



Parks & Trails Master Plan Update

DRAFT - Existing Conditions

3.0 - Existing Documents and Studies

This Parks and Trails Master Plan provides planning direction for County parks and trails consistent with guidance contained in the County's General Plan and other local planning documents. The Parks and Trails Master Plan is intended to articulate specific strategies and additional policies as needed to implement and manage County parks and trails in a manner that is consistent with and complements the guidance put forth in these other plans.

El Dorado County

There are multiple plans that have been adopted by El Dorado County 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.

El Dorado County General Plan

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.¹

The Parks and Recreation Element (Chapter 9) 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 (Chapter 7) deals with many aspects of natural resource management, including the conservation of open space for outdoor recreation.¹¹ The Land Use Element (Chapter 2) 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 (Chapter 3) includes policies regarding bicycle and pedestrian routes which may function as transportation as well as recreation features.

¹ The relevant information is summarized and not presented in full detail. The full text of the El Dorado County General Plan may be found at the following web site:

https://www.edcgov.us/Government/planning/pages/adopted_general_plan_amendments.aspx

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 amphitheatres, 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 parks 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 district, 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.

Provider	Level of Service Standard (Acres per 1,000 Persons)		Park Impact Fees				Notes
	Neighborhood and Community Parks	Regional Parks, Open Space	Single Family	Multi-family	Mobile Home	Age-Restricted	
Georgetown Divide Recreation District	3	2	\$4,245	\$3,508	\$4,170	N/a	Fee has not been updated since 2009.
Cameron Park CSD	5	5	\$6,645	\$5,435	\$3,402	N/a	
City of Placerville	5	N/A	\$1,320	N/a	N/a	N/a	Nexus Study includes several fees but these are not published on the website.
El Dorado Hills CSD*	5	40.5	\$12,866 /\$6,878	\$8,491 /\$4,539	Exempt	\$7,518 /\$3,990	Second number is for Serrano Development only.

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.

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 establish and manage 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.

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.

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.

Other El Dorado County Planning Documents

El Dorado County Active Transportation Plan

The Active Transportation Plan 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 Coloma Lotus 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 Woodland Management Plan (2008) calls for coordination between the planning of regional parks and preservation of oak woodlands. 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.

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 SPTC 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.

South Lake Tahoe Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan

In Spring 2013, El Dorado County the City of South Lake Tahoe joined forces to create a new Parks, Trails & Recreation Master 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 an a comprehensive system of high quality recreation opportunities for all County residents and visitors.

City of Placerville

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 (2016) 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.

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 2020 GP/RMP provides a longterm 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).

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.

3.2 - 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.

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, and the Cameron Park CSD. 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 purposes 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.

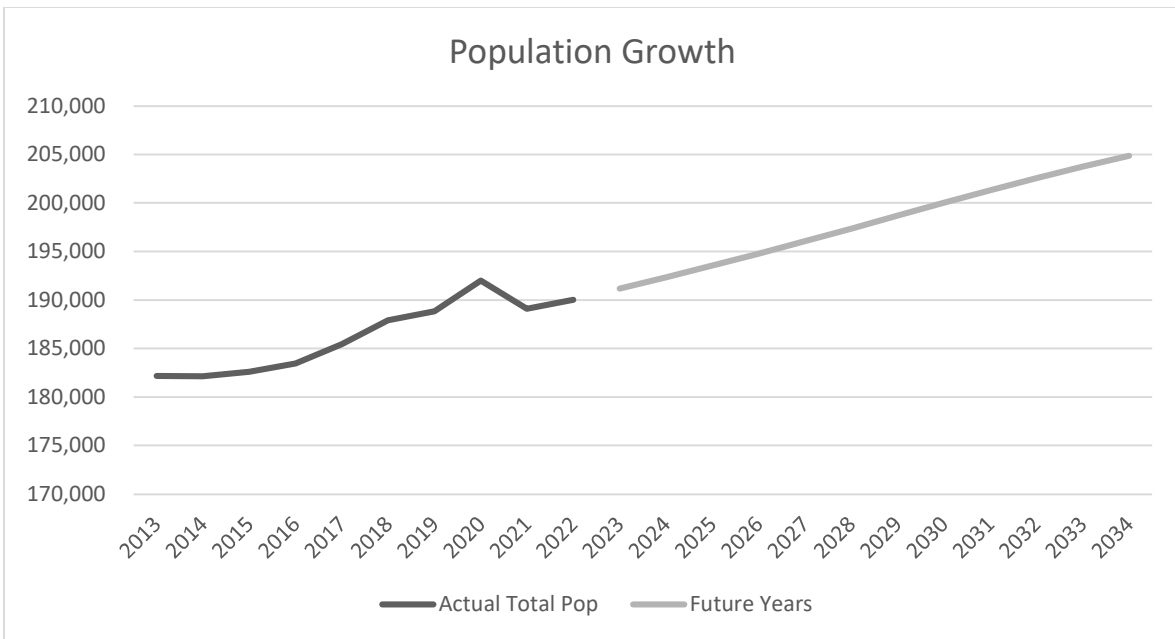
Population Trends

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.² 2020 Census data reveal that 50 percent of El Dorado County residents are male and 50 percent are female.

Chart 1 – Population Growth and Projection³

² California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-2A: Total Population Projections, California Counties, 2010-2060 (Baseline 2019 Population Projections; Vintage 2020 Release). Sacramento: California. July 2021.

³ California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-2A: Total Population Projections, California Counties, 2010-2060 (Baseline 2019 Population Projections; Vintage 2020 Release). Sacramento: California. July 2021.



The population of the entire County is estimated to have grown by approximately 7 percent from 177,387 people in 2010 to 190,345 people in 2020. Within the area of the County not served by a city or community services or recreation district, the population has increased by about 6 percent (Table 3).

Table 3 – Population Change by Community⁴

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

⁴ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2020 Census

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.

Table 4 – Percent Population by Age Range⁵

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

Table 5 – Percent Population by Age Range⁶

	< 20	20 to 49	50 to 79
All El Dorado County	22%	33%	41%
Diamond Springs	21%	30%	42%
Pollock Pines	21%	34%	40%
Shingle Springs	23%	29%	43%
El Dorado Hills	28%	30%	38%
Cameron Park	22%	35%	36%

⁵ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

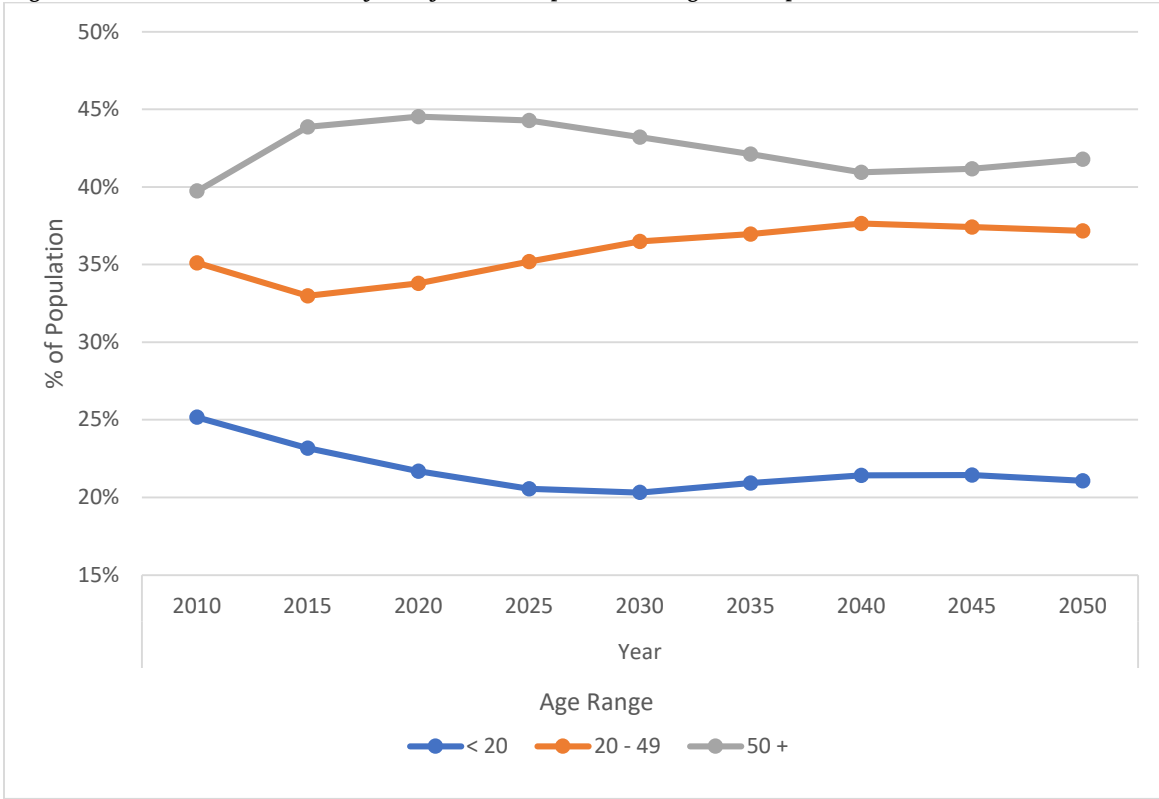
⁶ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

Georgetown	20%	25%	48%
City of Placerville	21%	38%	36%
City of South Lake Tahoe	18%	45%	34%
Total Not Served by a City or CSD	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.

Figure 1 shows the projected age composition of the population of the entire County over the next 30 years. This figure shows percentage of the population, not actual numbers. Thus, although one age group may decline as a percentage of the population the actual number of individuals in that category may still increase as the population grows. The percentage of working adults is expected to increase steadily over time, while the percentage of youth continues to decrease until 2030, then begins to level out and slowly increases. The most drastic change is the marked increase in the mature adult population from 2010 to 2020, and a decline in this age group to 2040. This projected increase in the mature adult population is the anticipated result of the continued aging of the "baby boomer" generation.

Figure 2 – El Dorado County Projected Population Age Composition ⁷



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

Peoples’ preferences for recreational activities and feelings about nature are often influenced by their cultural heritage. For example, people from an ethnic tradition that

⁷ Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-2B: Population Projections by Individual Year of Age, 2010-2060, Sacramento, CA, July, 2021.

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. 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.

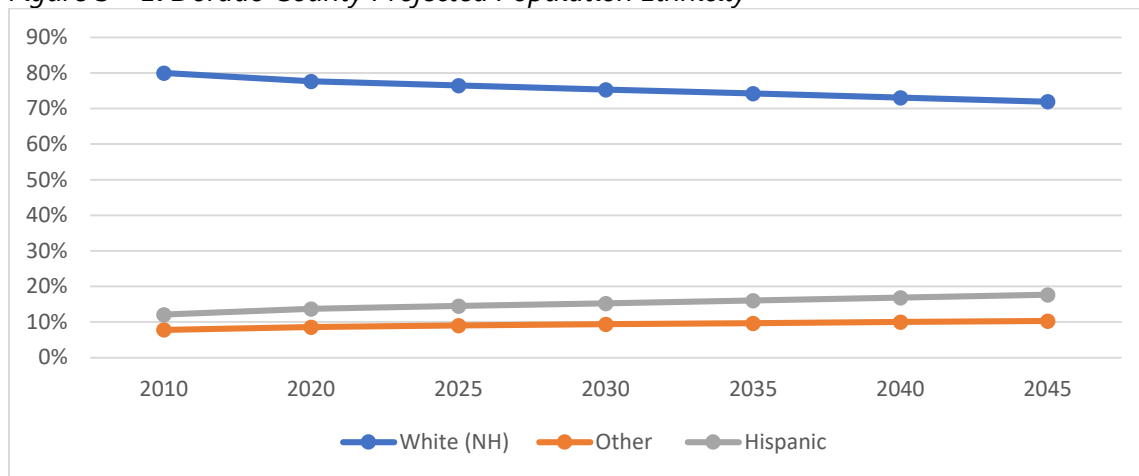
Data from the 2020 Census indicate that 80 percent of Plan Area residents identify themselves as white (Table 6). Hispanic or Latino residents account for 11 percent of the population, African Americans, Native Americans, and Asian residents each represent 1 percent of the population, as do those who 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 are slightly less diverse than the overall area not served by a City or CSD.

Table 6 – Plan Area Race/Ethnicity⁸

	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
All El Dorado County	73%	14%	1%	1%	5%	0%	1%	6%
Diamond Springs	76%	16%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	5%
Pollock Pines	74%	14%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	8%
Shingle Springs	77%	13%	0%	1%	2%	0%	1%	6%
El Dorado Hills	68%	11%	1%	0%	12%	0%	1%	6%
Cameron Park	75%	15%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	6%
Georgetown	79%	10%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	6%
City of Placerville	72%	19%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	6%
City of South Lake Tahoe	57%	31%	1%	1%	6%	0%	1%	4%
Total Not Served by a City or CSD	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.

Figure 3 – El Dorado County Projected Population Ethnicity⁹



⁸ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

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*¹⁰

% Population on Speaking only English	Total Number of Households	Language Spoken by People who Speak Language Other than English, by percentage				
		language other than English	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)¹¹. 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.

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2021). American Community Survey 1-year estimates.

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.

Table 8 – Poverty Levels in California and El Dorado County ¹²

	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%

Table 9 – Poverty Levels in California and El Dorado County by Age Bracket ¹³

	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

¹² Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey

¹³ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey

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.

Table 10 – Median Household Income ¹⁴

	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

¹⁴ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

3.0 - Existing Park and Trail Resources

Parks and trails are provided for El Dorado County residents and visitors by a diverse array of recreation focused agencies and jurisdictions. The Parks and Recreation Areas Map (Exhibit 2) shows the location of County parks, the boundaries of areas served by other recreation providers, and the locations of many non-County parks and recreation facilities. The Trails and Trailheads Map (Exhibit 3) shows the location of the existing and proposed major regional trails including County, state, and federal trails. Many other public trails have been designated in the state and federal lands in El Dorado County as discussed below and listed in Appendix X. In addition, there are numerous undesignated local trails that are being used informally by residents. The focus of this Plan is to determine the County's role in providing parks and trails, in coordination with these other recreation partners to optimize the value of recreation resources for residents and visitors. This chapter provides an overview of existing County park and trail resources, as well as those provided by the many agencies and jurisdictions that play an important role in providing parks and trails facilities.

El Dorado County Parks and Trails

El Dorado County is responsible for managing and maintaining eight existing public recreation facilities and owns land targeted for four additional parks. A table listing these County facilities and the improvements at each park is included in Appendix A. County staff are responsible for management of facility rentals by the public for private events, community activities, and sports leagues. Several of the existing parks have internal pathways or trail networks, and similar features are planned at the proposed parks. There is one County owned and managed trail that is independent of a park site.

Existing County Parks

Henningsen Lotus Park occupies 49 acres on the site of an old gravel mining operation in the community of Lotus. Henningsen Lotus Park is a community facility containing little league ballfields, softball fields, a regulation soccer field, a junior soccer field, individual picnic tables, a 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 a boat launch area and beach are located on the downstream end of the park. Paved paths throughout the park are popular with cyclists and skaters. The ballfields are lighted, which allows nighttime use of the facilities. The soccer fields are a particularly important resource, since they are the only public nonschool fields available for league soccer play within the plan area. Parking is off-street. The park is heavily used during the summer season. The soccer fields, ballfields, and pavilion may be leased for private use.

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.

Forebay Park is located on Forebay Road in Pollock Pines adjacent to El Dorado Irrigation District's Long Canyon Forebay. It is a 12.6-acre community 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.

Pioneer Park is a 21-acre community park located in southern El Dorado County. The park has a full size Equestrian Arena that is host to a number of livestock events, horseshows, and other equestrian activities. A community center offers two meeting rooms and a food/snack bar service kitchen. In addition, the facility contains a disc golf course, a soccer field, regulation size baseball field, play structures, picnic tables, and two parking lots.

Bradford Park is an approximately 3-acre neighborhood park that was originally built by the Lions Club and handed over to the County to own and operate. The park contains a large children's play area, a small sports field, a large covered picnic area, and an off-street parking lot.

Chili Bar is a rafting/kayaking put-in spot immediately 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 is adjacent to the river and is operated for rafting activities by the American River Conservancy, under terms of a conservation easement. The upper level includes parking, various structures, and the site of a defunct mobile home park. Chili Bar is one of the most heavily used access points on the river. A store at Chili Bar has been open at various times in the past to sell supplies and snacks, but has not been open since the land was acquired by the County. Off-street parking and minimal day use facilities are also available. The park operates only during the rafting season, however, the county is exploring ways to expand visitation. These include possible renovation of the area previously occupied by the mobile home park to provide day use and possible overnight camping.

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.

Railroad Park is a 6.3 acre site located within the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor right-of-way in the community of El Dorado. Proposed improvements at this site include facilities to house El Dorado County Museum's collection of railroad artifacts, a section of operational track, and multiple use pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails. The County is actively seeking grant funding to implement this project, along with 2.2 miles of multiple use trail extending to Missouri Flat Road.

Existing County 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 in the community of Camino south of U.S. Highway 50 near the Carson Road exit, the improved paved Class I bike path and proceeds northwesterly over U.S. Highway 50 and westerly into Placerville.

The paved trail is a continuous off-road facility except for a quarter mile section along Jacquier Road. A large County trailhead facility off of Jacquier Road provides amenities such as parking, restrooms, signage, and a small exercise/warm up area. In Placerville, at the transit station on Mosquito Road, the Class I bike path parallels Mosquito Road and passes under U.S. Highway 50 and continues parallel to Union Street and Main Street to Bedford Street as a Class I bike path and then transitioning to an on-street Class III bike route and Class II bike lane through the downtown along Main Street. This section of trail includes a decomposed granite shoulder for equestrian use. The City of Placerville has been instrumental in working with the County in securing funding to implementation El Dorado Trail segments within the city limits.

The Class I bike path with a decomposed granite shoulder resumes at the intersection of Forni Road and Main Street, and proceed westerly about 1 mile to connect with an existing Class I segment that extends from Forni Road near Ray Lawyer Drive to Missouri Flat Road (2.7 miles). The El Dorado Trail continues at Missouri Flat Road immediately south of Walmart and runs west approximately 1.75 miles to near Oriental Street. The trail then continues as an unimproved, natural trail into El Dorado and Shingle Springs.

Future westerly expansion of this trail system will take it to the Sacramento-El Dorado County border within the County-owned Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor. The trail is also planned to continue to the Tahoe Basin but the specific alignment has yet to be determined. A study identifying possible alignments for the segment from the existing terminus in Camino Heights to Pacific House was completed for the County in 2009.¹⁵ The remaining segment from Pacific House to Tahoe would follow the historic Pony Express Trail and the Sayles Canyon Trail to Echo Summit and a connection to South Lake Tahoe.¹⁶

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 at 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.

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 western El Dorado County, many neighborhood and community parks, recreation programs, and some trails are provided by the **City of Placerville**, the **El Dorado Hills Community Services District**, the **Cameron Park**

¹⁵ Alternative Routes for the El Dorado Trail Extension, Sierra Ecosystems Associates for El Dorado County Department of General Services, 2009

¹⁶ 19 El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan, El Dorado County Transportation Commission, 2010.

Community Services District, the **Georgetown Divide Recreation District**, the **Rolling Hills Community Services District** and the **Cosumnes River Community Services District**. These facilities are intended primarily to serve the residents of these communities, but are generally open to all members of the public. Two additional special districts oversee limited private recreation opportunities that are available only to their residents. These are the **Holiday Lake Community Services District** and the **Cameron Estates Community Services District**.

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 areas of the western 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 list of park and trail facilities provided by these jurisdictions is provided in [Appendix B](#).

Regional Parks and Trail Providers

El Dorado Irrigation District

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.

Located on U.S. Highway 50 south of the town of Pollock Pines, the **Sly Park Recreation Area** (SPRA), which is owned and operated by EID, is a popular camping and day-use destination centered on the 600- acre Jenkinson Lake. The SPRA experiences consistently heavy usage throughout the summer season, and 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.

EID owns and/or operates several other recreation facilities along the U.S. Highway 50 and Highway 88 corridors. The **Forebay Reservoir**, located in Pollock Pines on Forebay Road, is owned and operated by EID provides daytime recreational opportunities, including, picnicking, fishing, and a walking trail. On the property, but across Forebay Road from the reservoir, are a senior center, a Little League ball field, and a number of horseshoe courts. EID also leases Sellwood Field on Serrano Parkway to the El Dorado Hills CSD.

In 1999, as part of its acquisition of hydroelectric Project 184, EID obtained **Silver Lake** and **Caples Lake** from PG&E. The campgrounds and day use areas at and near both lakes are generally open from Memorial Day through October, depending on snow conditions. Facilities operated by EID 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.

The Forest Service operates the Caples Lake campground and trailhead, while EID shares in operating and maintenance costs and upgrades. EID operates the **Woods Creek Fishing and Trail Access Area**, which is located one mile east of Caples Lake.

American River Conservancy

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. ARC operates an interpretive **Nature Center** in Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. Activities coordinated by ARC include environmental education programs, workshops, hikes, lectures, trail rides, activities for children and volunteer opportunities.

The **Gold Hill-Wakamatsu Park** is another ARC project that provides unique recreational opportunities to County residents and visitors. ARC purchased the 272-acre site in 2010 using a combination of grants, donations, and loans. The focus of the effort is 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. A recent public survey showed interest for a variety of features including non-motorized trails, restrooms, picnic areas, interpretive features and exhibits, demonstration farms, wetland restoration, and event facilities.

In 2008, ARC together with the BLM completed land acquisitions along the South Fork of the American River to establish a continuous trail from the Salmon Falls bridge to Cronan Ranch. The **South Fork American River Trail** was opened in 2010 as a multiple use trail for hikers and mountain bikes. Equestrian use is also allowed east of the Pine Hill Preserve. A bypass trail to provide a connection for equestrians around the preserve area is in the planning stages.

ARC has also acquired property which was added to Marshall Gold Discovery SHP to create a trail connecting Henningsen Lotus Park with the Monroe Ridge Trail in the SHP. Construction of this trail is pending State Parks budget and staff constraints.

Additionally, ARC has purchased property on Mt. Murphy north of Coloma, and this land has been added to the Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. ARC and State Parks plan to build a trail to Dutch Creek, a beautiful, cascading stream east of Mt. Murphy as State Parks staff and funding become available.

The **Gam Saan Trail** connects Henningsen Lotus Park to Marshall Gold Discovery State Park in Coloma.

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. A number of private campgrounds operate throughout the western County including some 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 also 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.

El Dorado County also has five 18-hole private golf courses and one 9-hole golf course. The 18-hole Apple Mountain Golf Resort and Bass Lake Golf Course with 18-hole and 9-hole options are the only courses that are open to the public.

State Parks and Trails

There are several other important regional recreation resources provided by the State of California for residents and visitors to El Dorado County. The Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, located partially within El Dorado County, provides water sports, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and camping recreation for the region. Folsom Lake is usually the take-out spot for rafters and kayakers departing from Chili Bar, Marshall Gold Discovery Historic State Park, Henningsen Lotus Park, and other sites upstream. Camping is available on Rattlesnake Bar, and a marina provides boat slips and storage on Brown's Ravine. Numerous ramps around the lake provide boat and personal watercraft access to the lake. A list of major trails at these facilities is included in Appendix X.

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma is located on the site where James Marshall first discovered gold in 1848, 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 school house, 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**, **Monroe Ridge 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

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

Located in the canyons formed by the north and middle forks of the American River, the Auburn State Recreation Area covers 40 river miles 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

U.S. Forest Service

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, hunting, rock climbing, target shooting, day use areas and campgrounds. Popular summertime destinations within the National Forest include **Union Valley** and **Ice House Reservoirs, Loon Lake, Silver Lake, Caples Lake, Wrights Lake, Horsetail Falls**, and the **Desolation Wilderness**. Winter activities, such as cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and snowmobiling, are within easy reach of County residents and attract many visitors from outside of the County every year. Recreation resources in the Eldorado National Forest are owned and operated by a variety of both public and private recreation providers.

Many designated and undesignated trails as well as unpaved and paved roads are available in the Eldorado National Forest. Trails can be found for a wide range of abilities from difficult to easy and support multiple uses. Popular trail destinations include the Crystal Basin, the Desolation Wilderness, and areas between the north and middle forks of the American River and in the vicinity of Silver and Caples Lakes. The most well-known of these trails is probably the **Pacific Crest Trail** (PCT). The Pacific Crest Trail 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.

The **Crystal Basin Recreation Area**, located in the Eldorado National Forest and 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.

Several popular destinations within **the Crystal Basin Recreation Area** provide access to trails within the Desolation Wilderness and other nearby areas. Wrights and Loon Lakes are popular camping and staging areas for forays into the Wilderness. Just south of Sly Park Recreation Area, **Fleming Meadows** contains approximately 9 miles of trails of varying difficulties. This area was damaged by the 2021 Caldor Fire. A selection of the designated trails available in the Sierra Nevada in El Dorado County is included in Appendix D.

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management also provides numerous recreation facilities in El Dorado County. Approximately 12 miles of unpaved trail are located within **Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park**, a 1,400-acre open space along the South Fork of the American River which was acquired for public use by the American River Conservancy, BLM, El Dorado County, and other partners. 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. The park also includes the **Magnolia Ranch Trailhead** and the **Greenwood Creek River Access**, both in the Greenwood Management Area. 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. Boaters must carry their equipment on a path down to and from the river.

The **Dave Moore Nature Area** is a BLM facility located on the South Fork of the American River two miles west of Coloma. It 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.

The **Pine Hill Preserve** encompasses 4,042 acres in 5 non-contiguous 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. BLM staff provide guided tours in the spring when the wildflowers are at their most spectacular. Hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian uses are allowed on existing trails. New trails may be developed in the future as long as alignments and usage do not adversely impact the preserve.

The BLM also holds custodial ownership of the 695-acre **Kanaka Valley**, a wildlife corridor that links federal and state public lands along the South Fork American River and the Pine Hill Preserve. The BLM is currently preparing a management plan that will identify specific recreation goals and uses. The public is allowed to access the property. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

Trails on other BLM holdings on the South Fork of the American River include the **Red Shack Trail**

connecting State Route 49 to the river below Chili Bar, and a rough trail within the 233-acre **Wildman Hill** acquisition 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.

National Park Service

The National Park Service has designated two National Historic Trail (NHT) alignments that pass through El Dorado County. These are the **California National Historic Trail** and the **Pony Express National Historic Trail**. The California 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. The Pony Express National Historic Trail commemorates the route used to relay mail via horseback from Missouri to California before the advent of the telegraph.¹⁷ Every year, the National Pony Express Association holds a re-ride along the route to reenact the historic mail delivery between Sacramento, California and St. Joseph, Missouri.

In western El Dorado County both trails generally follow routes adjacent to the U.S. Highway 50 corridor to Mother Lode Drive and Pleasant Valley Road to the community of Diamond Springs. The Pony Express NHT then veers north to Placerville and generally follows U.S. Highway 50 to the Echo Lake area, where it splits into several spurs heading north towards Stateline and south to Highway 88. At 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.

These trails are not expressly maintained by the National Park Service for recreational use. Where the trails pass through federal lands, as in the Eldorado National Forest, the federal land manager oversees recreational uses. These portions of both the Pony Express NHT and the California NHT are open for various types of public trail use.

Remaining segments that traverse private property or occupy the same alignment as improved vehicular roads are typically not available for public use, unless public road improvements have included trail improvements in the corridor.

Schools

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.

¹⁷ The National Trails System Act, P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009

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

The **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.

The **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. The programs are generally taught by volunteer instructors and provided on a donation basis. 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. Fees for these activities are charged to the individual and collected by County staff. Federal funding supports a part-time Activities Coordinator. Most of the senior activities take place in County buildings, rented space, or in space donated by local churches. The Senior Nutrition Services also serve approximately 500 meals each day to County seniors, providing food as well as important socialization opportunities.

The **El Dorado County Historical Museum** is located next to the El Dorado County Fairgrounds in Placerville. The museum features exhibits, informative tours, a research house and gardens for visitors to enjoy. The museum seeks to be a valued historical resource for the community while representing the county's history in a current, accurate and engaging manner.

Organized Sports

A number of private sports leagues operate in El Dorado County. Examples include the El Dorado Hills North, El Dorado Hill South, Georgetown Divide, and Snowline Little Leagues which organize T-Ball, Farm, Minor, and Major teams. The Sierra Gold, Gold Nugget, High Sierra, and Prospectors Soccer Clubs offers recreational and league play for ages 4 through 18. Placerville Girls Softball provides fast pitch team play for girls from ages 4 ½ through 18. The Placerville Prospectors Senior Softball offers league play for senior citizens in the area. 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.

Clubs and Organizations

Many additional recreational opportunities are available for El Dorado County youth including the Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado County, 4-H Youth Development, Boy Scouts of America through the Golden Empire Council, and the Girl Scouts of America through the Heart of Central California Council. Various adult hobby clubs in the area include Bridge Club of the Foothills, Placerville Area Chess Club, Dogwood Garden Club, El Dorado Camera Club, El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society, and El Dorado Rod and Gun Club.

Community Events

El Dorado County has a wide variety of community events that are organized by private groups. 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.

Special Interest

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.

Agritourism

El Dorado County's rich agricultural heritage 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.

Historic Preservation

There are numerous organizations committed to preserving the historic resources of El Dorado County by 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, and El Dorado County Pioneer Cemeteries Commission** provide tours and maps, develop collections, and host special community events to raise awareness and funding for preservation.

Other Public Program Providers

The **City of Placerville, 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.

4.0 - Existing Level of Service

The method used to evaluate the existing level of parks and trails facility services provided by El Dorado County to Plan Area residents is to examine the amount of developed park land and the availability of specific types of facilities in relation to the number of people they serve.

Acres of Developed Park Land

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 CSDs and planned communities (Table 1). The guidelines recommend 5 acres of park land for every 1,000 people divided between regional, community, and neighborhood park types. Standards for the Cameron Park Community Services District, El Dorado Hills Community Services District, and Planned Communities is higher at 5 acres of neighborhood and community parkland for every 1,000 people.

Although the County ownership, development, and operation of parks is limited to those areas not served by a local parks provider (CSD or city), the General Plan standards apply to the County as a whole. The information in Table 12 shows the number of developed and undeveloped acres of park land in existing County-owned and operated parks only and compares those numbers to the acreage required to meet the General Plan guidelines under Policy 9.1.1.1. The current population of the Plan Area, defined as those areas of western El Dorado County, is 88,410 people.

Table 12 – Existing Park Land Acquisition and Development

Plan Area Population: 88,410	General Plan Park Acreage Guidelines			
	Neighborhood Parks (2.0 ac /1,000)	Community Parks (1.5 ac/1,000)	Regional Parks (1.5 ac/1,000)	All Parks 5 ac/1,000)
Acres Needed for Area Served only by El Dorado County	177	133	133	442
Developed Park Land				
Henningsen-Lotus		49		49
Pioneer Park		21		21
Bradford Park	3			5
Joe's Skate Park		1		1
Chili Bar (lower)			9	9
Bike Park		3		
El Dorado County Fairgrounds			48	48
Subtotal:	3	74	57	133
Undeveloped Park Land				
Chili Bar (upper)			7	7

Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park			62	62
Forebay Community Park		13.5		13.5
Railroad Park			6	6
Subtotal:	0	26	115	141
All Park Land				
Total Existing Acres	3	100	172	274
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	-174	-33	39	-168

¹ Plan Area Population does not include people served by El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Parks CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, or the City of Placerville.

<<Add new table 13 that shows all parks throughout the County, types, and acreage.>>

Facilities per Population

The number of specific recreation facilities needed, such as ball fields or play areas, is related to demand for the facilities and the number of people the facilities are designed to accommodate. Table 13 includes a list of common recreation facilities and the number of these facilities currently available in County parks. It also shows how many people the facility would have to serve if no additional facilities are built based on the current population of the Plan Area. School facilities located at campuses that are not already in joint use agreements with local park providers are also listed. In practice, the existing facilities are not experiencing the level of use inferred by this analysis because many of the facilities are too far away to be reasonably accessible to many County residents. The use of school facilities, such as play areas, is significantly limited because they are not available when school is in session and/or may be located in secured yards that are locked on weekends or after school hours.

Table 13 - Existing Level of Service for Facilities by Population¹

Facility Type	Current # of Facilities in County Parks	Current Population per Facility	School Facilities Limited Access
Play Area	3	29,470	38
Tennis Court	0	NA	24
Outdoor Basketball Court	2	44,205	usually at least 1 per campus
Baseball Field	0	NA	6
Softball Field	2	44,205	6
Little League Baseball Field	2	44,205	24 various sizes
Soccer or Multi-use Field	6	14,735	34
Equestrian Arena	2	44,205	
Swimming Pool	0	NA	2
Gym/Multipurpose Room	0	NA	15
Meeting/Event Space	6	14,735	
Community Center	2	44,205	

Group Picnic Area	3	29,470	19 various types
Skateboard Park	1	88,410	
Disc Golf Course	1	88,410	
Amphitheater	0	NA	
Dog Park	0	NA	

¹ Population per Facility does not include people served by El Dorado Hills CSD, Cameron Parks CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, or the City of Placerville. Facilities provided by these jurisdictions to serve their residents are not included.

Trails

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.

In order 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.

Nature Trails are usually unpaved and intended to serve hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, depending on constraints of terrain and environmental sensitivity. Nature 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. As described in Chapter 6 (Existing Park and Trail Resources), 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 Plan Area can access a wide selection of natural trails within a one-half hour drive from their homes. There are over 100 miles of nature trails in the various BLM, state, and federal recreation areas in the County foothills and over 200 additional miles of nature trails in the Sierra.

Park Paths are located within improved parks and may be paved or unpaved depending on the character of the park. They are intended primarily to provide recreational walking, skating, and/or leisure biking opportunities within the confines of the park. However, they may also function as segments in the neighborhood or community pedestrian/bicycle transportation network if they connect to designated pedestrian or bicycle routes. All three of the improved County parks include these types of paths. Typically, residents do not expect to have to drive more than a few miles to access this type of trail experience and would much prefer to be able walk or bike to the park.

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 expected 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 nature trail in some areas.

Connectors provide alternative transportation options for people to get from home to schools, parks, and businesses without relying on an automobile particularly in the more urbanized communities. These are also very 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 of the Plan Area, 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. They are key to being able to develop Safe Routes to Schools and other features of Livable Communities.

There are very few connectors in the unincorporated Plan Area. 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 also function as nature trails. The El Dorado County Bicycle Transportation Plan identifies approximately 49 miles of new Class I bike paths for future development, with 17 miles as a top priority. These would all provide recreation value as well.

5.0 - Existing Operations and Maintenance

Multiple County departments are involved in the operation and maintenance of El Dorado County parks and trails. The Environmental Management Department oversees park operations including scheduling and reservations for park facilities. The Department of Transportation provides ongoing maintenance of the park and trail facilities, as well as coordination for capital projects. The Chief Administrative Office provides support for the various committees and commissions related to parks and trails, and acts as a liaison with the other departments and the community.

Park Operations

All requests to reserve County park facilities for private use or events are handled by the Chief Administrative Office, Parks Division. This includes scheduling sports fields for recurring use during league seasons. Facilities currently available for reserved use include the sports fields and pavilion at Henningsen Lotus Park, the sports field and Community Center at Pioneer Park, and the multiuse field at Bradford Park. Picnic facilities at these three parks are normally available on a first come, first served basis but can be reserved through special arrangements. Parks personnel collect and process the permits, insurance certificates, deposits, and fees required as part of the reservation process, and provide annual parking passes and onsite parking fee collection at Henningsen Lotus Park.

Staffing levels for park operations vary depending on public demand for reservations and events. In general, there are 2 seasonal full-time and 1 part-time Parks Operations Assistants at Henningsen Lotus Park who staff the collection booth and assist with other onsite park operations during the park season (May to early October). A Development Technician handles the reservations for the different parks, and the issuance of parking passes in addition to other full time duties. Various CAO administrative personnel assist with depositing fees collected by the Park Operations Assistants. The Parks Manager oversees the operation of all Parks and recreation facilities, the river program, and Rubicon maintenance and operations. There are no regular operational tasks or staff currently associated with County trail facilities.

The Parks Division also 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.

Maintenance Staffing and Costs – May need to confirm these numbers with Laura

Maintenance of the County's parks and trails is the responsibility of five full-time staff in the Grounds Unit of the Maintenance and Operations division in the Department of Transportation. They are overseen by a Grounds Superintendent. Staff includes a Supervising Grounds Maintenance Worker, three Senior Grounds Maintenance Workers, and one Grounds Maintenance Worker I. These

individuals also maintain all County cemeteries, building grounds, and real property. In fiscal year 2021-22, about 29 percent of their time was spent maintaining parks and trails. This equates to a staffing level of about 1.5 full-time people only for park and trail maintenance. Additional DOT staff time is required for trail development and maintenance.

The resources required for maintaining the various County parks and trails varies widely by the type of facility and uses (Table 14). Henningsen Lotus Park is the County’s largest and the most heavily used improved park. Approximately 45 percent of the annual maintenance budget is allocated to this park, but it has the lowest per acre maintenance cost. This is because the maintenance costs attributed to mobilization of the grounds crew and equipment is most efficiently utilized on larger sites. Pioneer Park requires about 26 percent of the annual maintenance budget, and about 11 percent is expended for Bradford Park. The Placerville Skate Park accounted for about 6 percent of maintenance costs over the fiscal period 2009 - 2011, however this is expected to decline to about 2 percent now that earlier maintenance issues have largely been addressed and the park is successfully being maintained on a regular weekly schedule. Maintenance for the SPTC/El Dorado Trail utilizes about 12 percent of the annual maintenance budget.

Maintenance allocations for each facility may vary slightly from year to year depending on special projects or facility use.

Table 14 – Allocation of Maintenance Costs by Facility - Update

Facility	Size	FY 09/10 and FY 10/11 Actual		FY 11/12 Estimated
		% of Total Maintenance Budget	Maintenance Cost /Yr	Maintenance Cost /Yr
Bradford Park	3 acres	11%	\$ 7,059/acre	\$ 8,383/acre
Henningsen Lotus Park	51 acres	45%	\$ 1,784/acre	\$ 1,947/acre
Pioneer Park	21 acres	26%	\$ 2,510/acre	\$ 3,107/acre
Placerville Skate Park	1 acres	6%	\$ 12,045/acre	\$ 5,330/acre
SPTC/El Dorado Trail	9 miles	12%	\$ 2,792/mile	\$ 3,222/mile

Maintenance Standards

Maintenance is provided on a regular basis at the County’s four improved parks: Henningsen Lotus Park, Pioneer Park, Bradford Park, and Placerville Skate Park, in addition to the SPTC/El Dorado Trail. The Placerville Skate Park is maintained weekly. Tasks include repairs to signs, concrete, fencing, and the water fountain, and trash and graffiti removal as needed. Both Bradford Park and Pioneer Park are visited two times each week for maintenance. Crews provide landscape and field maintenance, restroom cleaning, and any repairs needed to lights, equipment, picnic tables, play areas, barbecues, and hardscape. Henningsen Lotus is maintained three times each week with similar services, as well as stocking the information kiosk, collecting fees, and any additional maintenance tasks related to

special events.

The SPTC/El Dorado Trail is maintained weekly for vegetation management, trash removal, cleanup at parking lots and trailheads, and any repairs as needed for bollards, kiosk, par course, benches, and other structures. Incidental maintenance is provided at unimproved sites (Chili Bar, Pollock Pines, and Bass Lake) as needed. No County maintenance is provided at Cronan Ranch. The Fairgrounds are maintained by the Fair Association.

The Grounds staff have identified their maintenance objective as providing safe, sanitary, and aesthetically pleasing landscaping and maintenance for all County parks and trails. 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 for the department, 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.

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 is 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.

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.

Grounds 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.

Technical Support

In addition to providing staff for park and trail maintenance, the Chief Administrative Office, Facilities Division also provides technical staff with expertise to support various capital and maintenance projects. These services include engineering support, project management, planning, and preparation of environmental documents. The level of annual staffing committed for these services varies with project demand. These costs are captured either as part of an associated capital project or as an operational cost depending on the nature of the project and services provided.

Administration

The Clerk of the Board provides staff support to various commissions and committees involved with parks and trail planning and implementation. This support includes scheduling meetings, reserving meeting rooms, documenting meeting minutes, providing the commissions/committees with information, and acting as a liaison between the commissions/committees, other County departments, and the community.

The **Parks and Recreation Commission** is a five-member commission. Each commissioner is appointed by a Supervisor for a four-year term to represent his or her Supervisorial District. The Commission oversees development and maintenance of recreational opportunities, working closely to retain as much local control and citizen involvement as possible.

Other administrative responsibilities related to County parks and trails include budgets, grants, and assessing subdivisions for park land dedication or fees in-lieu. The budget to address annual parks and trails maintenance, technical support, operations, and capital improvements is collectively prepared and managed by the Department of Transportation, Environmental Management, and the Chief Administrative Office. Each of these departments has responsibilities for the aspects of the budget related to the services they provide. Responsibility for identifying, preparing, and administering grants is also shared by the three departments, depending on the nature of the grant and the funding source. The dedication of park land or assessment of fees in-lieu is the responsibility of the Development Services Department as part of the development review process for subdivisions only. There is currently no park land dedication or in-lieu fee required for single-lot residential projects.