical site, skate park, theme park, or water park, where the primary focus is on that specific activity rather than general recreational use. These parks offer specialized amenities that cater to a particular interest or group of users, often drawing visitors from beyond the immediate local area.

- These parks have a focused purpose dedicated to one specific activity or function, unlike a typical park with diverse amenities.
- Access would be provided by highways, arterials roadways, and regional trail networks.
- The size of the park is related to the use and may vary from less than one to hundreds of acres.
- Biking and walking distances to location are not top priority, as these parks may serve a smaller proportion of the population.

Table 4 Park Standards

<i>PARK TYPE</i>	<i>ACREAGE</i>	<i>SERVICE AREA</i>	<i>AMENITIES</i>	<i>PRIMARY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION</i>
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<i>Neighborhood Parks</i>	2-10	0.5 miles	Field games, court games, playgrounds	Walking / Biking
<i>Community Parks</i>	10-44	5 miles	Competitive sports fields, tennis, playgrounds, restrooms, dedicated parking	Walking / Biking / Driving / Public Transit
<i>Regional Parks</i>	30-10,000	1-hour	Interpretive centers, community centers, aquatic facilities, sports complexes, hiking trails	Driving / Public Transit
<i>Special Use Parks</i>	N/A	3-hours	Skate Park, Bike Park, etc.	Driving / Public Transit

### PARK SERVICE LEVELS

The County acknowledges that there is an appropriate place for all the above-described park types within the County but the County’s role in acquisition, development, or management of each can vary. For example, direction provided in the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan states that the County will assume the primary responsibility for the acquisition and development of regional parks and assist in the development of neighborhood and community parks. The County’s role in providing parks and recreation amenities is more at the regional or county-wide level whereas the need for smaller neighborhood and community parks is better fulfilled by local special districts and cities within El Dorado County.

Guidelines for parks acreage, regardless of which entity owns, operates, and maintains them, are identified within the Parks and Recreation Element of El Dorado County’s General Plan, as displayed in Table 5.

However, the guidelines were developed over two decades ago, adopted in 2004, and is no longer the approach followed by parks and recreation agencies. There is no universal acceptable level of service standards available. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) replaced their standards in 2009 with a nationwide benchmarking tool to help parks and recreation agencies customize standards to the unique characteristics and needs of their community. According to Parks and Recreation System Planning,<sup>1</sup> the new approach is a “decision-making

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<sup>1</sup> Barth, David L. (2020). Parks and Recreation System Planning: A new approach for creating sustainable, resilient communities. Island Press.

framework” that provides greater flexibility through developing customized standards based on the agency’s vision, community values, community context, residents’ needs and priorities, and desired experiences.

County Parks staff recognizes that the park acreage guidelines established in the General Plan need to be updated, and until that time, will continue to use them among other metrics and tools. A future update to the General Plan’s Parks and Recreation Element could provide an opportunity to consider revising levels of service guidelines for more flexibility to meet the need for parks and recreation facilities. In the interim staff will append this master plan with any subsequent documents that alter or impact how the county goes about assessing levels of service and address that the interpretation of service level may deviate from what is shown in the General Plan and incorporate some of the “decision making framework” principles.

Table 5 Park Facilities Guidelines

<b>Guidelines for Acquisition and Development of Park Facilities</b>	
Park Types	Developed
Regional Parks	1.5 ac/1,000 population
Community Parks	1.5 ac/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2.0 ac/1,000 population
Specific Standards (Neighborhood and Community Parks)	
Cameron Park Community Services District	5.0 ac/1,000 population
El Dorado Hills Community Services District	5.0 ac/1,000 population
Planned Communities	5.0 ac/1,000 population

*Source: El Dorado County General Plan Parks and Recreation Element, 2004*

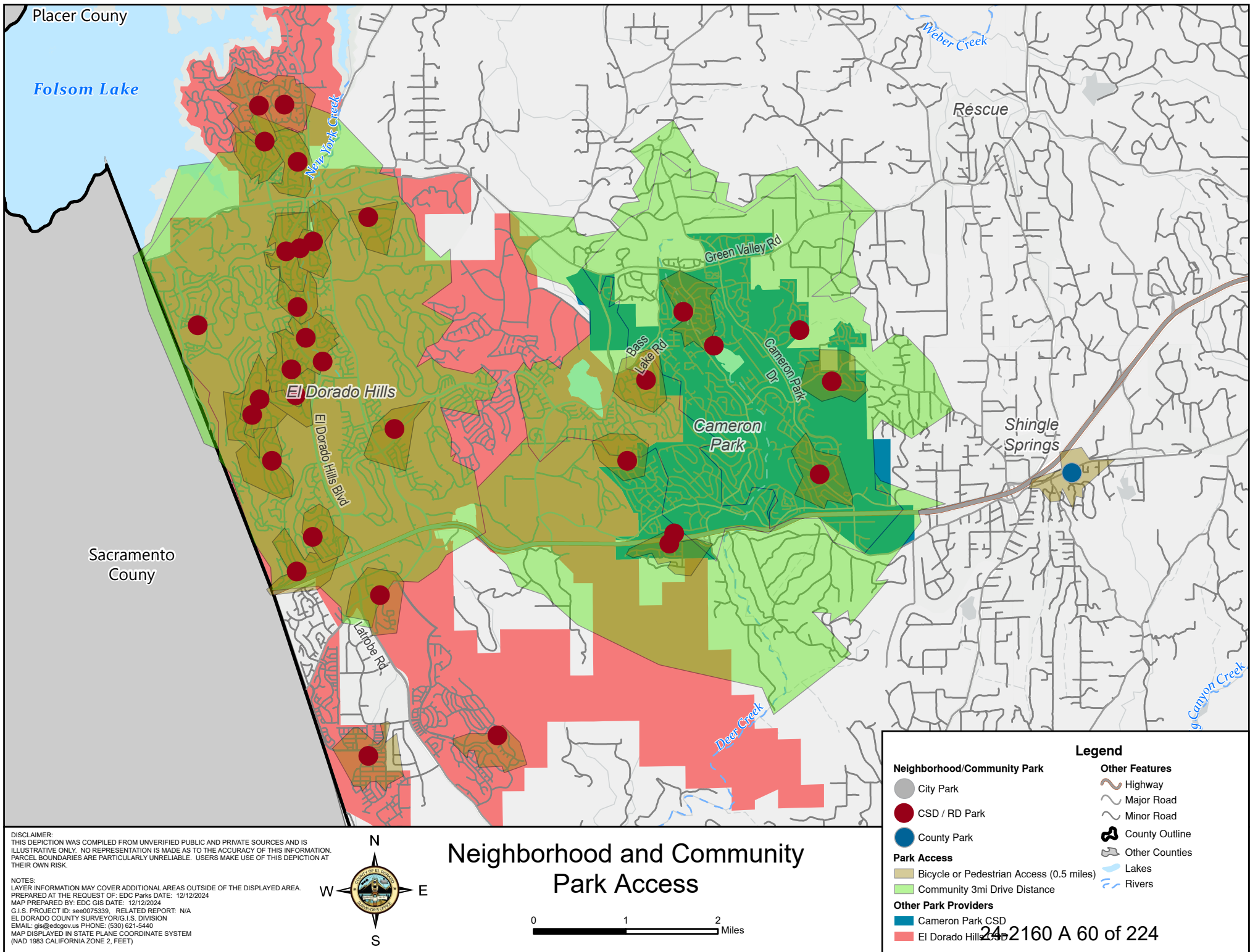
## PARK SERVICE AREAS

A Park Access Map applies buffers over park sites based on how far people travel to visit them. This assists staff in identifying the parks user base as well as areas that the park will feasibly serve. Although expressed in terms of service radius, features such as arterial roads, rivers, or other

disruptions to normal travel may influence the extent of the service area. The map exhibits below show a drive distance buffer that incorporates the features disrupting normal travel for neighborhood and community parks and time traveled buffer for regional and specialty parks. Services areas differ based on the type of park, for example the El Dorado County General Plan states that the service area for a neighborhood park is 0.5 miles while the service area for a community park is 5 miles. Although there are large sections of the County that do not have close access to one of these parks, as shown on the map, the survey results show high levels of satisfaction regarding park availability and do not show a large desire for new neighborhood and community parks. Also worth noting is that the areas with the higher density of developed parks also tend to have fewer nearby open space and natural areas. This reflects a tradeoff for County residents between living in an urban environment with developed active parks or a more rural lifestyle with larger parcels and passive open space and nature areas for recreation. Residents are most likely choosing to live in areas of the County based on preferences, including proximity to different types of recreation. Due to the nature of regional parks and specialty parks, we do not have a defined service area as people are willing to drive much further to visit them. For these park types, staff analyzed travel time buffers at intervals of 40 minutes, 20 minutes, and 10 minutes to better understand the travel time it takes for people across the county to reach these parks. Open spaces are also not included in the General Plan Guidelines, but are important recreational features nevertheless.









## *PARK SITE CHARACTERISTICS*

As described in park types, there is certain park site characteristic criteria that we look for when qualifying a site to become a future park. Neighborhood and community parks must be centrally located within the neighborhood or community and be generally flat where active recreation will take place. Conversely, regional parks site topography is not as critical due to the size of the site and types of recreation offered. The following guidelines should be used to evaluate the viability of proposed land to be acquired or dedicated for park uses.

- Park locations should be selected based on compatibility the adjacent land uses, site suitability, and opportunities to optimize existing infrastructure.
- Proposed parkland should have access to appropriate infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, and power.
- The types of land uses surrounding the potential park site should be considered. Land adjacent to an existing or proposed school site is desirable because it offers future joint use opportunities. Land that provides opportunities to connect to trails or bikeways is also desirable. If a proposed park site is adjacent to land uses that are incompatible with the proposed park use, the land may not be suitable.
- 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. However, sites may be considered in situations where the resources may offer meaningful interpretive opportunities and provide passive recreation.

## *PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES*

Park design guidelines are important tools that can guide planning, influence investment priorities, set goals for parkland acquisition, and establish the policy basis for financing sources, such as impact fees and credits. Additionally, guidelines embody the aspirations of the Parks and Trails Master Plan but are not strict requirements. If guidelines are to be meaningful, they should be reasonably achievable over time, and sufficiently flexible to accommodate diverse and evolving community needs. The following guidelines are intended to provide that guidance in the planning, design, and construction of new parks as well as improvements at existing parks.

In addition to the below park design guidelines all park projects shall conform with the current version of the El Dorado County Design and Improvements Standards Manual, which is compiled, updated, and enforced through the County Department of Transportation.

- Facilities within parks should be sited to optimize recreation value by locating features

with similar uses adjacent to each other.

- Multi-use recreation areas and facilities should be emphasized to efficiently utilize park resources.
- 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.
- 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.
- Sites, facilities, structures, or landscapes of historic or cultural significance within each park should be included where possible in the park design.
- 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.
- 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.
- Park entrance improvements shall include a park name sign with rules and hours of operation.
- An ADA accessible circulation route shall be provided connecting all accessible features in the park.
- 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.
- Design park facilities to minimize maintenance requirements.
- Preserve natural site characteristics as feasible in park design.
- Preserve mature healthy trees as feasible by locating park improvements outside of the trees' drip line and preserving natural drainage.
- Incorporate fire safe best practices incorporating CalFire's defensible space buffers.

## TRAIL STANDARDS

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

There are several different local, state, and federal agencies that have developed their own trail standards. Most have many aspects in common but there are some variations amongst the different jurisdictions. The intent of this section is to describe the different applicable agencies standards, and to articulate the time and place each standard is applied. These trail standards may be consulted over the life of the Master Plan as the County plans for new trails or trail improvements.

### *PAVED TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS*

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Trail and Bike Facilities Standards is the most commonly used standard for paved trails within the state of California and is consistent with the paved trail sections within El Dorado County. As we continue to add mileage to our trail network, we will use the Caltrans Standards for paved off-street trails and on-street bike lanes. We also need to consider the type of vehicles that will be using the trail facilities. With the recent prevalence of E-bikes it is worth discussing how they play into trail use and what types of trails they are allowed on. Chapter 10.32.010 of the El Dorado County Municipal Code defines electronic bikes or e-bikes as a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts as defined in California Vehicle Code § 312.5. Conforming class I and II E-bikes are allowed on all trail facilities as defined by Chapter 10.32.010 (the term "trail facility" or "trail facilities" means any class 1 trail, natural trail, or horseback riding trail owned, maintained, and/or operated by El Dorado County. For purposes of this chapter, "trail facility" shall also include that portion of the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC) that is located within El Dorado County.) Although the county does currently have policy around the use of E-bikes on trail facilities within the county, further discussion and coordination with adjacent agencies will be necessary to ensure consistency of access for use on regional connector trails.

**Class I Shared Use Paths** are paved trails completely separated from the street or highway. They allow two-way travel for people bicycling and walking and are often considered the most comfortable facilities for children and inexperienced bicyclists because there are few potential conflicts between people bicycling and people driving. The El Dorado County Active Transportation Plan (EDCTC, 2020) identifies approximately 35.9 miles of new Class I bike paths for future development, for a total of 65.5 miles. These additional miles of trail would provide recreation value in addition to transportation.

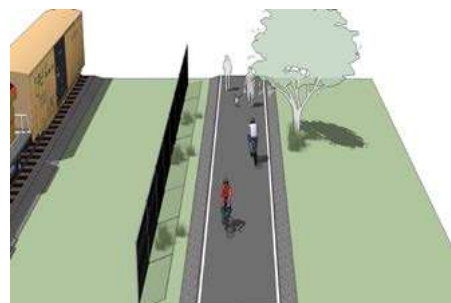


Figure 11: Example of Class I Trail

**Class II Bicycle Lanes** are striped preferential lanes on the roadway for one way bicycle travel that include pavement stencils and signs. Some bicycle lanes include a striped buffer on one or both sides to increase separation from the traffic lane or from parked cars, where people may open car doors into the bicycle lane. Variations of the Class II Bicycle Lane are the Uphill Climbing Lane, where due to narrow roadway width, a Class II facility is installed in the uphill traveling direction to give bicyclist additional protection and the Buffered Bike Lane, where painted buffers increase the distance between bicyclists and drivers. Some short segments of bicycle lanes exist in El Dorado County near Placerville and in El Dorado Hills.



Figure 12 Example of Class II Trail

**Class III Bicycle Routes** are signed routes where people bicycling share a travel lane with people driving. Because they are shared facilities, bicycle routes are best suited for low-speed streets with relatively low traffic volumes or on higher-speed roadways that include a wide outside lane or shoulder to accommodate safe passing. Class III bicycle routes include shared lane markings or “sharrows” that encourage proper bicyclist positioning in the travel lane and alert drivers that bicyclists may be present. Advisory Shoulders are signed roadways where bicyclists are to travel in the shoulder when they are not being used for parking. Class III bike routes have been designated in some areas of El Dorado County.



**Class IV Separated Bikeways** are on street bicycle facilities that are physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by a vertical element or barrier such as a curb, bollards, or parking aisle. They can allow for one- or two-way bicycle travel on one or both sides of the roadway. No Class IV bikeways currently exist in El Dorado County.

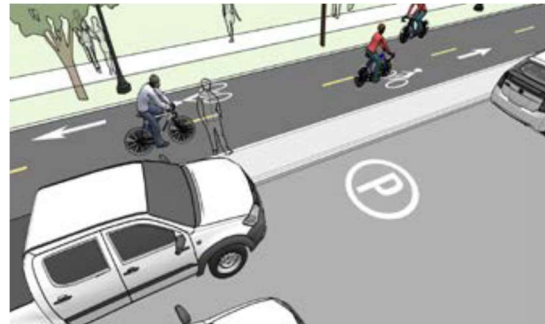


Figure 14 Example of a Class IV Bicycle Route

In addition to these formally designated bikeways, bicyclists often use wide shoulders on state highways or county roads to travel between communities in El Dorado County. An inventory of shoulder conditions was conducted for the 2010 Bicycle Plan. In some cases, sufficiently wide shoulders may create opportunities for low-cost implementation of Class II Bicycle Lanes. (*Refer to the El Dorado County Active Transportation Plan for more information and shoulder study inventory.*)

#### NATURAL TRAIL CLASSIFICATION

Below (Table 6) is a summary of natural trail design standards based on the United States Forest Service standards and can be referenced by the County for natural trails categorization and development along corridors, within parks, or in open space areas. The US Forest Service has trail classification nomenclature that uses numbers (1-5) to differentiate trail classifications to denote the level of management and range from minimally developed trails (Class 1) to fully developed (Class 5).



Table 6 Natural Trail Design Standards

Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 Minimally Developed	Trail Class 2 Moderately Developed	Trail Class 3 Developed	Trail Class 4 Highly Developed	Trail Class 5 Fully Developed
<b>Tread &amp; Traffic Flow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tread intermittent and often indistinct</li> <li>May require route finding</li> <li>Single lane with no allowances constructed for passing</li> <li>Predominantly native materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tread continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough</li> <li>Single lane with minor allowances constructed for passing</li> <li>Typically native materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tread continuous and obvious</li> <li>Single lane, with allowances constructed for passing where required by traffic volumes in areas with no reasonable passing opportunities available</li> <li>Native or imported materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tread wide and relatively smooth with few irregularities</li> <li>Single lane, with allowances constructed for passing where required by traffic volumes in areas with no reasonable passing opportunities available</li> <li>Double lane where traffic volumes are high and passing is frequent</li> <li>Native or imported materials</li> <li>May be hardened</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tread wide, firm, stable, and generally uniform</li> <li>Single lane, with frequent turnouts where traffic volumes are low to moderate</li> <li>Double lane where traffic volumes are moderate to high</li> <li>Commonly hardened with asphalt or other imported material</li> </ul>
<b>Obstacles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obstacles common, naturally occurring, often substantial and intended to provide increased challenge</li> <li>Narrow passages; brush, steep grades, rocks and logs present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obstacles may be common, substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge</li> <li>Blockages cleared to define route and protect resources</li> <li>Vegetation may encroach into trailway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obstacles may be common, but not substantial or intended to provide challenge</li> <li>Vegetation cleared outside of trailway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obstacles infrequent and insubstantial</li> <li>Vegetation cleared outside of trailway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obstacles not present</li> <li>Grades typically &lt; 8%</li> </ul>

Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 Minimally Developed	Trail Class 2 Moderately Developed	Trail Class 3 Developed	Trail Class 4 Highly Developed	Trail Class 5 Fully Developed
<b>Constructed Features &amp; Trail Elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structures minimal to non-existent</li> <li>Drainage typically accomplished without structures</li> <li>Natural fords</li> <li>Typically no bridges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structures of limited size, scale, and quantity; typically constructed of native materials</li> <li>Structures adequate to protect trail infrastructure and resources</li> <li>Natural fords</li> <li>Bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structures may be common and substantial; constructed of imported or native materials</li> <li>Natural or constructed fords</li> <li>Bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structures frequent and substantial; typically constructed of imported materials</li> <li>Constructed or natural fords</li> <li>Bridges as needed for resource protection and user convenience</li> <li>Trails amenities may be present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structures frequent or continuous; typically constructed of imported materials</li> <li>May include bridges, boardwalks, curbs, handrails, trailside amenities, and similar features</li> </ul>
<b>Signs<sup>2</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route identification signing limited to junctions</li> <li>Route markers present when trail location is not evident</li> <li>Regulatory and resource protection signing infrequent</li> <li>Destination signing, unless required, generally not present</li> <li>Information and interpretive signing generally not present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route identification signing limited to junctions</li> <li>Route markers present when trail location is not evident</li> <li>Regulatory and resource protection signing infrequent</li> <li>Destination signing typically infrequent outside of wilderness; generally not present in wilderness</li> <li>Information and interpretive signing not common</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance</li> <li>Route markers as needed for user reassurance</li> <li>Regulatory and resource protection signing may be common</li> <li>Destination signing likely outside of wilderness; generally not present in wilderness</li> <li>Information and interpretive signs may be present outside of wilderness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance</li> <li>Route markers as needed for user reassurance</li> <li>Regulatory and resource protection signing common</li> <li>Destination signing common outside of wilderness; generally not present in wilderness</li> <li>Information and interpretive signs may be common outside of wilderness</li> <li>Accessibility information likely displayed at trailhead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route identification signing at junctions and for user reassurance</li> <li>Route markers as needed for user reassurance</li> <li>Regulatory and resource protection signing common</li> <li>Destination signing common</li> <li>Information and interpretive signs common</li> <li>Accessibility information likely displayed at trailhead</li> </ul>
<b>Typical Recreation Environments &amp; Experience<sup>3</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural, unmodified</li> <li>ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural</li> <li>WROS: Typically Primitive to Semi-Primitive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural, essentially unmodified</li> <li>ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural</li> <li>WROS: Typically Primitive to Semi-Primitive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural, primarily unmodified</li> <li>ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural</li> <li>WROS: Typically Semi-Primitive to Transition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be modified</li> <li>ROS: Typically Semi-Primitive to Rural</li> <li>WROS: Typically Portal or Transition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be highly modified</li> <li>Commonly associated with visitor centers or high-use recreation sites</li> <li>ROS: Typically Roded Natural to Urban</li> <li>Generally not present in wilderness</li> </ul>

The design of natural surface trails should consider the type of use and how developed or undeveloped the trail should be. Multi-use trails may be a better solution for areas with fewer users or where multiple single-use trails are infeasible, while single-use trails may be identified in areas with high user volume use or terrain better suited to high technical skill levels.

**Multi Use Trails** must be designated to accommodate cyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians. Trails that only facilitate use by cyclists and pedestrians or trails that only allow for equestrian and pedestrian uses are not considered multi-use. Multi-use trails are designed with the intention of accommodating a range of uses and user groups on the same trail facility. A byproduct of having a facility that is meant for multiple uses is that not all of the expectations or design features of each user group can be met. The construction of multi-use trails demonstrates compromise amongst these uses and user groups and often results in lower rates of user satisfaction. In addition to generally lower level of satisfaction multi-use trails commonly pose a greater level of difficulty when it comes to trail design and sustainability.

**Single Use Trails** are broken up into four categories: Pedestrian, equestrian, mountain biking, and motorized or off-highway vehicle trails. These trails have been developed for a specific use, user group(s), or specific mode of transportation. These facilities are intended to satisfy specific needs and are generally used for recreation and not transportation.

#### *PAVED VS. NATURAL TRAILS*

**Paved Trails** are trails that use an improved trail surface most commonly asphalt or concrete depending on the application and trail location. Paved trails are most commonly used for active transportation and conform closely with the Caltrans Class I – IV standards.

**Natural Trails** are usually unpaved and intended to serve hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, depending on constraints of terrain and environmental sensitivity. Natural 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 rather than for transportation. There are many miles of natural trails in western El Dorado County, most of them owned and managed by other regional agencies whose mission includes public recreation. Most residents within the County can access a wide selection of natural trails within a one-half hour drive from their homes. There are over 100 miles of natural trails in the various BLM, state, and federal recreation areas in the County foothills and over 200 additional miles of natural trails in the Sierra.

## CONNECTORS

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 intended use. Connectors may function at the scale of a neighborhood, community, and/or region. The El Dorado Trail is an example of a connector that functions at all three scales depending on location, and also functions as a natural trail in some areas.

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

There are very few connectors in unincorporated El Dorado County. In some neighborhoods, sidewalks provide for limited pedestrian access. Within the Georgetown Divide, an extensive network of informal trails through private property is used by residents to connect to neighborhoods, regional trails such as the Western States Trail, and U.S. Forest Service trails. These connectors can also function as natural trails.



(Include trail exhibit provided by GIS include overlay of rail alignment)

## TRAILS LEVEL OF SERVICE

While most counties, like El Dorado County, have developed a level of service standards for park facilities within the General Plan, most have not developed quantitative, per capita, targets for trails.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) does not have a level of service standard for trails, and trail types and level of service may differ between County areas dependent on their setting. Instead, NRPA has compiled data from agencies throughout the country to track the average number of trail miles typically provided. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have 70.5 miles of trail on average and agencies serving 50,000 residents have 10 miles of trail on average. This equates to approximately 0.25-0.5 trail miles per 1,000 residents. There are no quantitative guidelines established by the El Dorado County General Plan suggesting how many miles of trails are needed to serve the population. The General Plan does recognize regional trails for hiking and equestrian use along with bicycle facilities and pathways for pedestrians as components of the County's non-motorized transportation system that also have important recreational value. That said, similar to the parks level of service section we plan on taking a slightly different approach to measuring level of service for trails and again incorporating the "decision making framework" to determine service levels and potential future projects.

## Exhibit 7 Active Transportation Trailheads Access

To Insert Map

## Exhibit 8 Natural Trailheads Access

To Insert Map

## 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

- 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.
- 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.
- Frequent, convenient access/egress points with appropriate road crossings as needed should be located along trails in neighborhoods and communities to facilitate use and trail security.
- At a minimum, trailheads heavily used by equestrians should include hitching rails. Where practicable, corrals and a water spigot should also be provided.
- Restrooms (permanent or portable) should be provided and maintained within all major trailhead parking lots.
- Trash receptacles shall be provided and maintained in sufficient number and size to accommodate trailhead use.
- Whenever practical, potable water and drinking fountains or bottle filling stations shall be provided at trailhead parking lots.

### Signs

- 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.
  - Degree of difficulty.

- Signs should be placed at various points along trails to identify junctions with other trails, water features, streets, and hazardous or sensitive areas.
- 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 to discourage disruption, theft, and vandalism.

### **Proximity to Developed Areas**

- 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.
- 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.

### **Grading and Erosion Control**

- 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.
- Trail alignments should be selected that will result in the least impact on the existing topography and vegetation.

### **Proximity to Hazardous Areas**

- 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 near such areas, fencing or other appropriate barriers shall be installed. Grade separation should be considered where feasible.
- Trail crossings of busy streets or rails should be minimized. Where crossings are needed, a location with adequate sight distance shall be selected and appropriate signage and crossing treatments installed.
- Trail intersections with other trails should be located and designed so that sight distance, grades, and other features enhance crossing safety.
- 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.
- 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.

- Barriers constructed of local trees and logs should be provided between trails and steep and hazardous areas.
- Trails located next to steep or other hazardous areas shall be at least four feet in width.

### *TRAIL DESIGN DETAILS*

Class I bike paths will be designed in accordance with Caltrans Chapter 1000 Bikeway Design Standards.

- For natural trails, the tread width may vary based on site conditions, the guidelines provided are below shall be used to the extent feasible:
  - Single-use trails: 3 feet
  - Dual- or multiple- use trails: 10 feet
- To accommodate the tread widths specified in above, 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 14 feet in width. To the extent possible design trails to conform with the natural topography of the area. When equestrian uses are anticipated adjacent to a paved trail a separate natural trail shall be provided at least 4 feet in width and at least 6 feet from the paved trail.
- Horizontal clearance for all trail types shall be two (2) feet beyond the trail tread.
- Minimum vertical clearance standards are as follows:
  - Hiking trail: 7 feet
  - Bicycling trail: 12 feet
  - Equestrian trail: 12 feet
- Trails should not be greater than 15% in slope except where necessary for short runs of up to 20%.
- Where retaining walls are employed, natural materials, such as logs and native stone, should be used to the extent possible.
- Landings at the end of switchbacks should be at least 8 feet in width.
- 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.
- Regional connectors should ideally provide accessible facilities for pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and other 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.

## OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

Open Spaces and natural areas are of great value when it comes to recreational opportunities and biodiversity in El Dorado County. Although the County does generally own or operate a great deal of open space, there is a significant amount of National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and State Park lands that provide an array of recreation opportunities. These open spaces can range in size from a few hundred acre to several hundred thousand like the El Dorado National Forest that makes up roughly 43% of the counties overall land area.

### *OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS*

**Preserves.** El Dorado County is home to several rare plant and animal species some endemic to the area. Because of this some open spaces areas have been designated as preserves. These areas serve as irreplaceable habitat for both plant and animal communities. When considering recreation opportunities in these areas be aware there could be access restrictions based on the sensitivity of the resource. Preserves have the potential to make great outdoor education opportunities and could include facilities such as interpretive and nature centers.

**Regional Open Space** is the most abundant type of open space within the county and includes National Forest, BLM, and State Parks Lands. These areas contain passive amenities such as restrooms, picnic tables, and parking facilities. They also provide a greater range of recreation opportunities and tend to draw visitors from a large geographic range.

**Campgrounds** provide visitors the ability to stay overnight in a natural environment and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature after dark. Campgrounds have ranging degrees of improvements from private campgrounds with full hookups to those with very minimal amenities.

**Trailheads** act as access and wayfinding points for visitors when accessing open space and trails within the county. They may contain information kiosks, bulletin boards, maps, and restrooms. Some trail heads may also include equestrian facilities and bike repair stations.

## MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

All scheduled park maintenance is conducted by Parks Maintenance staff and Grounds Maintenance staff within the Facilities Division of the Chief Administrative Office. The maintenance objective is to provide safe, sanitary, and aesthetically pleasing landscaping and maintenance for all County parks and trails.



Maintenance is provided on a regular basis at the County's parks: Bradford Park, Forebay Park, Henningsen Lotus Park, Historic Railroad Park, Joe's Skate Park, Old Depot Bike Park, and Pioneer Park, in addition to the SPTC/El Dorado Trail. Tasks include repairs to signs, concrete, fencing, and water fountain, and trash and graffiti removal as needed. Crews provide landscape and field maintenance, restroom cleaning, and any repairs needed to lights, equipment, picnic tables, play areas, barbecues, hardscape, and other park facilities. The SPTC/El Dorado Trail is maintained seasonally for vegetation management, and periodically for trash removal, cleanup at parking lots and trailheads, and any repairs as needed for bollards, kiosk, par course, benches, and other structures, mostly from volunteers. The El Dorado Western Railroad maintains the tracks throughout the corridor under the direction of Parks and Museum staff.

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

#### *HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE*

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

- Citizen complaints are very infrequent.
- Areas are free of trash, weeds, and dead or stressed plants.
- Obstructions and hazards are non-existent during work hours.
- No substantial loss of water due to breakage.
- Facilities are visually appealing and manicured.
- Frequent site inspections.
- Restrooms cleaned frequently, well stocked with sanitary products, free of debris, and equipment is functional.
- Clearly legible signs without wear.

#### *NORMAL LEVEL OF SERVICE*

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

- Citizen complaints infrequent but do occur.
- Hazards and complaints are generally responded to within 2-4 days.
- Minor debris and trash are removed during normal litter removal as scheduled.

- Increased water loss due to delays in breakage repair.
- Presentation of landscape is not always manicured and is less visually pleasing.
- Vegetation abatement to meet fire code.
- Restrooms cleaned intermittently, in sanitary condition, and equipment is functional.
- Legible signs but may be signs of wear.

#### *BASIC LEVEL OF SERVICE*

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

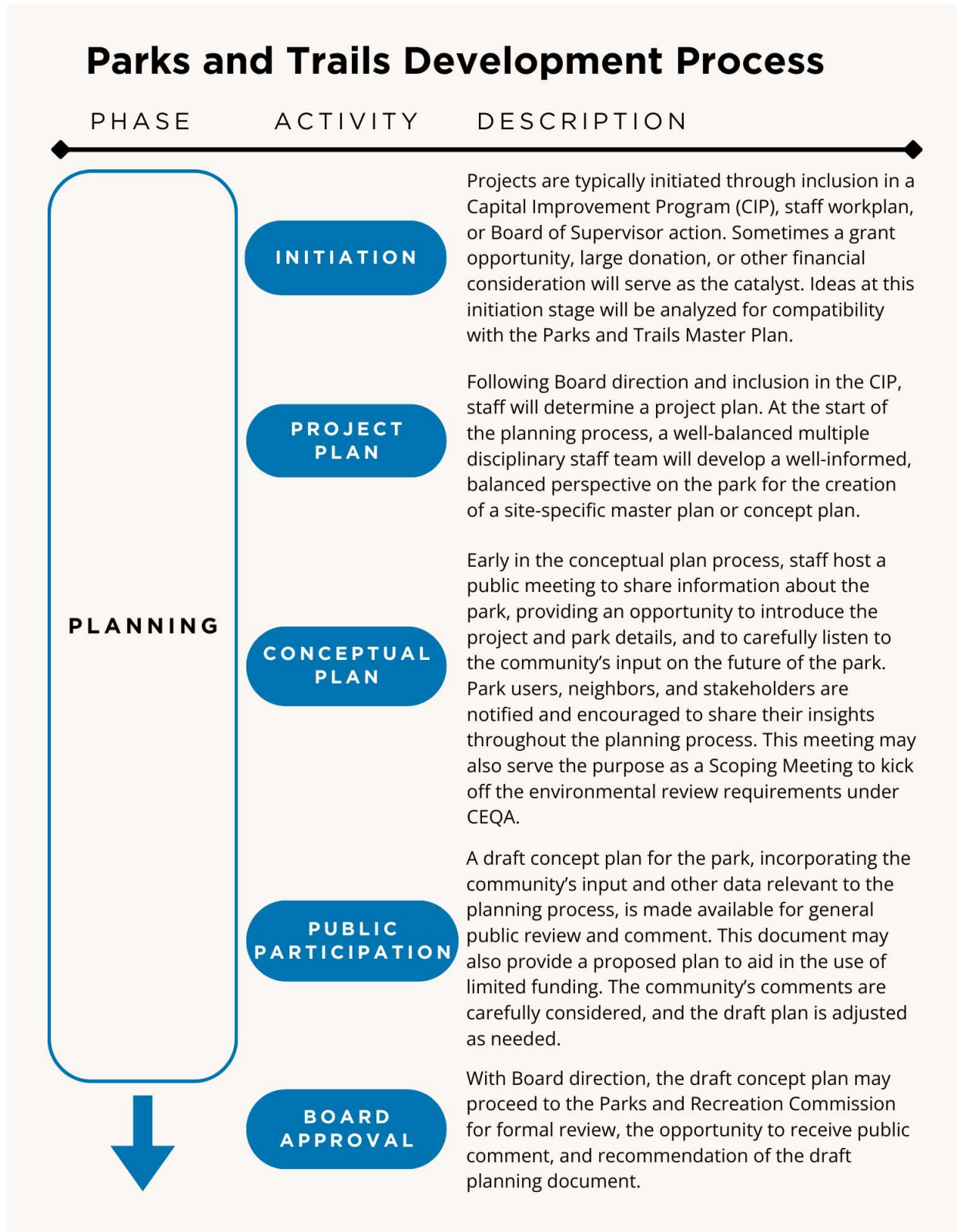
- Minor debris would be ignored and weed control would be handled as complaints were received.
- General aesthetics would be poor and plant material health would decline.
- Citizen complaints and hazards would be frequent. Response and prioritization would be based on safety, liability, and severity of situation.
- Water system failures would be frequent.
- Minimal number of site inspections.
- Minimal vegetation abatement.
- Restrooms occasionally, in usable condition, and equipment is functional.
- Some signs may need replacement.

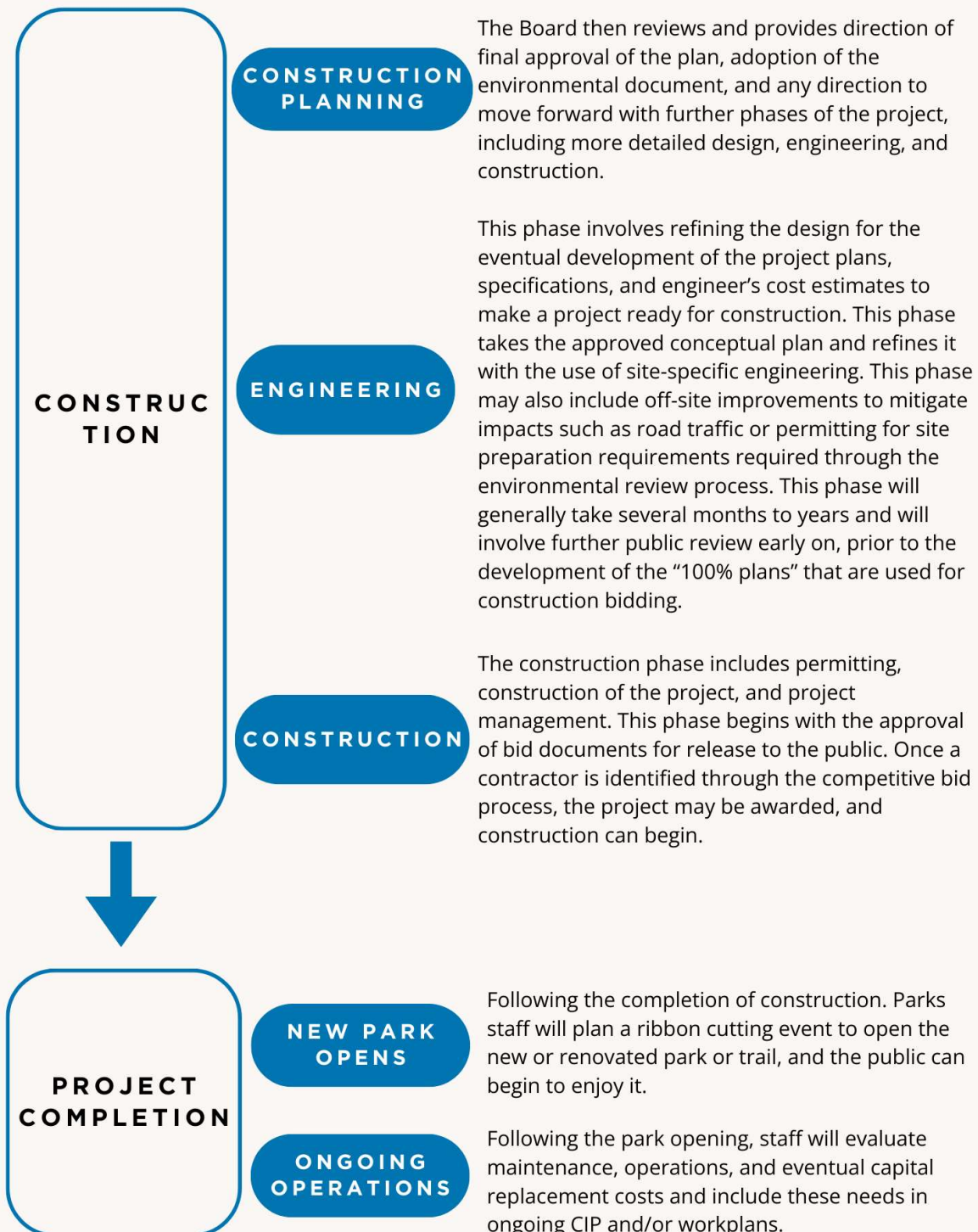
Staff are generally able to maintain County parks and trails between the “High” and “Normal” level of service depending on availability of staff, weather conditions, and extent of public use. Expansion of park and trail facilities will require corresponding increases in available staff in order to sustain this level of service.

## **PARK AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

The typical process for development of a new park or trail, or renovation projects, takes several years on average and is contingent upon available funding for completion and staff availability. Projects start as a simple idea and become more refined over time until plans and specifications for construction are approved, and the project is built. The following chart describes a typical, standard process from concept to public opening.

Figure 15 Parks and Trails Development Process





# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The public engagement process for the Parks and Trails Master Plan was designed to provide opportunities for everyone to share their thoughts on the park and trail system, providing meaningful feedback for the County to consider. The outreach efforts included coordination with the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), a Countywide online survey, key stakeholder focus groups, a series of public workshops, and the organization of a Master Plan Advisory Committee. These opportunities were each included in order to procure the opinions of all groups in order to fully-inform the final plan. A full overview of the public engagement efforts, results, and key priorities identified can be found in Appendix C.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH OBJECTIVES

The goal of the public outreach efforts was to:

- Build community awareness about the Parks & Trails Master Plan
- Develop a shared understanding of the project's goals and constraints
- Obtain community input to help inform the plan

El Dorado County residents played an integral role in the development of this Master Plan by providing input on parks and trails facility priorities, recreation preferences, operational matters, and funding issues. A variety of mechanisms were used to generate input including a series of workshops, surveys, and one-on-one interviews. The staff and consultant project team engaged in traditional and nontraditional media outlets based within County boundaries to ensure the community was aware of the project and engagement process. Throughout the project a stakeholder database was utilized to target community partners, parks and recreation user groups, and the general public.

### *Target Audience & Stakeholders*

The public outreach effort was targeted to engage community members, business owners, and key community-based organizations. Specific stakeholder groups include:

- **Current & past trail/park users:** Members of the general public who utilize the services covered by the Master Plan and can thus give informed input on its updates.

- **Business interests:** Major employers, business leaders, and associations in the area who have a vested interest in improving area parks and trails for employees, customers, and members.
- **County Leadership & Elected officials:** El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, El Dorado County Parks Commissioners, El Dorado County Board of Education Trustees, and relevant department heads.
- **Neighborhood associations:** Nearby community and neighborhood associations in the areas of the parks and trails.
- **Community organizations:** Including community groups, such as Kiwanis and Rotary; partner organizations, such as community services districts; faith-based organizations; and youth groups, such as sports associations and outdoor activity clubs.
- **Schools:** Elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges located near the parks and trails who may have a vested interest in improving area parks and trails for their students and faculty; Relevant Parent-Teacher Organizations as well as the El Dorado County Office of Education.
- **Agency Partners:** Key community agency partners including SMUD, Transportation Commission, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and State Parks.

### *Stakeholder Meetings*

- **County Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC):** Several meetings of the PRC were dedicated to gathering additional input and providing updates to the public. Throughout 2023 and 2024, the Commission deliberated on all aspects of the Master Plan and served as co-editors.
- **Stakeholder Focus Group:** Two stakeholder focus group meetings were conducted with the local schools, neighborhood associations, business interest representatives, underrepresented community-based organizations, and other key stakeholder groups. The meetings focused on discussing what is working with our parks and trail system, and what opportunities we have looking to the future.

## **STAKEHOLDER GROUP KEY THEMES**

1. **Sports Teams Access:** Several concerns focused on the high costs for sports teams, field availability, and lack of lighting.
2. **Accessibility:** Another concern was ADA accessible sports fields, and river access points, and the need to provide parks and recreation to the aging community.
3. **Increase in Use:** We also heard that there are more people going to the river, and a need for more restrooms and parking.



4. **Safety:** Safety concerns included pedestrian safety, especially at Henningsen Lotus Park, issues with homelessness, drug and tobacco use, and theft.
5. **Trail Development:** Due to different needs for walkers, bicyclists, and equestrians, several participants asked that the full EL Dorado Trail be paved, but also have a parallel off-pavement trail. Connectivity between jurisdictions was also a major theme, especially with regard to a regional trail system across northern California.
6. **Economic Development:** Connectivity between trails was discussed as an economic driver.
7. **Partnerships:** Participants cited the need for the County to work with federal land managers and other entities for coordination.

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The project team hosted five community-wide workshops to inform the public about the Master Plan update process, provide interactive stations for gathering opinions on park needs, and listen to the public's ideas.

The workshop had three goals:

1. To build community awareness about the Master Plan.
2. To develop a shared understanding of the project's goals and constraints.
3. To obtain input on concerns and desires from various perspectives.



Figure 16 Workshop Flyer

These workshops were held in easy-to-access different parts of the county to create more opportunities for participation, as follows:

- **Coloma/Lotus:** Public meeting at Henningsen Lotus Park, or another location in the area.
- **Diamond Springs:** Public meeting at Railroad Park, or another location in the area.
- **Pollock Pines:** Public meeting at Forebay Community Park, or another location in the area.
- **Pioneer:** Public meeting at Pioneer Community Park, or another location in the area.
- **Remote:** Public meetings held via Zoom.

### *Coloma Lotus Workshop #1 Key Themes*

- **Sports Fields:** For each of the four groups, baseball and softball fields were the top area of discussion and garnered the highest number of votes. Specific concerns were related to access to fields, especially closer to home. Groups indicated that they already are driving to existing fields, and that they would spend tax dollars and volunteer in order to have more fields. Another related theme was the positive impact to youth as a result of sports team involvement.
- **Horse Trailer Parking:** The second most common and popular need identified by each group was amenities for equestrians, specifically for horse trailer parking. Safety was a concern within this theme, and the need for horse trails and rule enforcement on trails was discussed as part of that concern.
- **ADA:** Another concern was ADA accessible sports fields, and river access points, and the need to provide parks and recreation to the aging community.
- **Trail Development:** Another theme was the need for trails in open space, and especially connecting trails and providing separate trails for biking to improve safety.

### *Somerset Workshop #2 Key Themes*

- **Bicycle Trails:** A key theme from this workshop was providing bike trails. This included connections or expansion of the El Dorado Trail and connecting existing trails.
- **Water Access:** Another theme was providing access to the Consumnes River or providing a swimming pool. Although many listed this as something they would put tax dollars towards or volunteer for, it was not the highest priority on the list.

### *Shingle Springs Workshop #3 Key Themes*

- **Bicycle Trails:** A key theme from this workshop was providing additional bike trails. This included both Class and Natural trails.
- **Trail Connectivity:** Similarly, the second most common theme was trail connectivity. This would include strategically closing gaps in the existing trail network to create larger contiguous sections of trail. It would also include placing trailheads in areas of high use, greater population density, and connect schools and parks to the greater trail network.

### *Pollock Pines Workshop #4 Key Themes*

- **Mountain Biking:** For each of the three groups, mountain biking venues or amenities were the top area of discussion and garnered the highest number of votes for highest priorities. Specific requests were for a cross-country course, connected bike trails, a bike park, a race venue, or a bike park.



- **Zipline / Ropes Course Amenities:** The second most common and popular need identified by each group were a zipline course and/or ropes course.
- **El Dorado Trail:** The third theme was to extend the El Dorado Trail and provide trail connections for multi-use trails.

### *Online Workshop #5*

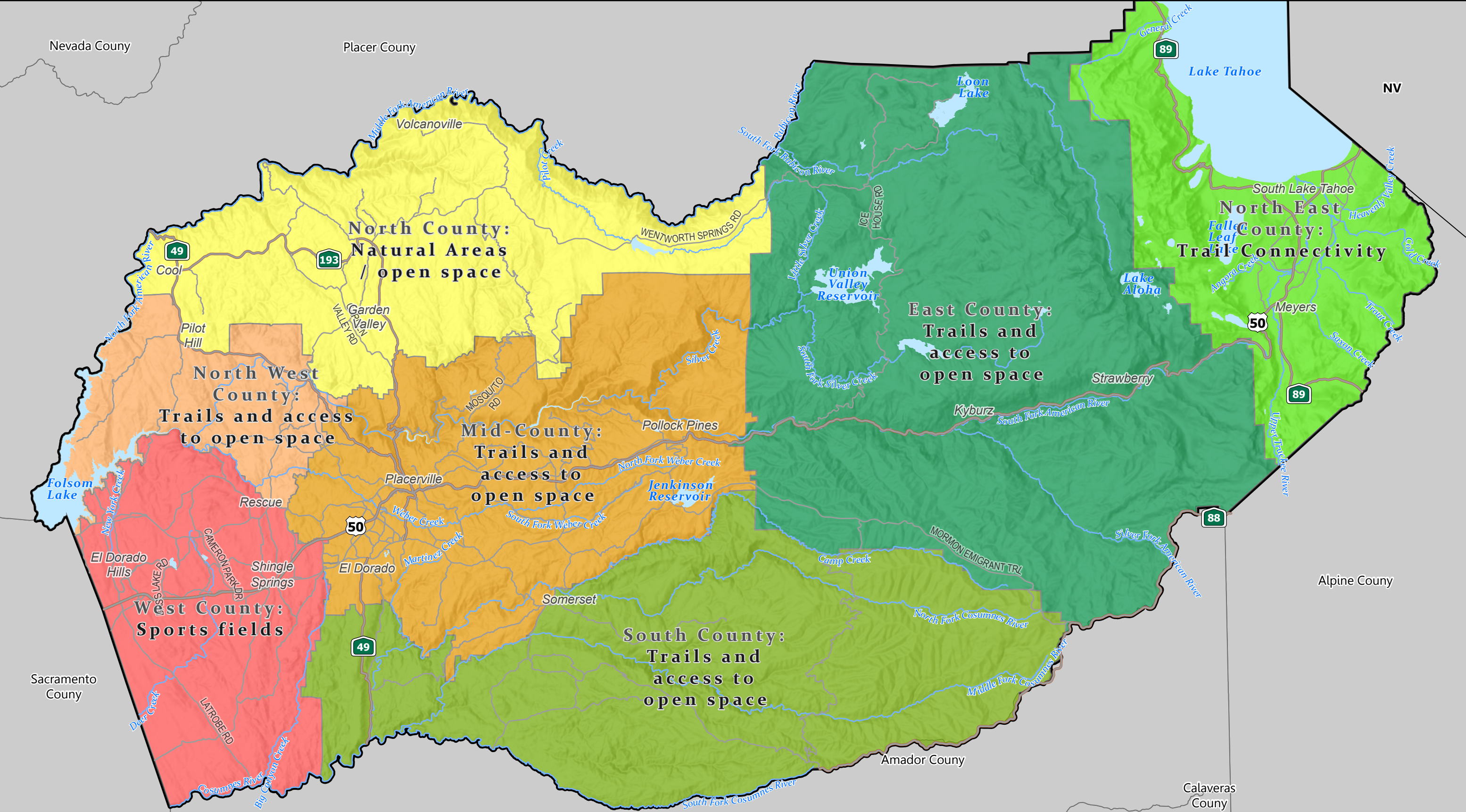
The online workshop was structured in three parts: a short presentation about the Master Plan, background information, and a small group discussion/polling. Participants were then able to participate in “mentee meter” polling to provide their feedback on what they believe should be prioritized in the plan. Results of the participant polling can be found in Appendix C.

### *Survey*

A Parks and Trails Master Plan survey was made available to the public for input from June 2022 through May 2023, with major promotional engagement during the 2022 El Dorado County Fair, the Fall 2022 stakeholder meetings, and throughout the winter and Spring of 2023, when public workshops were held. The participation in survey responses reflects this engagement. There were 1,000 total responses.

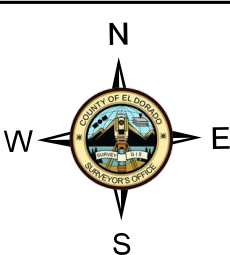
Survey respondents were asked to add their location on a map of the County within one of the seven Plan Area regions for this Master Plan. Most responses were from those living in West County (37%) and Mid-County (28%), and 4.2 percent of respondents reported that they live outside the County. The following map exhibit displays the seven Plan Regions and the top priorities for each.



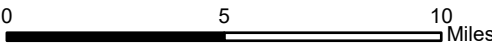


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**NOTES:**  
LAYER INFORMATION MAY COVER ADDITIONAL AREAS OUTSIDE OF THE DISPLAYED AREA.  
PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF: Parks Dept. DATE: 11/20/2024  
MAP PREPARED BY: EDC GIS DATE: 12/2/2024  
G.I.S. PROJECT ID: 0075339, RELATED REPORT: N/A  
EL DORADO COUNTY SURVEYOR/G.I.S. DIVISION  
EMAIL: gis@edcgov.us PHONE: (530) 621-5440  
MAP DISPLAYED IN STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM (NAD 1983 CALIFORNIA ZONE 2, FEET)



# Survey Respondent Plan Areas and Top Priorities



**Legend**

**Region**

- East County
- Mid-Country
- North County
- North East County
- North West County
- South County
- West County

**Other Counties**

- Lakes
- Rivers
- Roads
- Highway
- Major Road



## KEY FINDINGS

Through the public engagement process, several needs related to neighborhood, community, and regional parks were consistently identified throughout the process of gathering public input. As seen from the community input, the parks needs expressed by County residents vary significantly depending on where they live and the types of recreational activities they prefer. However, overall, several themes emerged from these efforts.

1. **Walking Trails.** The communitywide survey, especially, showed the importance placed upon open space access for walking and enjoying nature, hiking, and unimproved, natural trails.
2. **Volunteerism.** Consistently throughout all forms of outreach, the community conveyed a willingness to volunteer to improve parks, maintain them, and organize themselves in support.
3. **Sports Team Fields.** Several concerns focused on the high costs for sports teams, field availability, travel time and lack of lighting at available fields, with a focus on the positive impact to youth as a result of sports team involvement. Youth Baseball and Softball were the highest priority.
4. **Accessibility.** Common themes were ADA accessible spaces, including sports fields, water access points, and trails.
5. **Trail Connectivity.** Connectivity between existing trails, especially connections or expansion of the El Dorado Trail, with an emphasis on open, maintained multi-use trails.
6. **Water Access.** Another theme was providing access to water, especially natural water resources including the Consumnes and American River.
7. **Park and Trailhead Amenities.** Many survey results and outcomes from conversations concerned lighting, parking, drinking water, and access to restrooms.

# LEVEL OF SERVICE AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Before embarking on new projects or increased services needed by the community, it is important that the Master Plan determine overall gaps in service. Overall park access is determined by various factors, including the type of recreation and the distance from home or work to the location. An analyses of needs must also account for the various, sometimes niche recreation opportunities in the County, many which are beloved by smaller groups of people or specialized due to our natural recreation resources. As discussed elsewhere in this Plan, the County also must consider not only County-owned and -operated parks and trails, but CSDs, city parks, schools, and private parks and facilities. The unique nature of the County, with a low and dispersed population compared to a city or CSD park system, makes the analysis of unserved or underserved areas a challenge to determine.

This chapter brings forward some background information on our current level of service for Parks and Trails. It compares our current system of Parks and Trails with other similar Counties to provide a rough estimate of how the County measures up. Through this assessment, the County is better equipped to strategically plan for future park development and ensure that resource distribution aligns with community needs and regional best practices.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE

The County evaluates the existing level of parks and trails facility services for Plan Area residents by examining the amount of development park land and the availability of facilities in relation to the number of people they serve. The El Dorado County General Plan provides guidelines for how many acres of park land should be acquired and developed based on population for the County, as well as guidelines for the Community Service Districts (CSDs) and planned communities (Table 7). The guidelines recommend 5 acres of park land for every 1,000 people divided between regional, community, and neighborhood park types.

Table 7 Guidelines for Acquisition and Development of Park Facilities

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

#### *ACRES OF DEVELOPED PARK LAND*

Although the County ownership, development, and operation of parks is limited to those areas not served by a local park provider (CSD or city), the General Plan standard under Policy 9.1.1.1 applies to the County as a whole. Goal 9.1 with its supporting objectives and policies directs the County to “Provide adequate recreation opportunities and facilities including developed regional and community parks, trails, and resource-based recreation areas for the health and welfare of all residents and visitors of El Dorado County.” The County is served by El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Parks CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, the City of Placerville, or the City of South Lake Tahoe.

The information in Table 8 shows the acres of park land in existing County-owned and operated parks only and compares those numbers to the acreage needed by park type. The current population outside of City or CSD jurisdiction and served solely by the County and no other park provider is 86,711 people.

Table 8 Existing County Park Acreage by Population

	General Plan Park Acreage Guidelines					
Total Population: 191,185 Total Population, other than County only: 104,474	Neighborhood Parks (2.0 ac /1,000)	Community Parks (1.5 ac/1,000)	Regional Parks (1.5 ac/1,000)	Specialty Parks (No Guidelines)	Open Space (No Guidelines)	All Parks (5 ac/1,000)
	Acreage					
El Dorado County	9	34	91	19	4104	4256
American River Conservancy				4	272	276
Cameron Park CSD	27	74				100
City of Placerville	14	84				97
El Dorado Hills CSD	94	58		277	39	468
El Dorado Irrigation District				1560		1560
Georgetown Divide Recreation Dist	7			4		11
Subtotal:	149	249	91	1865	4415	6769
Total Existing Acres	149	249	91	1865	4415	6769
Guideline Target	382	287	287	n/a	n/a	956
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	233	38	196	n/a	n/a	5813

## FACILITIES LEVEL OF SERVICE

The number of specific recreation facilities needed, such as ball fields or play areas, is related to the interest within the community as well as the demand for the facilities and the number of people the facilities are designed to accommodate. Table 9 includes a list of common recreation facilities and the number of these facilities currently available in County-owned and operated parks. It also shows how many people the facility would be able to serve if no additional facilities are built based on the current population of the portion of the County not served by a city or CSD.

Table 9 Existing Level of Service for Facilities by Population

Facility Type	Current # of Facilities in County Parks	Current Population per Facility
<b>Plan Area Population: 86,711</b>		
Children's Play Area and Tot Lot	6	14,452
Horseshoe Pit	5	17,342
Disc Golf Course	1	86,711
Skateboard Park	1	86,711
Bike Park	1	86,711
Dog Park	1	86,711
Equestrian Arena	1	86,711
Little League Baseball Field	3	29,470
Baseball Field	0	N/A
Softball Field	2	43,356
Soccer or Multi-use Field	6	14,452
Outdoor Volleyball	0	N/A
Outdoor Basketball Court	2	43,356
Tennis Court / Pickle Ball Court	2	43,356
Amphitheater	0	NA
Meeting / Event Space	2	43,356
Community Center	2	43,356
Gym / Multipurpose Room	0	NA
Water Play Area	0	NA
Swimming Pool	0	NA
Picnic Tables	16	5,419
Group Picnic Area	4	21,678
Restrooms	8	10,839

The Population per Facility listed here serves as a point-in-time count for amenities at existing facilities. It does not include people served by El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Parks CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, the City of Placerville, or the City of South Lake Tahoe. As stated in the Parks and Trails Planning standards chapter, each community is unique in terms of geographical, cultural, and socioeconomic make-up, as well as the general interest in certain activities. Performance and user satisfaction cannot be measured by such metrics, however, they are useful in determining a baseline level of service.

## REGIONAL EXPENSES BENCHMARKS

Comparing operating expenses between El Dorado County and other Sierra foothill county parks agencies provides valuable insights into the funding and management of public services. By analyzing the financial resources allocated for parks in relation to the population, we can better understand how effectively each agency supports its residents' needs. This comparison highlights differences in service levels, operational efficiency, and prioritization of recreational amenities. However, each agency may have different scopes and operational focuses, which can affect their budget allocations and service offerings. Comparisons between agencies should take these factors into account to provide a more accurate understanding of service levels.

Table 10 Parks Agency Benchmarking for Operating Expenses

<i>Parks Agency</i>	<i>County Population<sup>(1)</sup></i>	<i>Total Annual Operating Expense</i>	<i>Operating Expense Per Resident</i>
<i>El Dorado County Parks Division</i>	<i>191,185</i>	<i>\$2,217,862 <sup>(2)</sup></i>	<i>\$11.60</i>
<i>Amador County Parks and Recreation</i>	<i>40,474</i>	<i>\$183,049 <sup>(3)</sup></i>	<i>\$4.52</i>
<i>Nevada County Recreation Division</i>	<i>102,241</i>	<i>\$978,707 <sup>(4)</sup></i>	<i>\$9.57</i>
<i>Placer County Parks, Trails, and Open Space</i>	<i>404,739</i>	<i>\$6,021,788 <sup>(5)</sup></i>	<i>\$14.88</i>
<i>Tuolumne County Parks and Recreation</i>	<i>54,993</i>	<i>\$824,810 <sup>(6)</sup></i>	<i>\$15.00</i>

(1) Population data sourced from the United States Census Bureau, 2020 Census.

(2) Data sourced from the El Dorado County Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget, 2023-24 actuals.

(3) Data sourced from the Amador County Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget, 2022-23 actuals.

(4) Data sourced from the Nevada County Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget, 2023-24 projected expenditures.

(5) Data sourced from the Placer County Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget, 2022-23 actuals.

(6) Data sourced from the Tuolumne County Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget, 2022-23 actuals.



Based on the data, El Dorado County Parks Division, with a population of 191,185 and a total operating expense of \$2,217,862, spends \$11.60 per resident. This places El Dorado County in a mid-range position when compared to other Sierra foothill counties.

Amador County, with a smaller population of 40,474, spends \$4.52 per resident, significantly less than El Dorado. Nevada County, which has 102,241 residents, spends \$9.57 per resident, also falling below El Dorado's per capita expenditure, though closer in scale. In contrast, Placer County, with a much larger population of 404,739, allocates \$14.88 per resident, demonstrating a higher level of investment per capita despite its larger population size. Tuolumne County, with a population of 54,993, spends \$15.00 per resident, the highest of the group, indicating a relatively strong financial commitment to park services in relation to the population. Overall, El Dorado County's spending on parks falls above Amador and Nevada Counties but below Placer and Tuolumne Counties, reflecting a balanced approach to parks funding in comparison to both smaller and larger counties. It is important to note that recreation opportunities can be provided by various entities, including cities, Community Services Districts (CSDs), and other agencies, whose budgets are not captured in this data. The analysis presented focuses solely on parks operating expenses at the comparator county-level agencies in the Sierra foothill region.

## REGIONAL PARKS BENCHMARKS

Evaluating El Dorado County's park acreage per resident compared to other counties in the region provides a clear measure of how well we offer recreational space relative to population size. By examining the recreational acre availability across multiple categories, we can determine whether El Dorado is leading or lagging in providing recreational acreage versus nearby counties. This understanding can inform future planning and guide investments to ensure residents have access to adequate recreational land.

Table 11 Acres of Parks by Population by Park Type

County	County Pop. <sup>(1)</sup>	PASSIVE/OPEN SPACE		REGIONAL PARKS		ACTIVE/ DEVELOPED PARKS		TOTAL RECREATIONAL ACRES	
		Acres <sup>(2)</sup>	Acres per 1,000 People	Acres <sup>(3)</sup>	Acres per 1,000 People	Acres	Acres per 1,000 People	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 People
El Dorado	191,185	633,634	3,314.2	1,629	8.5	808 <sup>(4)</sup>	4.2	636,071	3,327
Amador	40,474	26,103	644.9	76	1.9	491 <sup>(5)</sup>	12.1	26,670	659
Nevada	102,241	215,075	2,103.6	62	0.6	362 <sup>(6)</sup>	3.5	215,499	2,108
Placer	404,739	1,380,430	3,410.7	1,426	3.5	1943 <sup>(7)</sup>	4.8	1,383,799	3419
Sacramento	1,585,055	12,048	7.6	1,932	1.2	17,494 <sup>(8)</sup>	11.0	31,474	20

(1) Data sourced from the United States Census Bureau, 2020 Census.

(2) Data sourced from combined data from the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, American River Conservancy Website, and El Dorado Irrigation District Website, rounded to the nearest whole number.

(3) Data sourced from online search of regional parks, with acreage data pulled from OnX Maps, rounded to the nearest whole number.

(4) Data sourced from El Dorado Hills CSD Parks Master Plan, Cameron Park CSD Website, City of South Lake Tahoe Website, City of Placerville Website, El Dorado County Geographic Information System (GIS), rounded to the nearest whole number.

(5) Data sourced from Amador County Recreation Agency and Amador Council of Tourism Website, rounded to the nearest whole number.

(6) Data sourced from the Nevada County Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan, Oak Tree Parks and Recreation District, City of Nevada City website, Western Gateway Recreation & Parks District, Bear River Recreation and Parks District Website, City of Grass Valley Website, and Truckee-Donner Recreation and Parks District website, rounded to the nearest whole number.

(7) Data sourced from the Placer County Website, Colfax Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan, City of Lincoln Website, 2022 Roseville Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Master Plan, the 2017 Rocklin Parks and Trails Master Plan, City of Loomis Website, and Colfax Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan, rounded to the nearest whole number.

(8) Data sourced from the Sacramento County website, City of Folsom Parks Master Plan, City of Sacramento Website, Cordova Recreation and Parks District website, Consumnes CSD 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Southgate CSD website, and the Sunrise Recreation and Parks District website, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Passive/open space availability, which includes forest land, BLM land, and other open space, has

substantial differences from county to county. Placer County tops the list with 1,380,430 acres of open space, equating to 3,410.7 acres per 1,000 people, offering the most open space relative to population size. El Dorado County follows closely, providing 3,314.2 acres per 1,000 residents with a total of 633,634 acres. Nevada County comes next with 215,075 acres of passive/open space, resulting in 2,103.6 acres per 1,000 people, offering moderate accessibility in relation to Placer and El Dorado counties. Amador County has 26,103 acres or 644.9 acres per 1,000 people, which, while lower than other rural counties, still provides notable access. Sacramento County, with its higher urban and suburban areas, has only 7.6 acres per 1,000 people, indicating the constraints of dense development on open space availability.

Overall, counties like Placer and El Dorado demonstrate significant passive/open space offerings, enhancing quality of life through accessible natural areas. Counties like Sacramento face challenges in providing similar access, highlighting a potential need for creative strategies to increase available open space for the population. When considering the passive and open space per capita across these counties, it's important to account for the natural geography, especially the substantial portions of land within national forests and protected areas that lie outside of each county's control. In counties like El Dorado, Placer, and Nevada, large tracts of forestland contribute to the higher acres per 1,000 people. Rather than a direct result of county initiatives, acquisitions, and policies, these expansive open spaces are a direct result of the county's natural landscape. This abundance of forested land enriches recreational opportunities, offering activities like hiking, off-roading, wildlife viewing, and more—all within a natural, undeveloped setting rather than a traditional park atmosphere.

El Dorado County stands out in terms of regional park availability, offering 1,629 acres, or 8.5 acres per 1,000 people, placing it ahead of neighboring counties. Regional parks are large multi-use spaces that serve several communities, typically within an hour's drive. These parks provide a mix of active and passive recreational opportunities, including sports complexes, nature preserves, and hiking trails. With its substantial acreage, primarily due to Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park, El Dorado County leads the way in offering ample regional park recreational space. Compared to other counties, El Dorado significantly outpaces Amador, which offers only 1.9 acres per 1,000 people (76 acres total), and Nevada, with just 0.6 acres per 1,000 (62 acres total). Placer County offers 1,426 acres, equating to 3.5 acres per 1,000 people, which, while better than some, still falls short of El Dorado's availability. Sacramento County, despite having 1,932 acres of regional parkland, provides only 1.2 acres per 1,000 people, reflecting a lower park-to-population ratio for its large population. Overall, El Dorado County's regional park offerings are a clear strength, emphasizing its commitment to providing accessible, multi-functional spaces for its residents, well ahead of its neighbors in park availability. However, due to the county's diverse geography, regional parks may not be within an hour's drive for all residents, suggesting that

additional regional parks may be needed to ensure equitable access for everyone.

For all other parks, including neighborhood and community parks, El Dorado County is positioned somewhat average in terms of active parkland availability with 808 acres of active and developed parks, or 4.2 acres per 1,000 people. While the county provides a solid amount of active/developed park space, it lags behind Amador County, which offers a higher per-capita ratio of 12.1 acres per 1,000 people, and Sacramento County, which far exceeds all others with 11.0 acres per 1,000 people. Placer County offers a similar amount of parkland at 4.8 acres per 1,000, putting El Dorado in a comparable position. However, Nevada County falls behind with just 3.5 acres per 1,000 people. Overall, this analysis highlights that El Dorado County has room for growth in providing neighborhood and community parks, particularly in underserved areas, to ensure all residents have easy access.

El Dorado County, with a total of 636,071 acres of recreational space, offers 3,327 acres per 1,000 people. This vast amount includes not only developed parks but also natural areas, open spaces, and preserves. Given El Dorado's rural and expansive geography, this high total acreage is a significant asset, providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature-based activities. When compared to neighboring counties, El Dorado is positioned favorably in terms of total recreational acreage. Amador County, with 26,670 acres of recreational space, provides just 659 acres per 1,000 people, which is much lower than El Dorado's per capita availability. Nevada County, offering 215,499 acres, provides 2,108 acres per 1,000 people, which is also less than El Dorado, though it still offers substantial recreational spaces. Placer County offers 1,383,799 acres, equating to 3,419 acres per 1,000 people, which surpasses El Dorado's total by a narrow margin, reflecting the county's larger size and population. Sacramento County, with 31,474 acres, provides just 20 acres per 1,000 people, which is far lower than all other counties listed, highlighting the relative scarcity of recreational land despite its large urban population.

While El Dorado County's total recreational acreage is expansive, the county's rural and spread-out nature can mean that these resources are not always easily accessible to all residents. In more suburban and urban counties, smaller, more concentrated parks may provide easier access, whereas El Dorado's vast acreage may require more infrastructure and development to ensure all residents can fully enjoy these outdoor spaces.

## REGIONAL TRAILS BENCHMARKS

Evaluating El Dorado County's trail network compared to other counties in the region allows us to assess how we measure up in providing recreational services to our residents. By examining specific trail types—Class 1 trails, hiking trails, horse trails, and bike trails—and focusing on the ratio of trail mileage to population, we can determine if El Dorado County offers a greater or lesser range of outdoor opportunities than neighboring areas. Understanding how our trail offerings stack up highlights the potential strengths or deficiencies in our service levels, informing future planning and investments in trail infrastructure.

Table 12 Total Miles of Trails Per County

County	County Population <sup>(1)</sup>	Total Miles of Trails <sup>(7)</sup>	Miles of Trails per 1,000 People
El Dorado	191,185	1,131	5.92
Amador	40,474	46	1.14
Nevada	102,241	1,364	13.34
Placer	404,739	930	2.30
Sacramento	1,585,055	222	0.14

Table 13 Total Miles of Trails by Trail Type

County	Class 1 Trails		Hiking/Walking Trails		Horse Trails		Bike Trails	
	<i>Miles of Trails</i>	<i>Miles per 1,000 People</i>	<i>Miles of Trails<sup>(7)</sup></i>	<i>Miles per 1,000 People</i>	<i>Miles of Trails<sup>(7)</sup></i>	<i>Miles per 1,000 People</i>	<i>Miles of Trails<sup>(7)</sup></i>	<i>Miles per 1,000 People</i>
El Dorado	29.6 <sup>(2)</sup>	0.15	1,131	5.92	701	3.67	1,131	5.92
Amador	0.25 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.006	46	1.14	N/A	0	46	1.14
Nevada	22.0 <sup>(4)</sup>	0.22	1,133	11.08	608	5.95	1,364	13.34
Placer	92.5 <sup>(5)</sup>	0.23	930	2.30	447	1.10	930	2.30
Sacramento	63.8 <sup>(6)</sup>	0.04	221	0.14	N/A	0	222	0.14

(1) Data sourced from the United States Census Bureau, 2020 Census.

(2) Data sourced from the El Dorado County Active Transportation Plan

(3) Data sourced from Amador Countywide Pedestrian Bicycle Plan, October 2017

(4) Data sourced from Nevada County Transportation Commission, December 2016

(5) Data sourced from Placer County Regional Bikeway Plan, June 2018

(6) Data sourced from Sacramento County Draft Active Transportation Plan 2022

(7) Data sourced from Trailforks, a crowdsourced platform where users contribute comprehensive trail information, but because it relies on user input, it may not capture all trails or recent updates.

**NOTE:** Some trails are multi-use and appear in more than one category. This overlap means certain trail segments are counted multiple times across different types of use. Therefore, the total column is calculated using Trailforks total data which doesn't count trails more than once.

In regard to total trail mileage, El Dorado County stands out with a significant 1,131 miles of trails, offering 5.92 miles of trails per 1,000 residents. While this is a respectable ratio, it comes in

behind nearby Nevada County, which provides a notable 13.34 miles per 1,000 people despite a smaller population. In contrast, Amador County, with a much smaller population of 40,474, offers just 1.14 miles of trails per 1,000 people. Placer County, which has a population over double that of El Dorado, offers fewer total trail miles but still maintains 2.30 miles per 1,000 people. Sacramento County, despite its large population, has the lowest ratio, with only 0.14 miles of trails per 1,000 people. This data indicates that while El Dorado County has an extensive trail offering, there is room to improve in comparison to counties like Nevada, particularly in terms of increasing trail availability relative to its population size.

In analyzing the availability of Class 1 trails, El Dorado County's provision of 29.6 miles of such trails results in 0.15 miles per 1,000 people. While this is a significant asset, it comes in lower than Placer and Nevada in terms of per capita trail availability. Placer leads with 92.5 miles of Class 1 trails, equating to 0.23 miles per 1,000 people, and Nevada follows closely with 22 miles, resulting in 0.22 miles per 1,000 people. Comparatively, Amador County offers 0.25 miles of Class 1 trails, yielding just 0.006 miles per 1,000 people, while Sacramento County, despite its larger population, provides 63.8 miles, translating to only 0.04 miles per 1,000 people.

When it comes to hiking and walking trails, El Dorado County offers 1,131 miles of trails, translating to 5.92 miles per 1,000 people. While this is a substantial figure, it is surpassed by Nevada County, which provides 1,133 miles of hiking and walking trails, with 11.08 miles per 1,000 people. Placer County, by comparison, offers 930 miles of trails, but with a lower 2.30 miles per 1,000 people, reflecting a larger population base or fewer available hiking paths relative to its population. Amador County, with just 46 miles of hiking/walking trails, provides 1.14 miles per 1,000 people, highlighting a lower level of recreational resources available to its residents. Sacramento County, likely due to its more suburban and urban makeup, offers even fewer opportunities, with only 221 miles of hiking trails, equating to just 0.14 miles per 1,000 people. El Dorado County's strong per capita provision of hiking trails places it in a competitive position, particularly when compared to counties with larger populations like Placer and Sacramento. However, Nevada County's hiking/walking trail data highlights an opportunity for El Dorado to further enhance its trail network to offer even greater accessibility. The relatively high number of hiking and walking trails per capita in relation to other counties speaks to the county's commitment to outdoor recreation, though strategic expansion could position it as a leader in the region.

Horse trail availability per 1,000 people across five counties reveals significant variations. El Dorado County offers 701 miles of horse trails, resulting in 3.67 miles per 1,000 people. This reflects a strong investment in equestrian trail opportunities relative to its population. Nevada County stands out with 608 miles of horse trails, translating to the highest ratio of 5.95 miles per

1,000 people. Placer County has 447 miles of trails, but with only 1.10 miles per 1,000 people, indicating less trail access relative to its population compared to El Dorado and Nevada counties. There could be opportunities for enhancing trail development to meet demand. In contrast, Sacramento and Amador counties report no data for horse trails, resulting in 0 miles per 1,000 people. This suggests either a lack of dedicated horse trails or unavailable data. While El Dorado County doesn't have the highest ratio of horse trails per capita, it still provides strong access to equestrian trails compared to other counties. El Dorado County's rural landscape and rich natural resources make it an ideal environment for prioritizing horse-related recreation. With vast open spaces, forests, and a community that values outdoor activities, the county is naturally suited to support a robust equestrian infrastructure. This rural makeup could justify continued investment in expanding and maintaining horse trails to further strengthen the county's appeal to both residents and visitors seeking equestrian activities.

El Dorado County, offering 1,131 miles of bike trails, translating to 5.92 miles per 1,000 people, puts El Dorado in a solid position in relation to other counties in the region in terms of bike trail availability. While Nevada County leads the pack with an impressive 13.34 miles per 1,000 people, while Amador County trails behind with just 1.14 miles per 1,000 people, indicating a limited trail network. Placer (2.30 miles) and Sacramento (0.14 miles) counties also fall behind in comparison to El Dorado, but it's important to note that their more urban and suburban populations skew these ratios. Overall, El Dorado stacks up as an average-to-good contender in the region when it comes to bike trail availability.

## GAPS AND NEEDS

The preceding chapters have reviewed the existing County setting, with abundant natural areas and an array of recreation providers, how the County compares to similar local counties, and the areas of greatest desire for recreation. The following are key gaps to address over the term of the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

### *Consistent Funding for Maintenance*

Maintenance of existing parks was a high priority for participants in the outreach process for this Master Plan. Many participants in the public process said the County should continue to fund maintenance of public assets and improvements to continue to provide safe and diverse recreational experiences. However, identifying ongoing funding for maintenance that relies on sources of revenue other than the General Fund is a challenge. Opportunities to improve on this involve identifying the ongoing maintenance needs and costs overtime, including annual costs



and eventual replacement. It also involves prioritizing the care and revitalization of assets and facilities the County already has over new opportunities. To add to the challenge, almost all grant funding and development-related funding sources are for new parks or trails rather than for ongoing maintenance. As mentioned above, ACO funding is sometimes budgeted for larger parks maintenance projects, however, this funding source is also in short supply. The ACO fund is used for all facilities, countywide, and projects are prioritized based on safety needs or liability risks, such as accessibility improvement needs.

### *Class I Trail Access*

Although the El Dorado Trail is centrally located in the County and serves many residents, ongoing development of Class 1 trails is needed, especially with increases to population. Class 1 trails are the most expensive to develop and maintain, with the potential for failures in pavement due to high use volumes. Limited funding and specialized recreation needs reinforce the need for the County to partner with other agencies to provide the highest quality and value to residents and visitors.

### *Sports Fields*

This analysis has provided evidence of gaps in service for some areas of the County with regard to sports fields. Sports fields in the County are in high demand, especially for school-age teams and families are consistently traveling long distances in order to attend games and tournaments. Although some neighborhoods in the County may be in close proximity to sports fields, a more prominent factor is the number of accessible fields for the population. Anecdotally, although there are many fields they are often reserved only for some leagues or teams, meaning there is a lack of availability for other County teams. To complicate matters, sports fields are expensive to develop and maintain.

### *Access to Open Space, nature, and natural features*

Better access to open space for hiking, walking, being in nature, and recreation activities is needed to accommodate the demand from visitors and residents. (Goal 1. Preserve and enhance access to natural areas and resource-based recreation, including rivers, trails, and open space). Including the National Forest lands, open space lands and recreation areas per acre are higher than any other land use. There is no shortage of natural areas in the County, and these areas are of the most importance to residents and visitors. In spite of the abundance of these lands, the community was clear that the County should improve access to these areas. Though these spaces are owned and managed by other entities, there is ample opportunity for the County to collaborate to enhance access.

### *Varying needs within one community*

Needs for opportunities and access varies across the community. While the County is low in population compared to other California counties, the population is diverse in terms of life stage, physical ability, and interest in different types of recreation. While in some areas the most important role that the County can play is to connect the public to existing open space lands and to expand access through ADA improvements, added trailheads, or amenities, in other areas the availability of sports fields is paramount. The combination of a small populace with high interest in recreation is that funding for desperately needed improvements will be difficult to acquire, and ongoing funding for maintenance is likely to always be a struggle. The County must prioritize use of funds while acknowledging that every need cannot be filled.

# GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND INITIATIVES

The following goals, objectives, and accompanying initiatives expand on the guidance found in the El Dorado County General Plan for parks and trails and were derived from stakeholder and community input and reflect needs based on best practices and regional trends. Their collective purpose is to provide direction for how parks and trails should be planned, operated, and maintained so that current and future decisions about these resources are consistent with the County's long-range vision for parks and trails.

## **Goal 1. Preserve and enhance access to natural areas and resource-based recreation, including rivers, trails, and open space.**

The County features publicly-owned open space lands and recreation from El Dorado Hills to South Lake Tahoe. These natural amenities significantly influence the type of recreation that occurs and reduces the demand for traditional park-type uses. The County recognizes the recreational value that open space lands provide to the County's system of trails and natural areas to connect with and enjoy nature. Open space must preserve landscapes and enhance riparian areas, vegetation and tree protection, wildlife habitat and corridors, scenic view protection, and provide natural areas for residents and visitors to explore.

***Objective 1.1. Prioritize the development of parks, trails, and recreation programs that increase access to the South Fork of the American River and Cosumnes River.***

**Initiative 1.1.1.** Seek grant funding opportunities to fund site development and amenities at beach areas.

**Initiative 1.1.2.** Continue to partner with agencies and entities that conserve land and manage open space and to ensure sufficient public access wherever feasible. Continue to acquire property for parking and ancillary use for public access and take a lead role in enhanced access on lands controlled by El Dorado County and its partners.

**Initiative 1.1.3.** Support State and Federal goals to provide new visitor access points to the South Fork of the American River to increase river recreation opportunities.

**Initiative 1.1.4** Support trail development by County partners to increase river access and provide recreational opportunities along riverways.

***Objective 1.2. Connect people to nature through enhanced access to open spaces for walking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and nature observation and education.***

**Initiative 1.2.1.** Where feasible with respect to environmentally sensitive areas, establish trailheads for natural walking trails at open space areas with staging and parking areas, and restrooms.

**Initiative 1.2.2.** Contribute to the development of open space management plans to address appropriate access and connectivity. Connect regional open spaces through trails, greenways, wildlife corridors, and open space connections. Plans should be created and updated for properties or groups of properties within a contiguous area with progress tracked over time.

**Initiative 1.2.3.** Position the County's regional open spaces as a destination for recreation activities through better communication, mapping, and volunteer support.

**Initiative 1.2.4.** Support parks, open space and trail planning efforts of local municipalities, special districts, and state and federal agencies to meet community and regional goals.

**Initiative 1.2.5.** Incorporate QR codes at trailheads for access to digital trail maps and safety information that can be downloaded and used off-line where cell service is not consistent.

***Objective 1.3 To the extent possible, maximize the use of outdoor destinations by enhancing accessibility for popular recreation opportunities.***

**Initiative 1.3.1** Prioritize outdoor recreation facilities that support the broadest cross-section of the population and have high participation levels (hiking, biking, and horseback riding).

**Initiative 1.3.2.** The use of El Dorado County parks and trails for organized events, classes, and group activities that support the health of individuals and communities will be encouraged, with appropriate provision made for maintenance, safety, capacity, and cost recovery.

**Initiative 1.3.3.** Improve trailheads and access to open space trail systems and year-round recreation opportunities, including access to off-road trails and winter activities in the Tahoe Basin and the West Slope.

**Initiative 1.3.4.** Support recreation program providers through permit coordination and promotion of events, programs, and other opportunities via the Parks office and social media.

***Objective 1.4: Protect natural areas, people, plants, animals, and surface and ground water from contamination by harmful pests, pollutants, wildfire, and other hazards.***

**Initiative 1.4.1.** Adopt a Comprehensive Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) to provide for vegetation management along trails and in parks, where feasible, to prevent erosion, and minimize the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

**Initiative 1.4.2.** Strengthen and build relationships with State Parks OHV Division, Placer County, and the US Forest Service through regularly scheduled meetings and forums to improve integrated information, use of grant funding, mapping, volunteer coordination, etc. on the Rubicon Trail, to maintain water quality and trail access.

**Initiative 1.4.3.** Consider strategies to reduce brush and minimize wildfire risks. Coordinate other open space management strategies with resiliency and wildfire prevention planning to reduce the risk of wildfire.

**Initiative 1.4.4.** Utilize recycled materials, as feasible, to reduce energy use and repurpose material. Through the procurement process utilize goods that are made of recycled materials when available.

**Initiative 1.4.5.** Include bear-resistant receptacles for material trash, recycling, and composting in parks, along trails, and trailheads.

**Initiative 1.4.6.** Address and decommission user created or unauthorized trails as appropriate.

**Initiative 1.4.7.** Use the Parks webpage and trail signage information to communicate warnings, skill level, best use, etc. for recreation areas.

**Initiative 1.4.8.** Utilize map kiosks to orient trail users and use regular and consistent signage along trails to identify connections and help users navigate the trail system and to facilitate emergency response.

**Initiative 1.4.9.** Coordinate for access to locked gates and facilities for emergency response to fire and other disasters.

**Initiative 1.4.10.** In collaboration with American River outfitters and the private boating community, identify improvements to the River Management Program and to enhance safety and user experience.

**Initiative 1.4.11.** Partner with the El Dorado County Agricultural Department to develop, document, implement, and update a coordinated plan to detect, map, and control harmful non-native invasive weed infestations using methods of integrated weed management.

## **Goal 2: Manage recreational opportunities within a regional context to accommodate public access, leverage funding, and provide interconnected trails.**

A complete understanding of the County's parks and trails system requires an understanding and acknowledgment of the facilities and services provided by the County's partners. In addition to County-owned parks and trails, other agencies and organizations contribute to the recreation system within the County, to the benefit of all. Federal agencies, State agencies, cities, recreation districts, utility districts, other public entities, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, and county schools each provide particular facilities and programming independent of County Parks. Limited funding and specialized recreation needs reinforce the need for the County to partner with other agencies to provide the highest quality and value to residents and visitors. Working together the partners are able to create a well-integrated regional system of recreation facilities and satisfy the current and future needs of residents and visitors. Moving forward, the County should not only participate in opportunities, but to be a leader in bringing organizations together to provide for recreation.

***Objective 2.1: Link existing trails, regional trail networks, parks and open spaces, and community destinations through a system of paved and unpaved trails.***

**Initiative 2.1.1.** Regularly meet with local, regional, state, and federal coalitions, agencies, and organizations to manage trail planning efforts and identify opportunities to coordinate projects and leverage resources to create a core regional trail system.

**Initiative 2.1.2.** Work with the El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Power of Authority (SPTC JPA), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Tahoe Transportation District, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), and other agencies to identify additional routes and trail connections for paved, shared-use paths and unpaved or native surface multi-use trails. Each trail type serves a different user and a different need, and alignments of each may vary to meet all trail needs.

**Initiative 2.1.3.** Facilitate the collaboration of regional partners for trail development and maintenance.

**Initiative 2.1.4.** Develop and maintain an updated regional GIS map database of existing and proposed trails. Share with partner agencies and trails advocacy groups.

**Initiative 2.1.5.** Emphasize projects that improve the safety and access for diverse trail users of all abilities.

**Initiative 2.1.6.** Where appropriate, design trails to serve as fuel breaks and coordinate alignments with CalFire and wildfire resiliency planning.

**Initiative 2.1.7.** Incorporate the goal for a regional trail network into other planning documents to facilitate funding, partnerships, and development.

**Initiative 2.1.8.** In coordination with the SPTC JPA, determine the capability of each segment of the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor within County boundaries to accommodate railroad tracks, paved trail, and natural single-track uses to guide future trail route development.

***Objective 2.2: Locate Class I, Class II, and other paved surface trails to be accessible to neighborhoods and public places such as schools, parks, and civic areas to encourage walking and cycling as a mode of transportation as well as recreation.***

**Initiative 2.2.1.** Coordinate priority trail projects with adjacent public agencies including El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT), to create regional connections throughout the county as well as exploring trail alignments that connect to adjacent cities and counties.

**Initiative 2.2.2.** Parks Division provides input on grant applications pursued through DOT to focus new trail priorities to evaluate needs and prioritize trail gaps and connections between existing trails to add to the active transportation network.

**Initiative 2.2.3.** Prioritize development to allow access to trails throughout the County, with the long-term intention of closing the remaining gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian networks in unincorporated areas within the County.

**Initiative 2.2.4.** Incorporate trail projects currently listed within the Department of Transportation Annual Capital Improvement Program into a comprehensive Parks and Trails Capital Improvement Program.

**Initiative 2.2.5.** Study the appropriateness of allowing electric bikes and develop policies to address safety concerns with the use of E-bikes and other emerging technologies for both recreation and transportation on trails.

**Initiative 2.2.6.** Incorporate transit and travel information into the Park's website to encourage the use of transit or biking to trailheads.



***Objective 2.3: Establish or preserve right-of-way and install improvements for multi-use natural trails for walking, biking, and horseback riding.***

**Initiative 2.3.1.** Under the direction of staff, engage volunteers and non-profit groups to assist in building and maintaining trails.

**Initiative 2.3.2.** Develop natural surface trail standards to be used by staff and volunteers in trail construction and maintenance.

**Initiative 2.3.3.** Connect existing or forthcoming trails with the goal of creating an uninterrupted unpaved natural “single track” allowing for biking, walking, and horseback riding from the West to the East County lines. The natural trail may align in some areas with a paved trail, but may also diverge as appropriate for users.

***Objective 2.4 Strategically pursue new park development based on local community need, and with consideration of recreation planned or already provided by other organizations and agencies in the area.***

**Initiative 2.4.1.** Manage recreational opportunities in coordination with other parks and recreation areas so that recreational opportunities in El Dorado County complement nearby opportunities.

**Initiative 2.4.2.** Calculate recreation acreage standards pursuant to the General Plan considering all publicly accessible parkland, including opportunities provided through partner agencies.

**Initiative 2.4.3.** Encourage partnerships with El Dorado County agencies that promote programs for disadvantaged groups.

**Initiative 2.4.4.** Establish regular meetings with the City of Placerville and El Dorado County Parks & Recreation agencies, the El Dorado County Office of Education, the U.S. Forest Service, and other park districts and jurisdictions to continually review common natural resource and recreation issues and to coordinate programs, activities, and facilities.

**Initiative 2.4.5.** Continue to accept, encourage, and promote donations to fund capital projects, amenities, and maintenance projects.

***Objective 2.5: Collaborate with local and regional agencies on multijurisdictional projects and improvement standards to provide continuity of service regionally.***

**Initiative 2.5.1.** Co-locate parks with school sites where practical, to support shared use and

improve accessibility.

**Initiative 2.5.2.** Develop digital and printed countywide trails mapping that includes partner agencies and organizations.

**Initiative 2.5.3.** Continue to engage with non-profits, schools, and local sports leagues to make use of funding or land to meet the demands for sports fields.

**Initiative 2.5.4.** Lead Rubicon Trail partner agencies and organizations in pooling resources and leveraging the strengths and capacities of all involved agencies and user groups to reduce duplication of efforts.

**Initiative 2.5.5.** Document school partnerships with joint-use agreements to plan for better connections between school children and parks and open spaces.

***Objective 2.6: Work with partners to preserve open space for public use and to accommodate public access, educational experiences, and resource protection.***

**Initiative 2.6.1.** Develop Open Space design standards to include staging and parking areas for all users, including horse trailers, directional signs, restrooms, and fire fuels reduction and maintenance.

**Initiative 2.6.2.** Co-locate new assets with new or existing facilities, including schools, libraries, and areas of concentrated employment to share construction and maintenance costs, provide efficient delivery of services and create multipurpose destinations.

**Initiative 2.6.3.** Coordinate access to open spaces with the efforts of nearby providers, such as the American River Conservancy (ARC), Placer County, City of Placerville, the Federal Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service, to maximize connectivity and opportunities for an integrated regional trail network.

**Initiative 2.6.4.** Where appropriate, incorporate a natural surface shared-use path for bikers, equestrian users, walkers, and runners.

**Initiative 2.6.5.** Enter into partnerships or agreements with other federal, state and local agencies such as Placer and Amador Counties, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and CAL FIRE to clarify management responsibilities, share resources and more efficiently address road maintenance, fuels reduction, interpretive programs, law enforcement, emergency response, and/or other operational needs.

**Initiative 2.6.6.** Encourage and support the acquisition of connected open space through the Division’s role in planning and land development. Focus conservation easement acquisition efforts within areas not currently fragmented and encourage new developments to preserve or expand open space connections.

***Objective 2.7 Guide the development of regional amenities, trails, and new parks and ensure best use of financial resources with focus on development project coordination.***

**Initiative 2.7.1.** Formalize County and Community Service District development approval procedures to provide adequate review of proposed park improvements to make sure they are consistent with this Master Plan in terms of the quality of land, and type and quantity of improvements.

**Initiative 2.7.2.** Ensure new development has provided funding for expansion of the current parks, trails, and open space system and anticipates funding needed for on-going maintenance and capital replacement.

**Initiative 2.7.3.** Ensure that parks, trails, and open spaces proposed in specific plans create a network or a connected system.

**Initiative 2.7.4.** Encourage the development of privately-owned and maintained feeder trails in lieu of public trail easements in areas that have limited potential to serve the larger community.

**Initiative 2.7.5.** Encourage small, single-neighborhood parks to be developed, maintained, and funded under private ownership with maintenance costs provided by a special district or homeowner’s association.

**Initiative 2.7.6.** Conduct a Park Impact Fee Nexus Study with the intent of assessing a regional park and trail development impact mitigation fee.

### **Goal 3: Prioritize maintenance of public assets and improvements to existing parks and trails to continue to provide safe and diverse recreational experiences.**

Maintenance of existing parks was a high priority for participants in the outreach process for this Master Plan, as parks and trails become community “third places”, mainstays in active lifestyles, and provide regular access to nature. Ongoing maintenance and strategic renovations and improvements remain a priority for the program, though identifying funding for maintenance is

a challenge. To meet this goal going forward, the County must strive to anticipate ongoing needs, keep up-to-date on innovative solutions, and prioritize safety, access, and the security of ongoing funding.

***Objective 3.1: Invest in providing amenities at key parks and trailheads, prioritizing based on each community's interests and improving access for all physical abilities and life stages.***

**Initiative 3.1.1.** Continue current projects to their completion prior to pursuing new opportunities.

**Initiative 3.1.2.** Adapt park facilities to provide a variety of appropriate improvements to encourage physical activity and social engagement, with special emphasis on facilities that meet the requirements of people with special needs including physical, developmental, behavioral, and sensory impaired.

**Initiative 3.1.3.** Incorporate facilities such as inclusive play equipment, multigenerational play facilities and outdoor fitness equipment park amenities to address recreation needs for users of all ages and abilities.

**Initiative 3.1.4.** Consider seniors and those with limited mobility when planning for spacing of benches and shade along walking trails.

**Initiative 3.1.5.** Include places to gather and connect with others on various scales from small family gatherings to larger group events at regional parks, where feasible, expanding their use and purpose.

**Initiative 3.1.6.** Optimize operating times for parks to make it possible for people with diverse work and school schedules to utilize them.

**Initiative 3.1.7.** Develop multi-purpose facilities where practical to accommodate changes in facility needs over time, such as sports fields that can accommodate both soccer and lacrosse and sports courts to serve both tennis and pickleball.

**Initiative 3.1.8.** Monitor use of sports fields and courts at existing parks and remain open to renovations to repurpose amenities in favor of community requests and recreation trends.

**Initiative 3.1.9.** Design bike and pedestrian facilities and access points to maximize safety.

**Initiative 3.1.10.** Upgrade amenities in parks, including playgrounds, shelters, restrooms, and multi-purpose fields, to ensure ADA compliance and engage a range of users, including special

needs children.

**Initiative 3.1.11.** In cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and with guidance from the goals and objectives in this Master Plan, analyze existing park plans that have yet to be fully implemented and reevaluate priorities for implementation of improvements.

***Objective 3.2: Prioritize funding for ongoing maintenance needs over the lifetime of the asset or improvement.***

**Initiative 3.2.1.** Identify training opportunities for staff to stay up-to-date with new techniques, practices, and materials to support safety, efficiency, and sustainability in all aspects of facility renovation and maintenance.

**Initiative 3.2.2.** Keep all maintenance equipment in good working order, and fund repair and replacement as a top priority.

**Initiative 3.2.3.** Identify opportunities to acquire surplus or excess materials or unwanted equipment from other agencies and County departments.

**Initiative 3.2.4.** For improvements, maintenance, and equipment, identify opportunities for the cost-effective reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Initiative 3.2.5.** Incorporate drought-tolerant, low maintenance native and adapted native vegetation, natural grasslands, and low water landscapes in the planting design of parks and functional landscape areas.

**Initiative 3.2.6.** Establish cost recovery policies and expectations for County programs and activities, including recommendations for those programs for which it is not realistic to expect fees to cover the cost of providing the program and those that should be covered by user fees.

**Initiative 3.2.7.** Strategically consider the value of grants against administrative responsibility and long-term maintenance of grant-funded projects.

**Initiative 3.2.8.** Establish and update a Five-Year Parks and Trails Capital Improvement Program to include long-term maintenance and renovation projects.

**Initiative 3.2.9.** Estimate the annual cost for maintenance expenditures and replacement needs over time, especially when considering a new facility or amenity.

***Objective 3.3. Utilize a total asset management approach as part of a Capital Replacement***

***Program to plan for maintenance and consider life-cycle and operations as part of maintenance planning.***

**Initiative 3.3.1.** Produce an inventory and analysis of existing County lands for priorities listed in the Master plan, and a plan for each (disposal, hold for future use, develop and with what features).

**Initiative 3.3.2.** Comprehensively address the management and care needs of the natural environment and open space lands such as erosion control, invasive species, forest management, and wildfire prevention.

**Initiative 3.3.3.** Ensure sound fiscal principles are used when developing funding strategies, including funding for both one-time expenses and for on-going costs.

**Initiative 3.3.4.** Evaluate and update maintenance frequencies and develop asset replacement schedules.

**Initiative 3.3.5.** Designate budget line items to fund annual preventative maintenance and reinvestment in facilities to maintain their functionality and prolong their life.

**Initiative 3.3.6.** Evaluate alternatives for facilities and amenities (such as recreation and aquatic centers or artificial turf and sports field lighting) based on appropriate locations, synergies with other park activities, potential partnerships, and cost effectiveness.

**Goal 4: Engage the community to refine ongoing recreational needs, encourage participation, and promote volunteer support.**

County recreation areas represent a primary interaction between a diverse swath of the public and local government, and stakeholder involvement will continue to be essential to the County's program. Parks and trails are public places that provide opportunities for people to interact with each other and share experiences that strengthen their sense of community and common interest. Residents take pride and ownership in County parks and trails as valued public places that enhance the quality of life, and in El Dorado County especially, this commitment plays an indispensable role in recreation. As citizens donate time to assist the Department in providing a product or service, limited funding for the program overall can be leveraged further.

***Objective 4.1: Utilize the support of committed community members and volunteer efforts to the fullest extent.***

**Initiative 4.1.1.** Wherever feasible, foster the ability for local organizations and businesses to sponsor or adopt park or trail projects as way to contribute to their ongoing improvement.

**Initiative 4.1.2.** Through a robust volunteer program, provide oversight to engage and train volunteers, track volunteer hours and projects completed to gauge effectiveness, plan for future opportunities, and leverage grant funds.

**Initiative 4.1.3.** Create a countywide volunteer program for natural trail construction and maintenance, coordinated by a specialized parks maintenance team to provide training to volunteers, tools and direct a crew for improvement annually.

**Initiative 4.1.4.** Provide motivational support for and retention of volunteers through calls to service and recognition of efforts.

**Initiative 4.1.5.** Create opportunities for community partners such as Scout troops, El Dorado Leadership Forum, and community service organizations to take on park, trail, and open space projects, as appropriate.

**Initiative 4.1.6.** In collaboration with user groups, identify improvements to the Rubicon trail program to enhance sustainable responsible use and improve the user experience.

***Objective 4.2: Create forums for community input on park and trails to foster a stronger awareness of the common public purpose, value of these resources, and ongoing advocacy.***

**Initiative 4.2.1.** Continue to utilize the Park and Recreation Commission as a public forum to gain insight from users on park and trail needs, as a conduit to staff and the Board of Supervisors.

**Initiative 4.2.2.** Solicit public input in the design phases for new park and trail facilities to ensure that they adequately reflect the recreation values and preferences of those who will use them.

**Initiative 4.2.3.** Develop opportunities for volunteers to serve as “Park Ambassadors” or guides to enhance the park visitor experience and educate park and trail users about rules and regulations, function as sources of information for users, reinforce appropriate park use, and focus on improving the quality of the visitor’s experience.

**Initiative 4.2.4.** Consider opportunities for volunteers to participate in trail mapping and assessment efforts to update and track maintenance needs of trails.

**Initiative 4.2.5.** Coordinate with Friends Groups for support of single facility or program that will better the community and their special interest.



***Objective 4.3: Increase public awareness and engagement with County parks and trails through updating branding and marketing strategies.***

**Initiative 4.3.1.** When designing a park feature, trailhead, or sign design, consider the history of an area, unique environmental factors and/or local character and identity.

**Initiative 4.3.2.** Utilize interpretive signage to educate visitors about the site's history, impact and importance and create a sense of community pride in local heritage.

**Initiative 4.3.3.** Improve wayfinding by installing signs and maps at key junctions in the trail system and identifying parking locations.

**Initiative 4.3.4.** Work with the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce to increase recognition of the County's parks, open space, and trail offerings, promote recreation opportunities, and broaden reach for enhance uses of public spaces.

**Initiative 4.3.5.** Update the County parks and trails website to allow residents and visitors to find park, trail, and open space opportunities and up-to-date information quickly and easily on park offerings and events.

**Initiative 4.3.6.** Develop parks and trails branding guidelines and consistently use the branding guidelines in all signage and promotional materials.

## **Goal 5: Invest in and support the promotion of recreation features in recognition of the importance of recreation as a draw for tourism and quality of life for residents.**

Tourism and visitation are economic drivers throughout the County, due in large part to the wealth of opportunities for recreation in all four seasons. The County recognizes its role as the place that regional tourists “come to play” and that parks, trails, and recreation are integral to the economic prosperity of the County and provide a draw for visitors. This unique tourism draw provides an opportunity for overall economic vitality and program cost recovery specific to the Parks Division. Implementing projects and promoting services that support the high volume of use of County recreation amenities by tourists will generate revenues that can be reinvested in the park and recreation system, without straining other County resources. Access to and enhancement of these spaces will also continue to add to the quality of life of residents.

***Objective 5.1. Promote County parks, trails, and recreation as a regional destination, and fund***

***improvements through tourism and recreation funds.***

**Initiative 5.1.1.** Develop a parks and recreation funding policy in budget policy, dedicating a portion of transient occupancy tax (TOT) to parks, trails, and open spaces.

**Initiative 5.1.2.** Develop a policy for concessions, food trucks, and sidewalk vendors to operate at parks and trailheads.

**Initiative 5.1.3.** Through local Chambers or other partners, develop a user-friendly visitor guide accessible on a variety of devices and to include website upgrades, development of mobile applications (apps), local business training, integration with social media and increased use of established visitor information tools.

**Initiative 5.1.4.** Engage in marketing efforts by businesses and partner organizations to connect guests to the County's world-class recreation, including the American River, Rubicon Trail, El Dorado Trail, multi-use regional trail system, open space, and park offerings.

**Initiative 5.1.5.** Evaluate the potential for user or parking fees for facilities that receive high visitor and tourism use.

**Initiative 5.1.6.** Consider strategies for identifying ongoing funding streams for maintenance and operations of parks and recreation, including user fees, events space rentals, and film fees.

**Initiative 5.1.7.** Establish guidelines to allow for selling of naming rights and advertising sales on new facilities, scoreboards, trash cans, playgrounds, at dog parks, along trails, on planters, and as part of special events to support the costs of operations.

***Objective 5.2. With a focus on program costs and on-going maintenance, develop sports fields that may accommodate regional use for the benefit of local teams.***

**Initiative 5.2.1.** Continue to pursue grant opportunities benefiting new or improved sports fields for development for communities with families and active adult sports leagues, primarily in the western portion of the County.

**Initiative 5.2.2.** Review and update facility rental charges for sports fields to offset maintenance and operating costs.

**Initiative 5.2.3.** In concert with the County Economic Development Program, identify needs to better position the County as a draw for non-local visitors for sports tournaments, which may substantially contribute to the visitor industry and provide positive economic impacts to El

Dorado County businesses.

# APPENDICES

Appendix A: Existing Conditions

Appendix B: Division Funding and Budget

Appendix C: Public Engagement

APPENDIX A: EXISTING CONDITIONS

Existing Planning Documents

El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Element

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

Goal 9.1: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Goal 9.1 with its supporting objectives and policies directs the County to “Provide adequate recreation opportunities and facilities including developed regional and community parks, trails, and resource-based recreation areas for the health and welfare of all residents and visitors of El Dorado County.”

Under Objective 9.1.1, the County shall assume primary responsibility for acquisition and development of regional parks and shall assist with acquisition and development of neighborhood and community parks. Policies establish guidelines for minimum acres of park acquisition and development of park facilities by park type are also provided (Table 1).

Table 1 – El Dorado County General Plan

Guidelines for Acquisition and Development of Park Facilities	
Park Types	Developed
Regional Parks	1.5 ac/1,000 population
Community Parks	1.5 ac/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2.0 ac/1,000 population
Specific Standards (Neighborhood and Community Parks)	
Cameron Park Community Services District	5.0 ac/1,000 population

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

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

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

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

Under Objective 9.1.2, the County aims to provide a County-wide non-motorized, multi-purpose trail system with linkages to other proposed and existing local, state, and federal trail systems, including connections to parks, schools, and other destinations. The County will assume responsibility for acquiring and developing, where possible, such trails outside of the boundaries of cities and other jurisdictions with park and recreation taxing authority. The El Dorado Trail/Pony Express Trail and trails connecting regional parks are identified as the County's primary responsibility for establishment and maintenance. Other priority trails are those with historical associations or those that provide essential linkages.

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

accessible park and trail facilities to those with disabilities.

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

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

#### Goal 9.2: Funding

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

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

The County commits to work with cities and special districts to acquire land for and develop neighborhood and community parks using the Quimby Act Implementing Ordinance and as funding allows. In addition, the County is to establish a development fee program applicable to all new development to fund acquisition and improvements for neighborhood, community, and regional parks beyond the park land acquisition requirements addressed by the Quimby Act. Development impact fees in effect as of 2022 for El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Park CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, and the City of Placerville are summarized below in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Impact Fees for El Dorado County Parks Providers**

Impact fees are to fund new or expanded parks and recreational facilities, open space area, and trails to serve new development. There are no impact fees for the City of South Lake Tahoe.

Provider	Level of Service Standards (Acres per 1,000 Persons)		Park Impact Fees (per unit)				Notes
	Neighborhood & Community Parks	Regional Parks & Open Space	Single Family	Multi-Family	Mobile Home	Age-Restricted	
Cameron Park CSD	5	5	\$6,645	\$5,435	\$3,402	N/A	
El Dorado Hills CSD	5	3	\$13,496 / \$7,215	\$8,907 / \$4,761	N/A	\$7,886 / \$4,186	Fee for Serrano development.
Georgetown RD	3	2	\$4,245	\$3,508	\$4,170	N/A	

Further policies under Objective 9.2.2 direct the County to evaluate and pursue ownership of Federal, State, and other lands as the opportunities arise when such lands are appropriate and needed for public recreation use.

Objective 9.2.3 and related policies direct the County to use a wide variety of funding sources, including grants, user fees, concession agreements, and donations to construct facilities and support operations as feasible. Private sector development, operation, and maintenance of recreation facilities are also encouraged.

### Goal 9.3: Recreation and Tourism

Goal 9.3 aims to increase opportunities to capitalize on County recreational resources by encouraging tourism and recreation-based businesses and industries.

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

### El Dorado County Conservation and Open Space Element

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

Policy 7.4.2.3, consistent with Policy 9.1.3.1 of the Parks and Recreation Element, states that low



impact uses such as trails and linear parks may be provided within river and stream buffers if all applicable mitigation measures are incorporated into the design.

Policy 7.4.2.4 states the requirement to protect and preserve wildlife habitat corridors within public parks and natural resource protection areas to allow for wildlife use.

Recreational uses within these areas must be limited to those activities that do not require grading or vegetation removal.

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

### **El Dorado County Land Use Element**

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

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

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

### **El Dorado County Transportation and Circulation Element**

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

transportation benefits.

Goal TC-4 of the Transportation and Circulation Element is to provide a safe, continuous, and easily accessible non-motorized transportation system that facilitates the use of viable alternative transportation modes. Policy TC-4a specifically calls for bikeways to be developed that provide connections to recreational areas and parks of regional significance as well as along recreational routes. Policy TC-4h directs that public corridors such as utility easements and railroad rights-of-way should be put to multiple uses for trails, where possible. Policy TC-4i requires new development in communities to include bicycle/pedestrian connections to parks.

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

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

#### *Other El Dorado County Planning Documents*

#### **El Dorado County Active Transportation Plan**

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission's Active Transportation Plan (2020) is an evaluation of existing conditions in El Dorado County, recommended goals, and strategies to enact to make El Dorado County more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, as well as recommended programs and infrastructure improvements to help make bicycling and walking easier and safer. This Plan also includes a prioritization tool to help identify high-priority projects and available funding sources. This plan builds from the 2010 El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan to provide connectivity between cities and unincorporated areas, parks, schools, and recreation destinations.

### **El Dorado County Coloma Sustainable Community Mobility Plan**

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission's Coloma Sustainable Community Mobility Plan (2019) is a guiding document to aid decision-makers in the funding and implementation of multimodal improvements to enhance the safety and efficiency the Coloma-Lotus transportation system. Although the plan focuses on active transportation infrastructure, all road users are considered. The document provides an assessment of baseline conditions, presents study area improvement concepts, and integrates performance metrics to determine the return-on-investment of the proposed expenditures in order to facilitate future competitive grant applications to implement the plan.

### **El Dorado County River Management Plan**

The El Dorado County River Management Plan (2018) deals exclusively with whitewater recreation activities on the South Fork of the American River from Chili Bar Dam to Salmon Falls Road. The River Management Plan (RMP) provides direction on management of whitewater recreation and addresses environmental protection, user experience, and safety. Recommendations in this Master Plan pertaining to whitewater and other river recreation activities and related facilities need to be consistent with the direction provided by the River Management Plan.

### **El Dorado County Oak Woodland Management Plan**

The El Dorado County Oak Resources Management Plan (2017) replaced the Oak Woodland Management Plan adopted in 2008. The plan meets General Plan goals to protect and conserve oak woodland and oak tree resources for their recreation value. It notes that lands designated for recreation (e.g., Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park) help to maintain large expanses of oak woodland and it encourages connectivity between recreational facilities and oak woodland preservation areas.

### **El Dorado County Henningsen Lotus Park Conceptual Master Plan**

The Henningsen Lotus Park Conceptual Master Plan (2014) reexamined the community's suggestions during the 2011 Master Plan outreach process, solicited additional community input, and identifies conceptual improvements to HLP for future implementation as funding becomes available. This Plan is conceptual in nature and is intended to be followed by more detailed and in-depth design and/or technical studies as may be as needed to implement individual recommendations and contains an Implementation Strategy for future activities. Recommendations are made for acquisition of property for park expansion, development and

improvement of facilities, enhancement to the trail system, protection and restoration of natural resources, recommendations for additional planning, and improvements to park operations.

### **Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Master Plan**

The Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC) Master Plan (2003) describes alternative uses for the Sacramento-Placerville railway corridor that was purchased from the Southern Pacific Railway Corporation by the SPTC Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The agencies of the JPA are the counties of El Dorado and Sacramento, the City of Folsom, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District. The Master Plan identifies potential uses such as excursion trains, multiple use trails, and utility easements, as well as strategies for environmental protection, safety, and fire prevention. Design and operational guidelines are also included. In 2009, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved the concept plan for the El Dorado County Historical Railroad Park to be located within the SPTC corridor at Oriental Street in the community of El Dorado as a satellite facility of the El Dorado County Museum and park site. In 2014, the JPA drafted a Natural Trail Implementation Plan for the corridor from Missouri Flat Road in the community of Diamond Springs to Iron Point Road in the city of Folsom to provide a current overview of general conditions within the SPTC including trail features, natural resources, drainage, crossings, etc. as they may relate to implementing the natural trail to identify the next steps that are necessary to open the SPTC natural trail to public use. In 2016 the Board of Supervisor's approved a segment plan for the corridor as follows:

Segment 1) County line to Latrobe, 7 miles, multi-use including excursion rail.

Segment 2) Latrobe to Motherlode Drive, 11 miles, trails only. Maintenance of the tracks will be provided by the EL Dorado Western Railroad Program on the tracks only, twice a year.

Segment 3) Motherlode Drive to Missouri Flat Road, 8 miles, multi-use including excursion rail.

Segment 4) Missouri Flat Road east as Class 1 Bike Path.

### **South Lake Tahoe Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan**

The South Lake Tahoe Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan (2014) was a joint effort between, El Dorado County and the City of South Lake Tahoe to create a new plan for the South Shore of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Master Plan represents a coordinated effort to align recreation resources and obtain community support to enhance recreation facilities and services for the Eastern Slope of El Dorado County. The plan provides direction for enhancing recreation opportunities for residents and visitors by increasing collaborative efforts and focusing resources

where they are most needed. The Parks, Trails & Recreation Master Plan provides direction so that the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County can work independently or together with residents, interest groups, businesses, and other agencies to achieve the priorities.

### **El Dorado County Department of Transportation Capital Improvement Program**

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a planning document that identifies capital improvement projects including roads, bridges, and airport facilities the County intends to build over a 20-year time horizon, as directed in the General Plan and approved by the Board of Supervisors. The CIP provides key information for each project, including delivery schedule, cost, and revenue sources. The CIP is updated each year as projects progress, funding is secured, and the yearly budget is created. The County CIP includes all classes of new bike paths and trail projects, which are funded and constructed through Transportation.

### *Other Relevant Planning Documents*

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

### **City of Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

The Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2017) provides planning direction for the existing park and recreation resources of the City of Placerville and El Dorado County serving residents of Placerville and the surrounding unincorporated areas of El Dorado County. The unincorporated area addressed in this planning effort includes the communities of Coloma, Lotus, Gold Hill, Diamond Springs, Camino, Pollock Pines, and portions of Rescue. The plan provides specific guidance for the City and supporting analysis for the County to better understand how best to cooperatively manage and develop new parks and programs to meet the needs of the current and future population. The plan was adopted by the City of Placerville for aspects relating to City owned and/or operated parks. Analysis in the Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan related to County parks will be brought forward into the comprehensive analysis of County facilities and needs in this Parks and Trails Master Plan.

### **City of Placerville Active Transportation Plan**

This Active Transportation Plan (2020) serves as an outline for the City of Placerville to create a more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community. This Plan updates the previous 2010 City of Placerville Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and the 2007 City of Placerville Pedestrian Circulation Plan. The Plan establishes a long-term vision for improving walking and bicycling in Placerville and provides a set of recommended infrastructure improvements and studies paired with education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation programs. This document also provides a strategy for phased implementation over many years.

### **City of South Lake Tahoe 56 Acres Master Plan**

The 56 Acres Master Plan, a collaboration between the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County, aims to create a signature park in the heart of South Lake Tahoe to focus on recreational and civic needs, including a new Recreation Facility.

### **Sacramento Area Council of Governments**

The SACOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Amended 2018), calls for the development of trail systems that provide necessary inter-jurisdictional bicycle and pedestrian connections. In addition, the plan calls for improvement to the safety and aesthetics of bike and pedestrian ways by complimenting the plans and projects of the region. The SACOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan provides a conceptual layout for possible bicycle routes in El Dorado County. The 2018 update provides the latest information on planned and existing bikeway networks for use in the Project Performance Assessment data tool.

### *Special Service Districts*

#### **Cameron Park Community Services District**

The Cameron Park CSD Facilities Master Plan (2014) examines existing park facilities, community needs, and projected growth within the CSD to provide a prioritized framework for future park acquisition, development, and operations. The plan also addresses open space preserves, recreation programming, the demographic composition of the community; park planning standards; recommendations; and funding to implement plan recommendations.

#### **El Dorado Hills Community Services District**

The El Dorado Hills CSD Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2021) provides a 15-year vision for how parks, facilities, and recreation programs will be managed in the CSD to respond to anticipated growth and changing recreation trends. The plan includes the vision and priorities of district residents, implementation strategies, and analysis of funding requirements. The plan

also addresses open space and trails.

### **Georgetown Divide Recreation District**

The Georgetown Divide Recreation District 20-Year Funding Master Plan (2008) identifies the various land acquisition and capital projects the district hopes to implement and assigns costs and priorities to each. Operating costs and impact fee estimates are also included. The Georgetown Divide Recreation District Park Nexus Fee Impact Study (2008) establishes the basis for the development impact fee to be charged on new residential development within the District boundaries to be used for park and trails acquisition and development. El Dorado County collects these fees on behalf of GDRD through the development review process.

### **El Dorado Irrigation District**

The Sly Park Recreation Area Master Plan (2007) was prepared to provide the El Dorado Irrigation District with a twenty-year vision for the improvements, management, operation, and protection of this Sly Park and Jenkinson Lake. The plan includes an analysis of park conditions, recommendations for new facilities, updates to existing facilities, six policy goals, and projected implementation costs. Visitors to Sly Park include many El Dorado County residents, as well as non-residents who enjoy multi-day stays.

### **Tahoe Paradise Recreation and Park District**

The Tahoe Paradise Recreation and Park District Master Plan (2016) was created for Tahoe Paradise Park, a 53.5-acre park located west of the city of South Lake Tahoe, in the unincorporated town of Meyers at the base of Echo Summit. The Park is governed and managed by the Tahoe Paradise Recreation and Park District. The District Master Plan was developed to help the park better fulfill its mission as a recreational asset for the property owners and residents of the district and the broader community. The plan lists seven broad goals and specific objectives for each.

## *Federal Agencies*

### **Bureau of Land Management**

The Bureau of Land Management prepared The South Fork American River: A Management Plan (2004) to guide management activities on public BLM lands along the South Fork American River between Salmon Falls Bridge and Chili Bar Dam. The plan was developed through an extensive public consensus process and recognizes the partnership between the BLM, El Dorado County, and numerous other parties with interests along the river. Management guidelines and decisions

are provided for an extensive range of issues including trails, roads, biological and cultural resource protection, weed and fuels management, hunting, grazing, gold-seeking, camping, and commercial uses.

The BLM also prepared The Cronan Ranch: A Management Plan (2007) to provide direction for public access and use of the 1,400-acre Cronan Ranch property located along the South Fork of the American River in El Dorado County. The vision for Cronan Ranch as described in the plan is “to preserve open space for public use and to restore and enhance plant and wildlife habitats. Reasonable public access to the river and the land will accommodate a wide range of uses including but not limited to recreational and educational experiences that are consistent with resource protection.” Specific management actions address natural and cultural resource protection, vehicle access, commercial uses, camping, trails, hunting, and recreational gold dredging.

### **Eldorado National Forest**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service manages the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) according to planning direction provided by several documents and initiatives. The Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was prepared in 1988 to provide comprehensive management direction for the ENF. However, it was only intended to address a 10-to-15-year planning period and is pending an update. Several interim planning initiatives have been undertaken to address specific aspects of managing the ENF. The Business Plan for the Eldorado National Forest (2006) provides information on financial resources and strategic direction for managing the diverse resources in the ENF for a broad range of stakeholders. The Recreation Site Facility Master Planning process carried out in 2007 focused on aligning the developed recreation sites with the unique characteristics of the ENF, in coordination with projected recreation demand, visitors’ expectations, and revenue opportunities. The Eldorado National Forest Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management Project was undertaken in 2008 to identify and designate off-highway vehicle routes in the ENF, while enhancing protection of habitat and aquatic, soil, air and cultural resources. In addition, the USFS publishes dozens of Recreational Opportunity Guides for particular forest activities and maps of specific campgrounds, trails, and destinations.

### *State of California*

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

### **Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park General Plan**



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

#### **Auburn State Recreation Area and Auburn Project Lands (ASRA/APL) General Plan and Resource Management Plan (GP/RMP)**

California State Parks and the Reclamation prepared the GP/RMP through a multi-year public planning process to guide the long-term management of ASRA/APL. The Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) includes 40 miles of primarily federal lands along the North and Middle Forks of the American River and is managed by California State Parks under a service contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The 2021 GP/RMP provides a long-term and comprehensive framework for the management of ASRA/APL in its current condition, consistent with the missions of CSP and Reclamation. The GP/RMP identifies goals and guidelines to achieve the purpose and vision for ASRA/APL. It includes management strategies and improvements to serve visitors while protecting natural and cultural resources.

#### **Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park General Plan/Resource Management Plan**

Planning direction for the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park is provided in a General Plan/Resource Management Plan which addresses the planning considerations of both California State Parks and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (2010). The Folsom Lake SRA and Folsom Powerhouse SHP Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) (2023) provides management direction for roads and trails within a park unit, guiding the operation, maintenance, and development of the road and trail system. It identifies new trail routes to be developed, explores whether to keep, eliminate, or re-align non-system (user-created) trails, recommends changes-in-use designations for specific trails, identifies trailhead needs and improvements, and identifies educational and interpretative needs of the road and trail system.

#### **California Recreational Trails Plan**

The California Recreational Trails Plan (2002) produced by California State Parks provides guidance for all California agencies and recreation providers that manage trails. The plan includes information on trail demand, funding, integration, and stewardship.

## County Demographic Profile

### Data Sources

This Master Plan uses demographic data from several sources. Information about the current and projected characteristics of El Dorado County's population is available from the United States Census Bureau, the State of California Department of Finance (DOF), and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). The complete U.S. Census Survey is conducted every ten years and the last available set of complete data is from the 2020 survey.

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

The American Community Survey (ACS) is produced by the Census Bureau based on data from an annual survey of 3 million households nationwide. The results of the ACS for El Dorado County, including all urban areas, are available for individual years or as a multiyear estimate. These include the 5-year 2016-2020 and 1-year 2021 ACS estimates.

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

### Population Trends

The population of El Dorado County has grown continuously over the past decade and is anticipated to keep growing in the future at a rate of approximately 0.6% each year.<sup>2</sup> 2020 Census data reveal that 50 percent of El Dorado County residents are male and 50 percent are female.

<i>2010 total Population</i>	<i>2020 total Population</i>	<i>Net Population Change</i>	<i>Percentage Population Change</i>
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<i>All El Dorado County</i>	177,387	190,345	12,958	7%
<i>Diamond Springs</i>	11,291	11,332	41	0%
<i>Pollock Pines</i>	7,296	6,480	(816)	-11%
<i>Shingle Springs</i>	3,926	3,710	(216)	-6%
<i>El Dorado Hills</i>	42,718	47,107	4,389	10%
<i>Cameron Park</i>	17,097	18,370	1,273	7%
<i>Georgetown</i>	2,378	2,969	591	25%
<i>City of Placerville</i>	10,389	10,954	565	5%
<i>City of South Lake Tahoe</i>	21,655	22,535	880	4%
<i>Total Not Served by a City or CSD</i>	83,150	88,410	5,260	6%

## Age

Table 4 and Table 5 show the population age distribution for the Plan Area as reported in the 2020 U.S. Census by age range and age group. These data indicate that the population of the communities of El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park, as well as the incorporated cities of South Lake Tahoe and Placerville are more heavily weighted toward younger residents as compared to the more rural communities with fewer services (Pollock Pines, Diamond Springs, Shingle Springs, the Georgetown Divide, and the remaining rural areas). In El Dorado Hills, 28 percent of residents are under 20 years of age. In the incorporated cities, 42 percent are aged 20 to 49 years. The segment of the population for these corresponding age groups in the remaining areas is 22 percent and 31 percent respectively. The reflects the general trend of working adults and families with children for living closer to urban centers to access schools, organized youth activities, employment, and community services. People 50 years of age and older account for only 36 percent of residents in the incorporated cities and the communities of Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills areas as compared to 43 percent in the less urbanized areas. In addition, 45 percent of older adults throughout areas not served by a city of CSD are between 50 and 70 years of age.

## Percent Population by Age Range<sup>5</sup>

	Age Range									
	1 to 9	10 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80+	
All El Dorado County	10%	12%	10%	11%	12%	15%	16%	9%	5%	
Diamond Springs	9%	12%	9%	10%	11%	15%	15%	12%	7%	
Pollock Pines	11%	11%	9%	11%	14%	14%	19%	7%	5%	
Shingle Springs	12%	11%	11%	10%	8%	16%	19%	9%	5%	

<i>El Dorado Hills</i>	12%	15%	8%	9%	13%	18%	12%	8%	4%
<i>Cameron Park</i>	10%	12%	12%	11%	12%	13%	12%	11%	8%
<i>Georgetown</i>	9%	10%	7%	13%	6%	16%	15%	17%	8%
<i>City of Placerville</i>	10%	10%	13%	13%	12%	14%	15%	8%	5%
<i>City of South Lake Tahoe</i>	9%	9%	18%	17%	10%	13%	14%	7%	3%
<i>Total Not Served by a City or CSD</i>	9%	11%	9%	11%	11%	16%	19%	10%	4%

#### Percent Population by Age Range<sup>6</sup>

	< 20	20 to 49	50 to 79
<i>All El Dorado County</i>	22%	33%	41%
<i>Diamond Springs</i>	21%	30%	42%
<i>Pollock Pines</i>	21%	34%	40%
<i>Shingle Springs</i>	23%	29%	43%
<i>El Dorado Hills</i>	28%	30%	38%
<i>Cameron Park</i>	22%	35%	36%
<i>Georgetown</i>	20%	25%	48%
<i>City of Placerville</i>	21%	38%	36%
<i>City of South Lake Tahoe</i>	18%	45%	34%
<i>Total Not Served by a City or CSD</i>	20%	31%	45%

Over the past decade, the proportion of the entire El Dorado County population made up of people 50 years of age and older has been steadily increasing. The 2010 Census identified 25 percent of the population in El Dorado County as youth under the age of 20, and 35 percent as adults ages 20 to 49. According to the 2020 Census, youths now comprise approximately 22 percent of the County's population while 34 percent are ages 20 to 49. The reduction in numbers among these two age groups is reflected in the increase in people aged 50 and older from 40 percent of the population in 2010 to 45 percent in 2020.

The 2012 Parks and Trails Master Plan anticipated that the demand for recreation facilities and programs well-suited to older adults would increase more quickly as that segment of the population grew. Adults over the age of 50 are often retired or semi-retired with free time and disposable income. Members of the "baby boomer" generation are considered more active than people of a similar age in previous generations and interested in a wide range of recreation opportunities. Many recent studies have also demonstrated the importance of maintaining both physical and mental flexibility and strength as one ages, as well as social connections. The County's large older adult community will likely continue to seek age-appropriate activities and facilities to address these health needs.

Due to the relative decrease in the older adult population over the coming years and the increase in the percentage of the population under 50, the demand for facilities that benefit all ages, including trails and active recreation areas, as well as those for youth activities, such as sports fields and play areas, may increase. In addition, older adults are interested in using these same types of sports facilities, such as ball fields and gymnasiums.

### *Race and Ethnicity*

Data from the 2020 Census indicate that 80 percent of Plan Area residents identify themselves as white (Table 6). Hispanic or Latino residents account for 11 percent of the population, African Americans, Native Americans, and Asian residents each represent 1 percent of the population, as do those who identify themselves as a race that is not listed (other). Six percent identify as two or more races. The more urbanized areas of the Plan Area tend to have a greater degree of racial diversity than the more rural areas. Twenty-eight percent of Placerville residents identify themselves as non-white, including 19 percent Hispanic or Latino and 6 percent multiracial. In El Dorado Hills, 32 percent of residents are non-white including 12 percent Asian. The City of South Lake Tahoe has 31% Hispanic or Latino population. The more rural and unincorporated areas of the County areas are slightly less diverse than the overall area not served by a City or CSD.

Table 6 – Plan Area Race/Ethnicity <sup>s</sup>

	White	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Other	Two or more races
<i>All El Dorado County</i>	73%	14%	1%	1%	5%	0%	1%	6%
<i>Diamond Springs</i>	76%	16%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	5%
<i>Pollock Pines</i>	74%	14%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	8%
<i>Shingle Springs</i>	77%	13%	0%	1%	2%	0%	1%	6%
<i>El Dorado Hills</i>	68%	11%	1%	0%	12%	0%	1%	6%
<i>Cameron Park</i>	75%	15%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	6%
<i>Georgetown</i>	79%	10%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	6%
<i>City of Placerville</i>	72%	19%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	6%
<i>City of South Lake Tahoe</i>	57%	31%	1%	1%	6%	0%	1%	4%
<i>Total Not Served by a City or CSD</i>	80%	11%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	6%

According to the DOF, the percentage of white residents in El Dorado County has been decreasing slowly over time as the Hispanic population grows from approximately 12 percent in 2010 to 18 percent by 2045 (Figure 2). This trend is expected to continue at least over the next several decades. Other race and ethnic groups are projected to maintain a consistent 8-11 percent of the population. These changes may correspond to increased demand for certain types of recreation facilities over time. This should be considered when evaluating the specific types of improvements to place in new parks.

## Language

Understanding language preference is important because it has implications for how well all members of the community will comprehend written and spoken information pertaining to park and trails facilities, usage, and events. According to the U.S. Census Community Survey Data from 2021, 90 percent of children 5 to 17 years old in El Dorado County spoke only English at home, whereas 87 percent of adults 18 and over speak English only. It is also estimated that 1.3 percent of households in the County are limited English-speaking. Of this 1.3 percent, 10% are Spanish-speaking, 7% speak other Indo-European languages, and 12% speak Asian and Pacific Island languages.

While the language spoken in the home may not necessarily be an individual's preferred language, it does provide significant clues to how families and households communicate. English is by far the most common language in El Dorado County households; spoken in 87 percent of homes. Spanish, which is spoken in 5 percent of homes, is the next most common language. In the remaining 7 percent of homes other non-English languages are spoken.

*Table 7 – Languages Spoken at Home by Population 5 years and Older <sup>10</sup>*

% Population on Speaking only English		Total Number of Households	Language Spoken by People who Speak Language Other than English, by percentage			
			Spanish	Other Indo-European languages	Asian and Pacific Island languages	All other languages
El Dorado County	87.2%	23,511	5.5%	3.2%	3.6%	0.4%

## Education

Overall, the population in El Dorado County shows high levels of educational attainment. The

Census reported that approximately 4 percent of the residents of El Dorado County over the age of 25 had not graduated from high school, which is about one-quarter the rate of the State of California as a whole (16 percent)<sup>11</sup>. 27 percent had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Education attainment is relevant to recreation planning for numerous reasons. These range from knowing what literacy level to use in preparing written materials to designing interpretive features and facilities that might be used for educational experiences.

## Poverty Status and Income

Poverty and income status are important recreation planning considerations for several reasons. They reflect residents’ ability to pay fees to use facilities, purchase equipment that might be needed to participate in recreational activities, and travel to locations to utilize facilities. These economic data are also related to the ability of residents to pay assessments and/or make financial donations to support public parks and trails. Additionally, low-income areas can sometimes be eligible for grant and loan funding opportunities at the state and federal level.

According to Census data, approximately 9.3 percent of the people living in El Dorado County were living in poverty (Table 10). By contrast, the incidence of poverty among the population in the County is about three-quarters the rate of California overall (12.3%). The burden of poverty is disproportionately felt by children, of whom 15 percent live in poverty, approximately the same rate as California as a whole. Among children under 5 years old, over 17 percent lived in poverty. For all children under 18, 15.2 percent live in poverty. Among seniors 55 and over, 7 percent live in poverty. These County residents have a need for local access to free or very low-cost recreation experiences such as would be available in neighborhood parks or local trails.

### *Poverty Levels in California and El Dorado County*

	California	El Dorado County, CA
	Percentage under poverty level	
TOTAL RATE	12.3%	9.3%
Under 5 years	15.6%	17.8%
5 years	15.2%	0.0%
6 to 11 years	15.9%	15.9%
12 to 14 years	15.9%	15.9%
15 years	16.7%	13.8%
16 and 17 years	15.5%	13.4%
18 to 24 years	16.7%	17.7%
25 to 34 years	11.1%	12.2%



35 to 44 years	10.7%	5.5%
45 to 54 years	9.5%	4.5%
55 to 64 years	10.5%	8.6%
65 to 74 years	10.2%	5.4%
75 years and over	12.6%	6.1%

*Poverty Levels in California and El Dorado County by Age Bracket*

	California	El Dorado County, CA
	Percentage under poverty level	
Under 5 years	15.6%	17.8%
Under 18	15.8%	15.2%
18 to 54	11.5%	8.8%
55 +	10.8%	6.9%

Median household income varies greatly across the communities in El Dorado County (Table 11). Data from the American Communities Survey for the Census Defined Places (CDP) of El Dorado Hills show this community to have median household incomes greater than the overall County. The remaining communities within the County had median household incomes less than the County average, with the City of South Lake Tahoe having the lowest.

*Median Household Income*

	Median Income
All El Dorado County	\$ 83,710
Diamond Springs	\$ 56,899
Pollock Pines	\$ 56,628
Shingle Springs	\$ 83,700
El Dorado Hills	\$ 132,130
Cameron Park	\$ 77,014
Georgetown	\$ 77,389
City of Placerville	\$ 60,334
City of South Lake Tahoe	\$ 52,871

APPENDIX B: PARKS DIVISION FUNDING SOURCES

The El Dorado County Parks Division is supported by various funding sources to build and maintain the County’s parks and recreational facilities for the community. Key funding streams include the County’s General Fund, grants from state and federal agencies, and park fees collected for activities such as parking, facility rentals, and river usage. Additionally, the Division relies on Quimby Funds, State Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Green Sticker Fees, and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) contributions which play a vital role in funding various projects including trail development, facility upgrades, and enhanced accessibility. Other funding sources include donations from private individuals, community groups, and service organizations. This multifaceted funding approach allows the Parks Division to have dedicated funds for specific programs catering to the recreational needs and preferences of residents and visitors alike.

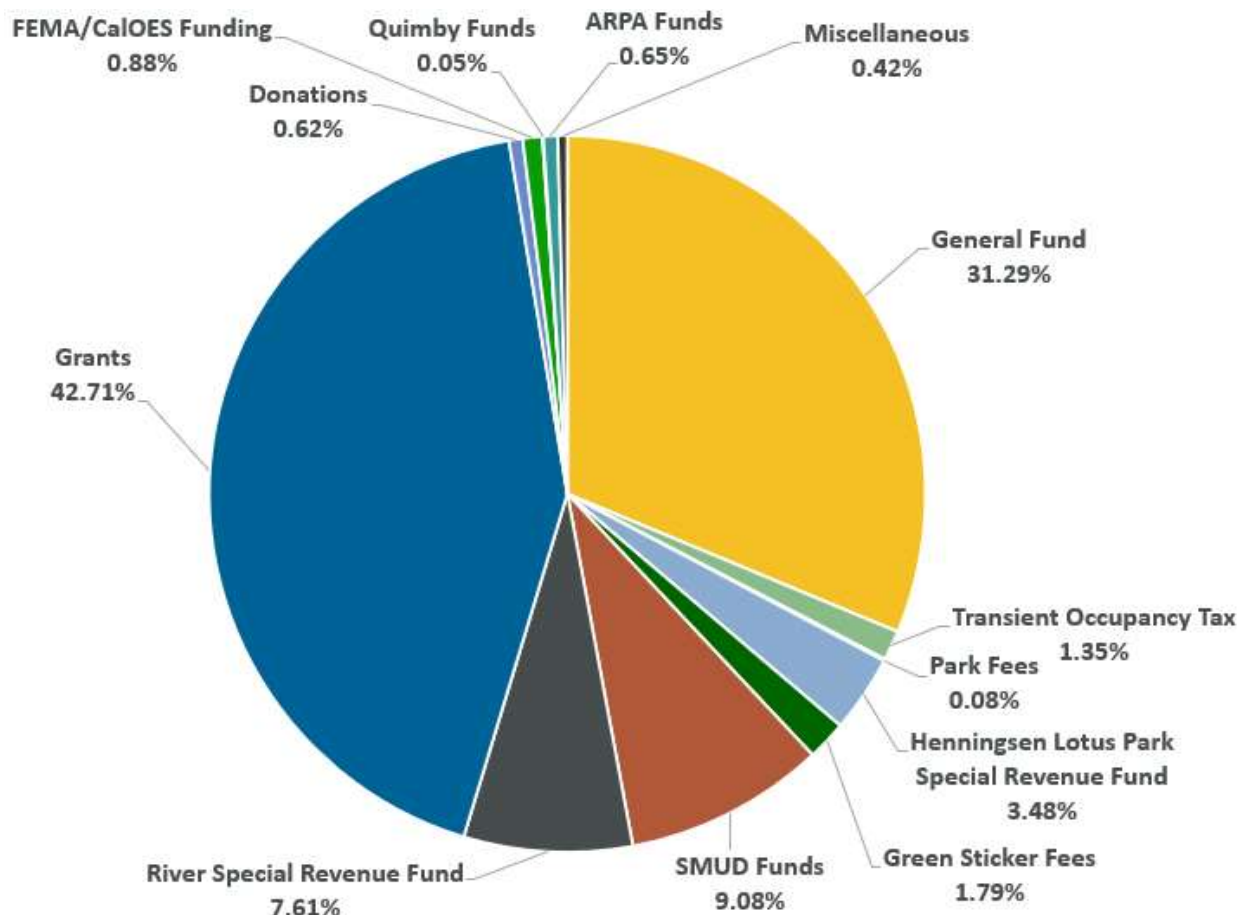
Figure 4 Total Parks Division Expenditures Per Fiscal Year



The above data reflects the Parks Division’s total expenditures over five fiscal years (FY), from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24. Overall, expenditures show an upward trend, with fluctuations primarily driven by varying project demands, awarded grants, and operational costs. Despite the year-to-year variations, the general pattern indicates growth in expenditures over time, reflecting the influence of increasing costs and ongoing investments in projects addressing the recreational needs of the County. The total expenditures shown above include grant funding, which can

influence overall annual spending levels. Given that grant funding fluctuates based on availability and project allocations, it can have an impact on annual expenditure levels.

Figure 5 Parks Division Funding Source Utilization (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



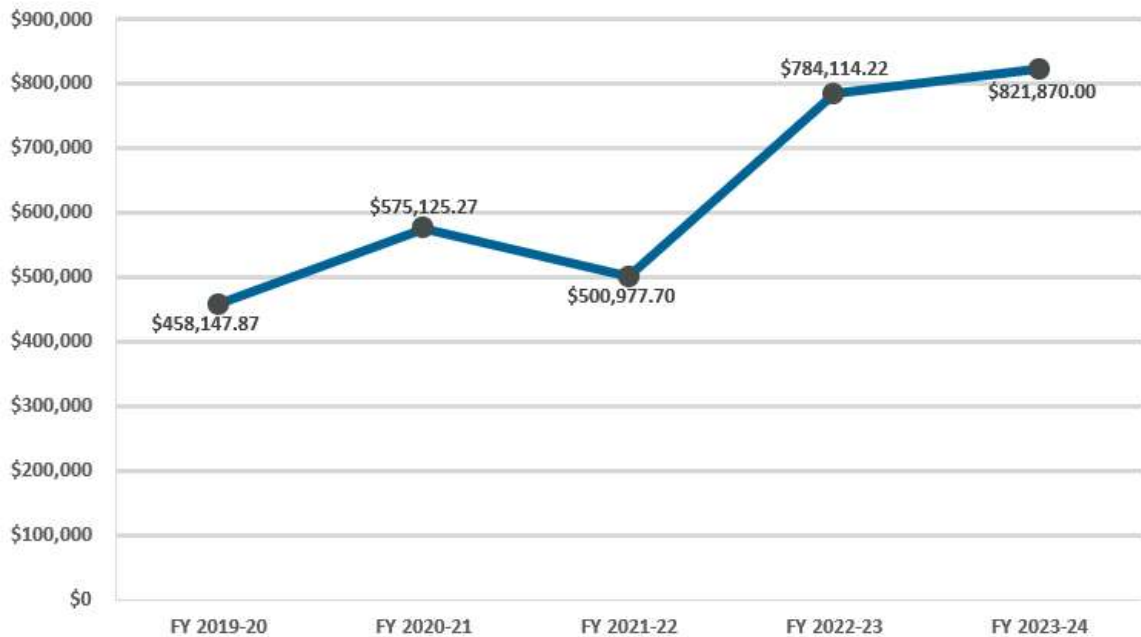
The above pie chart illustrates the distribution of funding sources utilized by the Parks Division over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24). Each segment of the chart represents a different funding source, with corresponding percentages indicating the proportion of total expended funding attributed to each, with grants and General Fund being the largest funding sources, followed by SMUD Funds and the River Special Revenue Fund. When examining each funding source, it's important to recognize that each may have specific restrictions on its use. Refer to the corresponding section for detailed guidelines on each fund's potential restrictions.

### GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is the County's primary operating fund, used to finance the basic functions and services of the County, such as public safety and infrastructure. It primarily consists of revenue

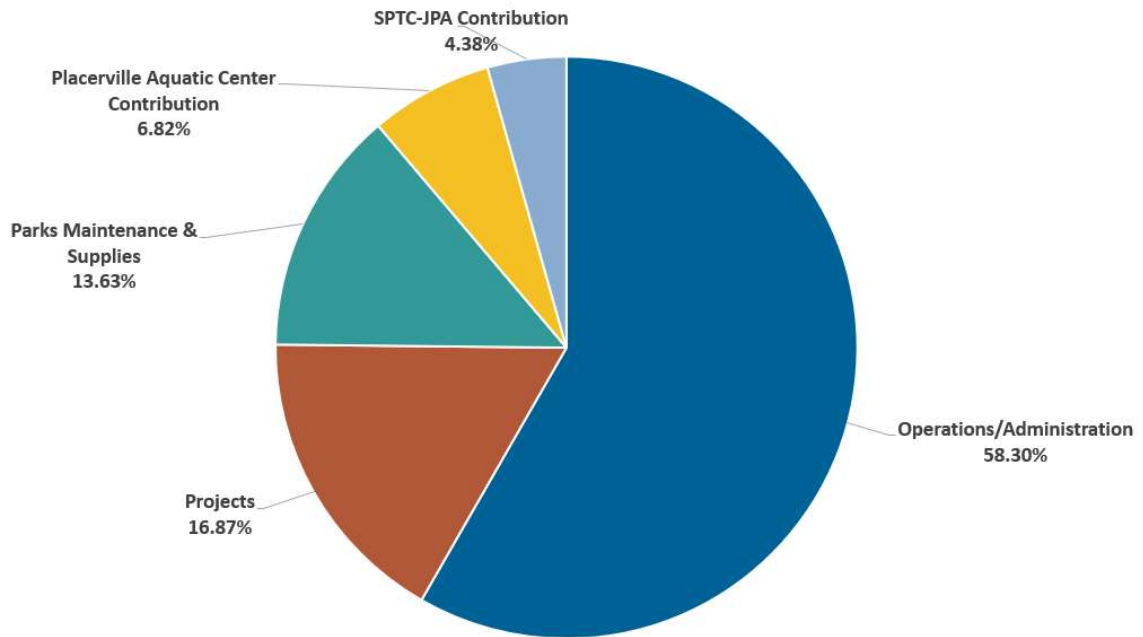
from property tax and sales tax. Generally, County departments strive to lessen their dependence on the General Fund, while maintaining service delivery, in order to allow the County flexibility in expending tax dollars for the most needed services Countywide.

Figure 17 Total Parks Division General Fund Usage Per Fiscal Year



The above data reflects the actual General Fund expenditures from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24, excluding some larger projects that are included in the Accumulative Capital Outlay budget (Further details found in the Accumulative Capital Outlay section of this chapter.) This upward movement is primarily due to changes to the department structure and new projects. Understanding the specific drivers behind these fluctuations can help guide future financial planning and resource allocation strategies to minimize the Parks Division's reliance on General Fund.

Figure 18 Breakdown of Parks Division General Fund Utilization (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



The pie chart illustrates the distribution of the general fund, highlighting the allocation across operations/administration, projects, maintenance/supplies, and contributions to the Placerville Aquatic Center and the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (SPTC-JPA) over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24). For the purposes of the above chart, “Operations/Administration” refers to the day-to-day costs of running the Parks Division, including staff salaries, office expenses, and general administrative duties necessary to keep the division functioning smoothly. “Projects” encompass typically larger, one-time expenses such as park or trail planning/design, construction, or upgrades. While “Parks Maintenance and Supplies” refers to the staff time and materials purchased related to the ongoing upkeep of park grounds, facilities, and operations carried out by Parks Division staff, or special maintenance projects or requests billed to the Parks Division and carried out by the Facilities Division (For a discussion of routine maintenance, see the “Facilities Division – Landscaping and Maintenance” section.) As shown, the majority of General Fund is expended toward operations/administrative costs, while projects, maintenance/supplies, and contributions combined make up just over a third of the remainder of General Fund usage.

#### *SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT (SMUD) FUND*

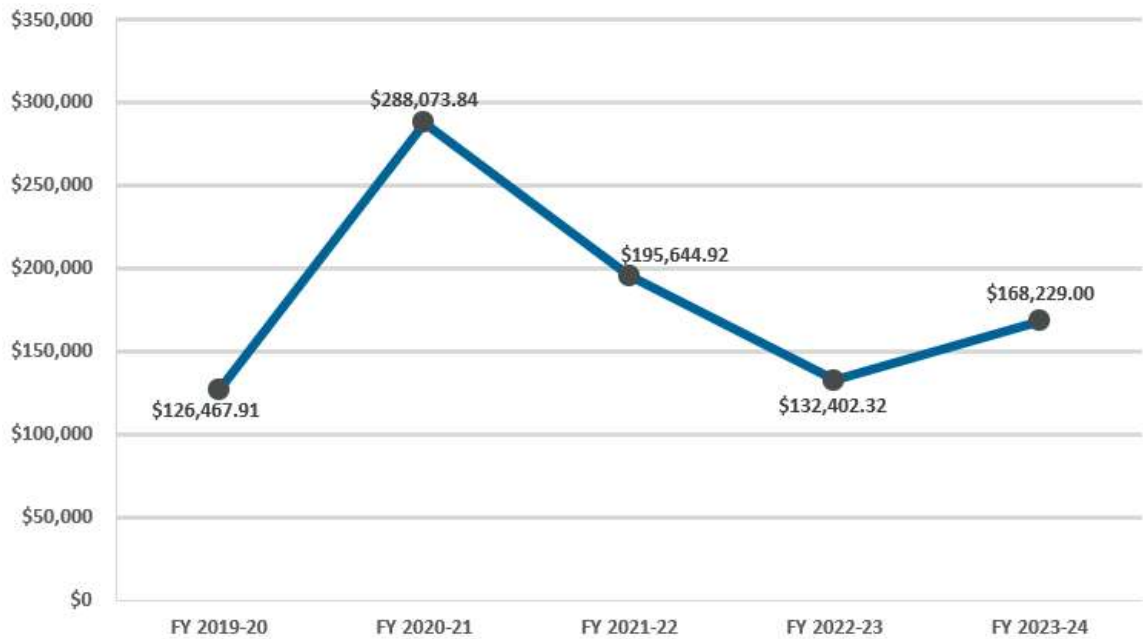
The Upper American River Project (UARP) is a network of reservoirs and powerhouses located

along the American River that contain recreational facilities owned and operated by Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). SMUD pays the County annually for the impact to County infrastructure based on their usage of the reservoirs and powerhouses located on the upper American River. The 2005 El Dorado - SMUD Cooperation Agreement requires that SMUD make an annual payment to be increased annually based on an inflation adjustment, and currently at approximately \$850,000 annually. On December 2, 2020, the Board of Supervisors directed that SMUD funds would be generally allocated as follows:

- Georgetown Divide Public Utility District: 9/59ths as outlined in the GDPUD Transition Agreement (approximately \$130,000)
- Parks, Trails, and River Management Division of the Chief Administrative Office: \$150,000
- El Dorado County Sheriff's Office: \$100,000
- Department of Transportation - Road Maintenance: \$500,000
- Mosquito Pedestrian Bridge \$13,000

The agreement states that annual payments are to be used "for the purposes of road maintenance, watershed management, and other miscellaneous activities related to the UARP and its impacts on facilities owned, or services provided by, or any resource or other interest within the jurisdiction of, the county." A portion of these funds has long been allocated to the Parks Division, with \$150,000 having regularly been designated to support the Rubicon Trail Program for the past few years due to the location of the UARP.

Figure 19 Total Parks Division SMUD Fund Usage Per Fiscal Year



These funds are generally used as matching funds for Off-Highway Vehicle grant projects. Although the amount allocated to the Parks Division has remained fixed from year to year, expenditures can fluctuate annually due to the varying need to use these funds for grant matching and other departmental needs. Additionally, unspent funds from previous years are carried forward and applied in subsequent years, as necessary.

#### GRANT FUNDING

The Parks Division relies on state and federal grants as a vital funding source for building, maintaining, and improving facilities. These grants can support a variety of projects, such as the development of new trails, upgrading playgrounds, or improving accessibility. This funding enables recreation projects beyond what the local budget alone allows. Past grant funding received by the County for park acquisition and renovation projects include the Statewide Park Program (SPP), Proposition 68 funding from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act, and California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division grants program that provides funding to develop, maintain, and operate recreational trails and facilities.



Figure 20 Total Grant Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year

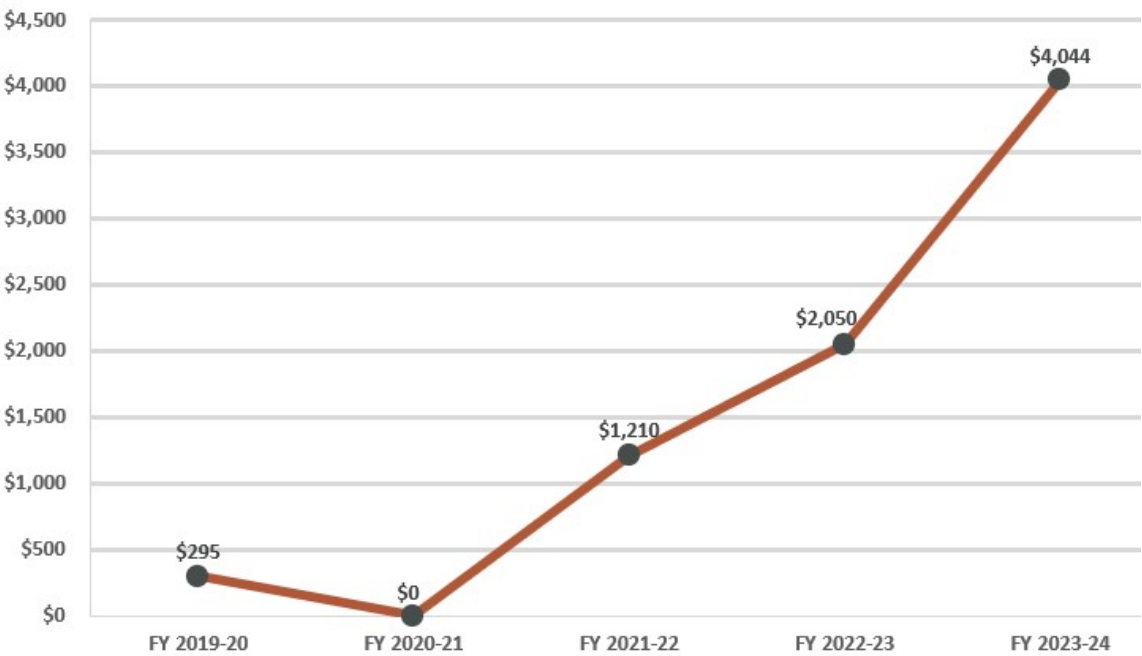


The above data shows that grant funding usage can fluctuate significantly, primarily due to the number of awarded grants and the nature of current projects.

#### *PARK RENTAL FEES*

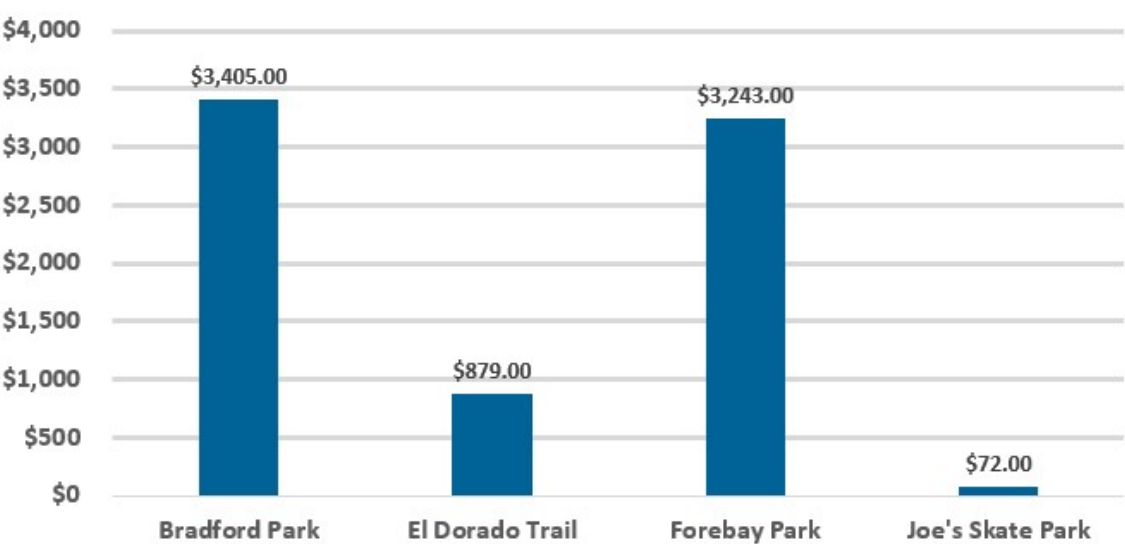
Park fees are charges for the use of public parks, trails, and facilities, covering a range of activities, such as facilities rentals and event permits. Some parks include amenities such as sports fields or large gathering spaces that are available for private reservation. The County charges park facility rental fees at four locations: Bradford Park, Forebay Park, Henningsen Lotus Park, and Pioneer Park. Henningsen Lotus Park and Pioneer Park have dedicated special revenue funds specific to that park where the park fees are deposited (see next two sections for details). Due to the smaller size and lower fee collection at Bradford and Forebay Parks, the fees are deposited into the Parks Division's General Fund but are tracked separately within the fund. Additionally, fees are collected from special events like fun runs or competitions on the El Dorado Trail and at Joe's Skate Park. Figure 21 below shows the Park Fees collected for Bradford Park, Forebay Park, El Dorado Trail, and Joe's Skate Park.

Figure 21 Park Fees Collected Per Fiscal Year



The above data indicates an overall upward trend in Park Fees collected from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24.

Figure 22 Five Years of Park Fees Collected at Each Park (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



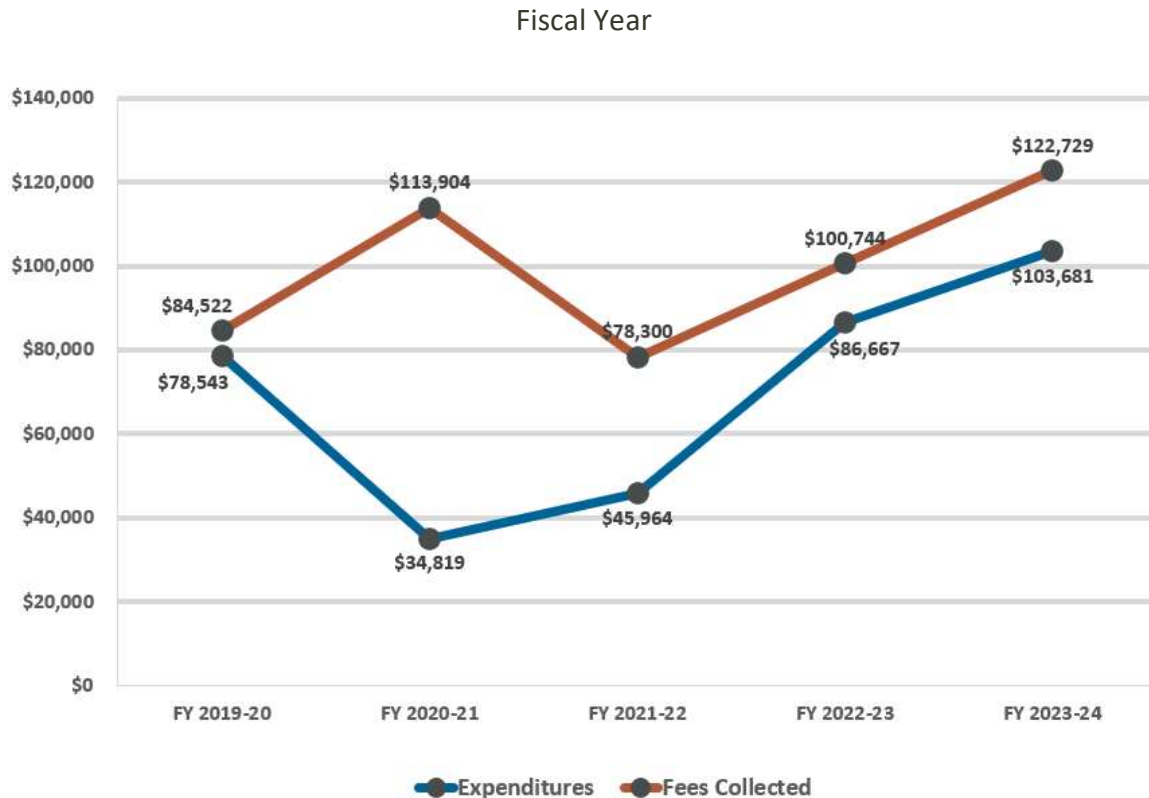
The data represents five years of fees collected for Bradford Park, Joe's Skate Park, Forebay Park, and the El Dorado Trail from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24. Fees collected from other county parks

are shown in the respective park's special revenue fund section. Bradford Park collected the highest amount, \$3,405, accounting for 44.8 percent of the total fees, while Forebay Park closely follows with \$3,243, representing 42.7 percent. Together, these two parks make up 87.5 percent of the total fees collected. Joe's Skate Park collected only \$72, representing 0.95 percent, and El Dorado Trail brought in \$879, or 11.6 percent, due to only collecting fees for special events and facilities rentals, and not for daily activities.

#### *HENNINGSEN LOTUS PARK SPECIAL REVENUE FUND*

Henningsen Lotus Park, located along the South Fork of the American River, offers a variety of recreational opportunities. It features a boat launch, beach area, and an enclosed pavilion for events such as weddings and fundraisers. The park also includes two soccer fields and softball/baseball fields, supporting year-round youth sports. Fees that are collected include parking, sports field rentals, facilities rentals, and event rentals, and are deposited into the Henningsen Lotus Park Special Revenue Fund. This is the only County-owned park with a parking fee in addition to facility rental and event fees. Parking fees generate a significant amount of revenue which funds ongoing park improvements.

Figure 23 Henningsen Lotus Park Special Revenue Fund – Fees and Expenditures Per

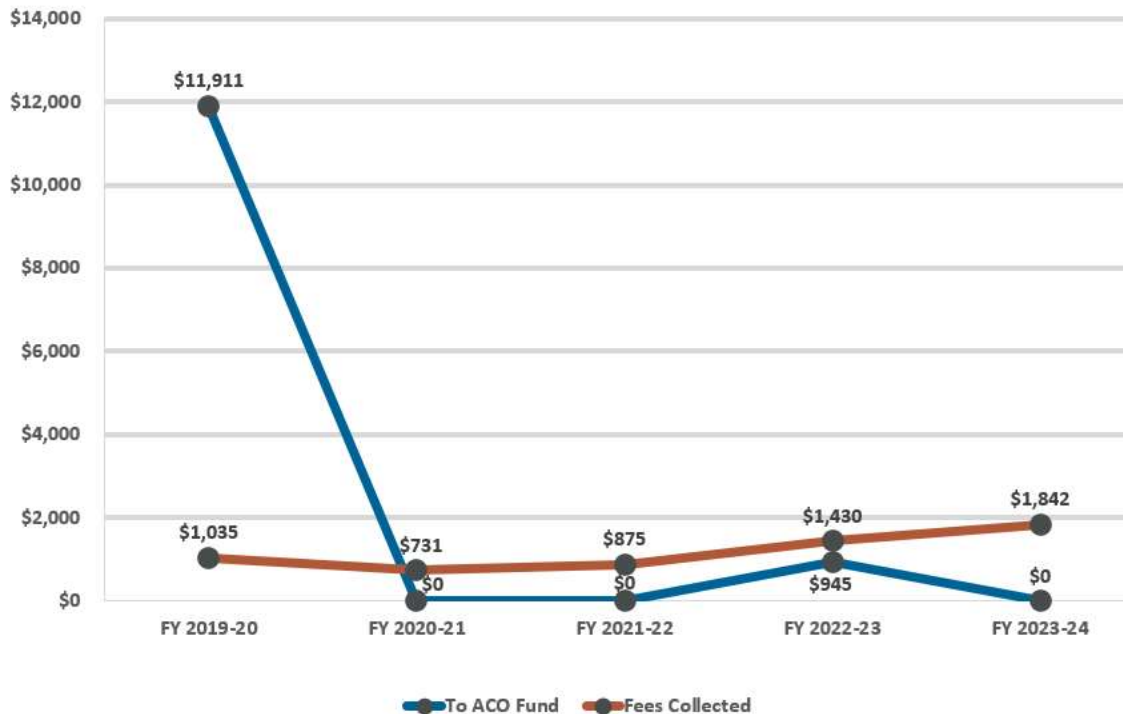


The above data shows a consistent trend where fees collected at Henningsen Lotus Park have exceeded expenditures over the last five fiscal years. In FY 2019-20, fees collected slightly surpassed expenditures, with \$84,522.00 in fees and \$78,542.56 in expenditures. The following year, FY 2020-21, saw a significant drop in expenditures to \$34,818.60, while fees collected rose dramatically to \$113,903.81, creating a large surplus. From FY 2021-22 onward, there was a steady increase in fees collected over time, consistently exceeding expenditures each year.

#### *PIONEER PARK SPECIAL REVENUE FUND*

Pioneer Park, located in southern El Dorado County, features a full-size equestrian arena, a community center, a kitchen, and a variety of recreational amenities. These include a soccer/baseball field, disc golf course, basketball and pickleball courts, a playground, picnic tables, and grills. Fees charged for amenity use such as sports field rentals, event/room rentals, and equestrian arena use are deposited into the Pioneer Park Special Revenue Fund. Importantly, this facility is used most weekdays to host the Senior Nutrition and Senior Exercise programs through the Health and Human Services Agency. It is also utilized during the summer as a cooling center and during emergencies as an evacuation site.

Figure 24 Pioneer Park Fees Collected and Transfers to ACO Fund

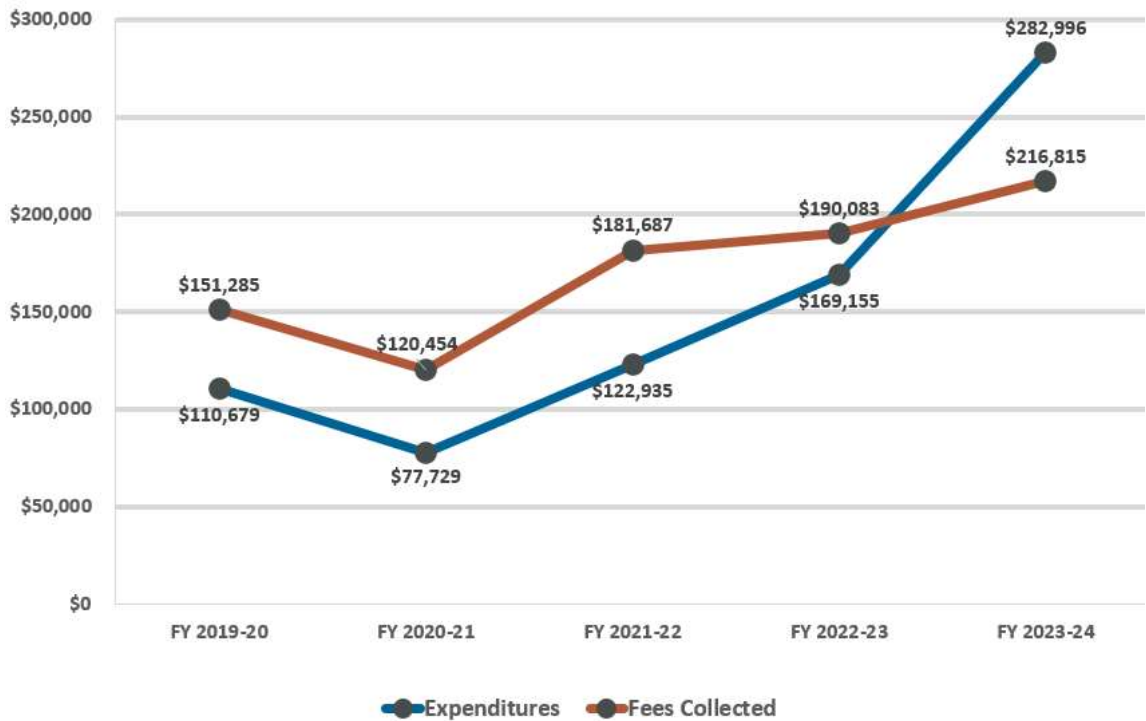


The above data shows that fees collected at Pioneer Park fluctuate from year to year, hovering between \$700 and \$1,900. This fund typically has no expenditures and is typically used to save up for special projects at the park through the ACO Fund (see ACO Fund Section). The \$11,911 transferred to the ACO Fund in FY 2019-20 is due to multiple projects at the park that were carried out by facilities during that time, including ADA compliance projects.

#### RIVER SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

River fees are collected from private river users parking at Henningsen Lotus Park and permitted whitewater commercial outfitters on behalf of customers who use the river for activities such as rafting or kayaking on the 21-mile segment of the South Fork of the American River between Chili Bar and Salmon Falls. The County and California State Parks have an agreement for whitewater commercial outfitters to consolidate the management of commercial outfitter river access and activities. Both the County and the State receive a portion of the fees collected, and the County's portion is deposited into the River Special Revenue Fund (River SRF). Additional River use fees are collected from private river users launching or landing from Henningsen Lotus Park. Funds are to be used only to support the river program as directed by the River Management Plan. These funds provide river equipment and staff to conduct boat counts and other management activities. Funds can also be used for River-related projects.

Figure 24 River Special Revenue Fund – Fees and Expenditures Per Fiscal Year

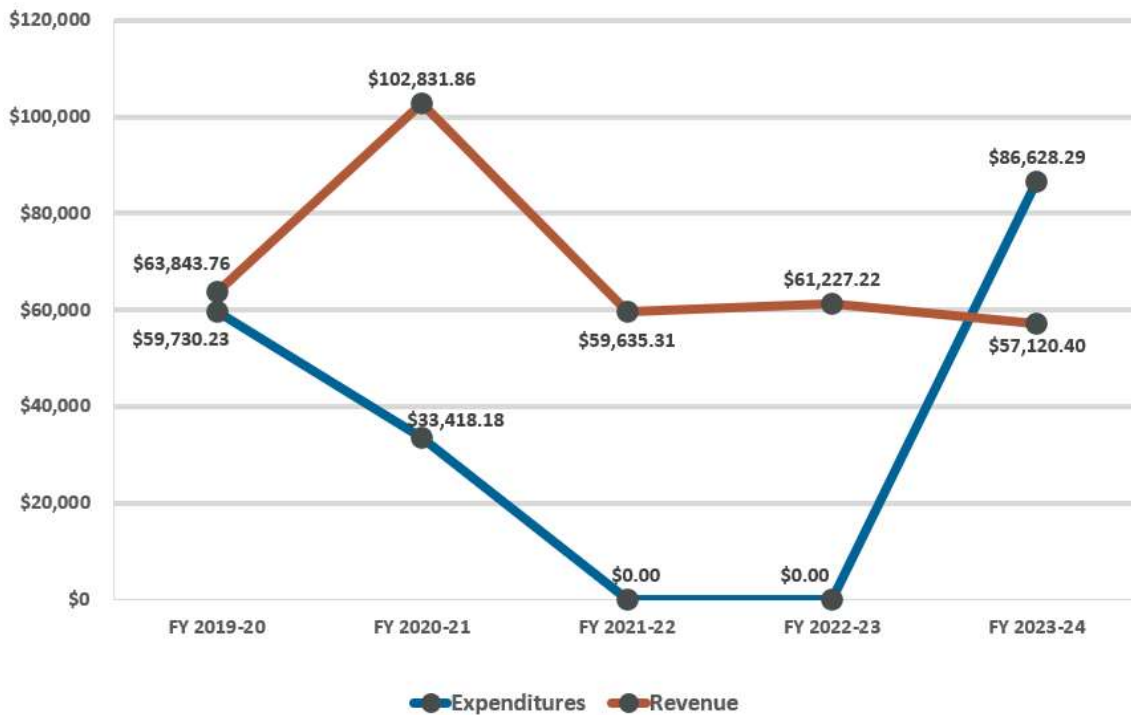


The overall trend in the above data shows that both expenditures and fees collected have generally increased over the five fiscal years. Fees collected consistently exceeded expenditures for the operation of the River Program in most years. Due to a \$100,000 contribution from the River SRF to the Chili Bar redevelopment project, in FY 2023-24 expenditures surpassed fees collected.

#### STATE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) GREEN STICKER FEES

State Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Fees, commonly referred to as Green Sticker Fees, are funds collected by the state from the registration of off-road vehicles such as dirt bikes, ATVs, and other off-highway vehicles. A portion of these fees is allocated to counties to support the management and maintenance of OHV recreation areas, helping ensure that off-road vehicle recreation areas are safe, accessible, and well-maintained.

Figure 25 Total Green Sticker Fee Usage Per Fiscal Year



The above chart illustrates the varying usage of Green Sticker Fees, as they are only typically drawn down after SMUD funds have been utilized. This approach reflects a strategic reliance on available resources, demonstrating a careful management of financial assets in response to operational needs. The chart also shows the annual Green Sticker Fee revenue the County receives, which remains relatively consistent except for FY 2020-21, when revenue increased by 70 percent compared to the average of the rest of the years (\$60,456.67), reaching \$102,831.86. The Green Sticker fees received from the state are not fixed and can vary each year depending on the number of OHV registrations. The volume of registrations can be influenced by factors such as economic conditions and outdoor recreation trends.

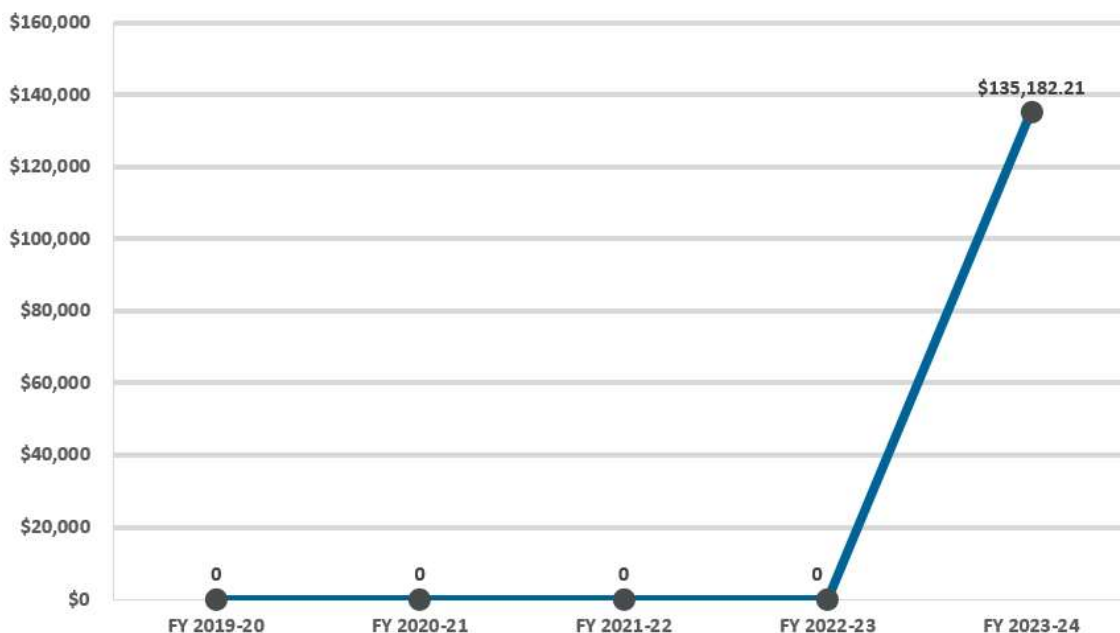
#### DISCRETIONARY TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX (DTOT)

The Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is a general tax charged to guests of transient lodging facilities (vacation home rentals, hotels, motels, etc.). In El Dorado County, this tax is levied at a rate of 14 percent for the unincorporated portions of the Tahoe Area and a rate of 10 percent for the unincorporated areas outside of the Tahoe Area. The 10 percent collected can be used for discretionary purposes (Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax), while the additional 4 percent



in the unincorporated portions of the Tahoe Area specifically goes toward snow removal and maintenance of existing roads. Each year, the Board of Supervisors can allocate funds from the Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax (DTOT) Budget for any County purpose, is generally used to address the impacts of tourism on local services, facilities, and roads.

Figure 26 Total Parks Division DTOT Usage Per Fiscal Year

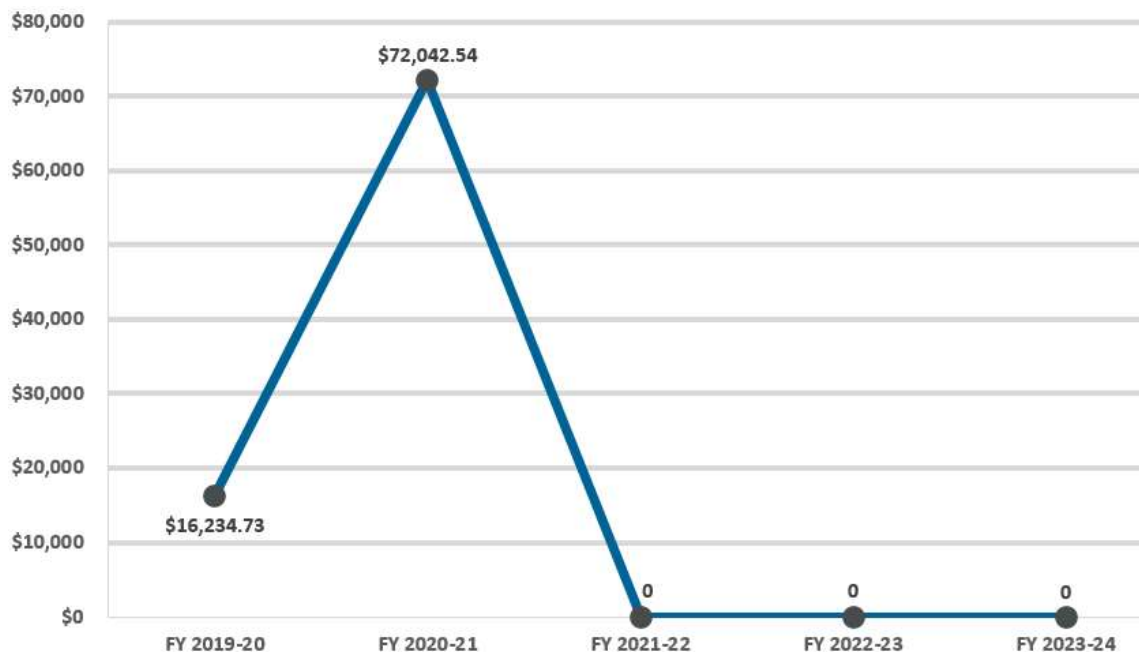


The above data shows that DTOT funds are not utilized by the Parks Division year-to-year and are only used when the Board of Supervisors allocates this funding toward a particular park project. In FY 2023-24, the usage of DTOT was allocated for the planning and design of the Diamond Springs Community Park.

#### *FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROJECT AND CALOES FUNDING*

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance grant funding provides financial assistance to cover disaster recovery efforts, such as repairing damaged infrastructure, providing emergency services, and supporting displaced residents. The California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) is a designated recipient of FEMA Public Assistance grant funding and manages the federal award and disbursement of funding for subrecipients. Additionally, CalOES offers state-level reimbursement for disaster-related expenses, including emergency response, debris removal, and rebuilding efforts. These reimbursements ensure that counties can recover more quickly from disasters without overwhelming their local budgets, helping to restore essential services and rebuild communities.

Figure 27 Total Parks Division FEMA/CalOES Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year

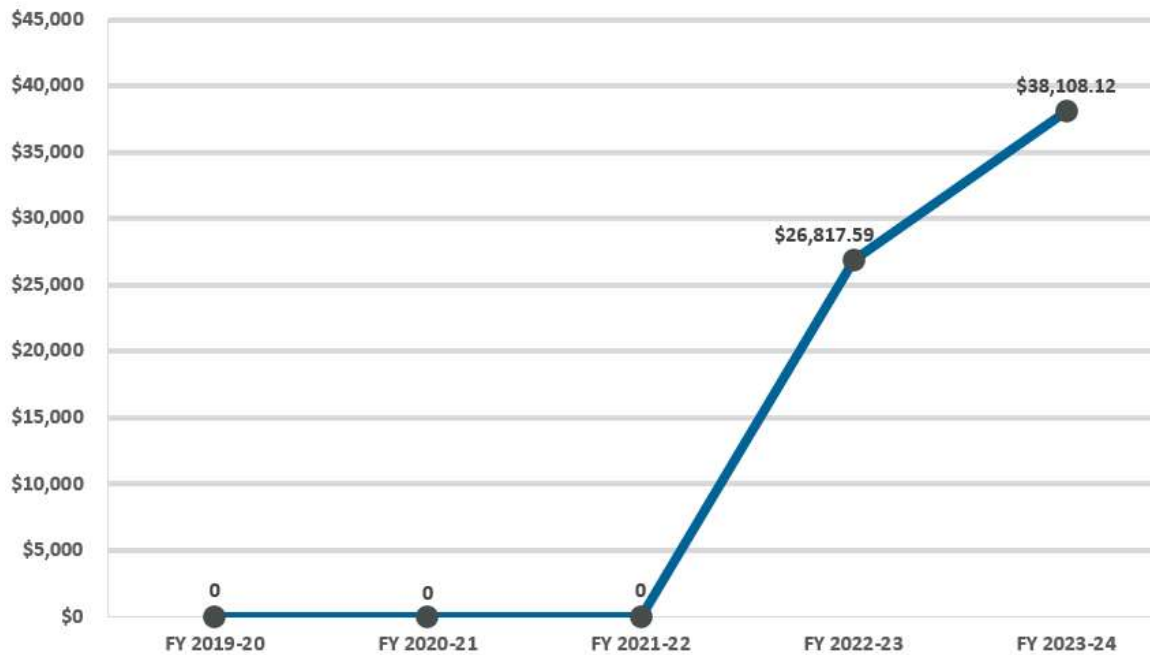


The above data shows that FEMA/CalOES funding can fluctuate significantly based on eligibility for reimbursement after a disaster. When a county qualifies for federal or state disaster assistance, it can receive financial support to recover from disasters or emergencies that impact public infrastructure such as parks and recreational facilities. In the meantime, the County uses other funding sources to pay for the repairs. As shown above, the County received FEMA/CalOES funding in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 due to the 2017 winter storms, which impacted Henningsen Lotus Park and portions of the **SPTC Natural Trail** in the Latrobe area. The reimbursement for these damages were not received until FY 2019-20. Due to the delayed nature of receiving these funds, the Parks Division is still waiting on reimbursements for disaster events that occurred during the fiscal years shown, and revenues may be reflected in a future fiscal year.

#### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law to aid recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. El Dorado County received a portion of the designated funding, and the Board of Supervisors has allocated a portion of funds to enhance Forebay Park, providing a valuable investment in this recreational space in Pollock Pines.

Figure 28 Total Parks Division ARPA Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year

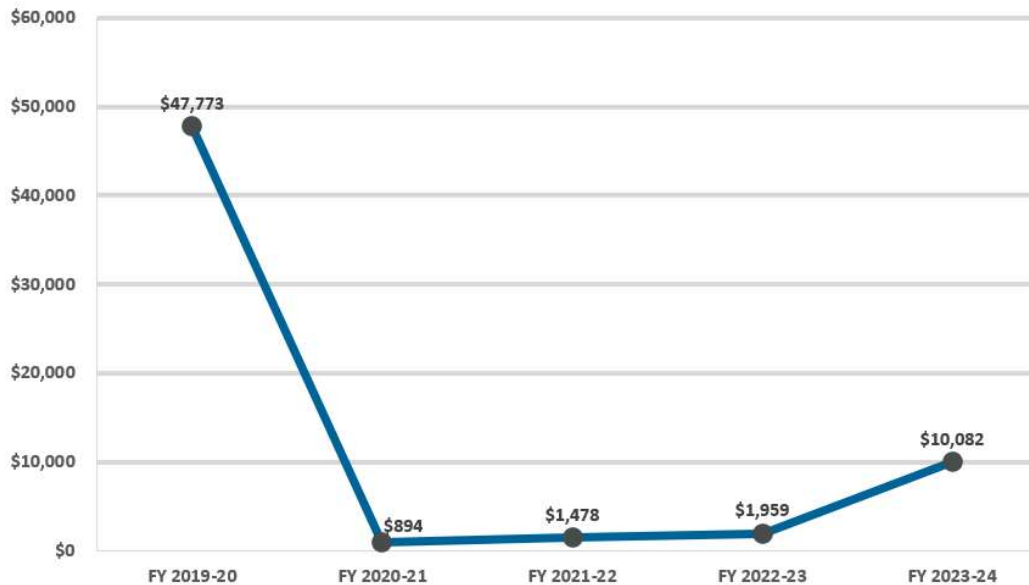


The above data clearly shows no usage in earlier years, as ARPA funding did not exist prior to 2021, as it was introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The data shows that ARPA funding wasn't allocated to parks projects until FY 2022-23, specifically for Forebay Park enhancements. This is not a permanent or ongoing funding source.

### DONATIONS

The generous donations from service organizations, private groups, or individuals are a way to raise funds for specific projects.

Figure 29 Total Donations Per Fiscal Year



The above data shows that donations can fluctuate. Donations are often tied to specific projects, and their variability can be influenced by the projects of particular interest to the public. While they provide important supplemental support, donations are not a stable or primary funding source and cannot be relied upon for long-term financial planning. The large number of donations in FY 2019-20 are primarily due to donations received from multiple donors for a septic pump truck to address sanitation issues on the Rubicon Trail. The increase in FY 2023-24 was due to a donation to fund excavator work on the Rubicon Trail.

### QUIMBY FUNDS

The Quimby Act (California Government Code Sec. 66477) authorizes local governments in California to require developers to dedicate land or impose in-lieu fees for the creation or improvement of parks and recreational facilities as a condition of the approval of a tentative or parcel subdivision map (County Code Sec. 120.12.090). Most areas with a high volume of housing development are within Community Service District boundaries or spheres of influence, meaning that the CSD intends to expand to those areas when development occurs. However, some subdivisions or parcel maps occur outside of CSD boundaries. These are often small developments that do not warrant the addition of a new park to serve the few new residents. In these cases, developers or property owners pay a Quimby in-lieu fee to contribute to the development of a larger park, or for expansion or new amenities at an existing park. These fees, known as Quimby funds, are specifically earmarked for the acquisition, expansion, or enhancement of local parks. Funds cannot be used for maintenance; the County can only "use the fees only for the purpose of developing new or rehabilitating existing neighborhood or community park or recreation facilities."

## Exhibit 10 Quimby Act Map



Figure 30 Total Quimby Fund Usage Per Fiscal Year



The above data shows that Quimby revenue fluctuates based on the timing and size of housing development in the County, outside of CSD and City areas, and shows that funds are only utilized once a park project occurs. In FY 2020-21, a 45-lot subdivision to develop Campobello Estates in the Cameron Park area resulted in a \$87,660 Quimby fee, which was deposited into the Ponderosa Quimby Account.

Table 3 Quimby Fund Balance at FY 2023-24 Year End

<i>Motherlode Quimby Fund</i>	<i>Ponderosa Quimby Fund</i>		<i>Tahoe Quimby Fund</i>
\$444.77	\$133,644.50	\$164.46	\$911.76

#### MISCELLANEOUS FUNDING SOURCES

The Parks Division occasionally receives funding from sources that fall outside the typical categories. These "Miscellaneous" funds can come from one-time or irregular events, such as the sale of a fixed asset or reimbursements from agencies like the U.S. Forest Service for restroom

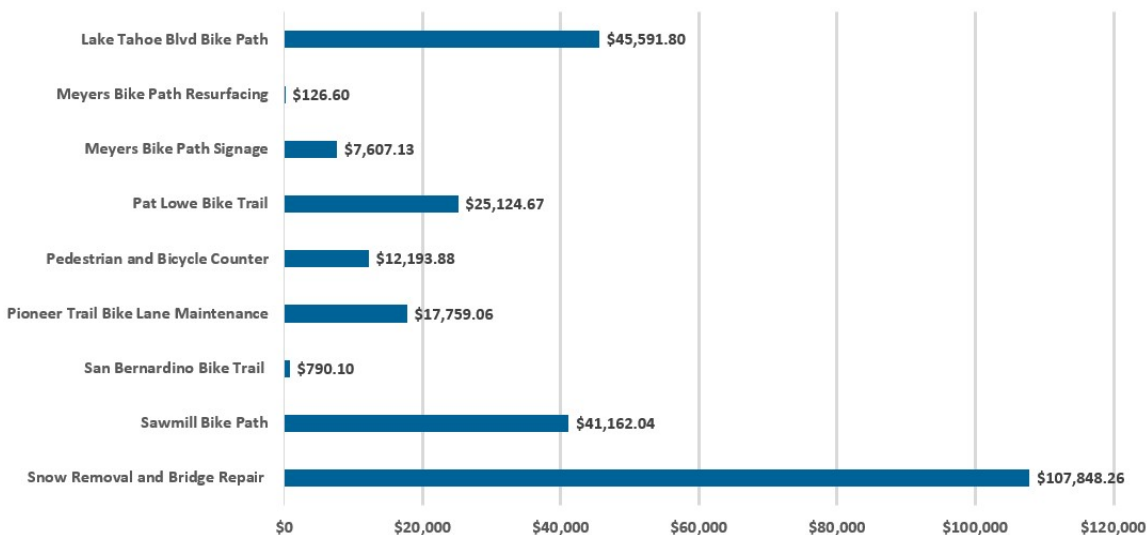


maintenance on the Rubicon Trail. These unscheduled or atypical revenues provide additional support for park operations and projects but are not relied upon as regular funding streams. These funds provide supplementary support but are not as stable or integral as other funding sources.

### DOT - MEASURE S FUNDS

Measure S, passed in the Lake Tahoe area in 2000, was designed to meet the community's desire for recreational opportunities, including enhancing and maintaining the trail network. The funds are collected through a special tax, levied at \$18 annually per single-family residence. The County Department of Transportation receives a portion of this funding for bike trail maintenance and snow removal, enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors by ensuring safe, year-round access to trails in the Lake Tahoe area. These Measure S funds are different than the Measure S that was passed in 2022, which increased the Transient Occupancy Tax in the Lake Tahoe area.

Figure 31 Measure S Fund Trail-Related Utilization (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24)



The above data demonstrates the varied usage of Measure S funding for trail projects in the Tahoe area over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24), showcasing the variety of trails that the funds cover as well as the amount used for snow removal, specific projects, and maintenance. The above data does not reflect the total cost of each Measure S trail-related project, as some projects may have costs prior to FY 2019-20. Additionally, certain projects are still ongoing. This snapshot is only part of the broader financial picture for these long-term initiatives or maintenance costs, highlighting the use of this special tax for trail maintenance and repair in the Lake Tahoe area.

### ACCUMULATIVE CAPITAL OUTLAY (ACO) FUND

The Accumulative Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund is the County budget unit used to accumulate capital project funding and to plan and track major maintenance and capital improvements to County-owned facilities, other than roads, including parks and trails. Funding from the annual Accumulated Capital Outlay funds, 1 percent of all property tax revenues, which amounts to approximately \$2 million each year, is set aside annually for capital projects. Other funding, such as General Fund dollars, will also be budgeted in the ACO Capital Projects Work Plan each year, which identifies projects that are typically greater than \$25,000 and add value and life to a County facility. Depending on the Work Plan, the project schedule may or may not have a significant number of projects relating to a park or trail facility.

Figure 32 Total ACO Parks-Related Project Cost Usage Per Fiscal Year

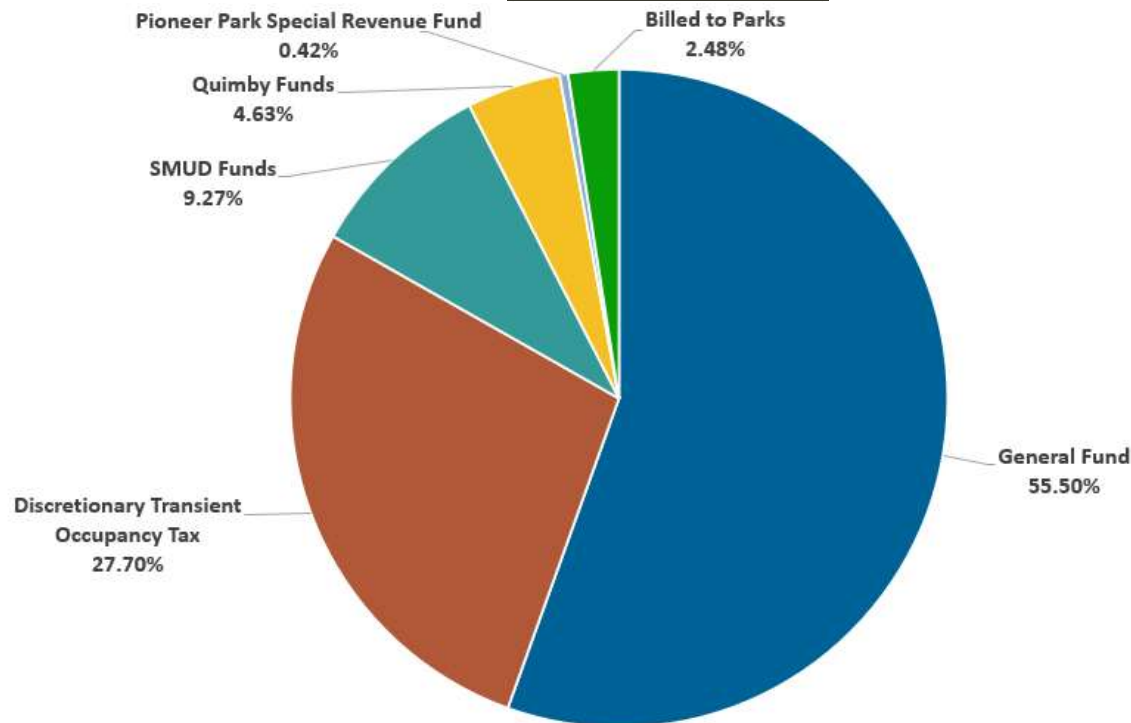


The above graph shows the varying amount expended on Parks-related projects encompassed in the ACO Capital Projects Work Plan. The schedule may or may not contain a substantial number of parks projects in any given year. In addition, projects on the ACO Capital Projects Work Plan can be at various stages in the project timeline, which can create fluctuations in annual expenditures. In some years, significant funds are needed for large-scale project phases like design or construction. Other years may see lower spending as projects reach completion or if there are project delays. The variation shown above is normal when it comes to capital planning



and project management, as the funding expenditures are driven by the varying number of parks projects on the schedule at any given year and specific requirements of each project phase.

Figure 8 ACO Fund Funding Sources for Parks-Related Projects on the Capital Projects Work Plan  
(FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



The above data illustrates the proportion of funding from various sources utilized for parks related ACO projects over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24), emphasizing a reliance on General Fund, DTOT, and SMUD funds for the park projects on the ACO project schedule during the years that are represented in the chart. Since these funds are deposited into the ACO Fund, they are not categorized under the Parks Division’s funding structure. However, 2.48 percent of the costs associated with these projects were billed directly to the Parks Division and is reflected within the expenditures located in the “Funding Sources” section.

Table 14 ACO Capital Projects Work Plan Parks-Related Project Expenditures and Funding Sources (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Actuals	Funding Source
2019-20	Parks & Trails Master Plan Update	\$ 19,760	General Fund
	Pioneer Park Misc. Projects	\$ 11,911	ACO Fund
	Pioneer Park Misc. Projects	\$ 7,499	ACO Fund
	Forebay Park Various projects/ADA	\$ 42,976	ACO Fund
	El Dorado Trail - Asphalt Repairs/Bridge Insp.	\$ 29,222	General Fund
	El Dorado Trail - Asphalt Repairs/Bridge Insp.	\$ 124,000	ACO Fund
	Henningsen Lotus Park Misc. Projects	\$ 72,332	ACO Fund
	Pioneer Park AT&T	\$ 16,940	ACO Fund
2020-21	Forebay Park Various projects/ADA	\$ 35,156	ACO Fund
	Monroe Trail	\$ 27,716	SMUD Funds
	Pioneer Park	\$ 1,365	ACO Fund
	SPTC Natural Trail Permits	\$ 9,438	ACO Fund
2021-22	Bradford Park Playground Cover	\$ 3,834	Quimby
	Forebay Park Playground	\$ 284	General Fund
	HLP Shade Structure	\$ 2,100	General Fund
	SPTC Natural Trail Permits	\$ 27,709	ACO Fund
2022-23	Bradford Park Playground Cover	\$ 16,127	General Fund
	Chili Bar Remediation	\$ 65,929	General Fund
	El Dorado Trail Trestle Bridge	\$ 49,288	ACO Fund
	Forebay Park ADA	\$ 14,288	ACO Fund
	Forebay Park Playground	\$ 462	General Fund
	HLP New Septic System for New Bathroom	\$ 39,105	ACO Fund
	HLP Shade Structure	\$ 9,009	General Fund
	Joe's Skatepark Lighting	\$ 6,934	ACO Fund
	Old Depot Bike Park	\$ 7,410	Bill to Parks
	Pioneer Park Skatepark Pad	\$ 1,253	Pioneer SRF
	SPTC Natural Trail Permits	\$ 12,580	ACO Fund
2023-24	Bradford Park Playground Cover	\$ 22,045	General Fund
	Chili Bar Remediation	\$ 82,809	DTOT
	Forebay Park ADA	\$ 11,719	ACO Fund
	Forebay Park Playground	\$ 957	General Fund
	HLP New Septic System for New Bathroom	\$ 7,127	ACO Fund
	Pioneer Park Skatepark Pad	\$ 10,000	Quimby
	Pioneer Park Skatepark Pad	\$ 29,612	ACO Fund
	Skatepark Lighting	\$ 19,874	ACO Fund

## APPENDIX C: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Noticing the community-wide outreach events such as the workshops included personal calls and emails to key stakeholders including community and environmental groups, business interests, community destinations, public health organizations, partner agencies, schools, and community-based organizations; news releases to local media digital and print outlets; e-newsletter and social media posts through community-led information channels; social media and website posts through existing communication channels; paid social media advertising; and e-mail blasts to the project database.

### *County Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings*

Several meetings of the El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) were dedicated to gathering additional input on the Master Plan and providing updates on the process to the public. Throughout 2023 and 2024, the Commission deliberated on all aspects of the Master Plan, including the goals for the plan and the vision for Parks in El Dorado County. Each draft chapter was provided to the Commission for feedback and changes were incorporated. The Commission also organized and provided an ad hoc committee made up of two Commissioners to the Master Plan Advisory Committee. Commissioners served as co-editors of the plan to review the Master Plan process, identify key issue areas, suggest ways to increase public participation, and review and refine specific recommendations for park and trail facilities, maintenance, and administration.

### *Key Stakeholder Focus Groups*

Two stakeholder focus group meetings with the local schools, neighborhood associations, business interest representatives, underrepresented community-based organizations, and other key stakeholder groups were planned to be held early on during the public engagement process. The purpose of the Key Stakeholder Focus Group meetings is to provide stakeholder groups with the opportunity to participate in project planning to help identify project needs. The initial meetings were meant to provide a forum to discuss potential key issues, challenges, and opportunities. The groups to be invited to participate in the Key Stakeholder Focus Group meetings were be facilitated to discuss constraints and opportunities, and the needs of the groups and interests they represented.

The first stakeholder meeting was held on October 24, 2022, and the second occurred on December 14, 2022. Representatives in attendance included the Little League District, soccer

clubs, EDHCSD, the Marshal Foundation for Community Health, the Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee, the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, Motherlode Trail Stewardship, Friends of the El Dorado Trail, the American River Conservancy, Folsom Auburn Trails El Dorado Trail, Backcountry Horsemen, the Coloma Business Council, Bureau of Land Management, Ponderosa Little League, El Dorado High School District Facilities, and County Departments including Transportation, Sheriff's Office, and Public Health.

At each meeting, the discussion began with staff posing questions to the group, focusing on what is working with our parks and trail system, and what opportunities we have looking to the future. The discussions led to varied topics, but key issues became the focus.

### *Community Workshops*

These workshops were held in easy-to-access different parts of the county to create more opportunities for participation, as follows:

- **Coloma/Lotus:** Public meeting at Henningsen Lotus Park, or another location in the area.
- **Diamond Springs:** Public meeting at Railroad Park, or another location in the area.
- **Pollock Pines:** Public meeting at Forebay Community Park, or another location in the area.
- **Pioneer:** Public meeting at Pioneer Community Park, or another location in the area.
- **Remote:** Public meetings held via Zoom.

Notice was given through notification flyers, personal calls and emails to key stakeholders including community and environmental groups, business interests, community destinations, public health organizations, partner agencies, schools, and community-based organizations; news releases, digital and print outlets; e-newsletter and social media posts through community-led information channels; social media and website posts through the County's existing communication channels; paid social media advertising; and e-mail blasts to the project database. Additionally, all meeting notices and post-meeting summaries were posted to the Master Plan project website.

## WORKSHOP FORMAT

At each of these workshops, participants learned why the Master Plan is being updated, and were placed into four smaller “breakout groups” to provide feedback on what should be prioritized in the plan.

The workshop was structured in three parts:

1. A short presentation about the Master Plan and its need for updating
2. Participants broke out into four smaller groups to discuss what ought to be included in the plan.
3. Participants used different colored stickers to walk the room and “vote” for which options they would support with their time and tax dollars.

**El Dorado County  
Master Plan:  
Parks and Trails**

**JOIN US THIS WEEK AT OUR SECOND  
WORKSHOP IN SOMERSET AT PIONEER  
PARK!**

**Wednesday, March 22nd**  
6:00 - 7:00 pm  
Pioneer Park  
6740 FairPlay Road, Somerset CA

**RSVP Today (Not Required)**

**STOP BY & LEARN AND GIVE INPUT ABOUT:**

- Key Issues
- Challenges
- Opportunities

Participate in break out sessions to help mold the future of El Dorado County Parks and Trails.

This is the second of five community workshops located around El Dorado County in early 2023. Find us at the following meeting times and locations!

WORKSHOP #3 - MARCH 29th - Buckeye Elementary School  
WORKSHOP #4 - APRIL 5th - Pollock Pine Community Center  
WORKSHOP #5 - APRIL 19th - Via Zoom

[Visit our Website](#)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: 916-440-1158 [ldemaio@amconsultings.com](mailto:ldemaio@amconsultings.com)

## IN-PERSON MEETINGS

For each of the four in-person meetings, community members entered the room and were greeted by a project staff member asking them to sign in. Then participants were handed one of four cards to indicate which breakout group they would join: red, green, blue, or yellow. On the back of the card were directions for the sticker activity that would follow the breakout groups (detailed later in this summary). Community members were then encouraged to visit the map of El Dorado County, located next to the welcome table.

Next to the welcome table was a large map of El Dorado County. A project team member handed community members a small dot sticker and asked them to place it where they live in the County. This gave the project team better insight into who was in the room.

The map, pictured right, showed most attendees came from the Coloma area, or communities in the north part of the County. Participants were then given a brief presentation about the Master Plan and why it needs updating.



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

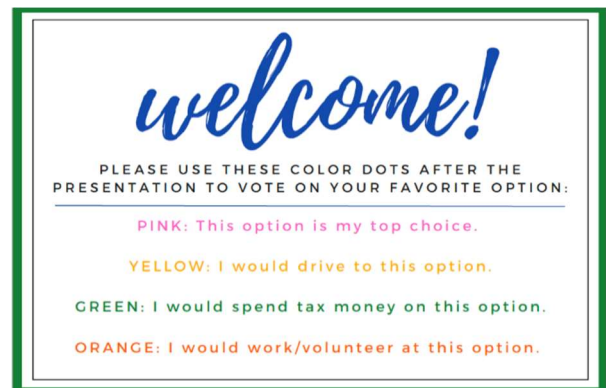
The bulk of the workshop was devoted to small-group discussion. Each group had 15-20 people in it, and a facilitator who took notes on easel paper. Approximately 45 minutes were spent on this activity. In these groups, a facilitator structured the discussion around three questions:

- What is your dream park experience in El Dorado County?
- Would you travel to get those amenities? If so, how far?
- If you had \$100 to spend on a Parks & Trails Master Plan opportunity, what would it be?

Following the breakout group session, community members were given four different colored dot stickers. Referencing the back of their breakout group card (image to the right), they were told to use the pink dot to indicate their top choice, the yellow for something they would drive to, the green for what they would spend tax dollars on, and orange for something they would work/volunteer at.

After using the stickers to “cast votes” on their own group’s list, participants were encouraged to visit other groups’ boards and use stickers to cast votes on those.

The workshop ended after the colored-dot voting activity. As community members left, a project team member handed them a card with the project website, project email address, and a QR code encouraging them to take an online community survey.

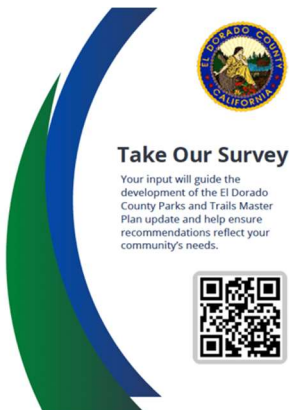


## Thank You for Attending!

Visit our website to learn more and stay updated on the El Dorado County Parks Master Plan.

[www.eldoradocountyparksandtrailsplanupdate.com/](http://www.eldoradocountyparksandtrailsplanupdate.com/)

Have a question? Contact us at: [ParksUpdate@EDCGOV.US](mailto:ParksUpdate@EDCGOV.US)



## Community Workshop #1

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, El Dorado County hosted the first of five community workshops regarding the Parks & Trails Master Plan Update. A total of 70 community members

attended the workshop, held at the Gold Trail Grange at 319 CA-49 in Coloma, CA.



*The title slide of the presentation; Community members attending the workshop.*



*The welcome table with County map.*

What follows is the data from each group's work:

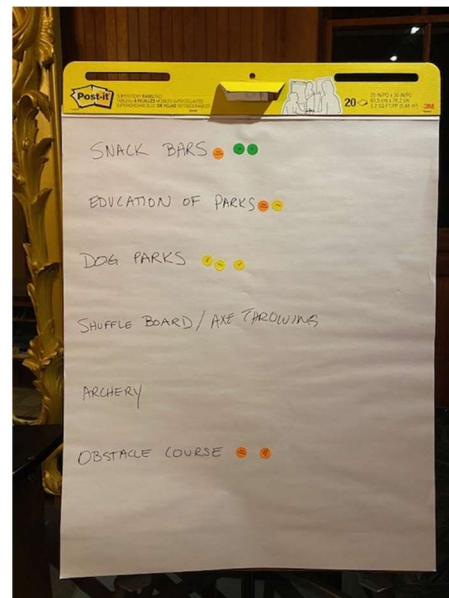
### Group 1

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 1's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Equestrian	3	1	3	1
Parking for horse trailers	10	3	2	2
Safe trails for cycling/horses	6	2	3	5
Baseball fields in fourplexes	15	6	12	13
Lighting			1	
Mixed-use fields	3	2	2	1
Snack bars			2	1
Education of parks		1		1



Dog parks		3		
Shuffleboard/axe throwing				
Archery				
Obstacle course				2



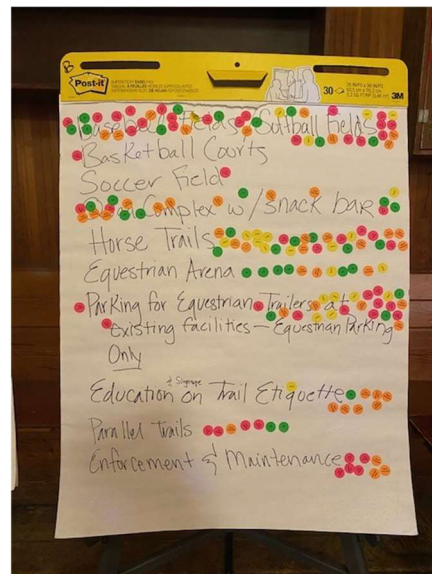
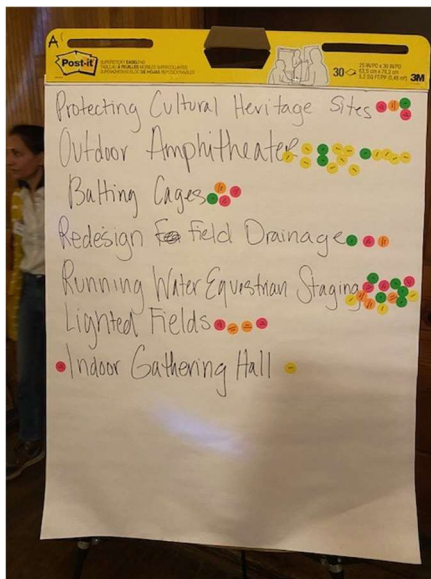
Boards & colored-dot breakdown from group 1.

## Group 2

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 2's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Protecting cultural heritage sites	2		1	1
Outdoor amphitheater		12	3	
Batting cages	2		1	1
Redesign for field drainage	1		1	1
Running water equestrian staging	3	3	5	3
Lighted fields	2			2
Indoor gathering hall	1	1		
Baseball/softball fields	20	5	9	9
Basketball courts	1			
Soccer field	1			
Quad complex with snack bar	3	1	7	9
Horse trails	6	9	7	10
Equestrian arena		2	6	3
Parking for equestrian trailers at existing facilities (equestrian parking ONLY)	11	6	3	5

Education on trail etiquette		1	1	7
Parallel trails	4		2	1
Enforcement & maintenance	5			3



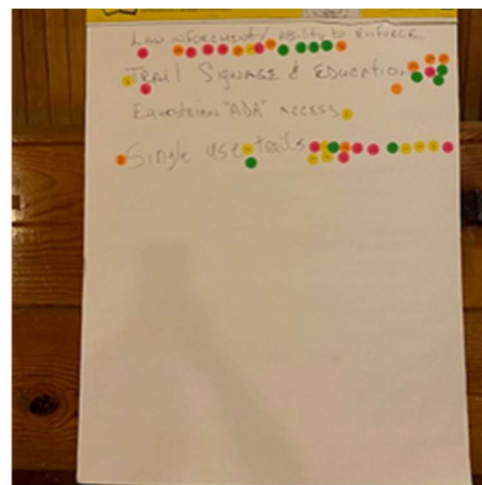
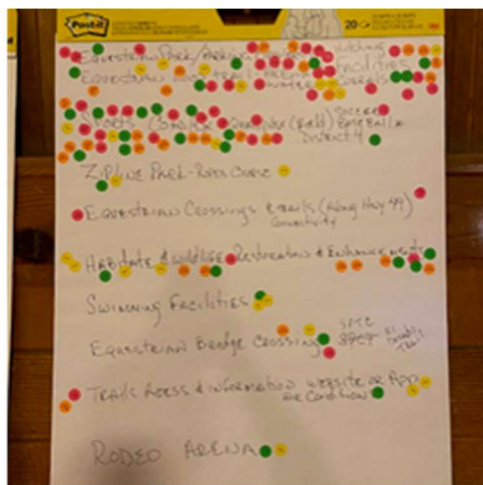
Boards & colored-dot breakdown from group 2.

### Group 3

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 3's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Equestrian park/parking (trailers), equestrian loop trail – arena, water, hitching facilities, corrals	12	4	4	6
Sports complex – quadplex (field), soccer, baseball district	13	10	11	11

Zipline park/ropes course		2	1	
Equestrian crossings and trails connectivity (along Hwy 49)	2			
Habitat & wildlife restoration and enhancements	2	4	5	6
Swimming facilities		2	1	
Equestrian bridge crossing (SPTC, El Dorado Trail)	1	1	1	1
Trails access & information website or app for conditions	1	2	1	1
Rodeo arena		1	1	
Law enforcement/ability to enforce	5	1	4	4
Trail signage & education	2	1	3	3
Equestrian ADA access		1		
Single-use trails	5	7	3	2



## Group 4

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 4's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Arena (horses)	2		2	
Sports facility				
Baseball complex	11	2	6	8
Multi-sport complex	2	3	1	1
Horse trails	9	2	1	8
Skate park				
Basketball courts	1			
Trails network (more open space along 50)	8	5	3	9
Bike track/park	1			2
Pump track				
Cultural walk	1		1	3
ADA compliant fields		1		
Swimming pool on the divide			1	

White water park	1	1	1	
Trail connection between Georgetown and Tahoe	2	3	6	
Indoor space (convention) event center		1	1	1
Cross-country ski trails	1	4	1	2
Snowpark		1		
Amphitheater		1	5	
Dog park		1		
Shooting range		3	2	
Campgrounds/facilities			1	1
River access points	8	4	5	3
<p><b>In response to “If you had \$100 to spend on a Parks &amp; Trails Master Plan opportunity, what would it be?”:</b> horse trailer parking, clean up river HLP à ADA access, Lotus park in-field drainage, keep CSD out, more trails (too used), shade structures, dock at Stumpy Meadows, complete fencing at Lotus Park (impacting baseball/softball games and water issue), clean confluence trails, potable drinkable water at Tells Creek, ADA fields and bathrooms, educational courses (how to use/operate trails), lighting and security.</p>				



high, and sports have shown to have a tremendous positive impact on student grades, lower crime rates, and more well-rounded individuals. With one field, Lotus, we are not able to host games. We are severely limited in our ability to create a community for our youth.”

- “Better fields and additional fields in the County. Field needs for Little League: four fields in Cameron Park, three additional fields in Forebay, four-field complex in Eldorado Hills, four-field complex in Placerville, four-field complex in Divide/Cool.”
- “We need safe trails – not safe talking kids, horse, or hiking with bicycle speeding to Racum/Down trails. Water facilities – so hot – need availability to fresh water. Also need more parking for horse trailers.”
- “The equestrian community has been pushed out of traditional parking spaces by an influx of other trail users. Equestrians need dedicated parking for our rigs with access to major trailheads. Trails that connect are important along with new trail development that is safe for multi-use.”
- “Please build us baseball fields.”
- “I serve on the board for little league and we desperately need fields. We would love to collaborate about what would be most helpful. Thank you so much!”
- “My name is Colt. I want to see more baseball fields.”
- “My name is David I have played baseball for 6 years and I would like to see better fields.”
- “Our youth on the divide need a sports complex and baseball fields/soccer/skate/concessions.”
- “Divide little league would like to see a quad complex for baseball.” *(this comment appeared on two different comment cards)*
- “My brothers have been playing baseball for 7 years. I believe there should be more fields and the current fields should be better upkeep. In the future I would like to see more fields in order to expand the leagues and let the children play more baseball.”
- “Thank you for considering community input. I would like to see ample and designated parking for horse trails and safe trails for cyclists and horses. Community education about trails.”
- “I am a civil engineer with Lumos and Associates in El Dorado Hills and I am looking forward to hearing more about the parks and trails master plan. I would like to be involved in the upcoming design efforts.”
- “Please use tax dollars funds to acquire more open space for multiuse, especially along the hwy 50 corridor. Cronan Ranch is too impacted already if you build an equestrian facility or pump track for mt bikes you are not meeting the needs of all users. And it will draw more people from out of the area who are not County Tex.”
- “Katie – can we also mention drones? They are causing havoc and near or serious ridding accidents. Also – if you could post where and when 300 sheep will be at



Olmstead and Cronin this would help. Basically, it is sports against equestrians. I hope we can find a hole in the middle.”

- “The youth in El Dorado County need an area they can do all sports and b with their friends that they feel safe and do not have to pay. Baseball fields are needed most – soccer, basketball and football fields would be amazing too.”
- “All in favor of parks and trails. However, the respect of private property rights is essential to the private property and landowners in respective areas. I appreciate the time and energy put into these gatherings. Thank you see you next meeting.”
- “Cool, Pilot Hill, Greenwood, Georgetown, Garden Valley Divide residents are very tired of traveling off the Divide. We have been doing it for years to the Placerville, El Dorado Hills area. THAT’S where the most money is spent by the County. Population, tax dollars, number of residents??? We desperately need a (4) football/softball/baseball complex with snack bar area and restrooms.”
- “Please consider buying Sniber Ranch in Shingle Springs (or similar size parcel of open space for trail systems) to relieve the pressure on the existing trail system on the north side of the County.”
- “Wouldn’t call the attendees (can’t read handwriting) – more like two groups organized: horse people and ball players.”

### *Community Workshop #2*

On Wednesday, March 22, 2023, El Dorado County hosted the second of five community workshops regarding the Parks & Trails Master Plan Update. A total of 20 community members attended the workshop, held at Pioneer Park at 6740 Fair Play Road, Somerset, CA 95684.

What follows is the data from each group’s work:

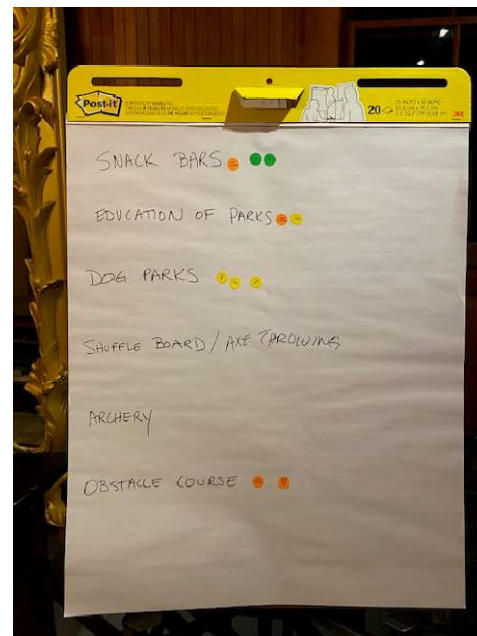
#### **Group 1**

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 1’s colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
More walking/bike trails	4	2	2	2
Connection to schools/parks	0	0	1	0
Extend rails to trails to South Lake	2	0	1	7

Pony express trail – More specific horse trails	0	0	1	0
More signage	0	0	1	0
Big trees – native trails to create a sense of nature	2	2	0	0
Designated dark sky	0	0	0	0
Bike pump tracks	0	1	0	1
Skate Park	0	0	1	0
Swimming hole/pool at Pioneer park	0	5	3	0
Educational services	0	0	0	1
More children playground activity areas	1	0	1	2
Parking	0	0	0	0
Pocket park	0	0	1	0
Rivers and lakes filled with fish	0	0	0	0
Senior sitting areas with exercise equipment	0	0	0	0
Outdoor gym	0	0	0	0
Pickle ball	1	1	0	0
Concert areas	0	3	1	0
Farmers market	0	1	0	1
Dog park	0	1	0	0

Rebuild from fire	6	1	3	3
More bathrooms	0	0	0	0
More little league areas	2	0	1	2
Spacious trail heads for horses	2	0	0	1
Community tents	0	0	0	0
Community pop-up events	0	0	0	0



Boards & colored-dot breakdown from group 1.

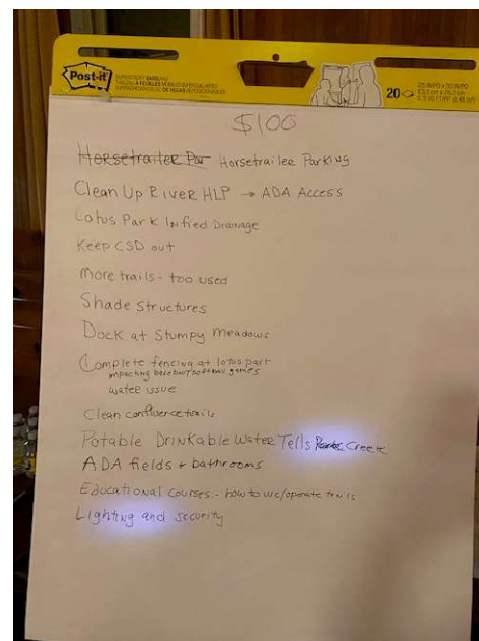
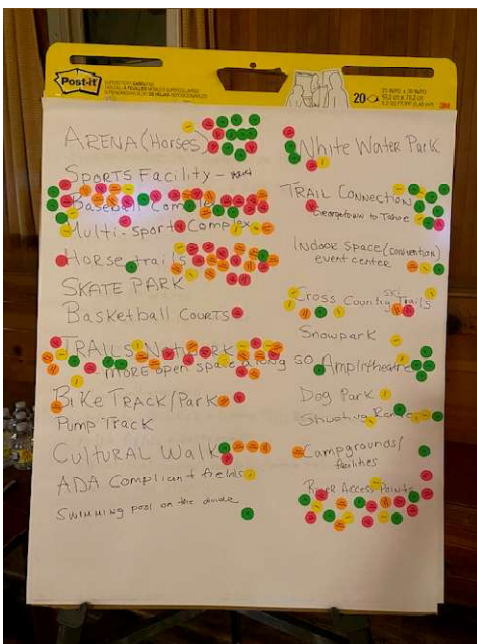
## Group 2

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 2's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
------	------------	-------	-------------	---------------

(Yellow)				
Indoor/outdoor pool	0	1	0	0
More hiking trails	2	6	1	1
More access to Rocky Bar	6	0	2	2
River access on Consumnes River	1	1	3	1
Sports facility	0	0	0	0
Dog parks	0	0	0	1
Bikes lanes adjacent to Pony express	4	0	0	0
Community center in Grizzly Flats	1	0	1	1
Park infrastructure for emergency relief centers	0	0	0	1
Trails connecting Rocky Bar to Tahoe for horse and biking	3	0	1	1
Youth sports facility for baseball	1	1	2	1
Zip lines	0	3	0	0
Splash pad parks for kids	0	0	0	0
Maps for all trails	0	0	0	0
Special needs/handicap accessible parking	0	0	1	0
Community and clubs tournaments	0	0	0	1

Music venues	0	0	0	4
Signage improvements	0	0	2	0
Shade for playgrounds	0	0	0	0
Potable water stations	0	0	0	0
Larger community rooms	1	0	0	0



Boards & colored-dot breakdown from group 2 (data shared on previous page of this summary).

A total of 2 community members submitted feedback via comment cards during the workshop. The following comments were submitted:

- “Please do not put skateboard park through disc golf or near horse arena. Put it on the opposite side or not at all. More focus on equestrian/pedestrian-only trails for safety reasons. Bikes should be a separate trail when narrow and steep.”
- “Complete planning for natural and paved portions of the El Dorado trail along the SPTC corridor so that groups can work toward funding opportunities and complete plan. Then

volunteer groups can work on and maintain at least the natural trail and not lose their work if the paved section cannot be put along train tracks.”

### Community Workshop #3

On Wednesday, March 29, 2023, El Dorado County hosted the third of five community workshops regarding the Parks & Trails Master Plan Update. A total of 32 community members attended the workshop, held at Buckeye Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 4651 Buckeye Road, Shingle Springs, CA.



Participants showing their location on the map.

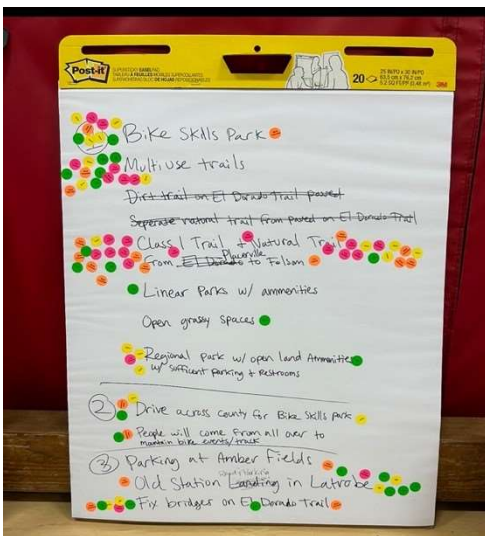
What follows is the data from each group’s work:

#### Group 1

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 1’s colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Bike Skills Park	2	4	2	2
Multiuse Trails	5	3	5	2
Class Trail and Natural Trail	13	5	5	11
Linear Parks with Amenities			1	
Open Grassy Spaces			1	
Regional Park with Open Land Amenities with Sufficient Parking and Restrooms	1	3	1	
Drive Across County for Bike Skills		2	1	1

Park				
People Will Come From all Over to Mountain Bike Events/Track				1
Parking at Amber Fields	1	1	2	1
Old Station Landing in Latrobe		1	3	
Fix Bridges on El Dorado Trail	1	2	3	2



Board & colored-dot breakdown from group 1.

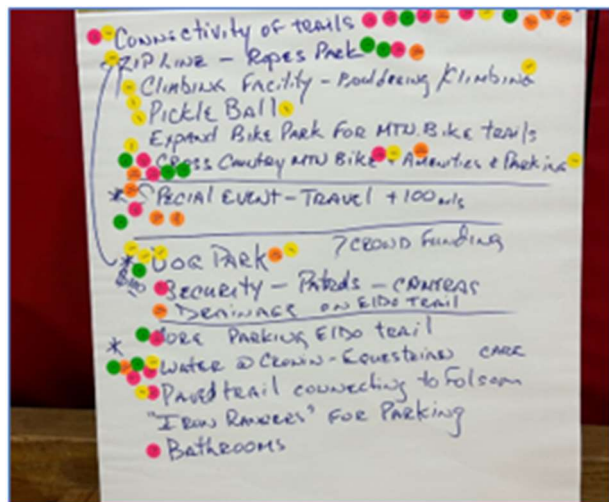
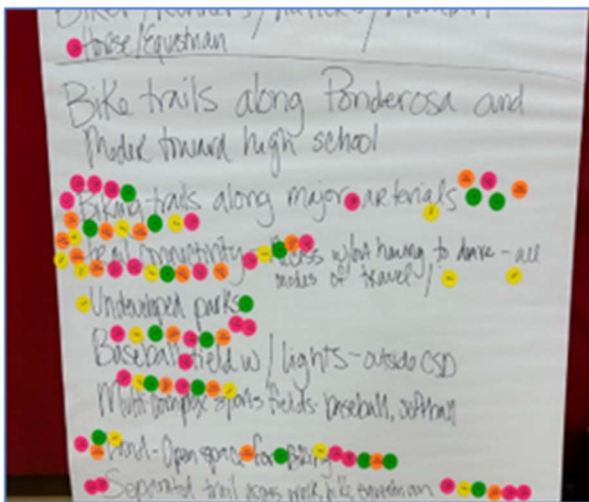
## Group 2

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 2's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Connectivity of Trails	5	2	2	4
Zipline/Ropes Park	1	1	2	1
Climbing Facility		2		
Pickle Ball		2		
Expand Bike Park for Mountain Bike Trails		1		
Cross Country Mountain Bike and Amenities and Parking	3	3	3	2
Special Event	1		3	2
Dog Park		4	1	1
Security	1			1
Drainage on El Dorado Trail				1
More Parking on El Dorado Trail	1		1	
Water at Cronin Equestrian Care	2	1	2	1



Paved Trail Connecting to Folsom	1	1		
Bathrooms	1			
Biker/Runner/Rafters/Mountain Horse	1			
Biking Trails Along Major Arterials	6	3	5	5
Trail Connectivity – Access without Having to Drive	5	6	2	6
Undeveloped Parks		1	1	
Baseball Field with Lights Outside CSD	5	1	2	2
Multi-Complex Sports Fields	2	2	2	2
Land-Open Space for Bring	3	2	4	3
Separated Trails Access Walk, Bike, Horses	5	1	1	1
Natural Parks vs. Structured Parks		1	1	
Better Boat Access	1		1	
White Water Parks	1			



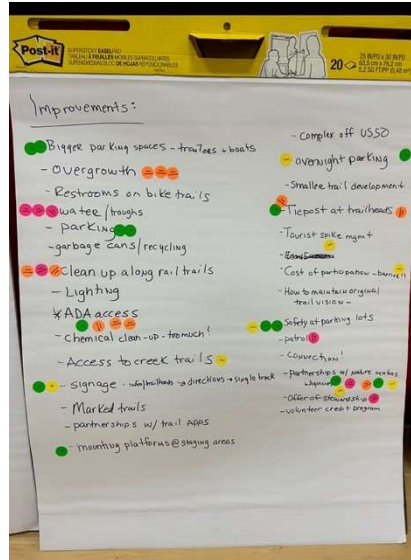
Boards & colored-dot breakdown from group 2 (data shared on previous page of this summary).



### Group 3

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 3's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Bigger Parking Spaces – Trailers and Boats			2	
Overgrowth				3
Water Troughs	3			
Parking			2	
Clean Up Along Trails	1			2
ADA Access			1	3
Access to Creek Trails		1	1	
Signage		4	1	1
Mounting Platforms			1	
Overnight Parking		1	1	
Tie Post at Trailheads			1	2
Tourist Bike Management		1		
Safety at Parking Lots	1	1	2	
Partnership with Nature Agencies	2	2	2	1



Board & colored-dot breakdown from group 3 (data shared on previous page of this summary).

A total of two community members submitted feedback via comment cards during the workshop. The following comments were submitted:

- Thanks for the open dialogue and idea session.
- I think young families would enjoy a splash park in the summer. It could be as simple as a few fountains that kids can run through to cool down on a hot day. We have the river, but it can be dangerous for young kids.

#### Community Workshop #4

On Wednesday, April 5, 2023, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., El Dorado County hosted the fourth of five community workshops regarding the Parks and Trails Master Plan Update.

A total of 34 community members attended the workshop, held at the Pollock Pines-Camino Community Center located at 2675 Sanders Drive.



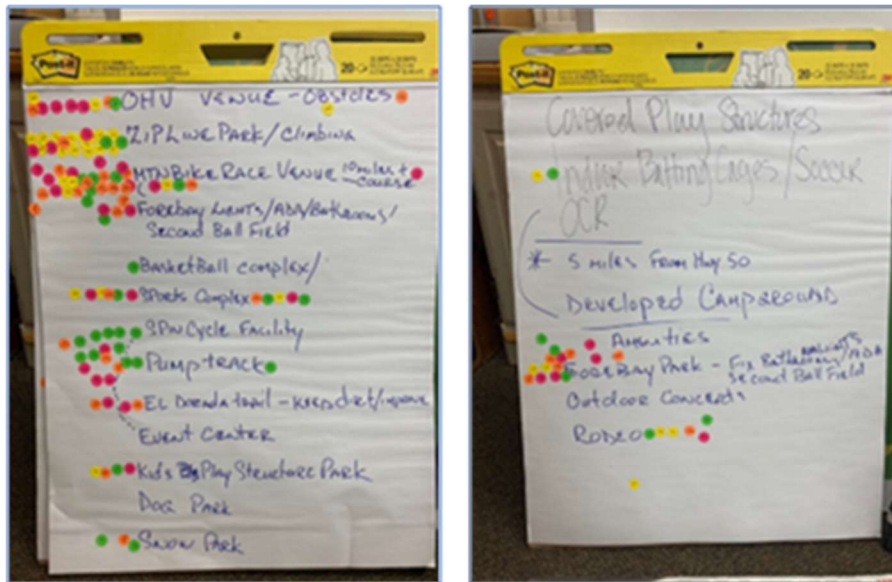
Attendees listen to the opening presentation by the project team.

What follows is the data from each group's work:

## Group 1

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 1's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Off-highway vehicle (OHV) venue with obstacles	4	3	1	3
Zipline park/climbing	3	15	2	1
Mountain bike race venue (10 mile+ course)	9	4	6	10
Amenities at Forebay park (lights, ADA-accessible bathrooms etc.)	7	2	4	8
Basketball/sports complex			1	
Spin cycle facility			5	1
Pump track	4		6	2
El Dorado trail (keep the dirt and make improvements)	2			2
Event center				
Kids play structure park	1	1	1	1
Dog park				
Snow park			2	1
Covered play structures				
Indoor batting cages/soccer		1	1	
Developed campground				
Outdoor concerts				
Rodeo	1	3	2	1



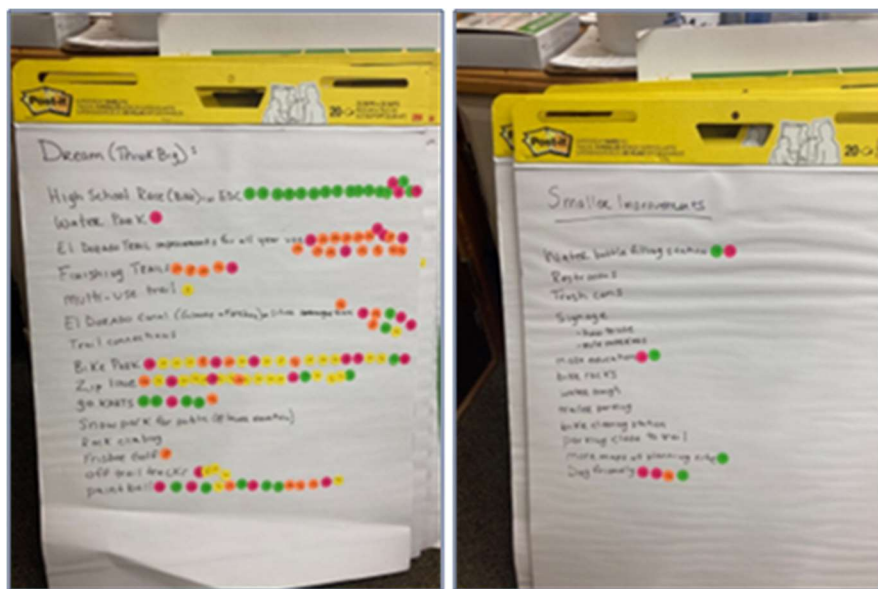
Group 1 Breakout Discussion Board

## Group 2

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 2's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Water bottle filling station	1		1	
Restrooms				
Trash cans				
Signage (how to use; mile markers, etc.)				
More education	1		1	
Bike racks				
Water trough				
Trailer parking				
Bike cleaning station				
Parking close to trail				
More maps of planning site			1	

Dog-friendly	2		1	1
High school race (bike)	3		15	
Water park	1			
El Dorado Trail improvements for all-year use	5			13
Finishing trails	1			4
Multi-use trail		1		
El Dorado Canal (Gilmore > Forebay > Sliver Fork)	3	1	2	3
Trail connections				
Bike park	6	11	1	3
Zip line	3	13	2	2
Go carts	1		4	1
Public snow park at lower elevation				
Rock climbing				
Frisbee golf				1
Off trail tracks	1	3		
Paint ball	4	2	5	4



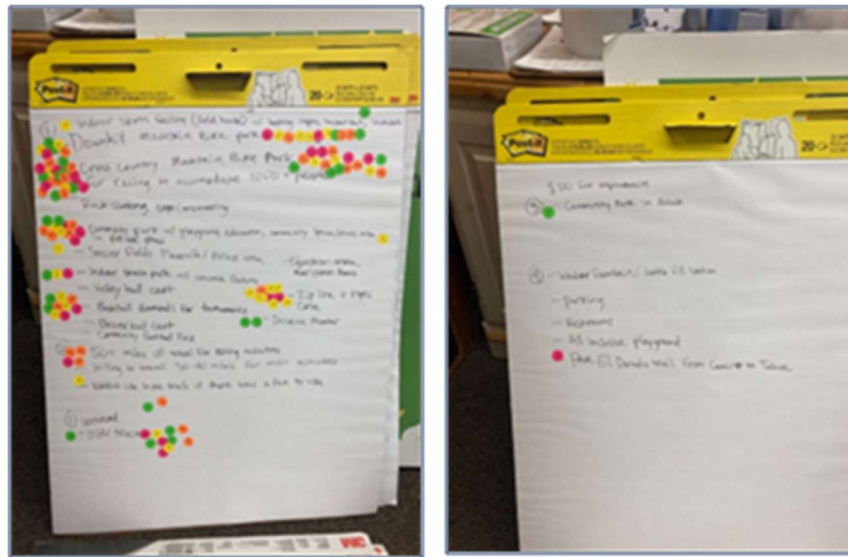
Group 2 Breakout Discussion Boards

### Group 3

The table below displays the breakdown of Group 3's colored-dot vote casting:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
------	------------	----------------	-------------	---------------

Indoor sports facility with batting cages, basketball, etc.		1	1	
Downhill mountain bike park	2	4	2	3
Cross country mountain bike park	11	7	12	14
Rock climbing/canyoneering				
Community park with playground, education, community space/picnic area	3	3	3	4
Soccer fields		1		
Indoor skate park with concrete	1	1	1	
Equestrian arena				
Zip line and ropes course	2	7		1
Drive-in theater			2	
Volleyball court				
Baseball diamonds for tournaments	2	3	2	2
Bocce ball court				
Community football field				
OHV track	3	2	5	3
Free, public biking activities	1	1		3
Water fountain/bottle filling station				
Parking				
Restrooms				
All-inclusive playground				
Pave El Dorado Trail from Camino to Tahoe	1			



*Group 3 Breakout Discussion Board*

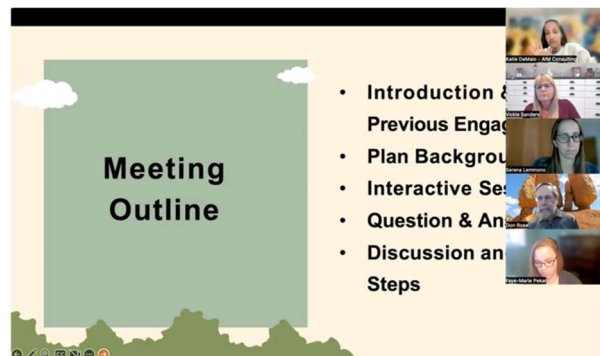
A total of 4 community members submitted feedback via comment cards during the workshop. The following comments were submitted:

- “We see people driving to Tahoe to ride their mountain bikes because Tahoe has awesome bike trail. These people are spending their money there as well. If we had a better trail system for mountain biking here, they wouldn’t need to go all the way to Tahoe. More money spent here helps the community and we don’t have to drive as far to ride great trails. Lots of potential if we had a venue to hold mountain biking races as well.”
- “The Snowline Little League board has discussed Forebay Field at length as well as collected feedback from our snowline families. The following is a list of specific needs and desires for Forebay Park: Lights for the field, handicap accessibility for the ball field, a net to protect neighbors, paved parking, upgraded/renovated snack bar, bathrooms, a second field that accommodates both baseball and softball, a new LED scoreboard, a play structure that is visible from the bleachers, a carport or some kind of cover over our batting cage, a new door on the equipment shed (current one was vandalized), basketball courts, and (if there’s space), a dog park. Our water has a leak and the hot water is turned off with no access to turn it back on.”
- “I think that of all the topics discussed, one future is biking. With all ages able to do it now, with e-bikes being available. Having cross country and downhill park available would bring people from all over the world as well as build our local community. Which in the end would grow our economy in a number of ways. The sport is getting kids outside together, competitive or leisure. Please consider in investing in this opportunity.”

- “I would love to see our country invest in our mountain bike community (youth and adult). Currently, we have to travel to any venue and it would be a great investment to bring people into our county that will need lodging, places to eat, and shop. The high school mountain bike teams are only growing. Cross country racing and downhill racing would be appreciated. Another thing I would love to see is a cycling training center. Our kids are having a hard time finding a place to train inside.”

### Community Workshop #5

On Wednesday, April 19, 2023, El Dorado County hosted the last of five community workshops regarding the Parks & Trails Master Plan Update. A total of 25 community members attended the workshop, held virtually through Zoom.

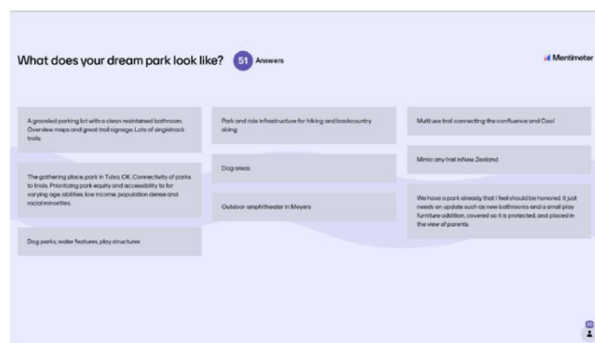


Meeting outline slide.

### Workshop Format

At this workshop, participants learned about how and why the Master Plan is being updated through an online presentation. The workshop was structured in three parts: a short presentation about the Master Plan, background information, and a small group discussion/polling. Participants were then able to participate in “mentee meter” polling to provide their feedback on what they believe should be prioritized in the plan.

What follows are the polling results:



Poll Question #1

**Question 1:** What does your dream park look like in El Dorado County

Common themes included:

- Clean, open, and well-maintained trails
- Accessibility
- Free open space
- Picnic areas
- A dog park





**Question 2:** How far would you travel to get to that dream park?

This polling had the breakdown of the following answers. Out of 18 responses:

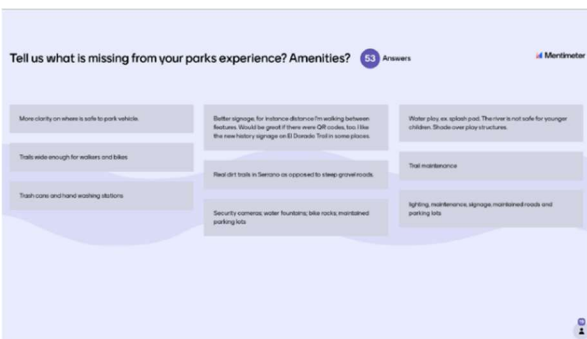
- 3 people said they would travel up to 15 minutes.
- 8 people said they would travel 15-30 minutes.
- 7 people said they would travel 30-60 minutes.
- 1 person said they would travel over an hour.



**Question 3:** Would you join a volunteer group to help bring a dream amenity to life?

This polling had the breakdown of the following answers:

- 19 people said yes.
- 2 people said no.



**Question 4:** What is missing from your parks experience?

Common themes included:

- Better Signage
- Restrooms and paved parking
- Trail accessibility and connectivity
- Trash, recycling, water fountains, and hand washing stations
- Security for trails and parking
- Maps and meeting spaces

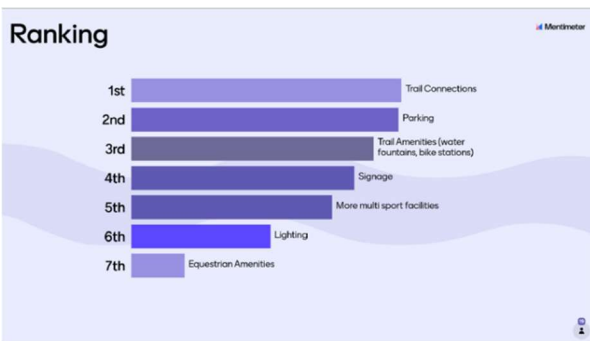


Poll Question #5

**Question 5:** If you had \$100 to spend on a Parks & Trails Master Plan opportunity, how would you spend the money?

Common themes included:

- Trail Maintenance
- Bathroom updates
- Improvement of multi-use trails
- Trash and Hand-Washing stations
- Lighting and Security
- Pet waste disposal stations



Poll Question #6

**Question 6:** Rank the top seven amenities in order.

The final ranking was:

1. Trail connections
2. Parking
3. Trail amenities (water fountains, bike stations)
4. Signage
5. More multi-sport facilities
6. Lighting
7. Parking
8. Equestrian amenities

## Question & Answer

The project team facilitated the question-and-answer session. Parks Manager, Vicky Sanders, responded to the questions. The following questions and answers were recorded:

- Question 1: “What budget do we have for the parks within the next year?” Sanders responded with two answers. If it is regarding the park maintenance budget, that is its own budget and project. When speaking about new facilities, the Board of Supervisors has granted three million dollars to renovate Pollock Pines, four million towards

Diamond Springs Community Park, and one point two million to improve Chili Bar Park. This is in addition to restroom upgrades and various improvements at parks in the area.

- Question 2: “Is it true the river patrol is down to one person this year?” Sanders explained that is not true. As of right now, there is a parks program coordinator and three patrol officers.
- Question 3: “Will there be paving in the back parking lot in Forebay Park?” Sanders chimed in that there will be paved parking and that is one of the main goals her team has to improve the park's infrastructure, including an inclusive playground, new restrooms, and a dog park.
- Question 4: “What percentage or dollar amount does the County invest in Lake Tahoe?” Sanders explained they do not have parks in Tahoe because it is mainly done by the City of Tahoe or Tahoe Paradise recreation district. The County does maintain trails, but Sanders does not have the dollar amount and notes that it does come through Measure R funding.
- Question 5: “Does this plan incorporate efforts from the Tahoe Trails Strategy?” Sanders confirmed that all those plans will be incorporated for the entire County, which is different from the 2012 plan that did not encompass Lake Tahoe.
- Question 6: “Do we ask organizations that utilize the park to help with the cost or the maintenance?” Sanders responded that they do not operate programs, however, if an organization like a soccer club wants to use the fields, they do pay a use fee.

Several Open-ended questions were asked of the group, as follows:

**Q2: What activity do you do most in El Dorado County?**

Open-Ended answers:

**Q3: Describe El Dorado in three words.**

Open-Ended answers:

- Natural Adventures Fun
- Beautiful Important Natural
- Needed Underfunded Lacking
- Beautiful Serene Clean
- Wild Scenic Uncrowded
- Beautiful unconnected lacking amenities
- Limited Hikable Underfunded
- Openspace Trails Natural
- Natural Minimal Open
- Older Remote Rustic
- Underfunded Natural
- Green Refreshing Home
- Natural Relaxing Nearby

- Green Spacious Not-many
- obscure positive unpublicized
- restorative shade relaxing
- Nothing-in-Pollock Natural All-inclusive
- outside sportsmanship family
- Natural Woodsy Rustic
- Peaceful Open Playful

#### **Q4: What does your dream park look like?**

Open-Ended answers:

- Splash pads/fountains at parks for little kids
- Mountain biking, camping, hiking wonderland. Well-maintained and well-marked trails. Sanctioned trails.
- Updated infrastructure that promotes outdoor biking, hiking, skiing, and water activities
- A graveled parking lot with a clean maintained bathroom. Overview maps and great trail signage. Lots of singletrack trails.
- Trails that offer diverse levels of challenge, and that interconnect. Erosion control that is properly designed and maintained.
- natural surface dirt trail and paved trail from the Sacramento County Line to South Lake Tahoe in the SPTC Corridor with frequent parking and signage
- "Having trails accessible for all and access to water for paddleboarding and kayaking.
- Safe with patrol by the user groups. Equal access not just horse people"
- The gathering place, park in Tulsa, OK. Connectivity of parks to trails. Prioritizing park equity and accessibility for varying ages, abilities, low income, population density and racial minorities.
- Clean, open space, well maintained, amenities, not too cramped so it doesn't feel overcrowded, conveniently located, open to all.
- Hiking trails, open fields, gazebos
- Natural quiet clean trails multiuse
- COVERED playground, swings, slides, multiple climbing structures, bathrooms, water/splash pad, better parking at trailheads, stroller/assistive chair accessible trails that AREN'T in a subdivision
- I would like a park to have long hikes and mountain bike trails.
- Hiking, off-road biking, pickle ball, open fields, frisbee golf,
- Good routes to get there, including via walking safely. Restrooms and trash receptacles. Open every day. Open to sunset. Well-publicized. Kept clean.
- Forest setting; box pump track; all-inclusive playground; picnic tables; pickleball; interpretive walking trail
- We have a park already that I feel should be honored. It just needs an update such as new bathrooms and a small play furniture addition, covered so it is protected, and placed in the view of parents.

- Accessible, interesting fun for all ages and abilities varied experiences to offer challenges and learnings for diverse groups
- Plenty of maintained mountain bike and hiking trails
- Well-marked trails with wooden features for all levels of mountain biking or hiking
- Neighborhood pocket parks that provide play infrastructure for elementary school kids
- Interconnected network of paved and dirt trails connecting to trails in other jurisdictions
- Managed forest with fire resilience
- Prioritizing park equity
- Free access
- Mimic any trail in New Zealand
- Covered picnic/seating
- Barbecue, tables or gatherings
- Sound barriers would be great (from the freeway, for instance.)
- Well maintained restrooms
- Art
- Park and ride infrastructure for hiking and backcountry skiing
- Open space in Serrano administered by county with networks of dirt trails, plus a future network in Marble Valley.
- Parks wear where I live
- More lake and river access
- Dog parks, water features, play structures
- “Themed” parks: dinosaurs, ladybugs/insects, etc.
- Dog areas
- If water is available for kayaking or other boating, a way to rent those items on site. Even those foot paddle things.
- Security cameras
- Outdoor amphitheater in Meyers
- Trail from Magnolia Ranch to Coloma creating a Sutter’s Fort to Sutter’s Mill trail.
- More parking
- Water bottle filling station
- Restrooms
- Amphitheater overlooking Forebay Lake
- Multi-use trail connecting the confluence and Cool
- Fenced in dog park
- Enough parking and other amenities at Cool to hold mountain bike races or other locations.
- Detailed plan showing where the paved trail and dirt trail will be located in the SPTC
- Use other linear land configurations such as utility easements and the El Dorado Ditch for trails

**Q7: Tell us what is missing from your park's experience.**

Open-Ended answers:

- Water play, ex. splash pad. The river is not safe for younger children. Shade over play structures.
- Better trail signage.
- Trailhead access from county roads into forest service lands for backcountry skiing
- Good river boating to access. Put in and take out with boat ramps.
- Gathering places at trailheads
- Restrooms, parking, and signage along the El Dorado Trail
- Trail access for all users. Trails near water. Options for short and long rides. Short carry of personal watercraft to water. Safe and maintained toilets
- Maintenance and upkeep
- Lighting, maintenance, signage, maintained roads and parking lots
- Restrooms
- Signage
- Lighting, parking, trash cans
- Recycling bins
- Cell phone charger
- Better signage, for instance, distance I'm walking between features. Would be great if there were QR codes, too. I like the new history signage on El Dorado Trail in some places.
- Security cameras; water fountains; bike racks; maintained parking lots
- Updated bathrooms. Small play area for the little kids, where the parents can watch the little ones as they watch a baseball game.
- Trails wide enough for walkers and bikes
- Repair station for bikes
- Trash cans on trails for doggy bags
- More clarity on where is safe to park vehicle.
- Bathrooms
- Blue bags for pets
- Real dirt trails in Serrano as opposed to steep gravel roads.
- Accessibility
- Trail maintenance
- Lighting, crosswalk flashing lights
- Greenbelts connecting parks
- Bathroom
- Bathrooms
- Resting spots
- Trash cans and hand washing stations
- More parking for the El Dorado Trail trailheads

- EV chargers
- Available parking from the county in Rubicon Peak for access to skiing
- Trail connectivity. The potential exists for a cross-state trail from the Bay Area to Tahoe incorporating the El Dorado Trail.
- Paved parking
- Better maps and kiosks
- Signs
- Trash cans
- Removal of the railroad track in the SPTC corridor so construction of trails will be easier and cost less.
- Rinse off station from river
- Better parking management
- Better signage
- Correction of drainage problems on the dirt section of the El Dorado Trail.
- Invasive species informational signage
- Message boards
- Decking the railroad bridges on the dirt section of the El Dorado Trail so horses can cross, and bikers and hikers don't have to step from tie to tie.
- More parking for Salmon Falls Bridge river take out
- A trail from Salmon Fall Bridge to Kanaka Valley
- Trails for different physical abilities
- More parking
- Security patrol

**Q8: If you had \$100 today to make a specific park improvement, what would it be?**

Open-Ended answers:

- Provide winter parking in the high meadows neighborhood to access federal lands
- Garbage cans and maintenance for pet poop bags
- Maintain existing facilities
- Complete the paved and dirt El Dorado Trail (separate parallel paved and dirt trails) from Placerville to the Sacramento Valley Line
- Access to rivers and lakes for various water activities at varied locals.
- Improve multi-use trails
- Repairing the trails. Drainage and maintenance.
- Security cameras
- Bathroom updates...each team has many kids on it...two bathrooms are just not enough...
- Trail maintenance
- Trash cans and hand wash stations
- Replace bright white lights with amber lights and shield them

- Bike racks
- Tools tied by wires to poles for bikes or hikers
- Un-fragranced pet poop bags
- Electric bike charging stations

## Survey

A Parks and Trails Master Plan survey was made available to the public for input from June 2022 through May 2023, with major promotional engagement during the 2022 El Dorado County Fair, the Fall 2022 stakeholder meetings, and throughout the winter and Spring of 2023, when public workshops were held. The participation in survey responses reflects this engagement. There were 1,000 total responses.

The survey asked 12 questions, plus 12 demographic information questions.

### Survey Question #1

The first question referred respondents to a map of the County and asked them to choose from one of seven areas in the County (West County (El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Shingle Springs), Northwest County (Auburn Lake Trails, Coloma/Lotus, Pilot Hill), Mid-County (Cold Springs, Placerville, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, Smithflat, Camino, Pollock Pines), North County (Georgetown, Garden Valley, Cool), South County (Grizzly Flats, Somerset, Pleasant Valley), East County (Crystal Basin, Philips, Kyburz), and Northeast County (Tahoma, Meeks Bay, Paradise Flat), plus an option for outside the County.

PRIMARY RESIDENCE LOCATION

Referring to the map above, please indicate in what area of El Dorado County your PRIMARY residence is located.

☐ West County (El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Shingle Springs)

☐ Northwest County (Auburn Lake Trails, Coloma/Lotus, Pilot Hill)

☐ Mid-County (Cold Springs, Placerville, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, Smithflat, Camino, Pollock Pines)

☐ North County (Georgetown, Garden Valley, Cool)

☐ South County (Grizzly Flats, Somerset, Pleasant Valley)

☐ East County (Crystal Basin, Phillips, Kyburz)

☐ Northeast County (Tahoma, Meeks Bay, Paradise Flat)

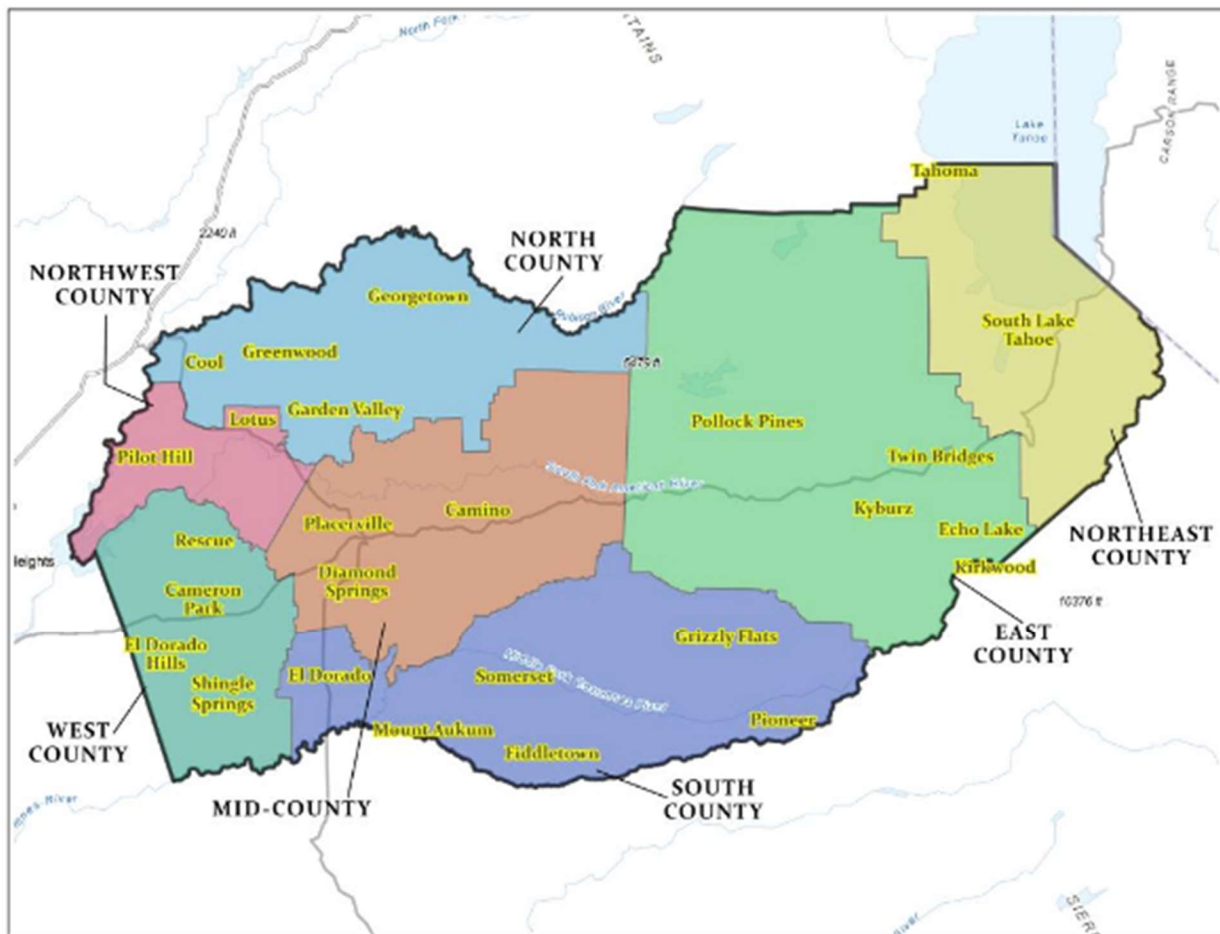
☐ Outside the County

Survey question #1: Primary residence location.

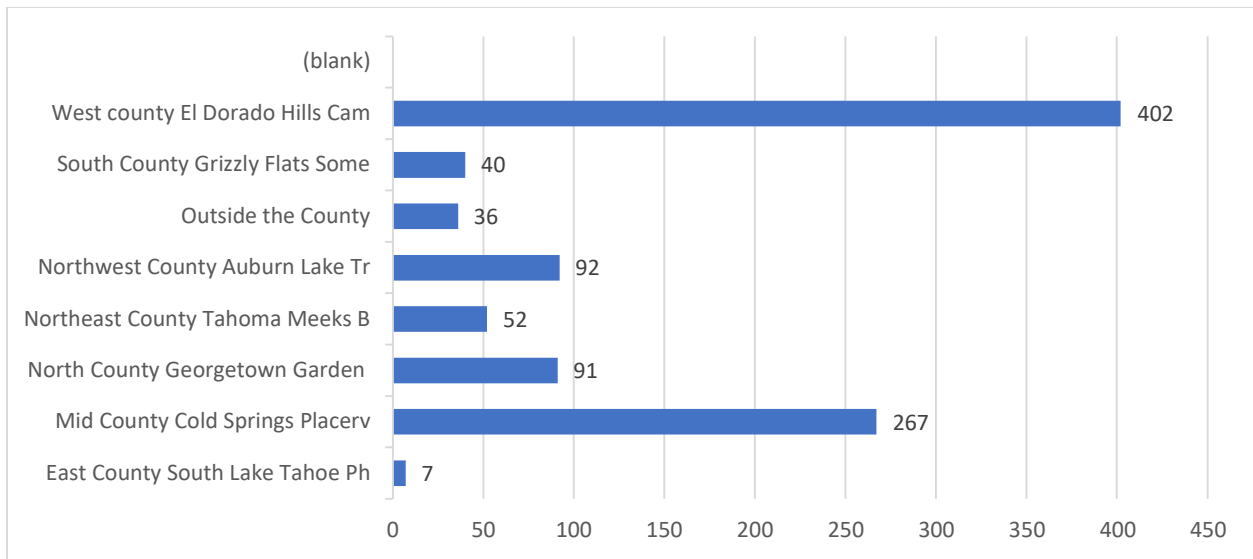
Map of El Dorado County's seven areas.



Most responses were from those living in West County (37%) and Mid-County (28%). 4.2% reported that they live outside the County.

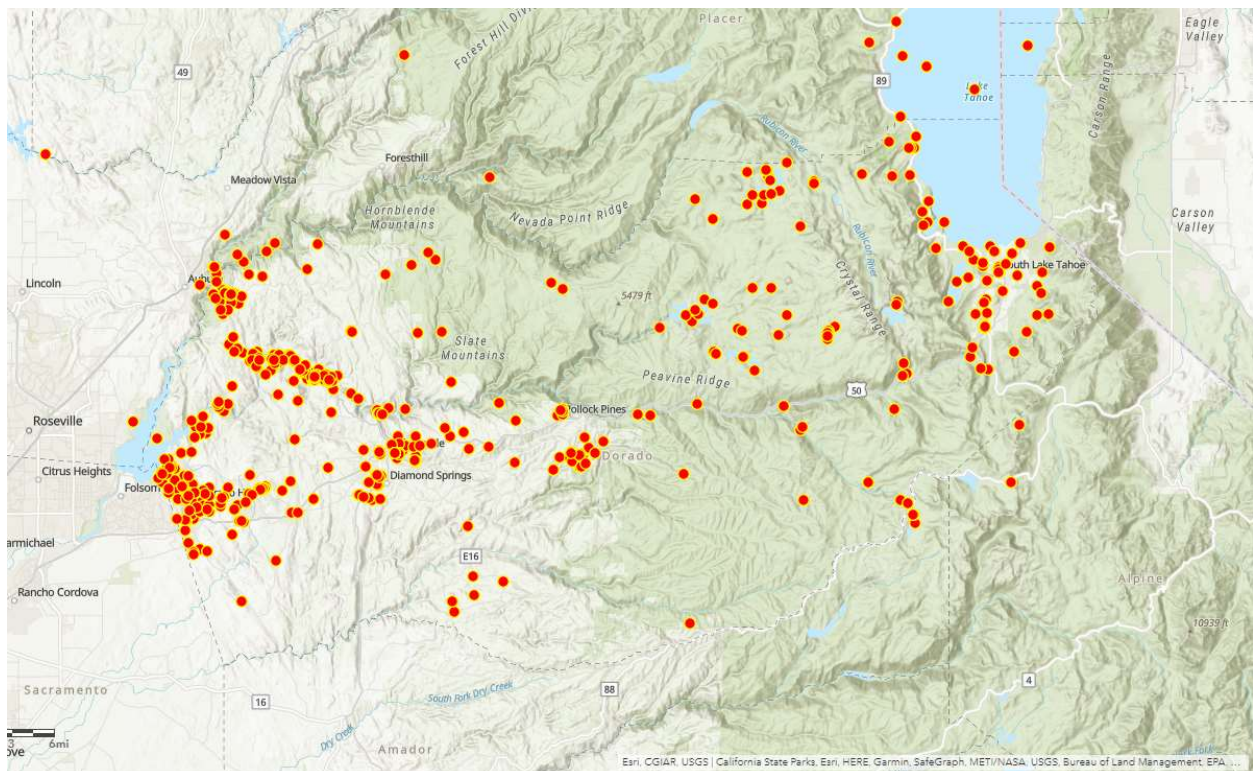


**Figure 1:** Primary Residence Location – Survey Question #1



The map below was generated using location-based information.

**Figure 2: Primary Residence Location – Survey Question #1**



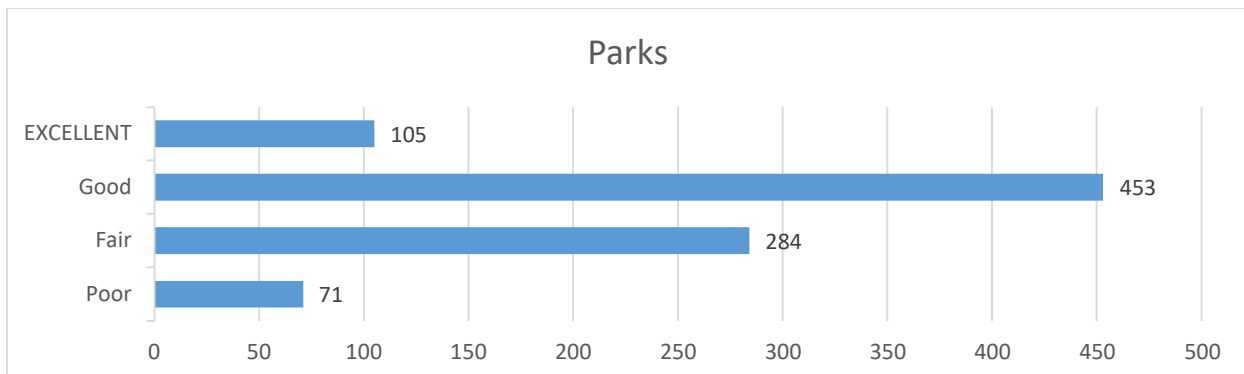
## Survey Question #2

Question two asked respondents to rate the recreation areas including parks, trails, and open recreation areas from poor to excellent. For each, the most chosen answer was “good” at 45% of all responses for parks, 46% for trails, and 42% for open recreation areas.

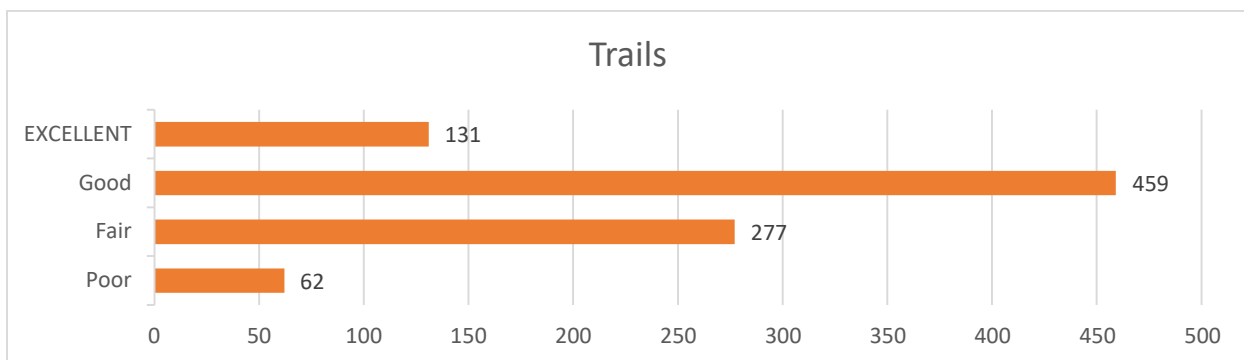
**HOW DO YOU RATE THE RECREATION AREAS YOU VISIT?**  
Please rate the overall quality of El Dorado County's Parks, Trails, and recreation areas

	N/A or Do not use	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PARKS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TRAILS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OPEN RECREATION AREAS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

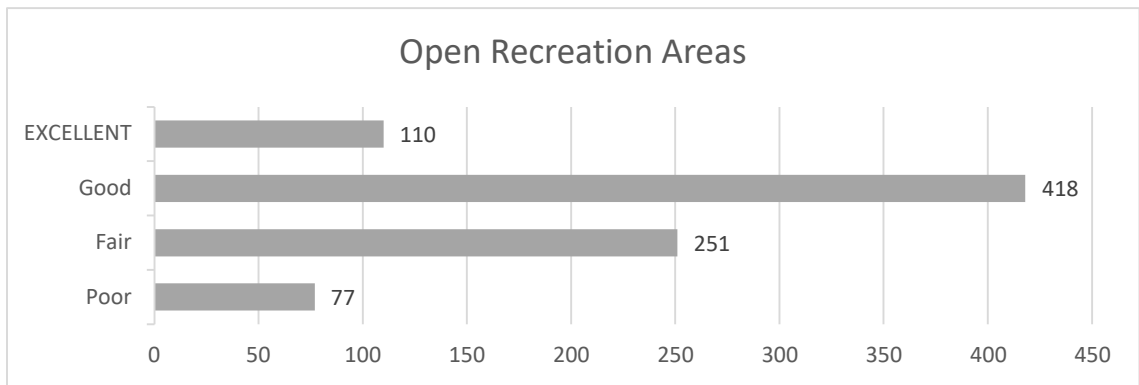
**Figure 3: Park Rating – Survey Question #2**



**Figure 4: Trails Rating – Survey Question #2**



**Figure 5:** Open Recreation Rating – Survey Question #2

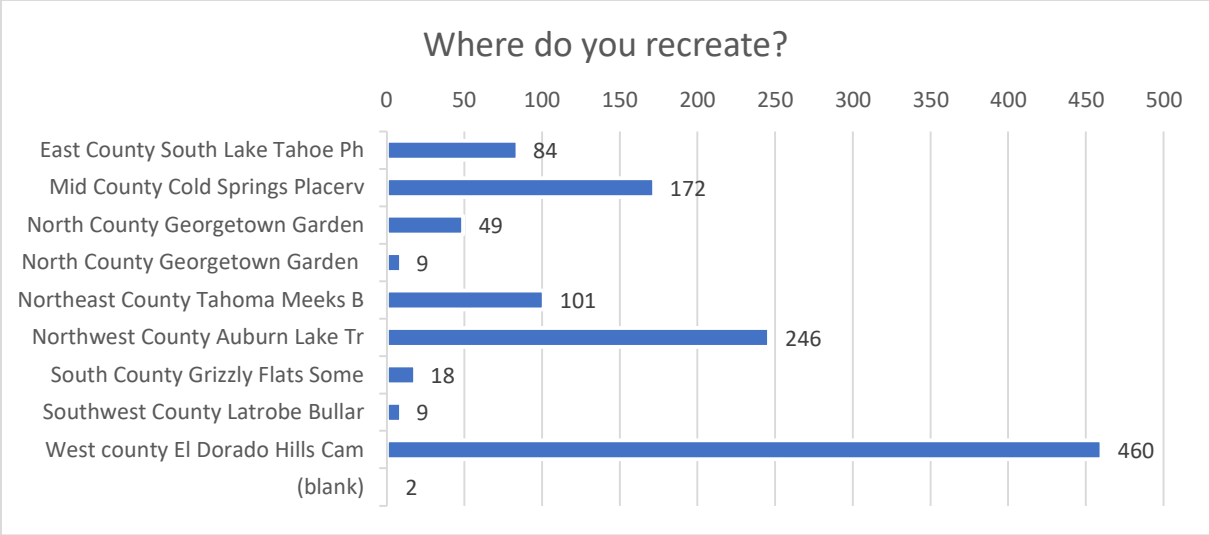


The next section of the survey asked for activity information.

**Survey Question #3**

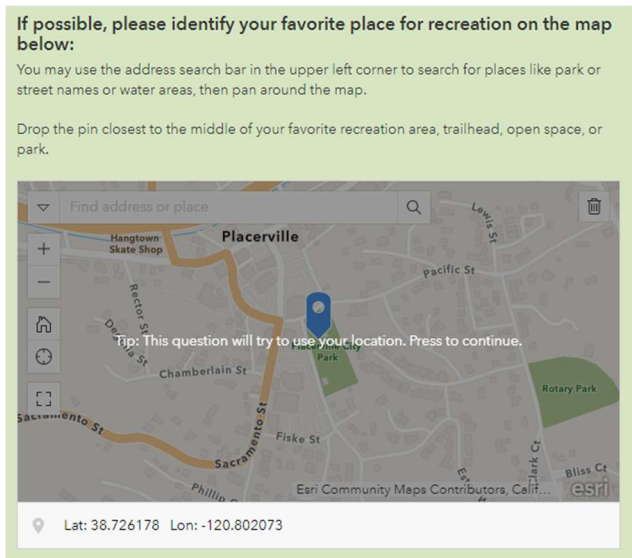
The survey asked “Where do you recreate?” and asked for respondents to choose up to three, using the same seven areas as in the first question. The top choice was mid-County (Cold Springs, Placerville, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, Smithflat, Camino, Pollock Pines) with 498 responses, followed by West County (El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Shingle Springs) and northwest County (Auburn Lake Trails. Coloma/Lotus, Pilot Hill) at 462 and 414, respectively.

**Figure 6:** Where do you recreate – Survey Question #3



### Survey Question #4

Respondents were asked to drop a pin on a map to identify their favorite park or recreation place.

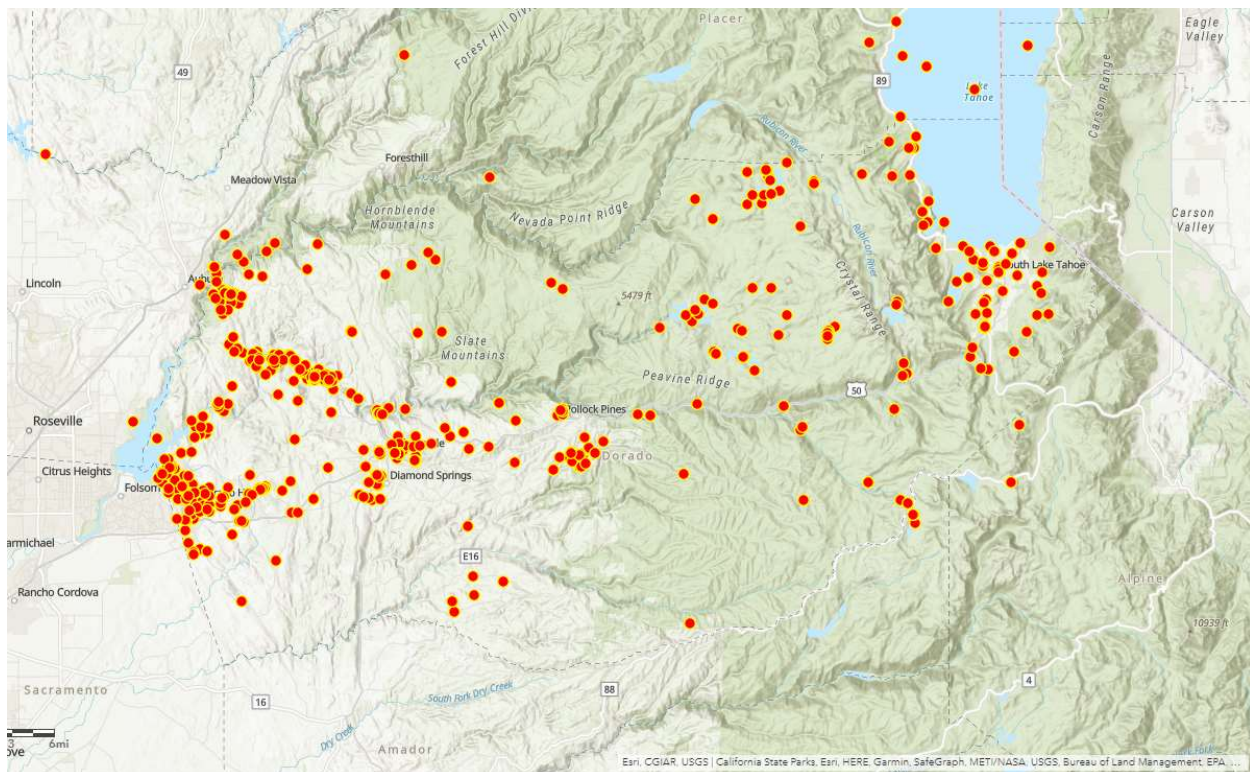


*Survey question*

The results for all dropped pins are shown on the map below.

**Figure 6:** Map of favorite park or place for recreation – Survey Question #4



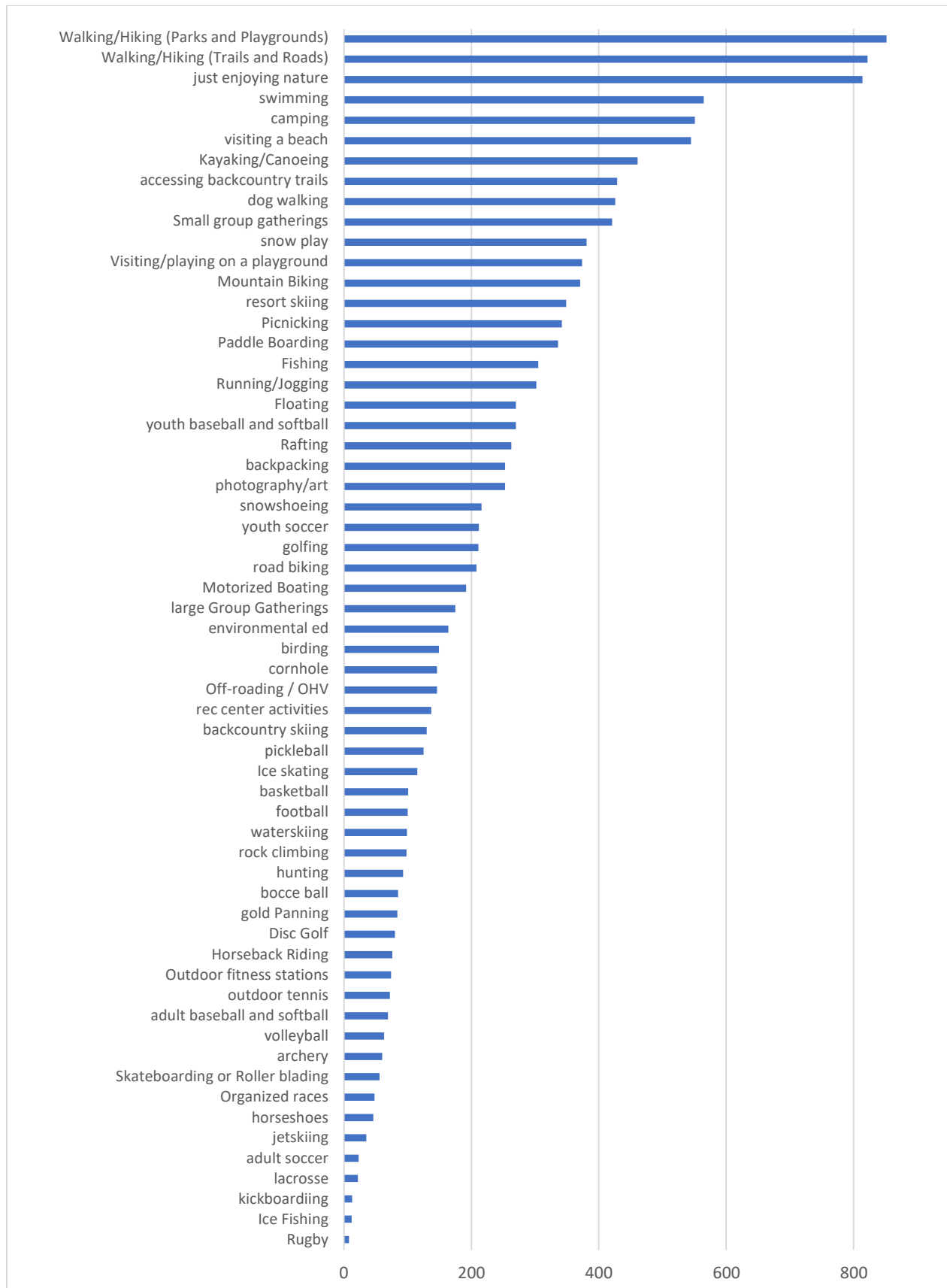


## Survey Question #5

The next question asked which activities the respondent participated in the the past year. This question provides information on what activies respondents in El Dorado County are already doing. Respondents were asked to choose from a list of 1) parks and playgrounds, 2) Trails and Roads, 3) Recreation and Sports Activities, 3) Beaches, Lakes, and Rivers, 4) Winter Recreation, 5) Open Space and Backcountry, and 6) Other recreation. “Walking and hiking” was the most selected choice in both the parks and playgrounds and trails and Roads categories.

In Recreation and Sports Activities, Youth Baseball and Softball had the highest number, followed by Youth Soccer. Under Beaches, Lakes, and Rivers, several selections had high numbers, with swimming and visiting a beach coming in highest. In Winter Recreation, resort skiing and snow play were the most popular. “Just enjoying nature” was the most popular selection under Open Space and Backcountry, and golfing had the highest number under the Other Recreation category. Below is the full breakdown for each activity.

**Figure 7:** Activities the respondent participated in the the past year – Survey Question #5 (Next Page)



## Survey Question #6

This question asked respondents to indicate whether they would be willing to pay a fee, support a bond measure, or join a work event in order to achieve added or improved parks.

**PARKS & TRAILS FUNDING**

**For added or improved parks, trails, or other recreation, would you be willing to:**

☐ Pay a use fee (or a higher use fee)

☐ Vote in favor of a bond measure

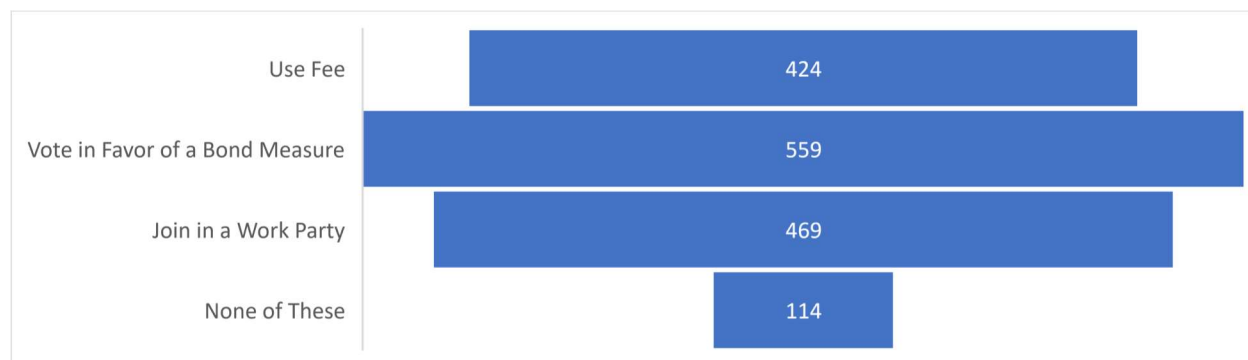
☐ Join a volunteer work event

☐ None of these

Please select 1 - 3 items

*Parks & Trails Funding survey question.*

The majority of respondents (56%) indicated that they would vote in favor of a bond measure. One-hundred-fourteen said they would be willing to do none of the options.





### Survey Question #7

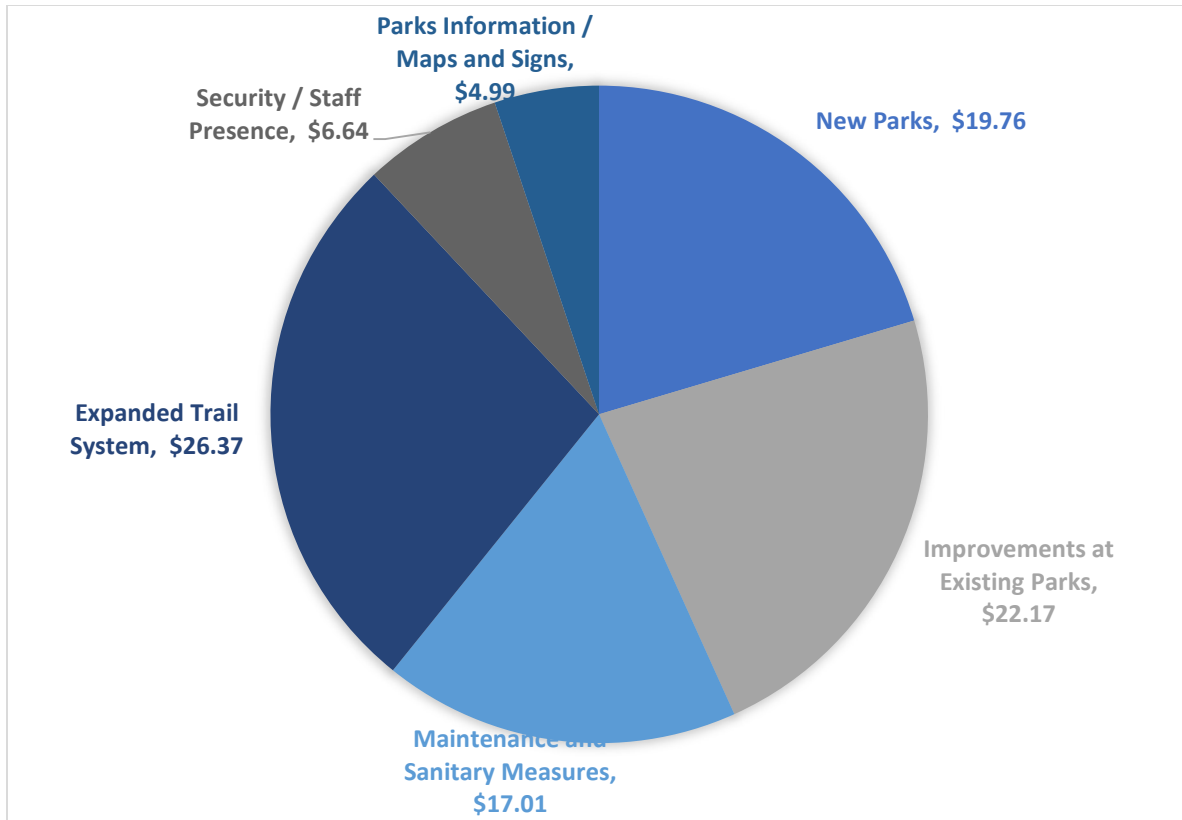
The next question was included to gauge the value placed on park and trails improvements. The survey asked that respondents allocate \$100 to six different categories.

If you had \$100 to spend on Parks and Trails improvements, how would you spend that money?

Please use the boxes below to allocate funding to the following areas:

- New Parks
- Improvements at Existing Parks
- Maintenance and Sanitary Measures
- Expanded Trail System
- Security / Staff Presence
- Parks Information / Maps and Signs

As an average of all responses, \$19.76 was allocated to New Parks, \$22.17 was allocated to Improvements at existing parks, \$17.01 was allocated to Maintenance and Sanitary Measures, \$26.37 for an expanded trail system, \$6.64 for Security and Staff presence, and \$4.99 for Parks Information / Maps and Signs.



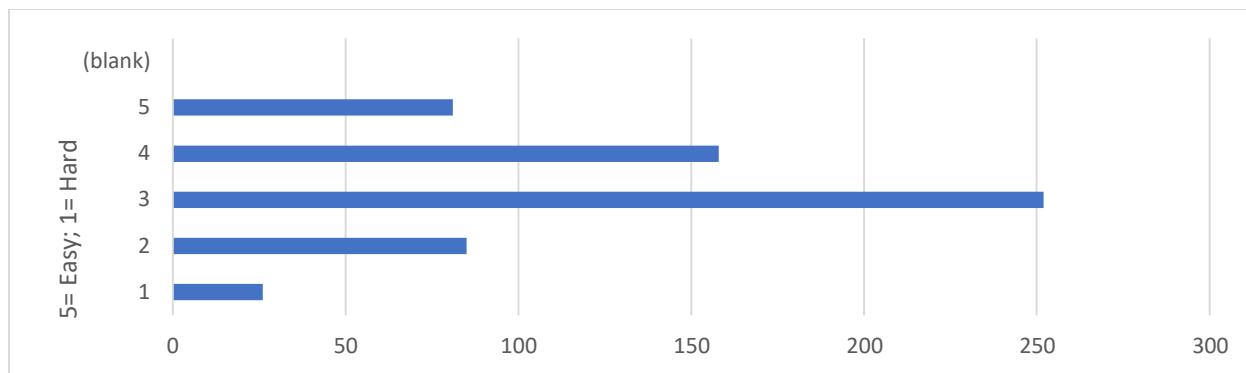
### Survey Question #8

Next, we asked about information availability for parks.

#### INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being very easy and 1 being very difficult, please indicate how easy or difficult it is to find information about El Dorado County's parks, trails, beaches and open space offerings.





Respondents rated information availability as somewhere in the middle, with most respondents indicating three out of five thumbs up. The average answer was 3.3/5.

### Survey Question #9

The next section focused on destination information. We asked which nine were the top three ways of finding information about County parks.

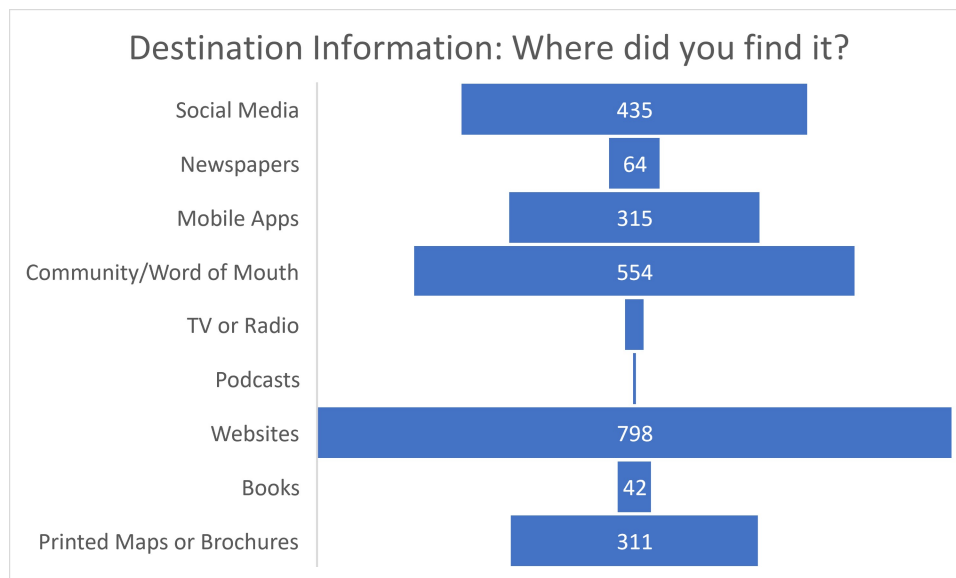
**DESTINATION INFORMATION**

What are your top 3 ways of finding information regarding parks, trails, beaches and open spaces in El Dorado County?

Please select only THREE.

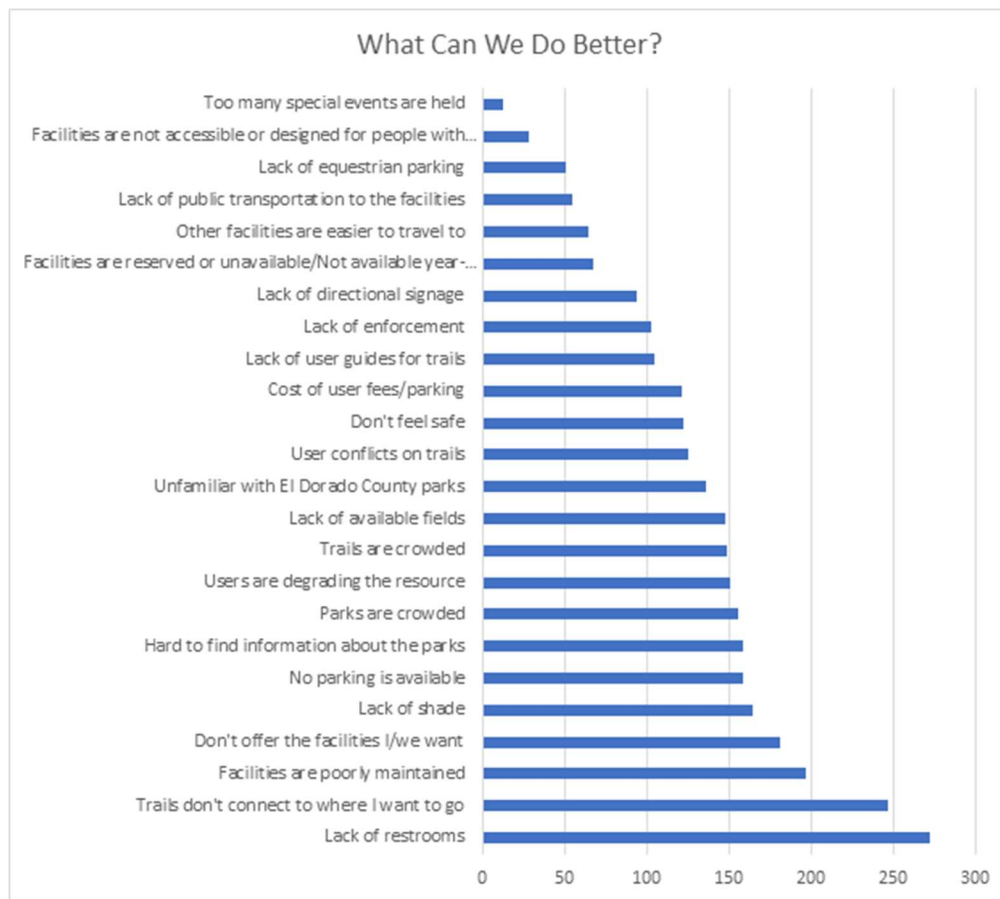
<input type="checkbox"/> Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile applications
<input type="checkbox"/> Community / Word-of-mouth	<input type="checkbox"/> TV or Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> Podcasts
<input type="checkbox"/> Websites	<input type="checkbox"/> Books	<input type="checkbox"/> Printed maps and brochures

Most respondents find information about recreation in El Dorado County using websites. Community/Word of Mouth and Social Media were also high-ranking sources of information.



### Survey Question #10

Next we asked for all reason that prevent the use of parks, trails, beaches, and open space more often. Lack of restrooms were the top issue for respondents.



## Survey Question #11

We then asked about priorities. We had respondents select from a long list of potential priorities.

### A. RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES

1. Build baseball/softball fields
2. Build multi-purpose fields (soccer, football and lacrosse fields)
3. Add lighting to existing fields for extended hours of use
4. Build more sports courts (e.g., tennis, pickleball, basketball)
5. Build more bocce ball or horseshoe pits
6. Build more disc golf courses
7. Develop a BMX/mountain bike park/pump track
8. Develop a mountain bike skills course
9. Provide additional outdoor fitness equipment
10. Build skate parks
11. Build a recreation center (including indoor pools, fitness equipment and exercise facilities, sports courts)
12. Install a climbing wall

## **B. PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS**

1. Add smaller neighborhood-based parks
2. Add larger multi-purpose parks that serve the different regions
3. Provide off-leash dog parks
4. Add/expand park shelters/small group gathering areas
5. Add more opportunities for water activities
6. Redevelop existing parks (update facilities, better use of space and circulation)

## **C. BEACHES, LAKES AND RIVERS**

1. Acquire more beach/waterfront areas
2. Provide more designated parking
3. Provide transit and trail connectivity
4. Provide more boating put-in and take-out areas
5. Build a white water play park

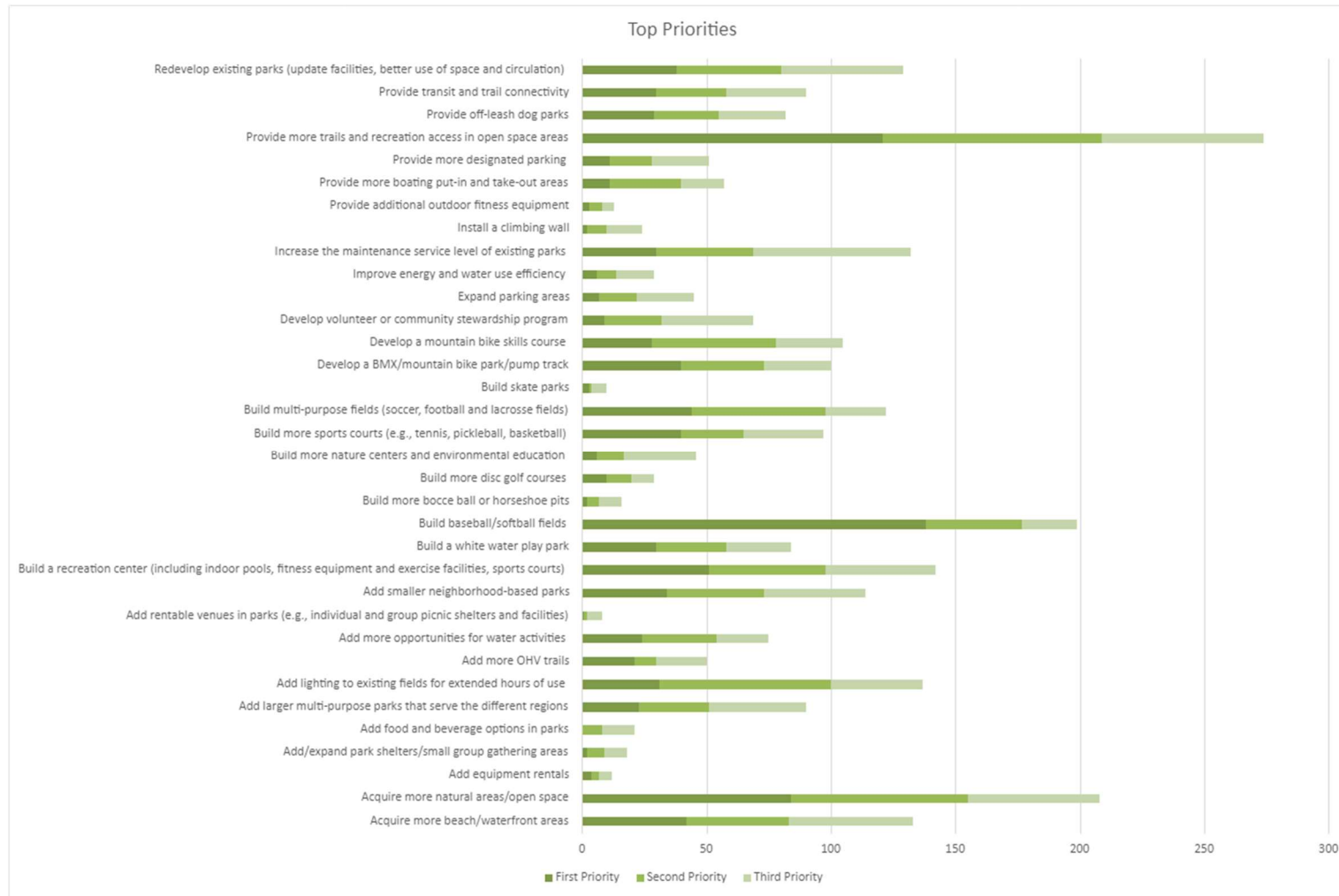
## **D. OPEN SPACE AND BACKCOUNTRY**

1. Acquire more natural areas/open space
2. Provide more trails and recreation access in open space areas
3. Add more OHV trails
4. Build more nature centers and environmental education
5. Expand parking areas

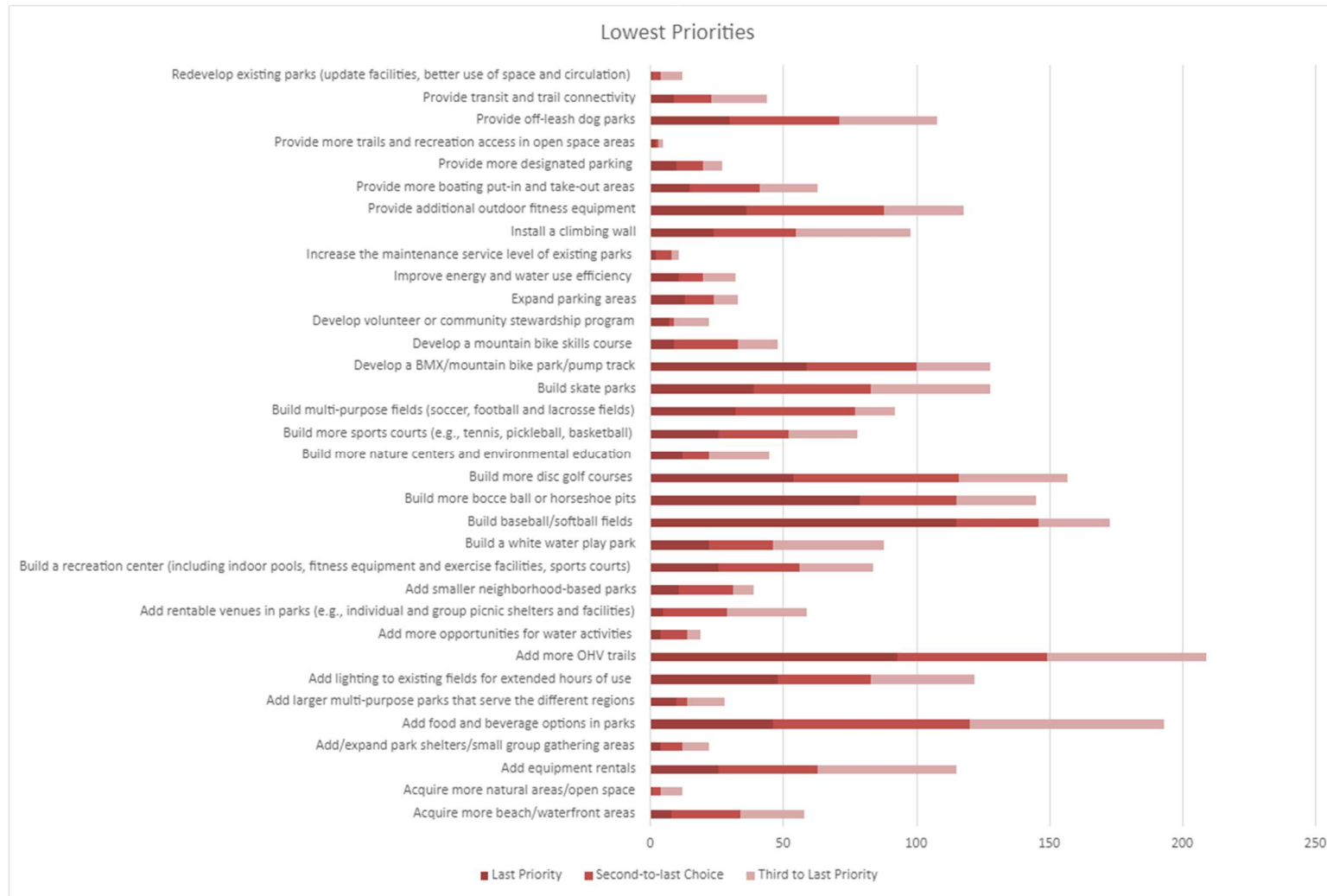
## **E. SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES/POLICIES**

1. Improve energy and water use efficiency
2. Add food and beverage options in parks
3. Add rentable venues in parks (e.g., individual and group picnic shelters and facilities)
4. Add equipment rentals
5. Increase the maintenance service level of existing parks
6. Develop volunteer or community stewardship program

The top three priorities were as follows:

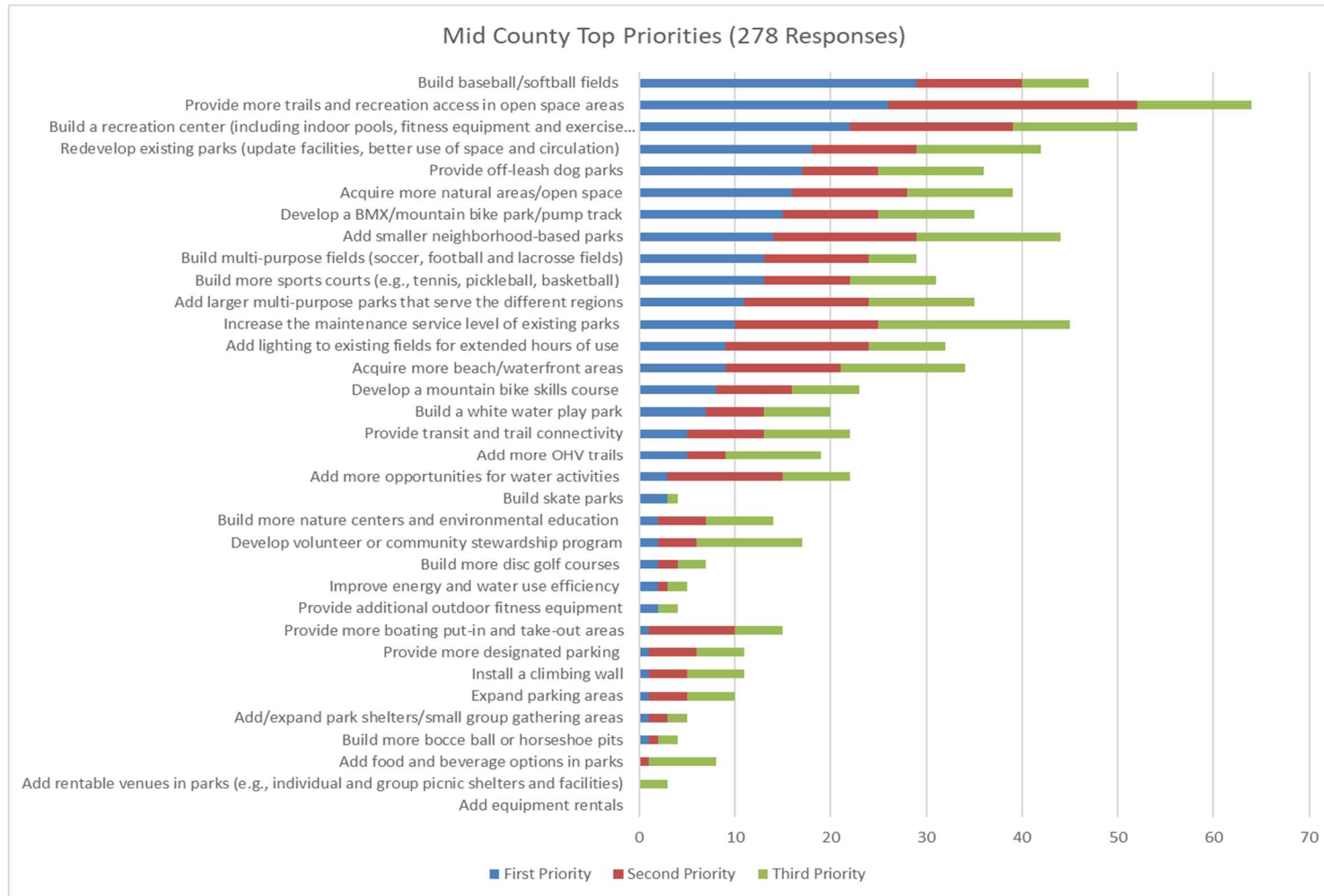


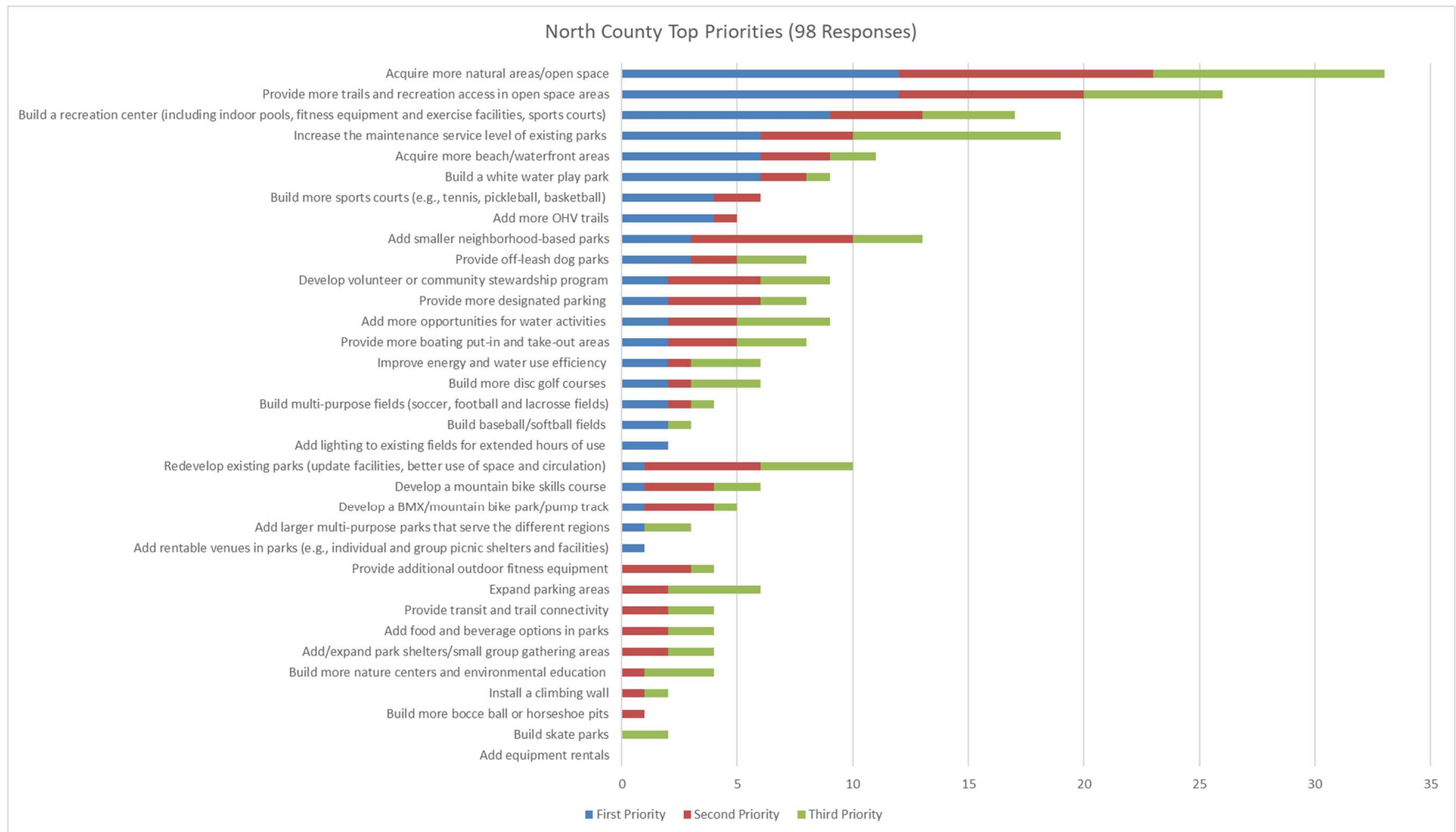
The last three priorities (i.e. those that respondents are least likely to support) were as follows:

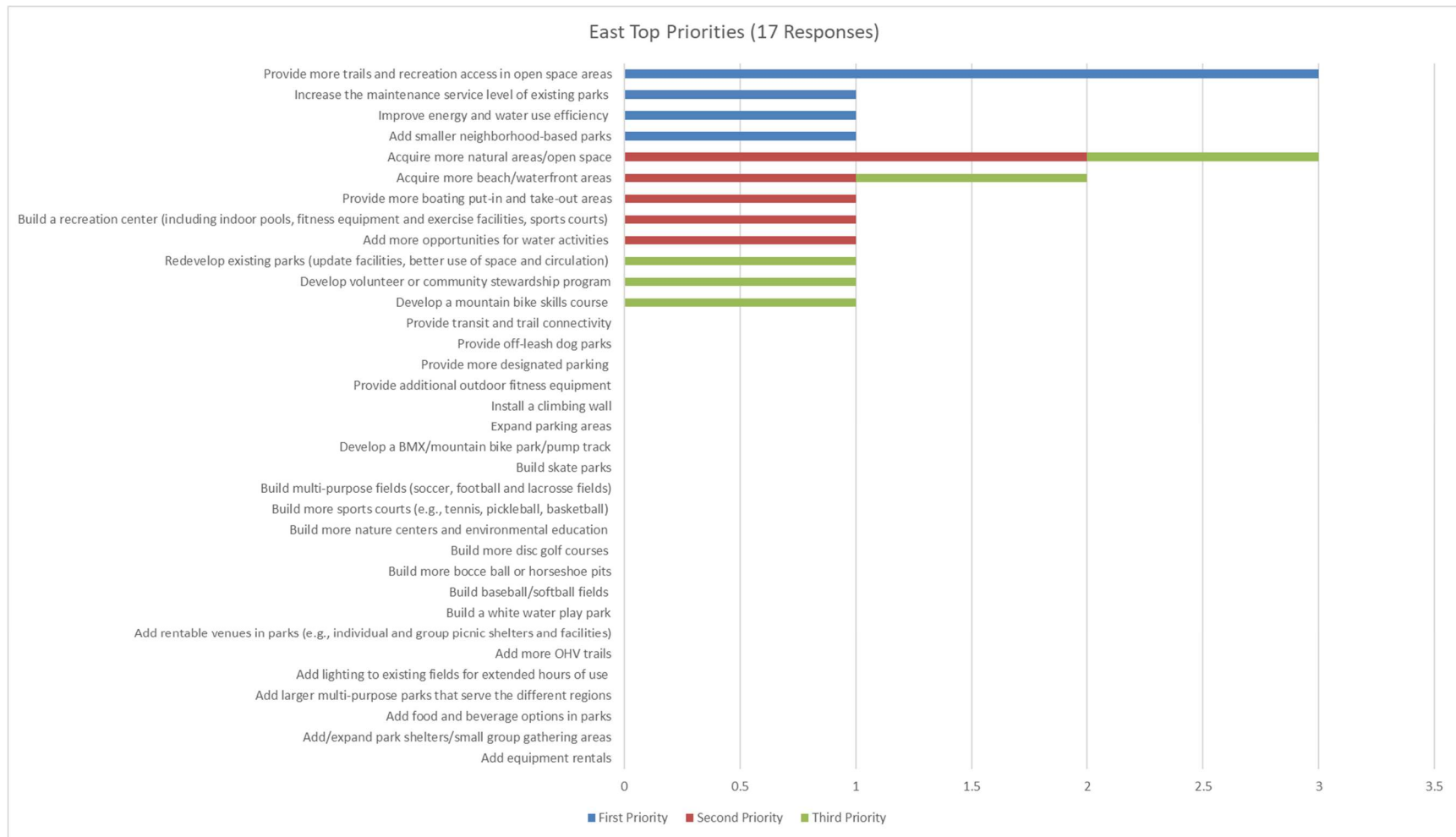


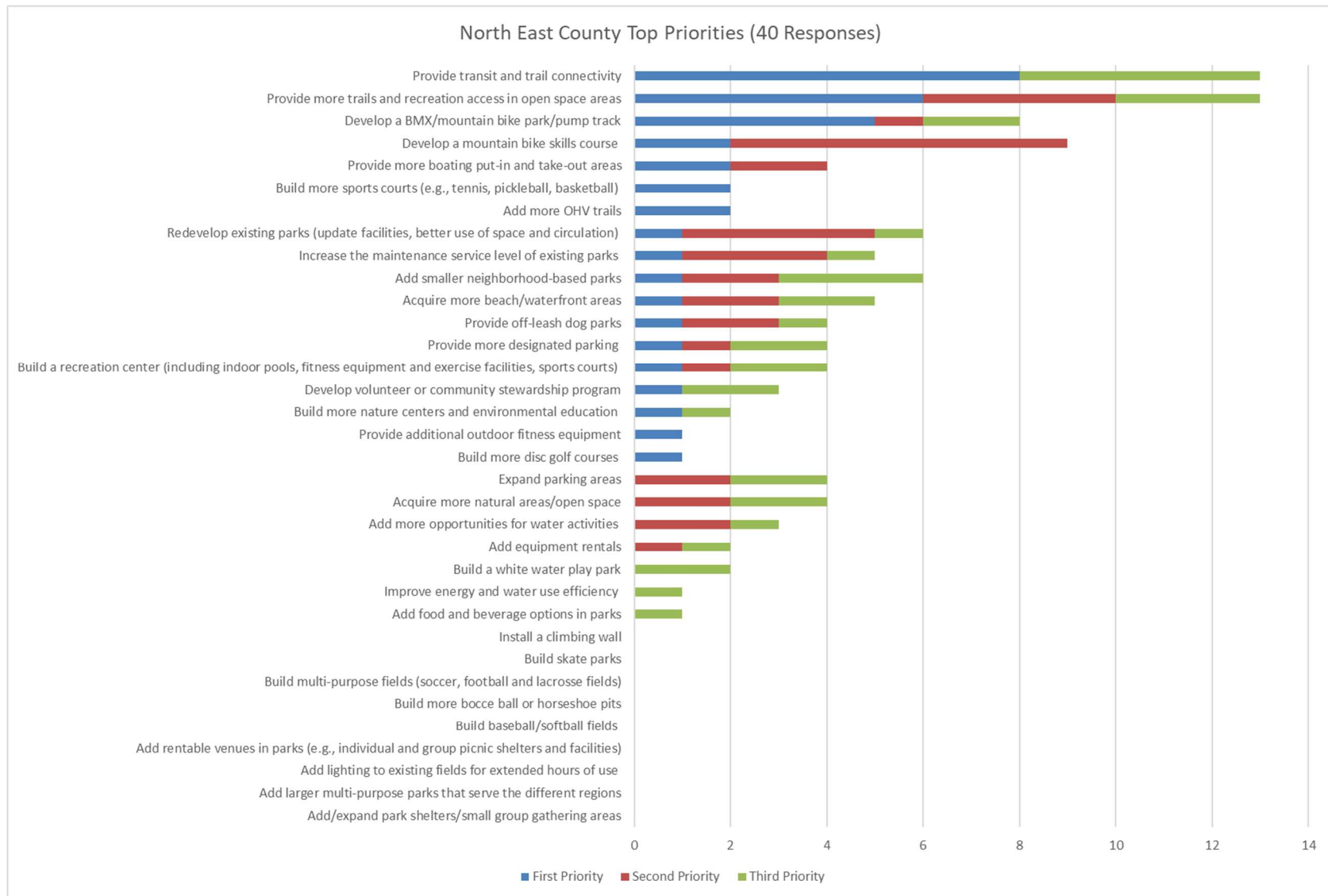


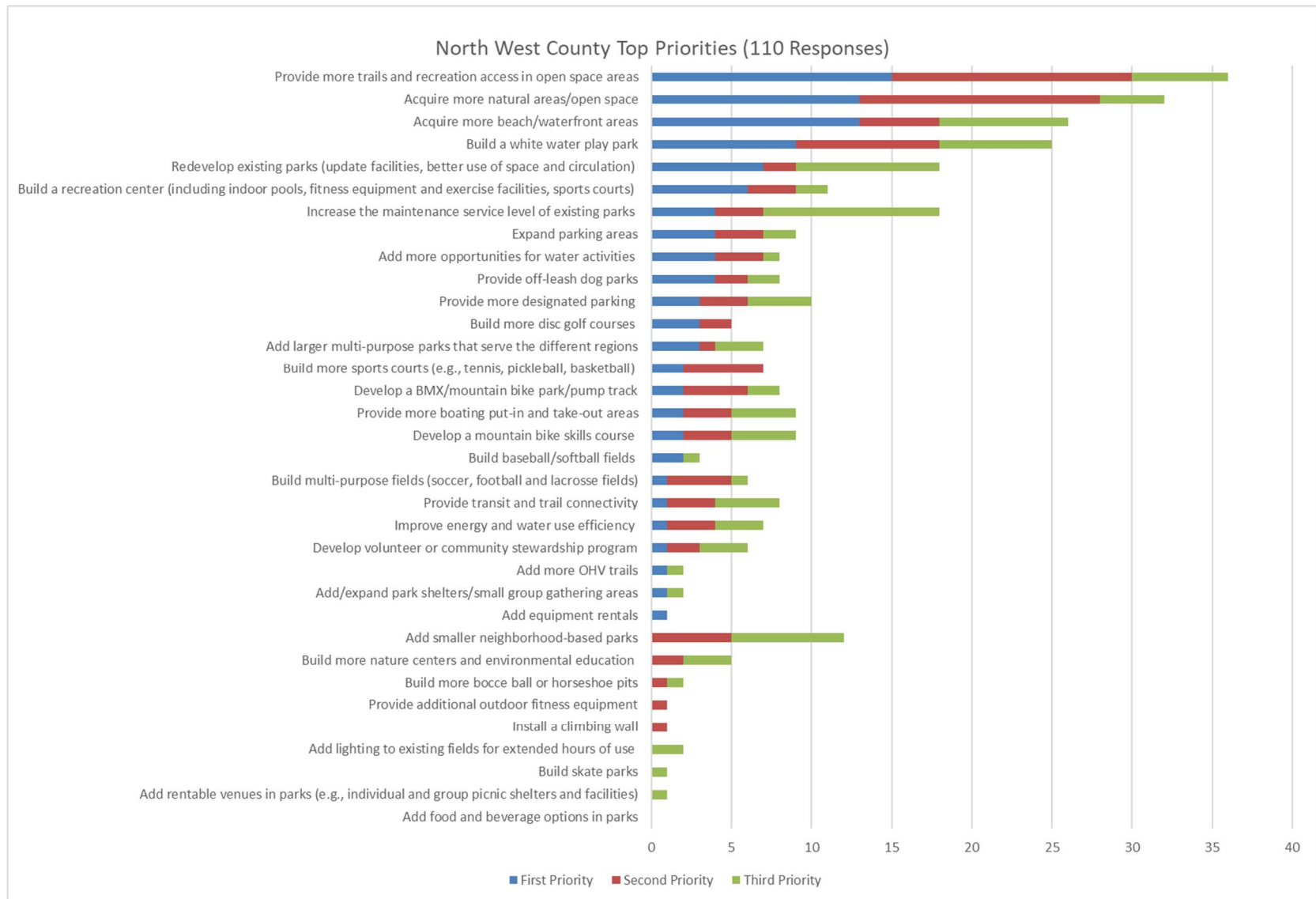
The following is a combination of information from Questions 1 and 11, which shows the priorities for each of the seven areas of the County.

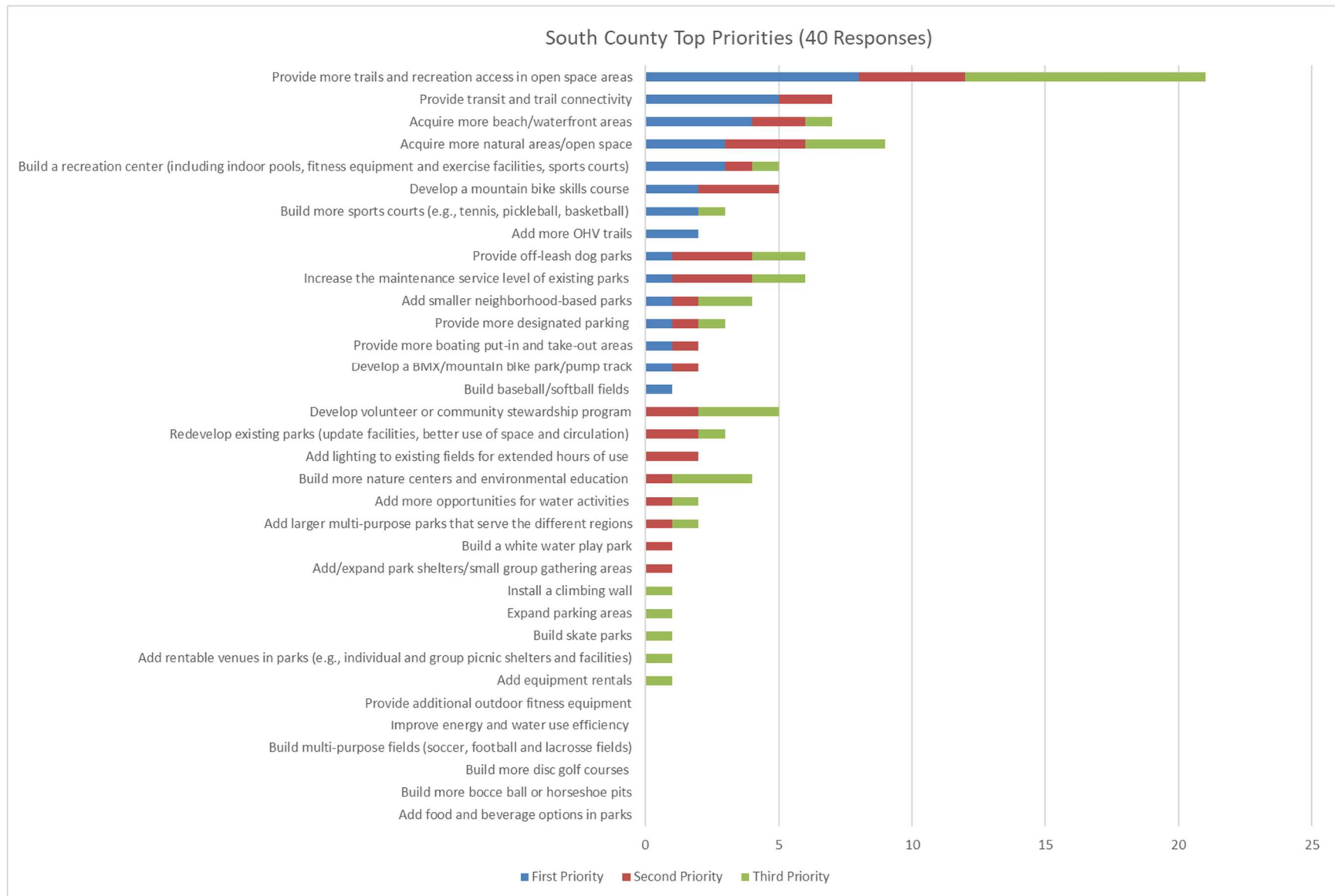


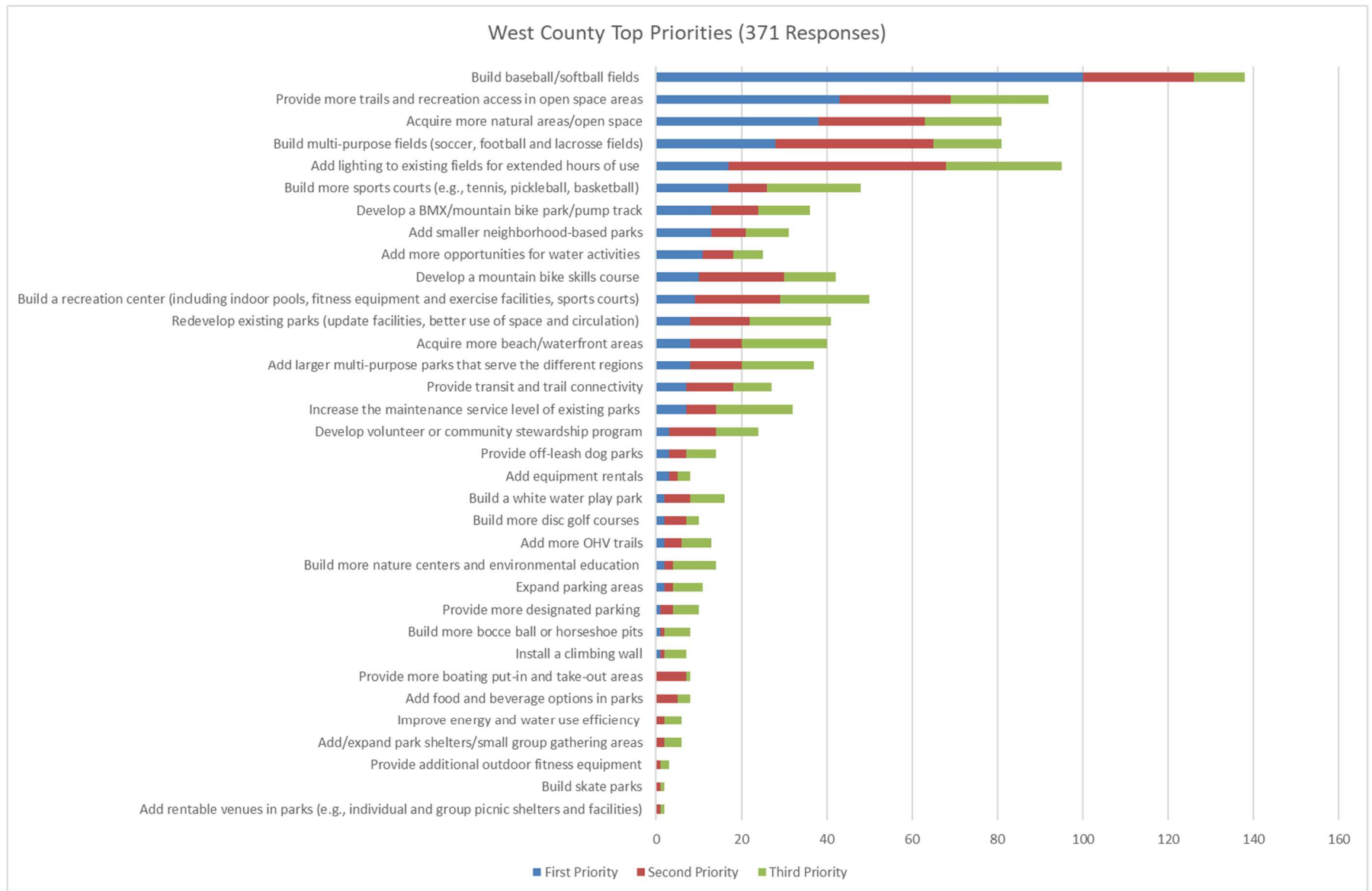












## Survey Question #12

The final question in the survey was open-ended. More than 400 responders submitted comments; some submitted multiple comments, meaning the comment total approached 500. To make sense of these comments, a Parks Commissioner reviewed all the comments and categorized and tallied them. Below are the categorized comments arranged the categories by the number of comments in that category, in descending order. The last category tallies comments determined to be irrelevant to the County's master planning project.

<u>#</u>	<u>Comment Category</u>
40	More/improved (condition, all-weather, lighted) playing fields; build a sports complex
39	More security/law enforcement for parks, parking lots, trails; concerns about trash, presence of homeless people deterring use
39	More trail opportunities; (about half mention El Dorado Trail completion/enhancements/ single-track)
36	Facility maintenance/signage (most maintenance comments were favorable given staffing limits; many sought improvements to playing field conditions and increased signage)
20	Improved trail connectivity generally
18	More bike lanes, routes, trails; improved connectivity for bike recreation
15	More clean, available restrooms
15	Park at Rasmussen Pond
15	More preserved open space
15	Overuse of existing facilities (esp. Henningsen/Lotus Park, Confluence)
14	Trail users should be separated (esp. horses and bikes)
11	More equestrian parking/facilities/trails
11	More playground and facility shade, better playground surfaces, playground fencing
9	Skunk Hollow boater takeout improvements
9	Pollock Pines park
8	Less emphasis on motorized recreation
8	More pools, splash pads
8	More courts for pickleball, tennis, volleyball (about half pickleball)
7	More park and recreation information (mostly requests for online info)
7	More/better parking at existing facilities
7	More dog parks and dog-friendly recreation
6	Organizational/funding/staffing improvements
6	More senior/multi-generational/inclusive recreation facilities
5	Allow e-bikes on more trails; allow bikes on more equestrian trails
4	More OHV recreation
3	Parks in Diamond Springs area



- 3 More small/neighborhood parks
- 3 Master plan/development of County parcel at Cronan Ranch
- 3 Joint-use facilities with schools
- 3 More/better parks in North County
- 2 No more campgrounds
- 2 More cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snow play
- 2 More recreational shuttle services
- 2 More BBQ/firepits
- 2 Develop Chili Bar property
- 2 Fitness/recreation center
- 1 More Placerville-area facilities
- 1 Discounts or free use for locals
- 1 More seating on trails
- 1 More on-water recreation
- 1 More resources for long-distance/endurance riding and running
- 1 Bridge water crossings on trails
- 1 More put-ins and take-outs for kayaks and rafts
- 1 Separate soccer and baseball/softball fields
- 1 More disc golf
- 1 Make hours of facility usage more consistent
- 52 General comments, survey complaints, non-jurisdictional comments (many re: CSD fees, Cameron Park Lake)