

CHAPTER 7

PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION

South Fork of American River at Henningsen Lotus Park
Photo by Lori Parlin



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter prioritizes implementing each initiative, as identified in the previous chapter, as items to address in the short, mid, and long-term, and identifies low- versus high-cost initiatives. Each initiative has been determined to be achievable as a quick fix in the Short-Term (0-5 years), able to be completed in the Mid-Term (5-10 years), or ongoing, or Long-Term (10+ years). Additionally, each initiative is assumed to be low in cost (small amount of staff effort or investment of less than \$50,000), medium cost (additional programming or total cost up to \$500,000), or high-cost (significant or additional ongoing staff resources, total cost from \$500,000 to possibly millions of dollars).

FUTURE PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

As new projects are evaluated to improve the County parks and trails system, the following criteria will guide the organization and prioritization of potential projects and improvements for funding and implementation.

New project ideas will first be evaluated based on how and to what extent the project:

- Achieves or implements Goals, Objectives, or Initiatives in the adopted Parks and Trails Master Plan.

In addition, moving forward, as new projects and needs arise, the following criteria can be used to evaluate the prioritization of parks and trails:

- Provides the greatest impact to address community needs and preferences, based on community feedback and stakeholder input.
- Has an identified funding source for development and ongoing maintenance.
- Improves existing facilities that have reached end-of-life usability.
- Aligns with other park providers' planning and development efforts, creating or improving a regional project.














South Fork of American River























GOAL 1: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS AND RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION		
INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 1.1.1. Seek grant funding opportunities to fund site development and amenities at beach areas.		\$\$\$
Initiative 1.1.2. Continue to partner with agencies and entities that conserve land and manage open space and to ensure sufficient public access wherever feasible. Continue to acquire property for parking and ancillary use for public access and take a lead role in enhanced access on lands controlled by El Dorado County and its partners.	  	\$\$
Initiative 1.1.3. Support State and Federal goals to provide new visitor access points to the South Fork of the American River to increase river recreation opportunities.	  	\$
Initiative 1.1.4. Support trail development by County partners to increase river access and provide recreational opportunities along riverways.	  	\$
Initiative 1.2.1. Where feasible with respect to environmentally sensitive areas, establish trailheads for natural walking trails at open space areas with staging and parking areas, and restrooms.	  	\$\$
Initiative 1.2.2. Contribute to the development of open space management plans to address appropriate access and connectivity. Connect regional open spaces through trails, greenways, wildlife corridors, and open space connections. Plans should be created and updated for properties or groups of properties within a contiguous area with progress tracked over time.	  	\$
Initiative 1.2.3. Position the County's regional open spaces as a destination for recreation activities through better communication, mapping, and volunteer support.	 	\$\$
Initiative 1.2.4. Support parks, open space and trail planning efforts of local municipalities, special districts, and state and federal agencies to meet community and regional goals.		\$
Initiative 1.2.5. Incorporate QR codes at trailheads for access to digital trail maps and safety information that can be downloaded and used off-line where cell service is not consistent.	  	\$\$




















CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 1.3.1. Prioritize outdoor recreation facilities that support the broadest cross-section of the population and have high participation levels (hiking, biking, and horseback riding).	⌚⌚⌚	\$\$\$
Initiative 1.3.2. The use of El Dorado County parks and trails for organized events, classes, and group activities that support the health of individuals and communities will be encouraged, with appropriate provision made for maintenance, safety, capacity, and cost recovery.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 1.3.3. Improve trailheads and access to open space trail systems and year-round recreation opportunities, including access to off-road trails and winter activities in the Tahoe Basin and the West Slope.	⌚⌚⌚	\$\$\$
Initiative 1.3.4. Support recreation program providers through permit coordination and promotion of events, programs, and other opportunities via the Parks office and social media.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 1.4.1. Adopt a Comprehensive Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) to provide for vegetation management along trails and in parks, where feasible, to prevent erosion, and minimize the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.	⌚	\$\$
Initiative 1.4.2. Strengthen and build relationships with State Parks OHV Division, Placer County, and the US Forest Service through regularly scheduled meetings and forums to improve integrated information, use of grant funding, mapping, volunteer coordination, etc. on the Rubicon Trail, to maintain water quality and trail access.	⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 1.4.3. Consider strategies to reduce brush and minimize wildfire risks. Coordinate other open space management strategies with resiliency and wildfire prevention planning to reduce the risk of wildfire.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 1.4.4. Utilize recycled materials, as feasible, to reduce energy use and repurpose material. Through the procurement process utilize goods that are made of recycled materials when available.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 1.4.5. Include bear-resistant receptacles for material trash, recycling, and composting in parks, along trails, and trailheads.	⌚⌚	\$\$

INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 1.4.6. Address and decommission user created or unauthorized trails as appropriate.	  	\$\$
Initiative 1.4.7. Use the Division's webpage and trail signage information to communicate warnings, skill level, best use, etc. for recreation areas.	 	\$
Initiative 1.4.8. Utilize map kiosks to orient trail users and use regular and consistent signage along trails to identify connections and help users navigate the trail system and to facilitate emergency response.	 	\$
Initiative 1.4.9. Coordinate for access to locked gates and facilities for emergency response to fire and other disasters.		\$
Initiative 1.4.10. In collaboration with American River outfitters and the private boating community, identify improvements to the River Management Program and to enhance safety and user experience.		\$
Initiative 1.4.11. Partner with the El Dorado County Agricultural Department to develop, document, implement, and update a coordinated plan to detect, map, and control harmful non-native invasive weed infestations using methods of integrated weed management.	 	\$\$

















CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION















GOAL 2: MANAGE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN A REGIONAL CONTEXT		
INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 2.1.1. Regularly meet with local, regional, state, and federal coalitions, agencies, and organizations to manage trail planning efforts and identify opportunities to coordinate projects and leverage resources to create a core regional trail system.	  	\$
Initiative 2.1.2. Work with the El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Power of Authority (SPTC JPA), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Tahoe Transportation District, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), and other agencies to identify additional routes and trail connections for paved, shared-use paths and unpaved or native surface multi-use trails. Each trail type serves a different user and a different need, and alignments of each may vary to meet all trail needs.	  	\$\$
Initiative 2.1.3. Facilitate the collaboration of regional partners for trail development and maintenance.	  	\$
Initiative 2.1.4. Develop and maintain an updated regional GIS map database of existing and proposed trails. Share with partner agencies and trails advocacy groups.	  	\$\$
Initiative 2.1.5. Emphasize projects that improve the safety and access for diverse trail users of all abilities.	  	\$\$\$
Initiative 2.1.6. Where appropriate, design trails to serve as fuel breaks and coordinate alignments with CAL FIRE and wildfire resiliency planning.	 	\$\$
Initiative 2.1.7. Incorporate the goal for a regional trail network into other planning documents to facilitate funding, partnerships, and development.	  	\$
Initiative 2.1.8. In coordination with the SPTC JPA, determine the capability of each segment of the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor within County boundaries to accommodate railroad tracks, paved trail, and natural single-track uses to guide future trail route development.	 	\$\$








INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 2.2.1. Coordinate priority trail projects with adjacent public agencies including El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT), to create regional connections throughout the county as well as exploring trail alignments that connect to adjacent cities and counties.	  	\$\$\$
Initiative 2.2.2. Parks and Trails Division provides input on grant applications pursued through DOT to focus new trail priorities to evaluate needs and prioritize trail gaps and connections between existing trails to add to the active transportation network.		\$
Initiative 2.2.3. Prioritize development to allow access to trails throughout the County, with the long-term intention of closing the remaining gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian networks in unincorporated areas within the County.	  	\$\$\$
Initiative 2.2.4. Incorporate trail projects currently listed within the Department of Transportation Annual Capital Improvement Program into a comprehensive Parks and Trails Capital Improvement Program.		\$
Initiative 2.2.5. Study the appropriateness of allowing electric bikes and develop policies to address safety concerns with the use of E-bikes and other emerging technologies for both recreation and transportation on trails.		\$
Initiative 2.2.6. Incorporate transit and travel information into the Division's website to encourage the use of transit or biking to trailheads.	 	\$
Initiative 2.3.1. Under the direction of staff, engage volunteers and non-profit groups to assist in building and maintaining trails.	  	\$
Initiative 2.3.2. Develop natural surface trail standards to be used by staff and volunteers in trail construction and maintenance.	 	\$
Initiative 2.3.3. Connect existing or forthcoming trails with the goal of creating an uninterrupted unpaved natural "single track" allowing for biking, walking, and horseback riding from the west to the east County lines. The natural trail may align in some areas with a paved trail, but may also diverge as appropriate for users.	  	\$\$\$

CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION




















INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 2.4.1. Manage recreational opportunities in coordination with other parks and recreation areas so that recreational opportunities in El Dorado County complement nearby opportunities.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 2.4.2. Calculate recreation acreage standards pursuant to the General Plan considering all publicly accessible parkland, including opportunities provided through partner agencies.	⌚	\$
Initiative 2.4.3. Encourage partnerships with El Dorado County agencies that promote programs for disadvantaged groups.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 2.4.4. Establish regular meetings with the City of Placerville and El Dorado County Parks & Recreation agencies, the El Dorado County Office of Education, the U.S. Forest Service, and other park districts and jurisdictions to continually review common natural resource and recreation issues and to coordinate programs, activities, and facilities.	⌚	\$
Initiative 2.4.5. Continue to accept, encourage, and promote donations to fund capital projects, amenities, and maintenance projects.	⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 2.5.1. Co-locate parks with school sites where practical, to support shared use and improve accessibility.	⌚	\$
Initiative 2.5.2. Develop digital and printed countywide trails mapping that includes partner agencies and organizations.	⌚⌚	\$\$
Initiative 2.5.3. Continue to engage with non-profits, schools, and local sports leagues to make use of funding or land to meet the demands for sports fields.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 2.5.4. Lead Rubicon Trail partner agencies and organizations in pooling resources and leveraging the strengths and capacities of all involved agencies and user groups to reduce duplication of efforts.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 2.5.5. Document school partnerships with joint-use agreements to plan for better connections between school children and parks and open spaces.	⌚⌚⌚	\$

INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 2.6.1. Develop Open Space design standards to include staging and parking areas for all users, including horse trailers, directional signs, restrooms, and fire fuels reduction and maintenance.	 	\$\$
Initiative 2.6.2. Co-locate new assets with new or existing facilities, including schools, libraries, and areas of concentrated employment to share construction and maintenance costs, provide efficient delivery of services and create multipurpose destinations.	  	\$\$
Initiative 2.6.3. Coordinate access to open spaces with the efforts of nearby providers, such as the American River Conservancy (ARC), Placer County, City of Placerville, the Federal Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service, to maximize connectivity and opportunities for an integrated regional trail network.	  	\$
Initiative 2.6.4. Where appropriate, incorporate a natural surface shared-use path for bikers, equestrian users, walkers, and runners.	  	\$\$\$
Initiative 2.6.5. Enter into partnerships or agreements with other federal, state and local agencies such as Placer and Amador Counties, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and CAL FIRE to clarify management responsibilities, share resources and more efficiently address road maintenance, fuels reduction, interpretive programs, law enforcement, emergency response, and/or other operational needs.	 	\$
Initiative 2.6.6. Encourage and support the acquisition of connected open space through the Division's role in planning and land development. Focus conservation easement acquisition efforts within areas not currently fragmented and encourage new developments to preserve or expand open space connections.	  	\$

INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 2.7.1. Formalize County and Community Service District development approval procedures to provide adequate review of proposed park improvements to make sure they are consistent with this Master Plan in terms of the quality of land, and type and quantity of improvements.		\$
Initiative 2.7.2. Ensure new development has provided funding for expansion of the current parks, trails, and open space system and anticipates funding needed for on-going maintenance and capital replacement.	  	\$
Initiative 2.7.3. Ensure that parks, trails, and open spaces proposed in specific plans create a network or a connected system.	  	\$
Initiative 2.7.4. Encourage the development of privately-owned and maintained feeder trails in lieu of public trail easements in areas that have limited potential to serve the larger community.	  	\$
Initiative 2.7.5. Encourage small, single-neighborhood parks to be developed, maintained, and funded under private ownership with maintenance costs provided by a special district or homeowner's association.	  	\$
Initiative 2.7.6. Conduct a Park Impact Fee Nexus Study with the intent of assessing a regional park and trail development impact mitigation fee.		\$\$

GOAL 3: PRIORITIZE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ASSETS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS		
INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 3.1.1. Continue current projects to their completion prior to pursuing new opportunities.		\$\$\$
Initiative 3.1.2. Adapt park facilities to provide a variety of appropriate improvements to encourage physical activity and social engagement, with emphasis on facilities that meet the requirements for those with a disability including physical, developmental, behavioral, and sensory.	 	\$\$\$
Initiative 3.1.3. Incorporate facilities such as inclusive play equipment, multigenerational play facilities and outdoor fitness equipment park amenities to address recreation needs for users of all ages and abilities.	  	\$\$\$
Initiative 3.1.4. Consider seniors and those with limited mobility when planning for spacing of benches and shade along walking trails.	  	\$
Initiative 3.1.5. Include places to gather and connect with others on various scales from small family gatherings to larger group events at regional parks, where feasible, expanding their use and purpose.	  	\$\$
Initiative 3.1.6. Optimize operating times for parks to make it possible for people with diverse work and school schedules to utilize them.		\$
Initiative 3.1.7. Develop multi-purpose facilities where practical to accommodate changes in facility needs over time, such as sports fields that can accommodate both soccer and lacrosse and sports courts to serve both tennis and pickleball.	 	\$\$
Initiative 3.1.8. Monitor use of sports fields and courts at existing parks and remain open to renovations to repurpose amenities in favor of community requests and recreation trends.	  	\$\$\$
Initiative 3.1.9. Design bike and pedestrian facilities and access points to maximize safety.	  	\$\$
Initiative 3.1.10. Upgrade amenities in parks, including playgrounds, shelters, restrooms, and multi-purpose fields, to ensure ADA compliance and engage a range of users, including special needs children.	 	\$\$












CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 3.1.11. In cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and with guidance from the goals and objectives in this Master Plan, analyze existing park plans that have yet to be fully implemented and reevaluate priorities for implementation of improvements.		\$
Initiative 3.2.1. Identify training opportunities for staff to stay up-to-date with new techniques, practices, and materials to support safety, efficiency, and sustainability in all aspects of facility renovation and maintenance.		\$
Initiative 3.2.2. Keep all maintenance equipment in good working order, and fund repair and replacement as a top priority.	  	\$\$
Initiative 3.2.3. Identify opportunities to acquire surplus or excess materials or unwanted equipment from other agencies and County departments.	  	\$
Initiative 3.2.4. For improvements, maintenance, and equipment, identify opportunities for the cost-effective reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.	  	\$
Initiative 3.2.5. Incorporate drought-tolerant, low maintenance native and adapted native vegetation, natural grasslands, and low water landscapes in the planting design of parks and functional landscape areas.	  	\$\$
Initiative 3.2.6. Establish cost recovery policies and expectations for County programs and activities, including recommendations for those programs for which it is not realistic to expect fees to cover the cost of providing the program and those that should be covered by user fees.		\$
Initiative 3.2.7. Strategically consider the value of grants against administrative responsibility and long-term maintenance of grant-funded projects.	  	\$
Initiative 3.2.8. Establish and update a Five-Year Parks and Trails Capital Improvement Program to include long-term maintenance and renovation projects.		\$

INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 3.2.9. Estimate the annual cost for maintenance expenditures and replacement needs over time, especially when considering a new facility or amenity.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 3.3.1. Produce an inventory and analysis of existing County lands for priorities listed in the Master plan, and a plan for each (disposal, hold for future use, develop and with what features).	⌚	\$\$
Initiative 3.3.2. Comprehensively address the management and care needs of the natural environment and open space lands such as erosion control, invasive species, forest management, and wildfire prevention.	⌚⌚⌚	\$\$
Initiative 3.3.3. Ensure sound fiscal principles are used when developing funding strategies, including funding for both one-time expenses and for on-going costs.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 3.3.4. Evaluate and update maintenance frequencies and develop asset replacement schedules.	⌚⌚⌚	\$\$
Initiative 3.3.5. Designate budget line items to fund annual preventative maintenance and reinvestment in facilities to maintain their functionality and prolong their life.	⌚⌚⌚	\$\$
Initiative 3.3.6. Evaluate alternatives for facilities and amenities (such as recreation and aquatic centers or artificial turf and sports field lighting) based on appropriate locations, synergies with other park activities, potential partnerships, and cost effectiveness.	⌚⌚⌚	\$

GOAL 4: ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY TO REFINE RECREATIONAL NEEDS, ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION, AND PROMOTE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT		
INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 4.1.1. Wherever feasible, foster the ability for local organizations and businesses to sponsor or adopt park or trail projects as way to contribute to their ongoing improvement.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 4.1.2. Through a robust volunteer program, provide oversight to engage and train volunteers, track volunteer hours and projects completed to gauge effectiveness, plan for future opportunities, and leverage grant funds.	⌚	\$\$
Initiative 4.1.3. Create a countywide volunteer program for natural trail construction and maintenance, coordinated by a specialized parks maintenance team to provide training to volunteers, tools and direct a crew for improvement annually.	⌚	\$
Initiative 4.1.4. Provide motivational support for and retention of volunteers through calls to service and recognition of efforts.	⌚	\$
Initiative 4.1.5. Create opportunities for community partners such as Scout troops, El Dorado Leadership Forum, and community service organizations to take on park, trail, and open space projects, as appropriate.	⌚	\$
Initiative 4.1.6. In collaboration with user groups, identify improvements to the Rubicon trail program to enhance sustainable responsible use and improve the user experience.	⌚⌚⌚	\$\$
Initiative 4.2.1. Continue to utilize the Park and Recreation Commission as a public forum to gain insight from users on park and trail needs, as a conduit to staff and the Board of Supervisors.	⌚⌚⌚	\$
Initiative 4.2.2. Solicit public input in the design phases for new park and trail facilities to ensure that they adequately reflect the recreation values and preferences of those who will use them.	⌚⌚⌚	\$\$

INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 4.2.3. Develop opportunities for volunteers to serve as “Park Ambassadors” or guides to enhance the park visitor experience and educate park and trail users about rules and regulations, function as sources of information for users, reinforce appropriate park use, and focus on improving the quality of the visitor’s experience.	🕒🕒	\$
Initiative 4.2.4. Consider opportunities for volunteers to participate in trail mapping and assessment efforts to update and track maintenance needs of trails.	🕒🕒	\$
Initiative 4.2.5. Coordinate with Friends Groups for support of single facility or program that will better the community and their special interest.	🕒	\$
Initiative 4.3.1. When designing a park feature, trailhead, or sign design, consider the history of an area, unique environmental factors and/or local character and identity.	🕒🕒🕒	\$
Initiative 4.3.2. Utilize interpretive signage to educate visitors about the site’s history, impact and importance and create a sense of community pride in local heritage.	🕒🕒🕒	\$
Initiative 4.3.3. Improve wayfinding by installing signs and maps at key junctions in the trail system and identifying parking locations.	🕒	\$
Initiative 4.3.4. Work with the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce to increase recognition of the County’s parks, open space, and trail offerings, promote recreation opportunities, and broaden reach for enhance uses of public spaces.	🕒	\$
Initiative 4.3.5. Update the County parks and trails website to allow residents and visitors to find park, trail, and open space opportunities and up-to-date information quickly and easily on park offerings and events.	🕒	\$\$
Initiative 4.3.6. Develop parks and trails branding guidelines and consistently use the branding guidelines in all signage and promotional materials.	🕒	\$\$

GOAL 5: INVEST IN AND SUPPORT THE PROMOTION OF RECREATIONAL FEATURES		
INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 5.1.1. Develop a parks and recreation funding policy in budget policy, dedicating a portion of transient occupancy tax (TOT) to parks, trails, and open spaces.		\$
Initiative 5.1.2. Develop a policy for concessions, food trucks, and sidewalk vendors to operate at parks and trailheads.		\$
Initiative 5.1.3. Through local Chambers or other partners, develop a user-friendly visitor guide accessible on a variety of devices and to include website upgrades, development of mobile applications (apps), local business training, integration with social media and increased use of established visitor information tools.	 	\$\$
Initiative 5.1.4. Engage in marketing efforts by businesses and partner organizations to connect guests to the County's world-class recreation, including the American River, Rubicon Trail, El Dorado Trail, multi-use regional trail system, open space, and park offerings.		\$
Initiative 5.1.5. Evaluate the potential for user or parking fees for facilities that receive high visitor and tourism use.		\$
Initiative 5.1.6. Consider strategies for identifying ongoing funding streams for maintenance and operations of parks and recreation, including user fees, events space rentals, and film fees.		\$
Initiative 5.1.7. Establish guidelines to allow for selling of naming rights and advertising sales on new facilities, scoreboards, trash cans, playgrounds, at dog parks, along trails, on planters, and as part of special events to support the costs of operations.		\$
Initiative 5.2.1. Continue to pursue grant opportunities benefiting new or improved sports fields for development for communities with families and active adult sports leagues, primarily in the western portion of County.	  	\$\$\$

INITIATIVE	TIME FRAME	COST ESTIMATE
Initiative 5.2.2. Review and update facility rental charges for sports fields to offset maintenance and operating costs.	🕒	\$
Initiative 5.2.3. In concert with the County Economic Development Program, identify needs to better position the County as a draw for non-local visitors for sports tournaments, which may substantially contribute to the visitor industry and provide positive economic impacts to El Dorado County businesses.	🕒	\$



South Fork of American River, Photo by Jenna Acker.

