# DRAFT 10.11.24

# LEVEL OF SERVICE, FINANCIAL AND NEEDS ANALYSIS CHAPTER

Before embarking on new projects or increased services needed by the community, it is important that the Master Plan determine overall gaps in service. In El Dorado County, overall park access should consider the type of resource, amenities, and modes of transportation in addition to the distance from home or work. It 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. It als provides comprehensive information and analysis of El Dorado County Parks Division's funding sources with historical trends. By examining five years of funding data and comparing key metrics across other counties in the region, we aim 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.

#### **FUNDING SOURCES**

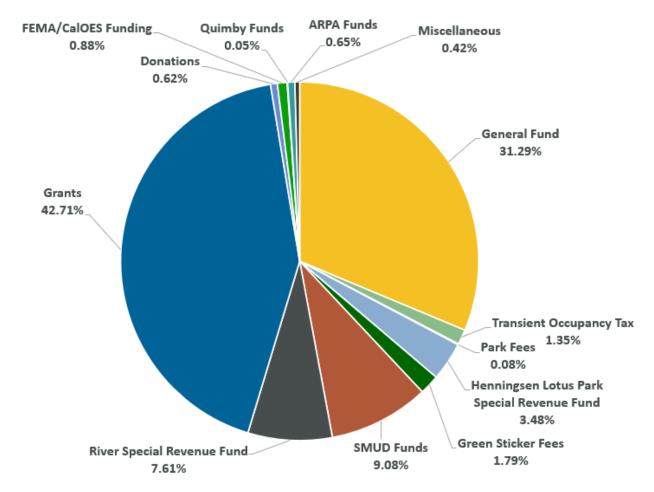
The El Dorado County Parks Division is supported by various funding sources to build and maintain the County's parks and recreational facilities for the community. Key funding streams include the County's General Fund, grants from state and federal agencies, and park fees collected for activities such 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 effectively maintain and provide limited improvements to its offerings, catering to the recreational needs and preferences of residents and visitors alike.

#### 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 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.

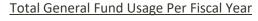
#### Funding Source Utilization (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24)

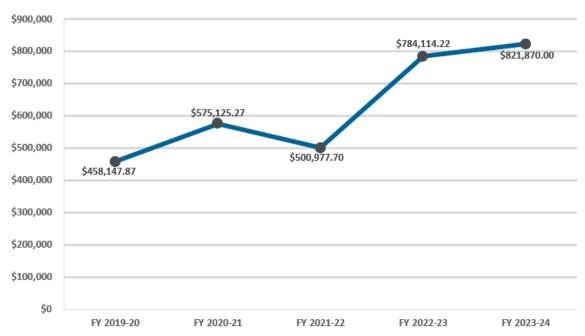


The above pie chart illustrates the distribution of funding sources utilized over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24), providing a clear visual representation of each source's contribution to the overall funding landscape. Each segment of the chart represents a different funding source, 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.

#### **General Fund**

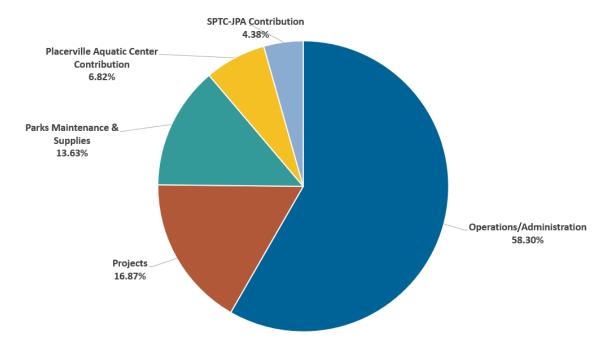
The General Fund is the County's primary operating fund, used to finance the basic functions and services of the County, such as public safety and infrastructure. It primarily consists of revenue from property tax and sales tax. Generally, County departments strive to lessen their dependence on the General Fund, while maintaining service delivery, in order to allow the County flexibility in expending tax dollars for the most needed services Countywide.





The above data reflects the actual General Fund expenditures from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24, showcasing an upward trend. This upward movement is primarily due to increased administration costs 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.

#### Breakdown of General Fund Utilization (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24)

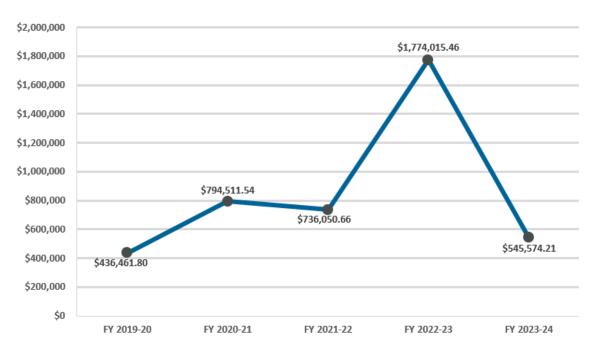


The pie chart illustrates the distribution of the general fund, highlighting the allocation across operations/administration, projects, maintenance/supplies, and contributions to the Placerville Aquatic Center and the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (SPTC-JPA) over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24). 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.

#### **Grants**

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.

#### Total Grant Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year

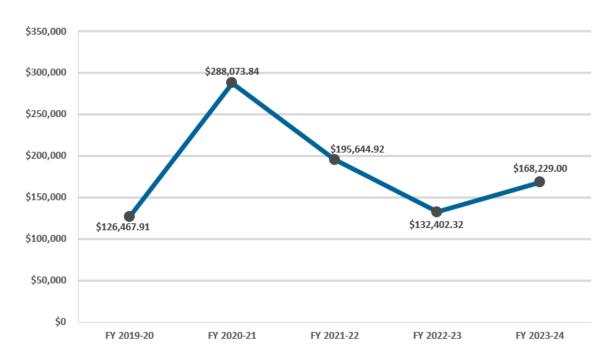


The above data shows that grant funding usage can fluctuate significantly, primarily due to the number of awarded grants and the nature of current projects.

#### Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Fund

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (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, called the Upper American River Project (UARP). 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.

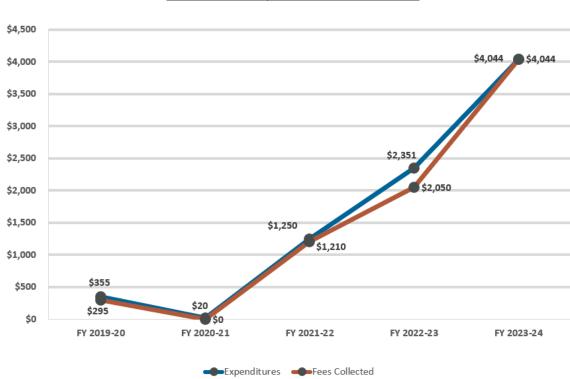
#### Total SMUD Fund Usage Per Fiscal Year



The above data showcases SMUD Funds as a primary funding source for the Parks Division. 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.

#### **Park Fees**

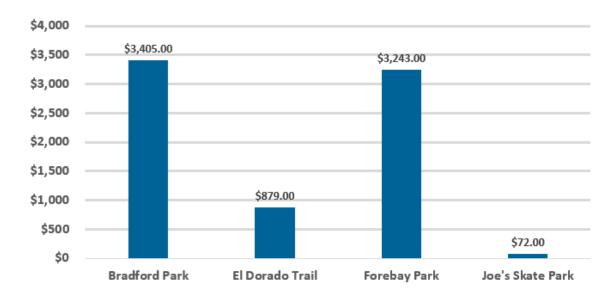
Park fees are charges for the use of public parks, trails, and facilities, covering a range of activities, such as parking, facilities rentals, and permits. The County charges park fees at four locations: Bradford Park, Forebay Park, Henningsen Lotus Park, and Pioneer Park. Henningsen Lotus Park and Pioneer Park have dedicated special revenue funds specific to that park where the park fees are deposited (see next two sections for details). Fees from Bradford and Forebay Parks are deposited into the Parks Division's General Fund. Additionally, fees are collected from facilities rentals or organizations hosting events on the El Dorado Trail and Joe's Skate Park.



Park Fees and Expenditures Per Fiscal Year

The above data indicates an overall upward trend in both expenditures and Park Fees collected from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24 and demonstrates that the Parks Division has generally maintained alignment between fees and expenditures.

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

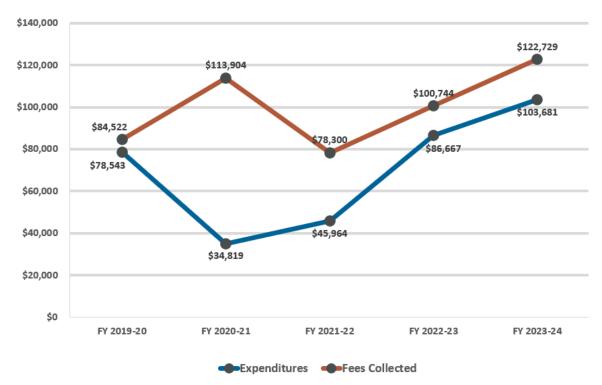


The data represents five years of fees collected for Bradford Park, Joe's Skate Park, Forebay Park, and the El Dorado Trail from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24. Fees collected from other county parks are shown in the respective park's special revenue fund section. Bradford Park collected the highest amount, \$3,405, accounting for 44.8% of the total fees, while Forebay Park closely follows with \$3,243, representing 42.7%. Together, these two parks make up 87.5% of the total fees collected. Joe's Skate Park collected only \$72, representing 0.95%, and El Dorado Trail brought in \$879, or 11.6%, 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.

#### Henningsen Lotus Park Special Revenue Fund – Fees and Expenditures Per Fiscal Year

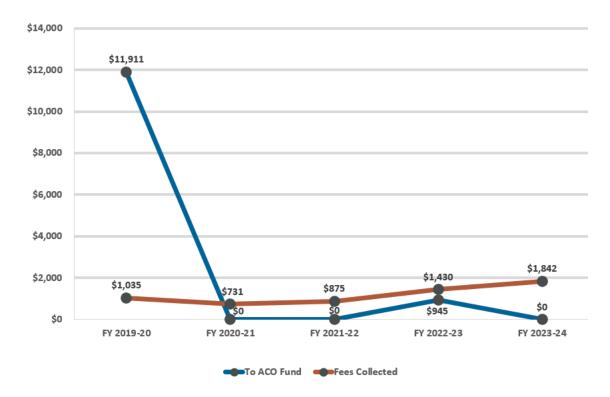


The above data shows a consistent trend where fees collected at Henningsen Lotus Park have exceeded expenditures over the last five fiscal years. In FY 2019-20, fees collected slightly surpassed expenditures, with \$84,522.00 in fees and \$78,542.56 in expenditures. The following year, FY 2020-21, saw 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.

#### Pioneer Park Fees Collected and Transfers to ACO Fund

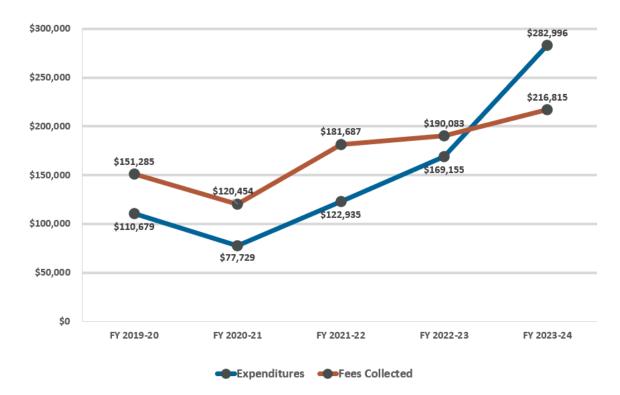


The above data shows that fees collected at Pioneer Park fluctuate from year to year, hovering between \$700 and \$1,900. This fund typically has no expenditures and is typically used to save up for special projects at the park through the ACO Fund (see ACO Fund Section). The \$11,911 transferred to 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 individuals and whitewater commercial outfitters 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 State Parks are members of a Joint Powers 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. Additional River use fees are collected from private river users launching or landing from Henningsen Lotus Park.

#### River Special Revenue Fund – Fees and Expenditures Per Fiscal Year

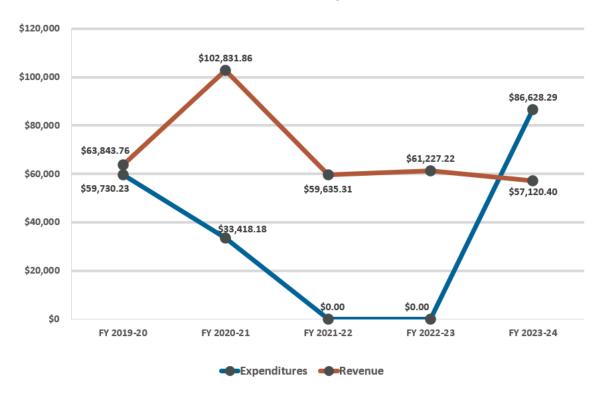


The overall trend in the above data shows that both expenditures and fees collected have generally increased over the five fiscal years. However, while fees collected consistently exceeded expenditures in most years, FY 2023-24 saw expenditures surpassed fees collected due to Chili Bar project costs that outpaced the revenue collected during the latest fiscal year, relying on the fund's savings from previous fiscal years.

# 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.

#### Total Green Sticker Fee Usage Per Fiscal Year

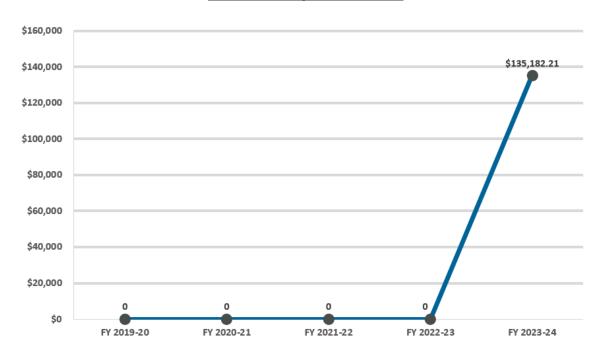


The above chart illustrates the varying usage of Green Sticker Fees, as they are only typically drawn down after SMUD funds have been utilized. This approach reflects a strategic reliance on available resources, demonstrating a careful management of financial assets in response to operational needs. 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% compared to the average of the rest of the years (\$60,456.67), reaching \$102,831.86.

#### **Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax (DTOT)**

The Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is charged to quests of transient lodging facilities (vacation home rentals, hotels, motels, etc.) and is collected to address the impacts on local services, facilities, and roads brought by tourism. In El Dorado County, this tax is levied at a rate of 14% for the unincorporated portions of the Tahoe Area and a rate of 10% for the unincorporated areas outside of the Tahoe Area. The 10% collected can be used for discretionary purposes (Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax), while the additional 4% 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 to County projects, including parks projects.

#### Total DTOT Usage Per Fiscal Year

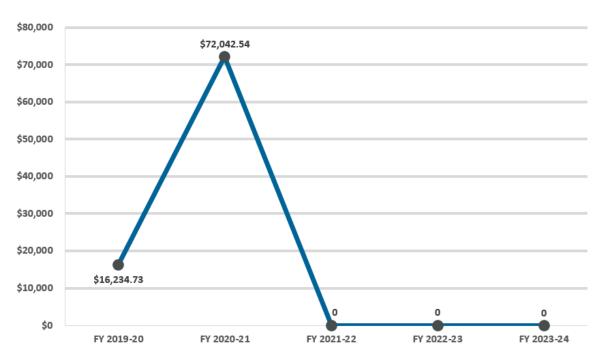


The above data shows that DTOT funds are not utilized by the Parks Division year-to-year and are only used when the Board of Supervisors allocates this funding toward a particular park project.

#### **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.

#### Total FEMA/CalOES Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year



The above data shows that FEMA/CalOES funding for counties 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. As shown above, the County received FEMA/CalOES funding in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 due to the 2017 winter storms.

#### 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.

### \$45,000 \$40,000 \$38,108.12 \$35,000 \$30,000 \$26,817.59 \$25,000 \$20,000 \$15,000 \$10,000 \$5,000 0 ŚΟ FY 2020-21 FY 2021-22 FY 2019-20 FY 2022-23 FY 2023-24

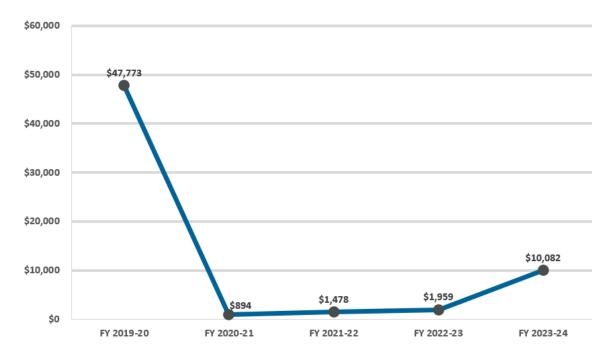
#### Total ARPA Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year

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.

#### **Total Donations Per Fiscal Year**

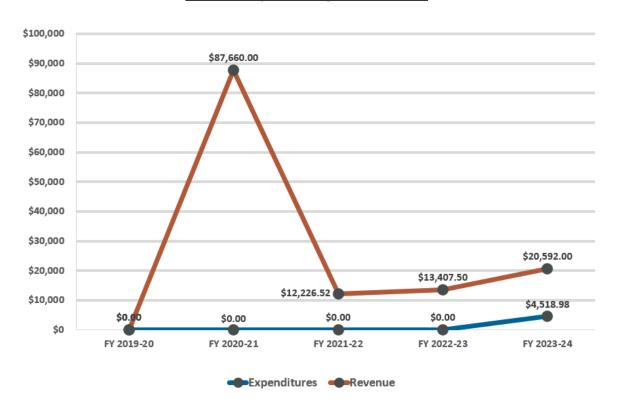


The above data shows that donations can fluctuate. Donations are often tied to specific projects, and their variability is influenced by the project schedule. While they provide important supplemental support, donations are not a stable or primary funding source and cannot be relied upon for long-term 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). These fees, known as Quimby funds, are specifically earmarked for the acquisition, expansion, or enhancement of local parks. 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.

#### Total Quimby Fund Usage Per Fiscal Year



The above data shows that Quimby revenue fluctuates based on the level of development in the county and shows that funds are only utilized once a park project occurs.

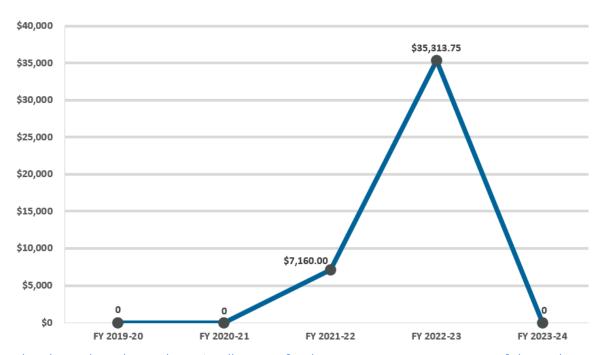
#### Quimby Fund Balance at FY 2023-24 Year End

<b>Motherlode Quimby</b>	Ponderosa Quimby	Gold Trail Quimby	Tahoe Quimby Fund	
Fund	Fund	Fund		
\$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.

#### Total Miscellaneous Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year



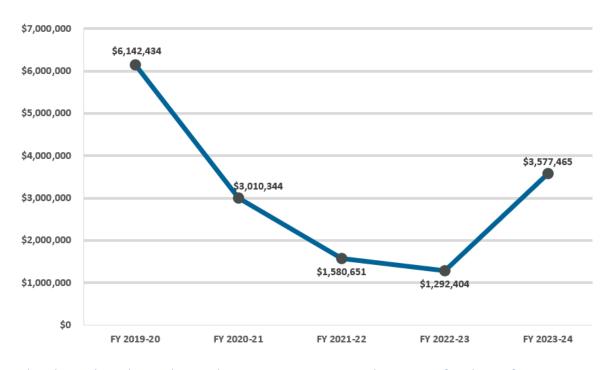
The above data shows that miscellaneous funds are not a core component of the Parks Division's financial structure and are instead used to fill small gaps in the budget, when received. These funds provide supplementary support but are not as stable or integral as other funding sources.

# CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

#### **DOT Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Trail Projects**

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. 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.

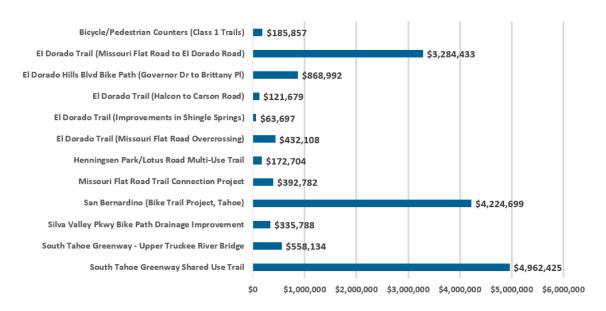
#### DOT CIP Trail Project Expenditures Per Fiscal Year



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 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.

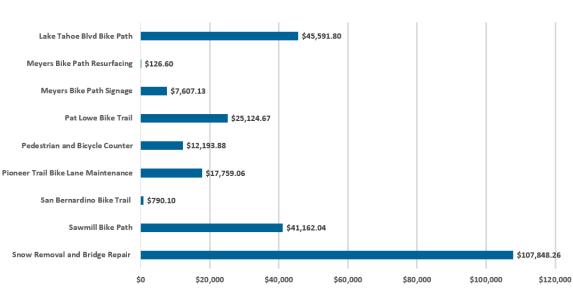




The data showcases the cumulative project costs for individual trail projects over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24). This breakdown provides insight into the specific financial investments made toward developing, maintaining, and connecting trails throughout the county. It is important 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 multiyear projects may not be fully captured in this data.

#### **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.

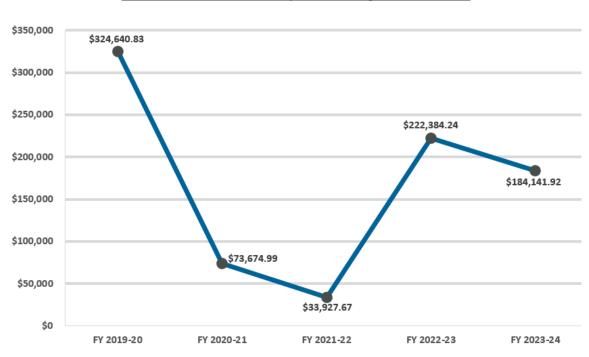


Measure S Fund Trail-Related Utilization (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24)

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**

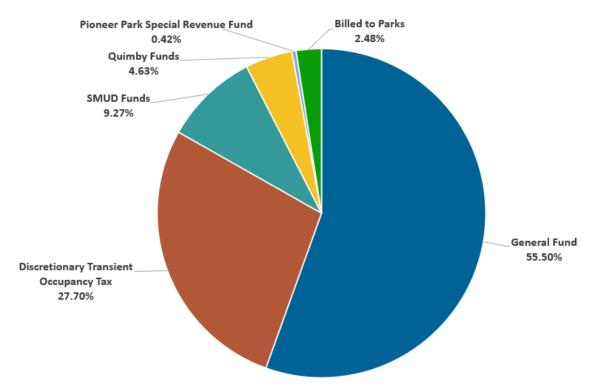
The Accumulative Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund is the County budget unit used to accumulate capital project funding and to plan and track major maintenance and capital improvements to County-owned facilities, including parks and trails. The Facilities Division produces the Capital Projects Work Plan which identifies projects that are typically greater than \$25,000 and add value and life to the park or trail facility.



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 project schedule. The schedule may or may not contain a substantial number of parks projects in any given year, leading to fluctuations evident in the above graph.

#### ACO Fund Funding Source Utilization (FY 2019-20 - 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. Since these funds are deposited into the ACO Fund, they are not categorized under the Parks Division's funding structure. Notably, a portion of the costs associated with these projects was billed directly to the Parks Division.

# THE COUNTY'S ROLE IN OUTSIDE AGENCY RECREATIONAL **OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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 between the County and CSDs to ensure the fees

collected comply with parks and recreation purposes of the Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code Sec. 66000-66025). The County also collects and distributes Quimby funds on behalf of CSDs to support the creation or enhancement of parks and recreational facilities. These funds are collected as a condition for approving tentative or parcel subdivision maps within the district, in accordance with County Code Sec. 120.12.090. In addition, the County has historically provided funding to the City of Placerville to help offset maintenance costs associated with the use of the Placerville Aquatic Center by County residents living outside of city limits.

# **REGIONAL BENCHMARKS: EXPENSES**

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.

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

- (1) Data sourced from the United States Census Bureau, 2020 Census.
- (2) 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 the smallest population in this comparison at 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 BENCHMARKS: PARKS**

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 ratio of park acres to residents, 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.

#### **Total Acres of Parks per Population**

County	County Population <sup>(1)</sup>	Total Acres of Parks <sup>(2)</sup>	Acres of Parks per 1,000 People
El Dorado	191,185		
Amador	40,474		
Nevada	102,241		
Placer	404,739		
Sacramento	1,585,055		

#### Acres of Parks by Population by Park Type

	State	Parks	Regional Parks		Other Parks	
County	Acres of Parks <sup>(2)</sup>	Acres per 1,000 People	Acres of Parks <sup>(3)</sup>	Acres per 1,000 People	Acres of Parks <sup>(4)</sup>	Acres per 1,000 People
El Dorado	26854.5	140.5	1629.0	8.5		
Amador	135.2	3.3	0.0	0.0		
Nevada	8467.7	82.8	62.0	0.6		
Placer	32481.8	80.3	1426.3	3.5		
Sacramento	8408.4	5.3	1932.4	1.2		

- (1) Data sourced from the United States Census Bureau, 2020 Census.
- (2) Data sourced from the Geographic Information System (GIS), rounded to the nearest tenth.
- (3) Data sourced from online search of regional parks, with acreage data pulled from OnX Maps
- (4) Data sourced from the Geographic Information System (GIS), subtracting regional park figure, rounded to the nearest tenth.

# **REGIONAL BENCHMARKS: TRAILS**

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 focusing on the ratio of trail mileage to population, we can see whether El Dorado offers more or fewer opportunities for outdoor activities 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.

#### **Total Miles of Trails Per County**

County	County Population <sup>(1)</sup>	Total Miles of Trails <sup>(4)</sup>	Miles of Trails per 1,000 People
El Dorado	191,185		
Amador	40,474		
Nevada	102,241		
Placer	404,739		
Sacramento	1,585,055		

#### Total Miles of Trails by Trail Type

County	Class 1 Trails		Hiking/Walking Trails		Horse Trails		Bike Trails	
	Miles of Trails <sup>(2)</sup>	Miles per 1,000 People	Miles of Trails <sup>(3)</sup>	Miles per 1,000 People	Miles of Trails <sup>(3)</sup>	Miles per 1,000 People	Miles of Trails <sup>(3)</sup>	Miles per 1,000 People
El Dorado			1,131	5.92	701	3.67	1,131	5.92
Amador			46	1.14	N/A	0	46	1.14
Nevada			1,133	11.08	608	5.95	1,364	13.34
Placer			930	2.30	447	1.10	930	2.30
Sacramento			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 Geographic Information System (GIS), rounded to the nearest tenth.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The total trail mileage the sum of all columns, as 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 (e.g., hiking, biking, and equestrian). Therefore, the total column is calculated using Trailforks total data and SACOG's Class 1 data.