



County of El Dorado

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Parks Division

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Date: May 16, 2024
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Zachary Perras, Parks Manager
Subject: Project Updates

This update is to provide the Parks and Recreation Commission with details on parks projects. In addition to those specific projects outlines below, staff is working hard to prepare for our high season at the Rubicon, River, and at all of our parks. When school is out in two more weeks, parks and recreation will be in full swing. We have renewed River Use Permits, prepared our equipment, made repairs wherever necessary, and we have a full staff ready to make this a great summer.

Ellis Creek Building

On January 26, 2021 (Legistar Item #21-0041) the Board approved the development grant from State Parks Off Highway Motor Vehicle Division (#G19-03-06-D01) for the construction of a maintenance building at Ellis Creek off the Rubicon Trail. The grant will fund the construction of an oversized two car garage (45'X23') to securely store the pumper truck and pumper trailer in the Ellis Creek drainage as well as house a small emergency shelter for the County and Forest Service employees. On December 12, 2023, the Board awarded the bid to MWCH Construction LLC. At this time, the building has been ordered and we are on track to begin construction as soon as weather permits. The contractor (Crystal Basin Construction LLC) has procured the building and is ready to start construction as soon as snow melts. They will have 60-days to complete the work from issuance of the second notice to proceed. An amendment to the existing agreement is being executed to extend the terms of the agreement by one month to allow for a later start of construction date due to snow late in the season pushing back when work can begin, the tentative start date is June 1, 2024.

State OHV Grant: \$171,841

SMUD: \$60,374

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

Railroad Dog Park and Playground

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

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

The dog park was moved to the Railroad Park location from the previously approved site adjacent to the El Dorado Trail off Jacquier Road (Legistar Item #23-0937). The relocation of the park means that the funding now needs no match requirement, since it is located in a severely disadvantaged area. The dog park is almost complete. Staff is also working to finalize dog park rules and will return to the Board with an ordinance. The dog park ordinance establishing the rules for the dog park went to the Board of supervisors for first reading Tuesday, April 30th and was passed unanimously on consent. The second reading will be May 14th, and if approved will go into effect June 14th 2024. Staff is currently finishing punch list items including shade covers and a seating area for dog owners, drinking fountains, and improved parking areas.

Prop 68 Per Capita Funding: \$100,000

Diamond Springs Park

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

Then in March of last year, the Board amended the agreement with Marshall Foundation for Community Health (Foundation), to extend the due date to complete the CEQA process to December 31, 2023, and make changes to the reversion provision as so that if the County does not commence construction of the

park within five years of acceptance of the property or if the County ceases to use the property for a park, the property may revert to the Boys & Girls Club of El Dorado County Western Slope.

On December 12, 2023, just under the wire, the Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and accepted the property. Then on February 27, 2024, the Board authorized the CAO to enter into negotiations with the Boys and Girls club on this property to work on development of the park. Future financial impacts could include costs associated with vegetation management and park development. Staff is pursuing volunteers, donations, and grant funding to cover any unfunded costs. We are currently working with the Boys and Girls club to move forward with the development of this park. This will be a phased project, so there is no completion date at this time. Coordination with the Boys and Girls Club and county staff is ongoing, noting of note to report at this time.

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

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

Bass Lake Property proceeds: \$250,000

Forebay Park Renovation

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

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

General Fund: \$100,000

Accumulative Capital Outlay Fund: \$43,000
Prop 68 Per Capita: \$300,000
American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA): \$3,000,000
(Plus donations from the community!)

Chili Bar

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

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

Transient Occupancy Tax: \$250,000
River Trust Fund: \$100,000
General Fund: \$1,000,000

Rubicon Parking Lot Expansion

The Rubicon Trail is a 22-mile trail that traverses through El Dorado County, in the Eldorado National Forest, and through Placer County within the Tahoe National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. 23-2156. On January 9, 2024, the Board approved Resolution 008-2024 accepting grant funds in the amount of \$357,586 from the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Division, with a portion for the planning phase of a parking lot expansion project at the

Tahoma Staging area on the Tahoe side of the trail along McKinney Springs Road. When current parking lot is full, parking on the road can cause overcrowding and resource damage to the adjacent lands. This project will provide expanded parking to alleviate parking issues on the road. Staff will be returning to the Board with an agreement for biological studies, aquatic studies, cultural studies, and environmental review for this project in the near future. This project is part of our ongoing maintenance of the Rubicon, improvements to user experience, and reduction of impacts to the environment. County staff participated in a kickoff meeting Monday, April 29th. In attendance were representatives from the US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, County of El Dorado Department of Transportation, County of El Dorado Parks and Trails Division, and Project engineers from NCE (the County's design firm for the project). Conceptual design were provided by NCE and options were discussed amongst the group.

OHV Division Grant Funds: \$278,909

Henningsen Lotus Park

Henningsen Lotus Park is a 51-acre park located along the south bank of the South Fork American River in Lotus. The park is located within the floodplain which is inundated up to 15+ feet during large floods. The multiple atmospheric river precipitation events in December 2022 and January 2023 flooded the park damaging the well pump structure and created large mounds and scour channels in the boat ramp, beach, and gravel bar areas. Staff have obtained permits to remove material from the boat ramp area to regrade the area and remove larger rocks and are targeting April 2024 for completion. Staff is also pursuing FEMA funding in the form of mitigation funds to prevent these damages from happening in the future. With additional funds, we hope to be able to clear out the vegetation and repair the swales at the undeveloped part of the property. There is also the possibility of expanding the park to include the currently undeveloped portion of the property, to be funded with a potential California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways grant. Staff will return to the Board at a later date with any recommendations for grant applications for funding this project. Grounds maintenance staff recently completed the reconstruction of the boat ramp that was damaged in the 2023-24 storm season. Current projects include installation of ash cans near the large gazebo on the east side of the park and updated signage. Grounds staff is currently working on starting up the irrigation system and making any necessary repairs.

Insurance Funding: \$107,355.51

Pine Hill Preserve Trail Feasibility Analysis

The Pine Hill Preserve is a cooperative conservation effort among 10 federal, state, and local entities to protect the habitat of eight rare plant species. Four of the plant species that grow in the Pine Hill Preserve are endemic, which means they grow nowhere else in the world. One species is nearly endemic, with only a few plants found elsewhere. This assemblage of rare plants is part of a unique community confined to soils known as the Rescue soils, named after the nearby community of Rescue, CA. Parks staff is assisting

the Planning and Building Department, Long Range Planning Division, in assessing the feasibility of creating improved parking areas as well as some natural walking trails, and interpretive signage within the preserve area. We are currently in the process of acquiring proposals to establish a rough order of magnitude of costs and permitting requirements that will ultimately be one of several options presented to the Board of Supervisors to make a recommendation to staff on how to move forward in the stewardship of this area. The eight rare plants found in the preserve are listed below, for more information on the preserve staff has also provided a link to BLM's Pine Hill Preserve webpage. [BLM Pine Hill Web Page](#):

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

Rare Plant Fund:TBD

SPTC Natural Trail

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

Some recent progress made on this project was successfully being issued permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The next steps for implementation of this project are completion of all required surveys for sensitive species and mapping of their locations which will be completed through an agreement we have with EN2. Once completed, we will then be able to begin phased construction of this portion of the trail.

We currently have a few volunteer groups (FATRAC, MLTS, and Friends of the El Dorado Trail) that are eager to get started once the surveys have been completed. Staff estimate this work will be able to begin later this summer so long as surveys are completed on schedule.

SPTC: TBD

FEMA Projects (Latrobe Washout, Bridge damage)

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

In January 2023, this area again received a substantial amount of precipitation and sustained more damage than previously experienced in 2017. Currently the washout section is now 10' below the tracks and extremely dangerous. During the subsequent site visit the FEMA inspector assigned to the project advised staff to have the Hydrology Report updated and to provide recommendation on a suitable repair. The Department of Transportation did not have capacity to assist, so a consultant was hired to update the report on their behalf. The contract was executed, and staff is currently reviewing the updated report and resulting recommended repair memo that once complete, will be routed through CalOES and then to FEMA for approval and ideally funding of the needed repairs.

Similar repairs are also needed on both the Slate Creek and Latrobe Creek bridges as a result of damaged sustained from the same high flow events. The bridge repairs are being applied for under a separate application and are tracking a similar critical path for their repairs.

FEMA Funding: TBD