



EL DORADO COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Approved March 25, 2025



Cover Page Photos

Top Row: Trestle Bridge segment of El Dorado Trail, Photo by Friends of El Dorado Trail; Children's playground amenity at Old Depot Bike Park; Youth baseball team playing a night game at Henningsen Lotus Park.

Bottom Row: Kayaking on South Fork of the American River; Parks and Trails Division's Jeep used for conducting maintenance on the Rubicon Trail at Buck Island Lake, funded by State Parks OHMVR Division.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2025 El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan was developed through a collaborative effort between staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, our collaborative partners, and community members. We appreciate the input, ideas, and guidance provided by all who contributed to this plan.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACO	Accumulative Capital Outlay	FY	Fiscal Year
ACS	American Community Survey	GDPUD	Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District
ADA	American with Disabilities Act	GIS	Geographical Information System
ARC	American River Conservancy	HLP	Henningsen Lotus Park
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ASRA	Auburn State Recreation Area	JPA	Joint Power Authority
BLM	US Bureau of Land Management	LOS	Level of Service
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	MPAC	Master Plan Advisory Committee
BOS	Board of Supervisors	NHT	National Historic Trail
CAL FIRE	California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection	NRPA	National Recreation Parks Association
Cal OES	California Office of Emergency Services	NST	National Scenic Trail
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation	OHMVR	Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation
CAO	Chief Administrative Office	OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
CDP	Census Defined Place	PRC	Parks and Recreation Commission
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan	RD	Recreation District
CSD	Community Service District	RMP	River Management Plan
CDF	California Department of Finance	SACOG	Sacramento Area Council of Governments
DOT	Department of Transportation	SPTC	Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor
DTOT	Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax	SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utilities District
EDC	El Dorado County	SRF	Special Revenue Fund
EDHCSD	El Dorado Hills Community Service District	TOT	Transient Occupancy Tax
EDCTC	El Dorado County Transportation Commission	TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
EID	El Dorado Irrigation District	UARP	Upper American River Project
ENF	Eldorado National Forest	USFS	United States Forest Service
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency		

LETTER FROM THE PARKS MANAGER

On behalf of the Parks and Trails Division of the Chief Administrative Office, I'm pleased to present the 2025 update of the Parks and Trails Master Plan. The Plan is our long-term vision and overall direction for planning, implementing, and managing parks and trail resources on the west slope of El Dorado County.

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

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

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

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



Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Perras". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zachary Perras
El Dorado County Parks Manager

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Chapter Page Photo

Laura Ashburn Photography
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INTRODUCTION

This updated Parks and Trails Master Plan for the west slope area of El Dorado County has been developed to address parks, trails, rivers, and recreation at a countywide level. Pursuant to the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan, Policy 9.1.1.8, the County must prepare and implement a Parks and Trails Master Plan.

The current Parks and Trails Master Plan, finalized in 2012, was developed to provide a long-term vision and direction for the planning, implementation, and management of the west slope park and trail resources provided by the County. Given changes in El Dorado County over the last ten years, including implementation of many of the priorities in the Master Plan, the Master Plan is now outdated. The Board of Supervisors also included the completion of the Master Plan update in the 2024 Countywide Strategic Plan.

UPDATE PROCESS AND PURPOSE

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

- 1 Conduct robust public engagement process
- 2 Consider other regional recreational provider's inventory and future plans
- 3 Assess needs based on current population, public comment, and emerging trends
- 4 Analyze County's structure for planning, building, operating, and maintaining park facilities
- 5 Consider current and possible internal and external funding sources
- 6 Provide a strategy for future operations, amenities, and new facilities

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

The result is an updated roadmap for how the overall system of parks and trails will be developed and managed to reflect the fiscal constraints, relative priorities, and needs, drawn from our own understanding of our unique County. We intend to reference this document often, and because we put it together in-house, we believe that the direction it contains will be achieved.

The purpose of the El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan is to provide direction and strategies to guide the acquisition, development, and operation of County-owned and operated parks, trails, and rivers in the Plan Area. This roadmap will inform Parks and Trails Division staff while staying mindful of the public's needs and priorities, and the County's fiscal constraints currently, and into the future.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

An important objective of this Master Plan is to document the existing state of public park, trail, and river resources in El Dorado County and to clarify the role of the County in planning, implementing, and managing those resources. The plan includes an extensive Existing Conditions Chapter that serves as a review of current County assets, processes, and relationships to provide an understanding of the framework we work within to provide service to the public.

There are many other public and private recreation providers in El Dorado County, and the County's objective is to efficiently coordinate with these partners to meet the park and trail needs of residents and visitors. To this end, this Master Plan has a special focus on acknowledging the collaborative opportunities with special districts, local government, private businesses, state, and federal recreation providers.

Working in cooperation with these regional partners, there is tremendous potential to achieve our collective overall goals. This Chapter also includes a review of existing County guiding documents, including the General Plan, as well as a review of County demographic data.

Over the course of implementing this Master Plan, it is possible that additional park or trail projects will be identified that were not anticipated. It is important that the planning, implementation, and management of all County park and trail initiatives proceeds in a manner that consistently provides for public safety, efficient use of public resources, high quality user experience, and resource protection.

For this reason, this Master Plan provides a Park Standards Chapter that includes guidelines for the physical design of new County parks and trails. This chapter also provides the process for evaluating feasibility of future projects so that valuable resources are expended only on projects that are first carefully examined and found to have a reasonable likelihood of success.



Pioneer Park

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

Outreach objectives focused on building community awareness of the project and the process for Plan development, coming to a shared understanding of the County's goals and constraints, and obtaining community input to inform and guide our final product.

Stakeholder meetings were held in October and November 2022, and a series of five public workshops were conducted in the Winter and Spring of 2023. Staff also assembled a Master Plan Advisory Committee in February 2024, composed of representatives from other agencies, and engaged the public in other more informal ways, all to gain insight into the parks and trail system needs.

During the public engagement process several needs related to neighborhood, community, and regional parks, and trails were consistently identified throughout the process of gathering public input. Participants expressed an appreciation for the role of recreation to provide and maintain recreational opportunities that support healthy lifestyles, build community, and accommodate tourism along with its associated economic development.

As seen from the community input, the parks needs expressed by County residents vary significantly depending on where they live and the types of recreational activities they prefer. However, overall, several community themes emerged from these efforts (Figure 1).

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

Last, this document provides Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives to guide us in pursuit of the long-term vision and direction for the planning, implementation, and management of west slope park, trail, and open space resources provided by El Dorado County for the benefit of residents and visitors.

The Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives Chapter expands on the guidance found in the El Dorado County General Plan for parks and trails and were derived from stakeholder and community input and reflect needs based on best practices and regional trends.

Figure 1: Community Themes



The collective purpose of the chapter is to provide direction for how parks and trails should be planned, operated, and maintained so that current and future decisions about these resources are consistent with the County's long-range vision for parks and trails. The five Master Plan goals are as follows in Figure 2.

Implementation of the Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives recommended in this Master Plan will take place over an extended period of time depending on available financial and other resources. This Master Plan does not provide detailed planning or design for individual park or trail resources. Rather, it is concerned with how the overall system of parks and trails will be developed and managed to reflect the relative priorities and needs of the current and future County population.

Notably, while the plan is meant to be a long-term document, it includes direction for the Parks Division to pursue the creation of a multi-year Capital Improvement Program, to be

evaluated annually, to create a schedule for pursuing recreation opportunities based on anticipated resources. As a guiding document, the Plan itself is to be referenced when making future decisions on parks and will provide a roadmap for the Board of Supervisors and County staff. New ways of funding acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks and trails also need to be implemented, especially through our community partnerships.

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

Figure 2: Master Plan Goals



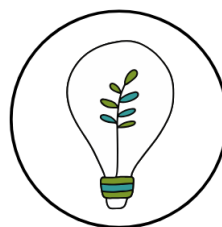
1) Preserve and enhance access to natural areas and resource-based recreation, including rivers, trails, and open space.



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



3) Prioritize maintenance of public assets and improvements to existing parks and trails to continue to provide safe and diverse recreational experiences.



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



5) Invest in and support recreation features in recognition of the importance of recreation as a draw for tourism and quality of life for residents.



Cronan Ranch overlooking South Fork of the American River. Photo by Laura Ashburn Photography
www.lauraashburnphotography.com

CHAPTER 2

EXISTING

CONDITIONS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

El Dorado County and other local jurisdictions have adopted plans which contain guidance related in varying degrees to County parks and trails. This Master Plan is intended to complement, not replace, the direction in those plans, while providing comprehensive direction on planning, implementation, management, and operation of County parks and trails not otherwise addressed. A detailed list of the relevant planning documents are included in Appendix A.

El Dorado County Documents

- El Dorado County General Plan (2004)
- El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Element (2004); Conservation and Open Space Element (2017); Land Use Element (2019); and Transportation and Circulation Element (2019)
- El Dorado County Oak Woodland Management Plan (2018)
- El Dorado County River Management Plan (2018)
- Transportation Commission Coloma Sustainable Community Mobility Plan (2019)
- Transportation Commission Active Transportation Plan (2020)
- Department of Transportation Capital Improvement Plan

Other Planning Documents

- 56 Acres Master Plan (2022)
- Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan (2021)
- Bureau of Land Management Cronan Ranch Management Plan (2007)
- Bureau of Land Management South Fork of the American River Management Plan (2004)
- Cameron Parks Community Services District Master Plan (2014)
- City of Placerville Active Transportation Plan (2020)
- El Dorado Hill Community Services District Master Plan (2021)
- El Dorado Irrigation District Sly Park Recreation Area Master Plan (2007)
- Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988)
- Folsom Lake State Recreation Area General Plan (2010)
- Georgetown Divide Recreation District Master Plan (2008)
- Marshall Gold Discovery Historic Park General Plan (1979)
- Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2017)
- SACOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2018)
- Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Master Plan (2003)
- South Lake Tahoe Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan (2014)

COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

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

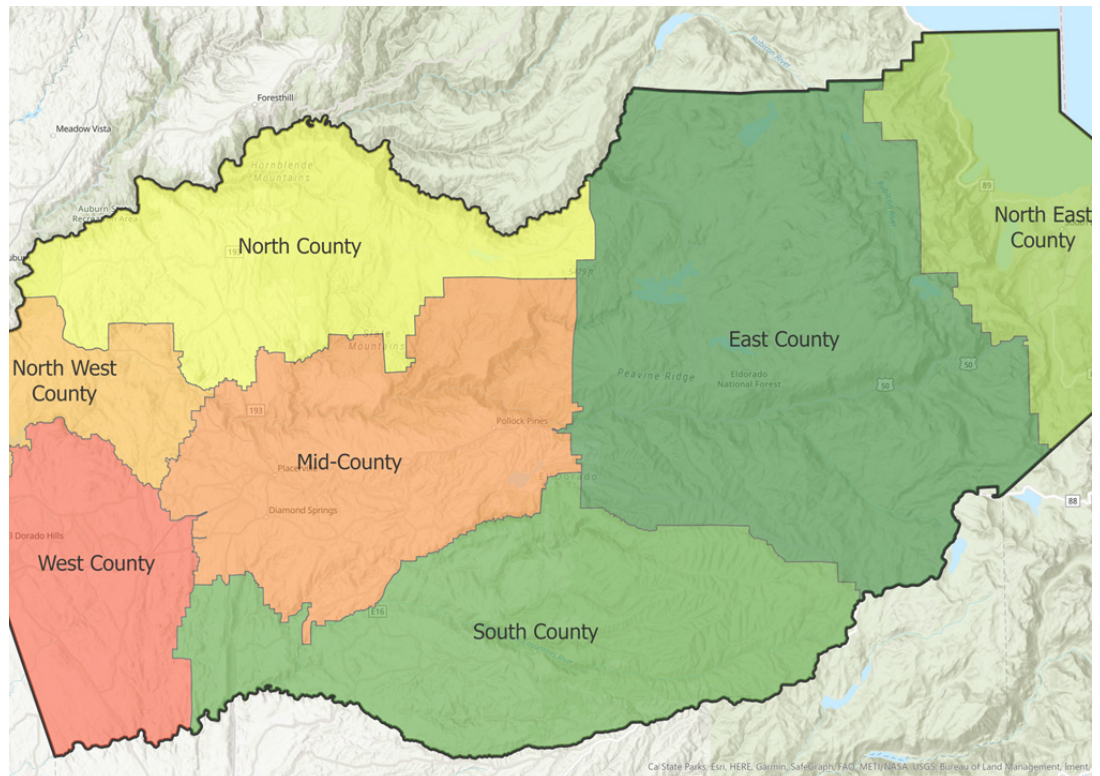
For purposes of this population analysis, the Plan Area is separated into the unincorporated rural communities that are served by the County and the communities that are served by a city or district. The communities that receive park services primarily from an entity other than El Dorado County are Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, Georgetown Divide, the City of Placerville, and the City of South Lake Tahoe.

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

Plan Area regions include:

- North County: Cool, Garden Valley, Georgetown
- Northwest County: Coloma, Lotus, Pilot Hill
- West County: El Dorado Hills, Rescue, Shingle Springs
- Northeast County: Meyers, South Lake Tahoe, Tahoma
- East County: Kyburz, Twin Bridges,
- Mid County: Diamond Springs, El Dorado, Camino, Placerville, Pollock Pines
- South County: Somerset, Grizzly Flats

Exhibit 1: El Dorado County Plan Area



The total population of El Dorado County has grown approximately six percent from 181,058 residents in 2010 to 191,185 residents in 2020 (Table 1). The Plan Area consisting of unincorporated communities served by the County has minimally grown between 2010 and 2020, at a rate of less than one percent. The Plan Area consisting of communities served by a city or community service, or recreation district has grown more substantially, at a population change rate of eleven percent between 2010 and 2020. The community of El Dorado Hill, served by the El Dorado Hills Community Service District, has experienced the most significant population growth, adding over 8,000 residents between 2010 and 2020.

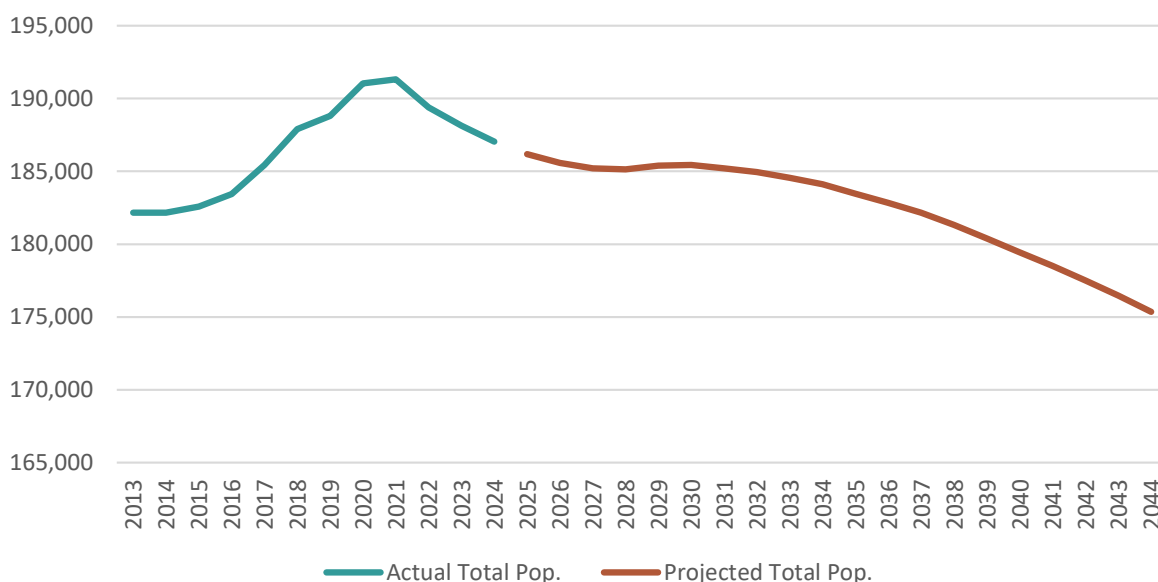
Table 1: Population Change by Plan Area

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

However, demographic projections from the California Department of Finance indicate that the County’s population growth peaked in 2021 at 191,309 residents and is anticipated to contract over the next several decades.

The County population is projected to decrease to 184,106 residents by 2034 and to 175,367 residents by 2044 (Figure 3). These trends indicate that while recreation needs may change or existing gaps in service may need to be addressed, needs for additional facilities may be low and pursuit of new facilities should be carefully considered.

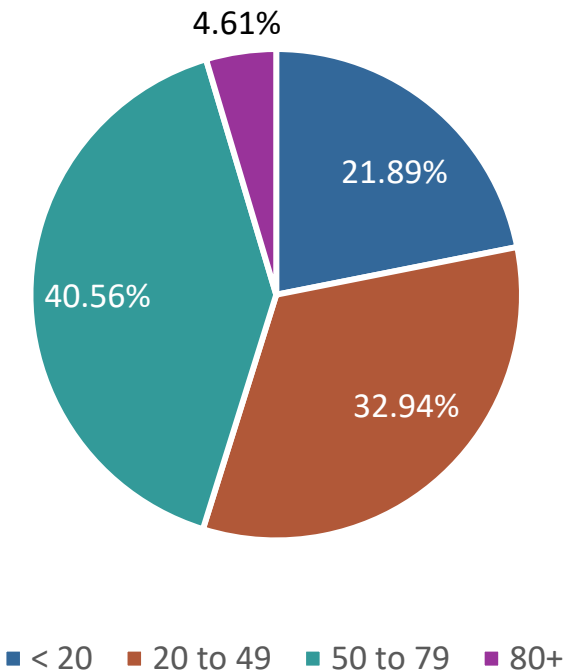
Figure 3: Projected Population



El Dorado County has a population (Figure 4) weighted towards older adults over the age of 50, consisting of 45 percent of the population. The overall County population consists of 33 percent aged 20 to 49 and 22 percent under the age of 20. The percentage of working adults is expected to stay flat over time at 35 percent of the projected population, while the percentage of youth is projected to slightly decrease from 20 to 18 percent by 2060.

The 2012 Parks and Trails Master Plan anticipated that the demand for recreation facilities and programs well-suited to older adults would increase more quickly as that segment of the population grew. The 2020 Census data shows a less drastic increase than anticipated. The 50+ age population is projected to increase slightly in comparison to other age groups from 45 to 48 percent by 2060. The County’s large older adult community will likely continue to seek age-appropriate activities and facilities to address these health needs.

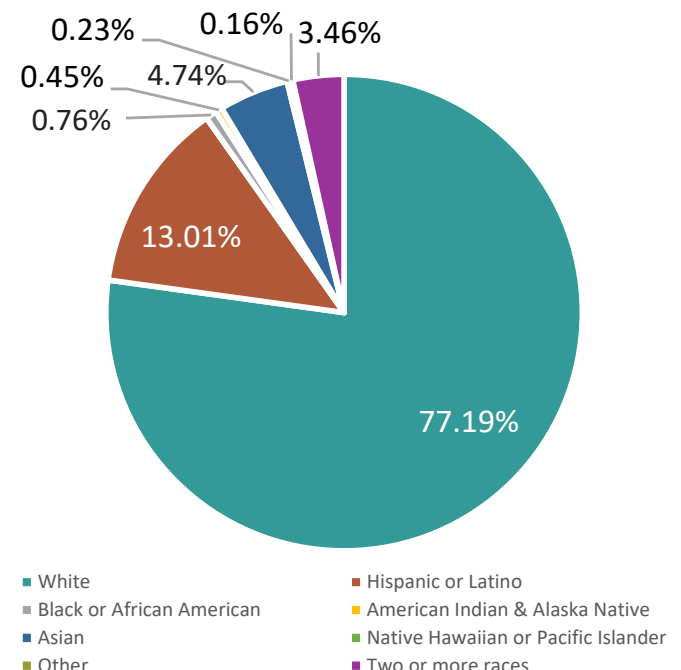
Figure 4: Population Percentage by Age Group



According to the 2020 Census, County residents identify themselves as 77 percent white, 13 percent Hispanic or Latino, 4.74 percent Asian or Asian American, 3.46 percent two or more races, and less than one percent each Black or African American, American Indian or Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Other (Figure 5).

The more urbanized areas tend to have a greater degree of racial diversity than the more rural areas. Twenty percent of Placerville residents and 28 percent of South Lake Tahoe residents identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino. In El Dorado Hills, residents identify as 8 percent Hispanic or Latino and 11 percent Asian or Asian American. Similarly in Cameron Park, residents identify as 17 percent Hispanic or Latino and 3 percent Asian or Asian American. Peoples’ preferences for recreational activities and feelings about nature are often influenced by their cultural heritage.

Figure 5: Population Percentage by Race/Ethnicity



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

Poverty and income status are important recreation planning considerations for several reasons. They reflect residents' ability to pay fees to use facilities, purchase equipment that might be needed to participate in recreational activities, and travel to locations to utilize facilities. Approximately nine percent of residents in El Dorado County are living below poverty level.

The burden of poverty is disproportionately felt by children, of whom twenty-three percent under the age of 11 years old live below poverty level as compared to the overall population of the County. For youth 12 to 17 years old, seven percent live below poverty level and for adults aged 18 to 59 years old, nine percent live below poverty level as compared to the overall population of the County.

Among seniors 60 to 74 years old, seven percent live below poverty level, and for seniors over the age of 75 it is thirteen percent. These County residents have a need for local access to free or very low-cost recreation experiences such as would be available in neighborhood parks or local trails. Additionally, grant and loan opportunities at the state and federal level provide funding specifically for low-income areas to address park access inequity that the County can pursue.

Disability status is another important metric to consider as it helps to understand the need for accommodating disabled park users and providing accessible facilities. In El Dorado County, forty-five percent of seniors 75+ years old and nineteen percent of seniors 65 to 74 years old have a disability, which is comparable to the overall disability rate for the population of California at forty-seven percent and twenty-four percent, respectively. The population under 17 years old with a disability is four percent, while the population 18 to 34 years old with a disability is eight percent, and 35 to 64 years old with a disability is ten percent.

Table 2: Demographic Comparison by County and Plan Area

	EL DORADO COUNTY (ALL)	PLAN AREA SERVED BY COUNTY
Age	22% are under 20 years old 33% are 20 to 49 years old 40% are 50 to 79 years old 5% are over 80 years old	20% are under 20 years old 30% are 20 to 49 years old 45% are 50 to 79 years old 5% are over 80 years old
Race / Ethnicity	77.2% White, not Hispanic or Latino 13% Hispanic or Latino 4.74% Asian or Asian American 3.46% Two or more races 0.76% Black or African American 0.45% American Indian and Alaskan Native 0.23% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0.16% Other	84.4% White, not Hispanic or Latino 9.84% Hispanic or Latino 1.7% Asian or Asian American 2.7% Two or more races 0.34% Black or African American 0.65% American Indian and Alaskan Native 0.31% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0.06% Other
EL DORADO COUNTY (ALL)		
Education Attainment (over age 25)	38% some college/associate degree 35% bachelor's degree or higher 21% graduated from high school 6% not graduated from high school	
Poverty Level	23% under the age of 11 years old 7% of population 12 to 17 years old 9% of population 18 to 59 years old 7% of population 60 to 74 years old 13% of population 75 years or older	
Disability	45% of population 75 years or older 19% of population 65 to 74 years old 10% of population 35 to 64 years old 8% of population 18 to 34 years old 4% of population under 17 years old	

EXISTING PARK AND TRAIL RESOURCES

El Dorado County Parks and Trails Division is responsible for managing and maintaining eight existing park facilities, 53.3 miles of trails, 20.7 miles of South Fork of the American River, and 62 acres of open space land. This section provides an overview of the existing El Dorado County parks, trails, and river recreation resources, as well as those provided by the many other agencies and jurisdictions that play an important role in providing parks and trails recreation in the county.

COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS



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

COUNTY COMMUNITY PARKS



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



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

COUNTY SPECIALTY PARKS



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



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



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

COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



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



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

COUNTY OPEN SPACE PARKS



Cronan Ranch. Photo by Laura Ashburn Photography. www.lauraashburnphotography.com

Cronan Ranch is a 1,600 acres 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 acres 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, and in 2024 the Board of Supervisors made the decision to pursue selling the property to BLM.

The El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Areas Map (Exhibit 2) and El Dorado County Trails and Trailheads Map (Exhibit 3) display in more detail the County-owned and operated parks, open space, trails, and rivers access.

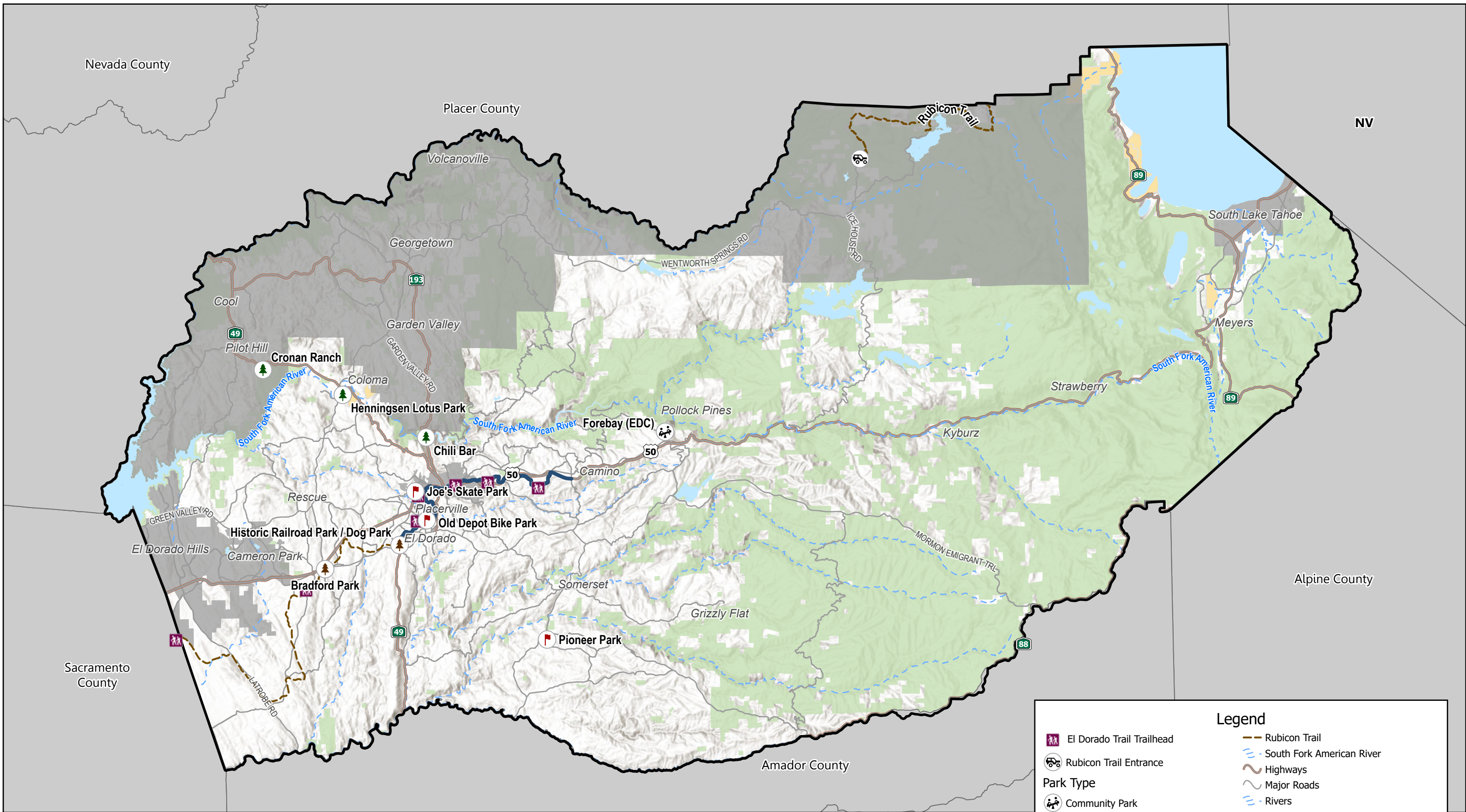
COUNTY TRAILS



The **El Dorado Trail** is envisioned as ultimately traversing the length of El Dorado County from its western border to the Tahoe Basin. From the border with Sacramento County, an unimproved natural trail traverses the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor for 25 miles to the County’s Historical Railroad Park in the town of El Dorado. At this juncture it becomes a Class 1 multi-use trail that runs east 2.2 miles to Missouri Flat Road. The segment then extends 3.7 miles to Forni Road in the City of Placerville. The trail passes under U.S. Highway 50 at Mosquito Road and parallels the highway to Jacquier Road where a County trailhead facility provides parking, signage, and a small exercise/warm up area. The final segment of Class 1 trail crosses back over U.S. Highway 50 at Newtown Road and proceeds to Halcon Road in the community of Camino where the trail becomes improved natural road that ends at Carson Road. The trail is planned to continue to the Tahoe Basin, but the specific alignment is still to be determined.

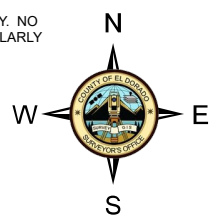


The **Rubicon Trail** is a world-famous off-highway vehicle (OHV) route connecting the town of Georgetown to Homewood on the west side of Lake Tahoe. In places the Rubicon Trail is a well-defined dirt road while other segments are characterized by challenging rock domes, ledges, and rock debris. The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



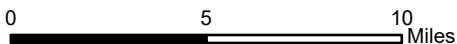
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 EL DORADO COUNTY SURVEYOR/G.I.S. DIVISION
 EMAIL: gis@edcgov.us PHONE: (530) 621-5440
 MAP DISPLAYED IN STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM
 (NAD 1983 CALIFORNIA ZONE 2, FEET)

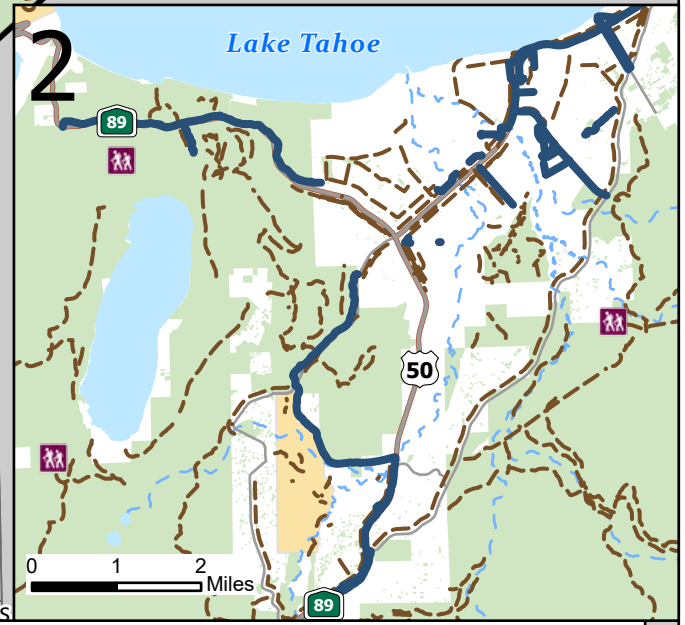
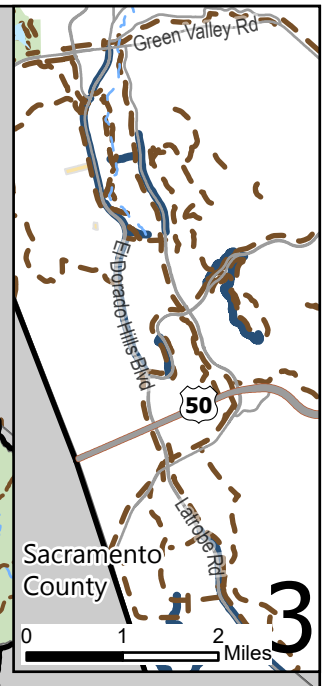
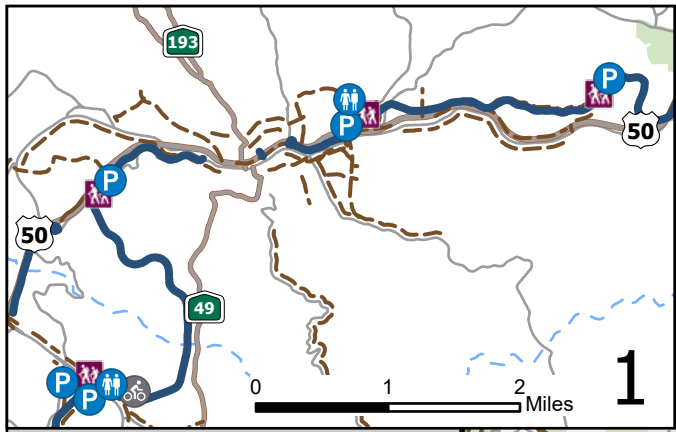
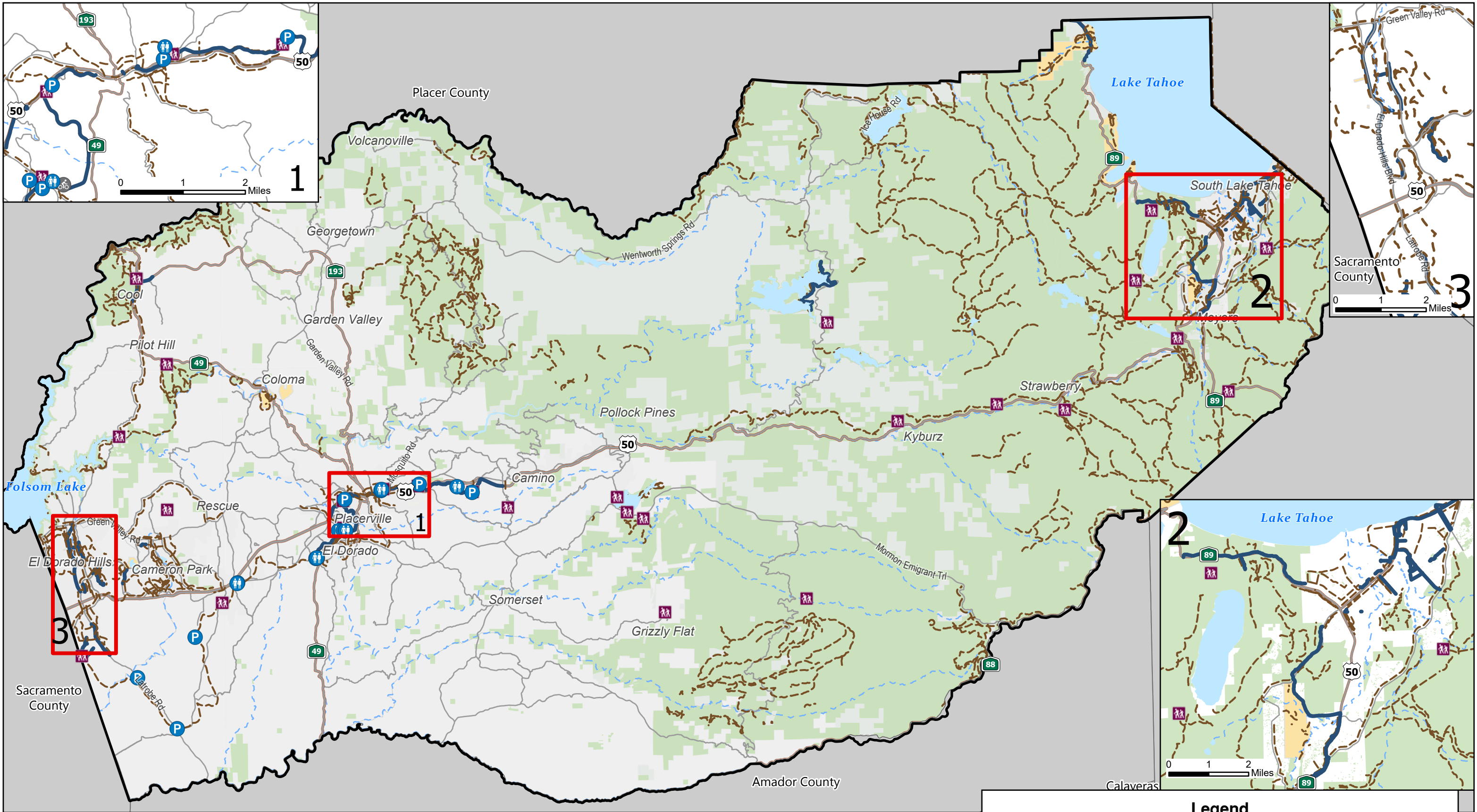


El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Areas

County of El Dorado
 State of California

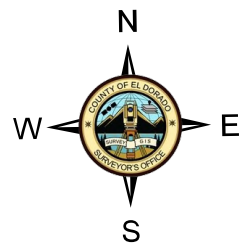


Legend	
	El Dorado Trail Trailhead
	Rubicon Trail Entrance
	Community Park
	Neighborhood Park
	Regional Park
	Special Use
	Dirt
	Paved
	Rubicon Trail
	South Fork American River
	Highways
	Major Roads
	Rivers
	Lakes
	Maintained by Other Park Provider Area
	County Outline
	California State Parks
	Other Counties
	Federal Lands
	Other States



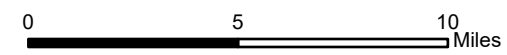
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El Dorado County Trails and Trailheads

County of El Dorado
 State of California



Legend			
	Trailhead		Lakes
Facilities			California State Parks
	Parking		Federal Lands
	Rail Park		County Outline
	Restroom		Other Counties
Trails			Other States
	Class 1 Bike Trail		
	Natural Trails		
	Highways		
	Major Roads		
	Rivers		

COUNTY RIVERS



The 20-mile segment of the **South Fork of the American River** between Chili Bar Dam and Salmon Falls Road is managed by El Dorado County. The 20-mile segment is popular for water recreation activities such as whitewater rafting, kayaking, inner-tubing, paddleboarding, and recreating in other small inflatable crafts. The segment is divided into three reaches: 1) Upper Reach, between Chili Bar and the town of Coloma, is the narrowest and steepest portion; 2) Middle Reach, Coloma to Greenwood Creek, is open canyon walls with alluvial terraces and features Class I and II rapids; and 3) Lower Reach, Greenwood Creek to Salmon Falls, is a narrower canyon with sides that are lower than the Upper Reach. The River Management Plan (RMP) was established in 1984 with updates prepared every five years for the purpose to manage and support whitewater recreation while protecting natural and social resources of the South Fork of the American River. The RMP provides regulatory, plan, and policy guidance for management of whitewater recreation and related activities.



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



Promontory Park, El Dorado Hills CSD, Photo courtesy of EDHCSD.



Sly Park, Photo by Liz Hess.



South Fork of the American River water recreation access at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

LOCAL PARKS AND TRAILS PROVIDERS

Many neighborhood and community parks, recreation programs, and trails are provided by:

- City of Placerville
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- El Dorado Hills CSD
- Cameron Park CSD
- Georgetown Divide Recreation District

These recreation facilities are intended primarily to serve the residents of these communities but are generally open to all members of the public. Each of these entities undertakes its own comprehensive planning process for parks and trails, and for this reason, this Master Plan does not replicate those efforts but limits its focus to those unincorporated areas of the County not addressed by these local park providers.

REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS PROVIDERS

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID):

- Sly Park Recreation Area
- Forebay Reservoir
- Silver Lake
- Caples Lake

STATE PARKS AND TRAILS PROVIDERS

The California Department of Parks and Recreation::

- Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park
- Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
- Auburn State Recreation Area

FEDERAL PARKS AND TRAILS PROVIDERS

The U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management are landowners in El Dorado County, and National Park Service has several trails:

- Eldorado National Forest
- Crystal Basin Recreation Area
- Desolation Wilderness
- Fleming Meadows
- Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park
- Greenwood Management Area
- Dave Moore Nature Area
- Pine Hill Preserve
- Kanaka Valley
- Pacific Crest Trail
- California National Historic Trail
- Carson Emigrant National Recreation Trail
- Pony Express National Historic Trail

NONPROFIT PROVIDERS

The American River Conservancy has a significant role in acquiring land and establishing conservation easements that allow public recreational use and trails:

- Interpretive Nature Center
- Gold Hill-Wakamatsu Park
- Salmon Falls Ranch Trailhead

PRIVATE PROVIDERS

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

- Private campgrounds
- River-oriented recreation
- Rubicon Trail commercial guiding
- Private golf courses

PRIVATE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

El Dorado County recognizes that developing and providing recreation programs is most efficiently handled by local communities and organizations. A great many other programs and events are offered by City of Placerville, City of South Lake Tahoe, Cameron Park CSD, El Dorado Hills CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, and an extensive collection of community groups throughout the County.



White water rafting on South Fork of the American River.

EXISTING PARKS OPERATIONS

The Parks and Trails Division of the Chief Administrative Office oversees park operations, including park planning and policies, grants, contracts, administration, communications, and daily operations of facilities such as scheduling and reservations. Parks and Trails Division supports the Parks and Recreation Commission who acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors. This Division is responsible for the River Management Plan and recreation on the South Fork of the American River, maintenance of the El Dorado Trail, and maintenance and operations of the Rubicon Trail.

All requests to reserve park and trail facilities for private use or events are handled by the Parks and Trails Division. This includes scheduling sports fields for recurring use during league seasons and managing facility rentals for events. Parks and Trails staff collect and process the event applications, permits, insurance certificates, deposits, and fees required as part of the reservation process, and provide annual parking passes as well as onsite parking fee collection at Henningsen Lotus Park.

The Division also provides ongoing services including restroom cleaning and garbage removal, responds to complaint calls on parks and trails, special parks maintenance projects, and volunteer coordination.

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

The Division provides oversight of river recreation and 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 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.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The **Facilities Division** plays a crucial role by carrying out landscaping and grounds maintenance tasks including the upkeep of sports fields, ensuring irrigation systems function properly, handling vegetation management along the El Dorado Trail, and managing all aspects of landscaping to maintain the aesthetic and functional quality of park facilities. This cross-departmental effort helps ensure that recreational spaces remain well-maintained and accessible for the community year-round.

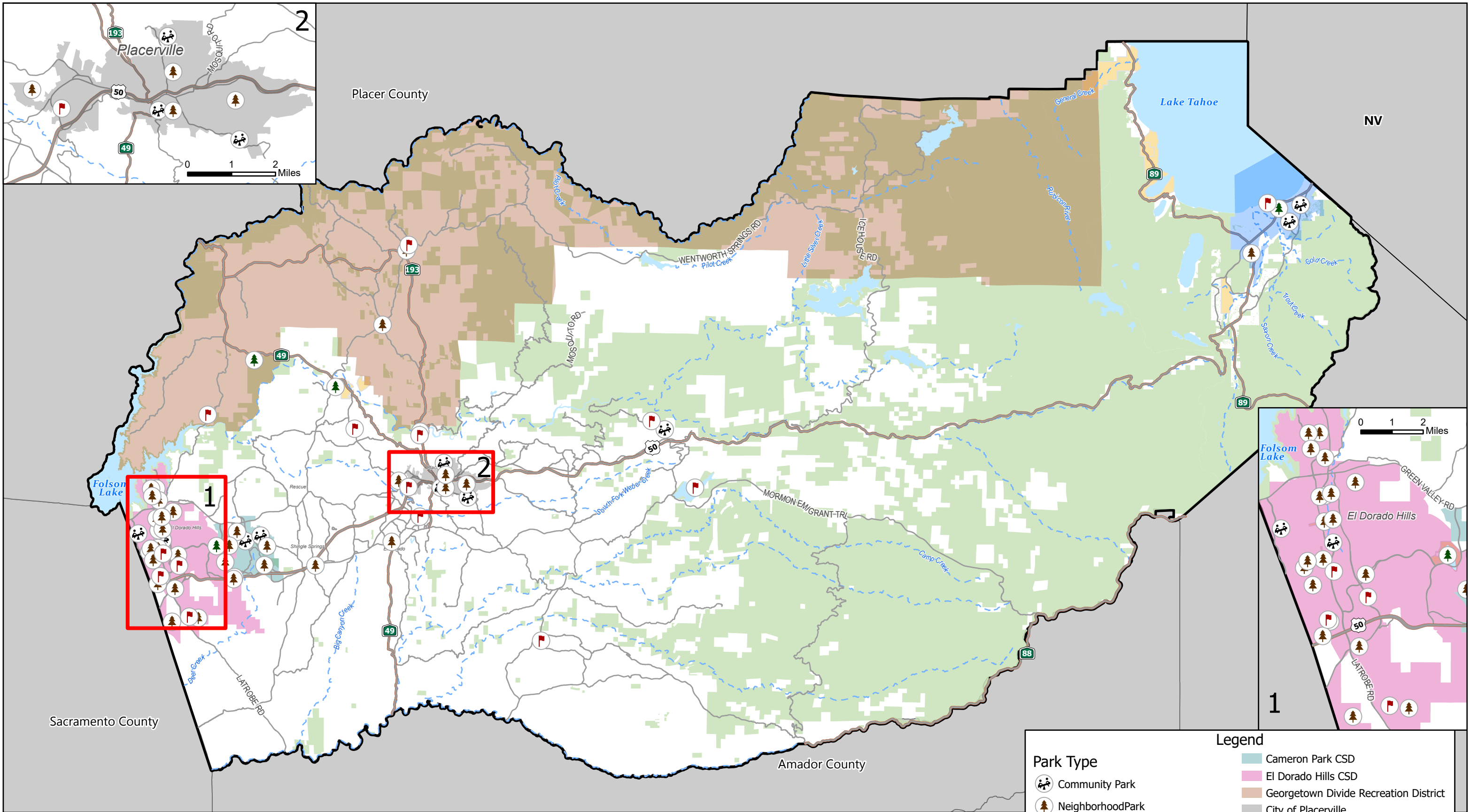
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

SUPPORTING DEPARTMENTS

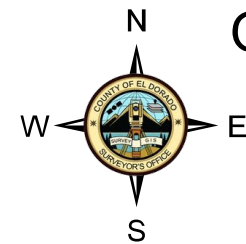
Parks and Trails also works closely with other County departments in other capacities:

- **Department of Planning and Building** assess park land dedication or fees in-lieu during the development review process for subdivisions.
- **Department of Transportation** leads projects to upgrade segments of the El Dorado Trail and provides expertise on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Rubicon Trail.
- **Sheriff's Office** provides sheriff patrols on the South Fork of the American River, El Dorado Trail, and the Rubicon Trail.



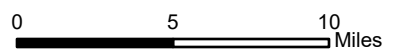
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Other Providers Parks and Recreation Areas

County of El Dorado
 State of California



Legend	
	Community Park
	Neighborhood Park
	Regional Park
	Special Use
	Highways
	Major Roads
	Rivers
	Lakes
	Cameron Park CSD
	El Dorado Hills CSD
	Georgetown Divide Recreation District
	City of Placerville
	City of South Lake Tahoe
	County Outline
	California State Parks
	Other Counties
	Federal Lands
	Other States

DIVISION FUNDING

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

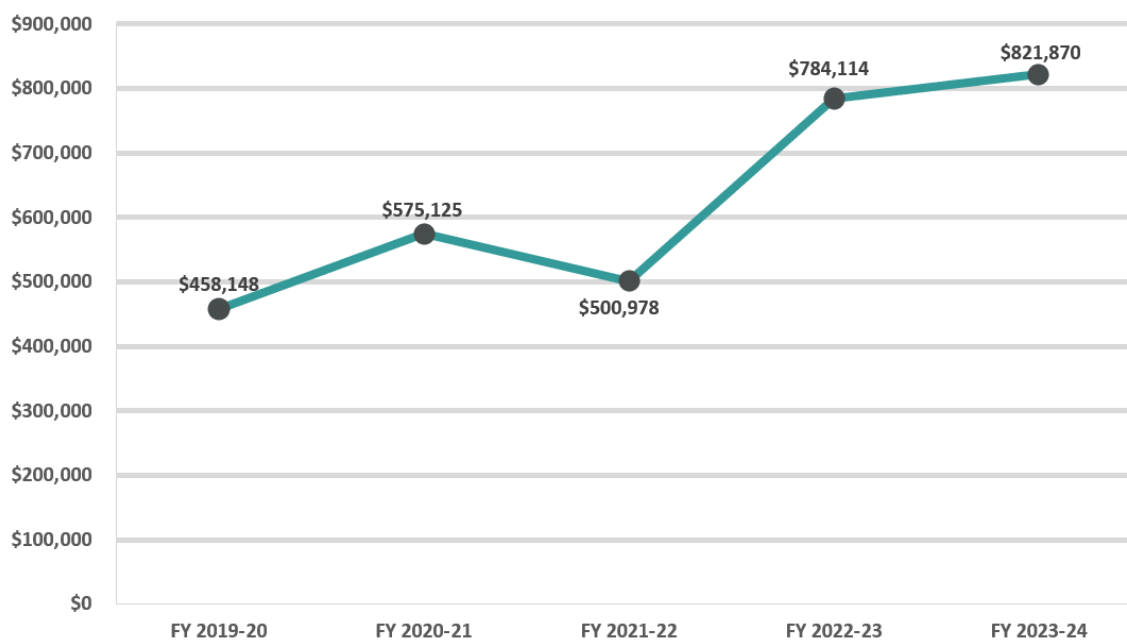
Key funding streams include the County's General Fund, grants from state and federal agencies, and park fees collected for activities such as parking, facility rentals, and river usage. Additionally, the Division relies on Quimby Funds, State Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Green Sticker Fees, and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) contributions which play a vital role in funding various projects including trail development, facility upgrades, and enhanced accessibility.

Other funding sources include donations from private individuals, community groups, and service organizations. Funding for Parks and Trails is complex, but the multifaceted funding approach allows the Parks Division to effectively maintain assets and provide services. For more comprehensive information on the Division's funding sources, see the analysis in Appendix B.

The below data (Figure 6) reflects the Parks Division's total expenditures over five fiscal years (FY), from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24. Overall, expenditures show an upward trend, with fluctuations primarily driven by varying project demands, 2022-23 storm events that impacted facilities, awarded grants, and operational costs.

The general pattern indicates growth in expenditures over time, reflecting the influence of increasing costs and ongoing investments in projects addressing the recreational needs of the County. The total expenditures shown above include grant funding, which can influence overall annual spending levels. Given

Figure 6: Total Parks and Trails Division Expenditures per Fiscal Year



that grant funding fluctuates based on availability and project allocations, it can have an impact on annual expenditure levels. The addition of park and trail facilities and amenities increase costs drastically at the time of development, and lead to an overall increase in ongoing costs associated with maintenance and operations.

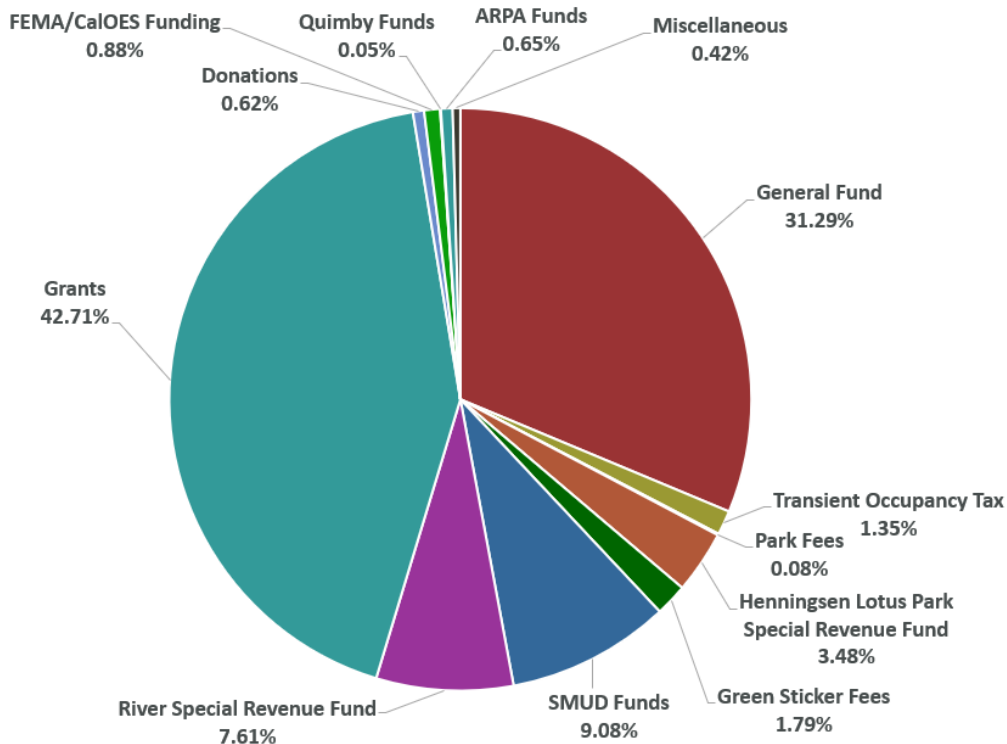
Routine maintenance performed by Facilities' Grounds Unit is not billed to the Parks and Trails Division, but special projects or improvements by other divisions or departments outside of routine maintenance are charged to the Parks and Trails Division and would be reflected here. To maintain and improve facilities over time, ongoing funding is needed.

The pie chart below (Figure 7) illustrates the distribution of funding sources utilized by the Division over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24). Each segment of the chart represents a different funding source, with corresponding

percentages indicating the proportion of total expended funding attributed to each, with grants and General Fund being the largest funding sources, followed by SMUD Funds and the River Special Revenue Fund.

Parks and Trails Division receives an allocation of General Fund for both operations and capital projects. Historically, funding for the Division has been a small percentage of the overall general funds available. The Division utilizes all non-General fund revenues to the maximum extent possible, with the understanding that the General Fund provides funding for many other County programs, including law enforcement, roads, and other facility needs. The majority of General Fund is expended toward operations/administrative costs. Projects, maintenance/supplies, and contributions combined make up just over a third of the remainder of General Fund usage. When no other funding source is available, General Fund dollars are used as grant match funds in order to complete new projects.

Figure 7: Division Funding Source Utilization (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



RESTRICTED FUNDING

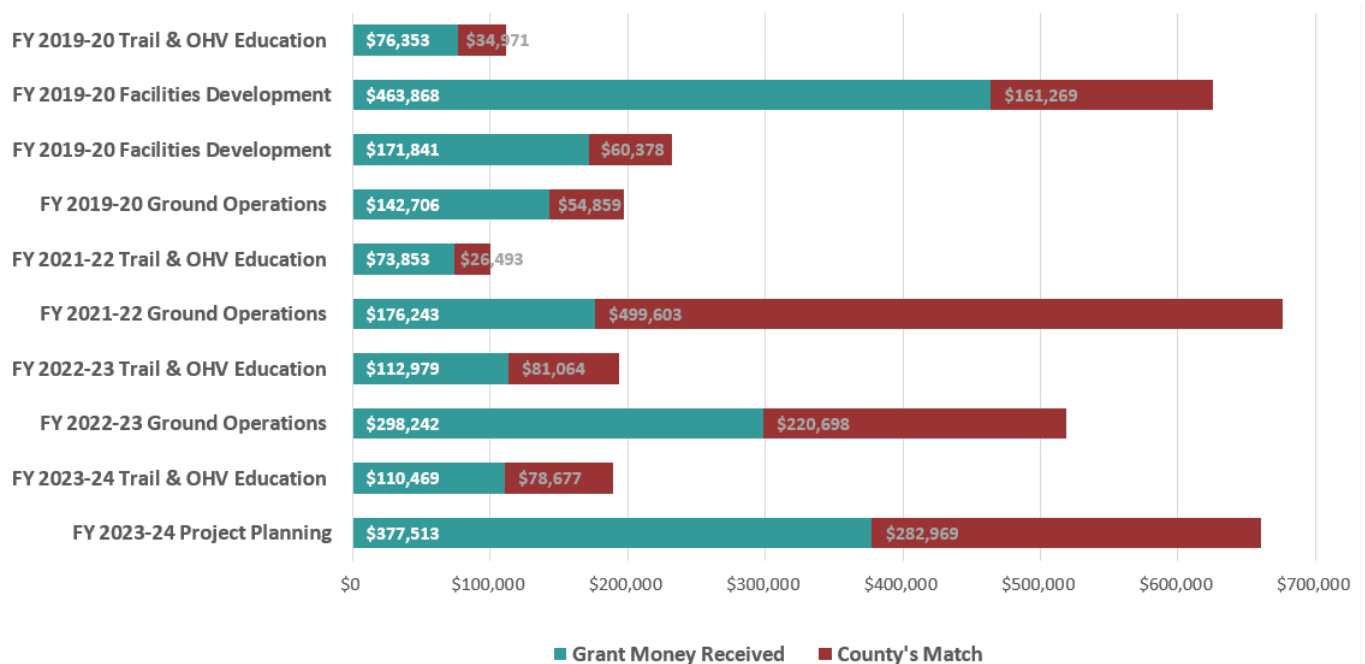
The Division relies on grant funding, special revenue funds, and user fees for most new park projects, trail development, and some ongoing programs. Recent parks projects such as the Old Depot Bike Park could not have been developed without state grant funding.

Grant funding varies significantly since most grants are for specific development or revitalization projects. State Parks has provided competitive and non-competitive (per capita) grant funding for County parks in the past, most recently with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Prop 68), which allowed for the development of the Old Depot Bike Park, as well as \$400,000 in per capita funding for park improvements. Other one-time funding sources include American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) \$3,000,000 for the development of Forebay Park and \$1,000,000 in County Transient Occupancy Tax for the Chili Bar site development.

Rubicon Trail Funding

Division staff spend a significant amount of time on grant applications, engagement with users, and ongoing maintenance and operations on the Rubicon. The Rubicon program is funded primarily through special revenue funds and grant funding, with no reliance on the General Fund. State Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Fees, commonly referred to as Green Sticker Fees, are funds collected by the state from the registration of off-road vehicles such as dirt bikes, ATVs, and other off-highway vehicles and amount to \$60,000-\$100,000 each year for support of the Rubicon program. Due to the location of the Rubicon within the Upper American River Project area, the \$150,000 of SMUD Agreement funds allocated to Parks are used as matching funds for Off-Highway Vehicle grant projects. Grant funding from State Parks OHV Division for projects and the ongoing management of the portion of the Rubicon Trail within El Dorado County varies in funding levels but has been awarded annually for the past decade (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Rubicon Trail Grants Received (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



Park Fees

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

River Trust Fund

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

Henningsen Lotus Park Fund

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



Kayakers at Henningsen Lotus Park. Part of the Henningsen Lotus Park Fund includes the collection of fees for kayak put-ins. Commercial outfitter permits and fees are collected into the River Trust Fund.

TRAIL PROJECT FUNDING

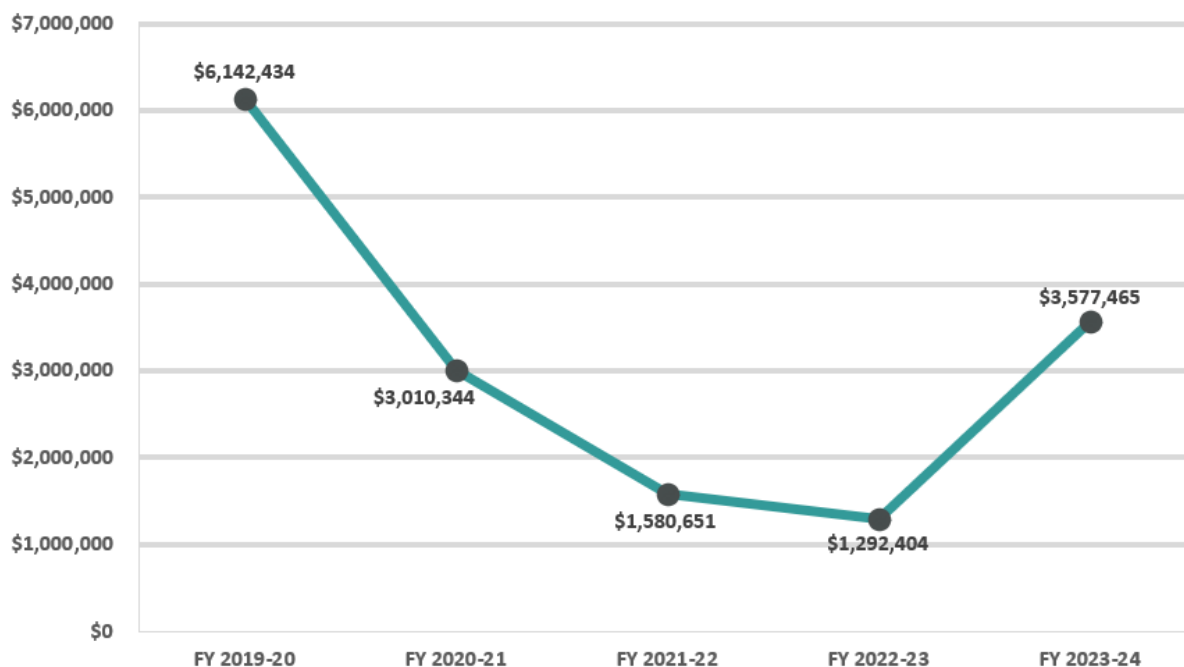
Other county departments play a key role in supporting parks and recreation opportunities and projects. The Department of Transportation (DOT), through its Capital Improvement Program (CIP), contributes by integrating recreational elements such as trails or bike lanes into transportation projects, improving accessibility and connectivity across the county as part of the active transportation system.

Transportation’s CIP serves as the comprehensive planning and implementation tool for the development, construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the County’s transportation infrastructure, including trails, using state, local, and federal funding. By addressing needs to trail access and connectivity, the CIP ensures that Class I, II, or III paved trails are accessible and effectively integrated into the community’s transportation infrastructure.

Once constructed, the County Parks Division assumes responsibility for trail maintenance and repairs of Class 1 trails, except within the Lake Tahoe area, where maintenance and repairs are funded by local sales tax (Measure S) funds and carried out by DOT. By addressing needs to trail access and connectivity, the CIP ensures that recreational trails are accessible and effectively integrated into the community’s infrastructure.

The data below (Figure 10) shows the total DOT CIP Class 1 project expenditures per fiscal year from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24 for all trail-related projects. This reflects the county’s commitment to enhancing and maintaining its trail infrastructure, with expenditures fluctuating based on available funding, project needs, and schedules. The data highlights the County’s ongoing investment in trail infrastructure through the CIP, ensuring that trails are maintained, well-connected, and accessible to the public.

Figure 9: DOT CIP Class 1 Trail Project Expenditures per Fiscal Year



The data below showcases the cumulative project costs for individual trail projects over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 - FY 2023-24). This breakdown provides insight into the specific financial investments made toward developing, maintaining, and connecting trails throughout the county.

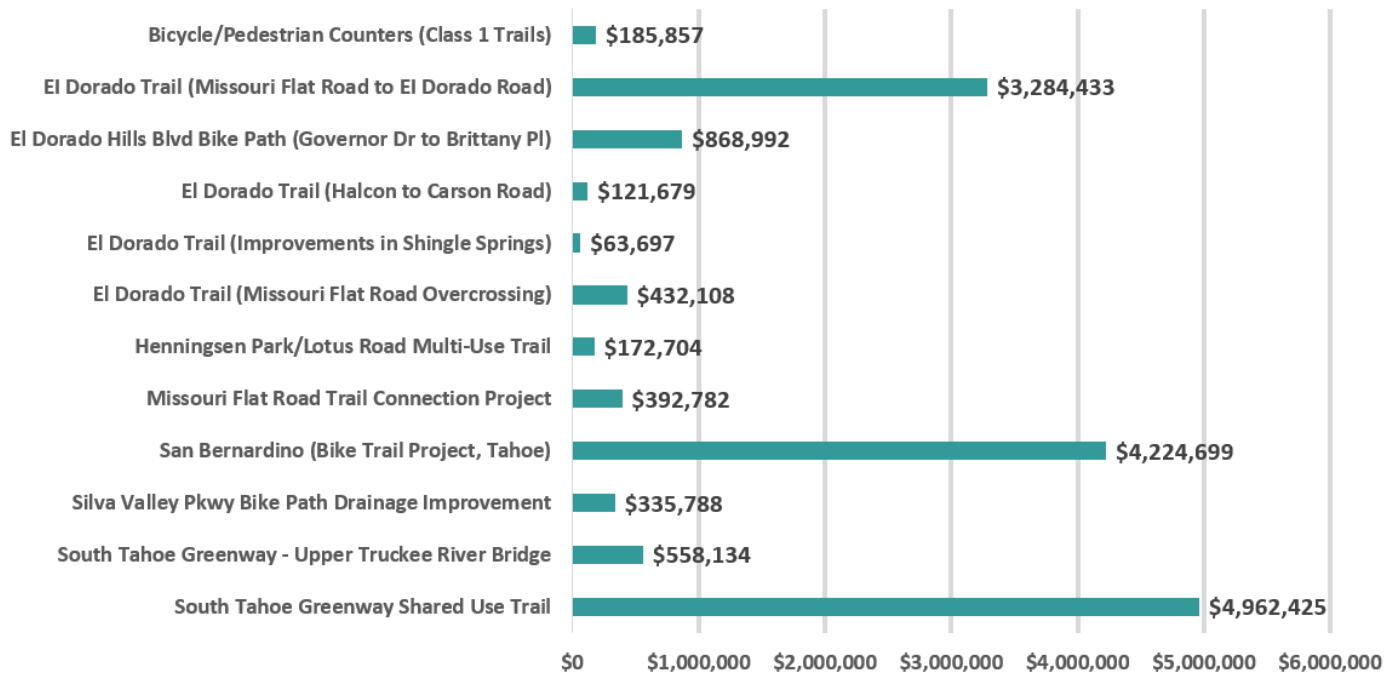
It is important to note that the below data does not represent the total cost of each trail-related project, as some projects began prior to FY 2019-20, while others started after this period, and some are still ongoing.

The data only reflects the expenditures within the past five fiscal years, meaning the full cost of multi-year projects may not be fully captured in this data. These amounts also do not include ongoing maintenance or renovation of existing trails.



El Dorado Trail

Figure 10: DOT CIP Trail Project Expenditures by Project (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



PARK DEVELOPMENT FEES

In order to plan and fund new parks or improvements to existing parks needed as a result of new housing development, there are two types of fees applied within the County: Quimby Act and Mitigation Fee Act. Most areas with a high volume of housing development are within Community Service District (CSD) boundaries or spheres of influence. Some small housing developments occur outside the CSD boundaries; however, they do not provide sufficient funding for the creation of new parks and funding is generally used for improvement to existing parks and trails.

Quimby revenue fluctuates based on the timing and size of housing development in the County. The County manages four Quimby Funds for the county areas outside of CSD and City boundaries: Motherlode, Ponderosa, Gold trail, and Tahoe Quimby Funds.

The County also collects and distributes Quimby funds on behalf of CSDs to support the creation or enhancement of parks and recreational facilities.

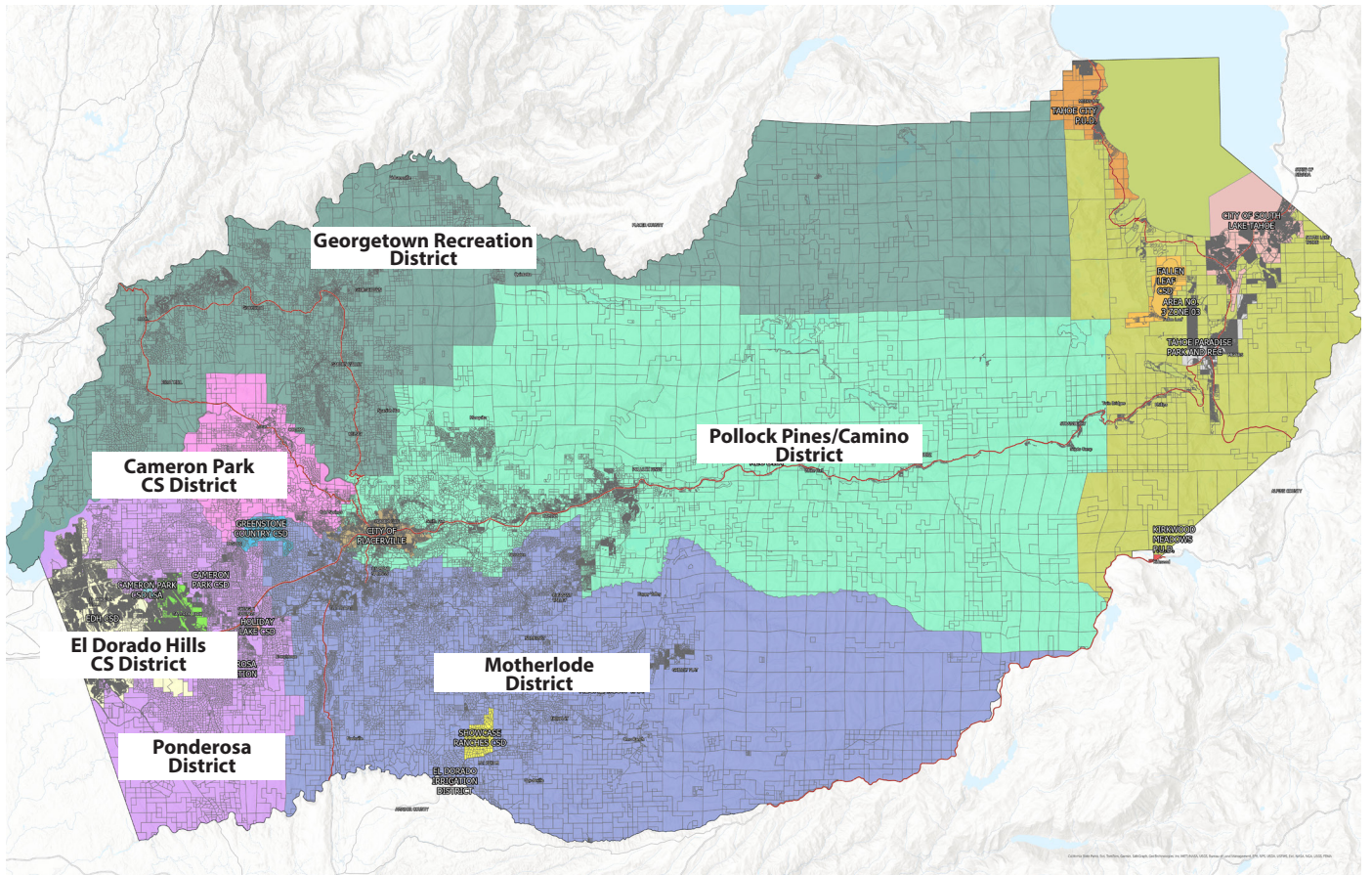
Mitigation Act fees can be used to fund new or expanded park and recreation improvements to accommodate the new residents from the new development. There are established agreements between the County and CSDs to ensure the fees collected comply with parks and recreation purposes of the Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code Sec. 66000-66025). The County does not currently have any adopted development impact mitigation fees benefitting areas of the County outside CSD boundaries.

On behalf of the CSDs, the County adopts, collects, and disburses development impact mitigation fees collected upon the issuance of residential building permits for new development within CSDs (County Code Sec. 13.20).

Quimby Act

The Quimby Act (California Government Code Sec. 66477) authorizes local governments in California to require developers to dedicate land or impose in-lieu fees for the creation or improvement of parks and recreational facilities as a condition of the approval of a tentative or parcel subdivision map (County Code Sec. 120.12.090). In these cases, developers or property owners pay a Quimby in-lieu fee to contribute to the development of a larger park, or for expansion or new amenities at an existing park. These fees, known as Quimby funds, are specifically earmarked for the acquisition, expansion, or enhancement of local parks. Funds cannot be used for maintenance; the County can only “use the fees only for the purpose of developing new or rehabilitating existing neighborhood or community park or recreation facilities.”

Exhibit 5: Quimby Act Map



ACCUMULATIVE CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND

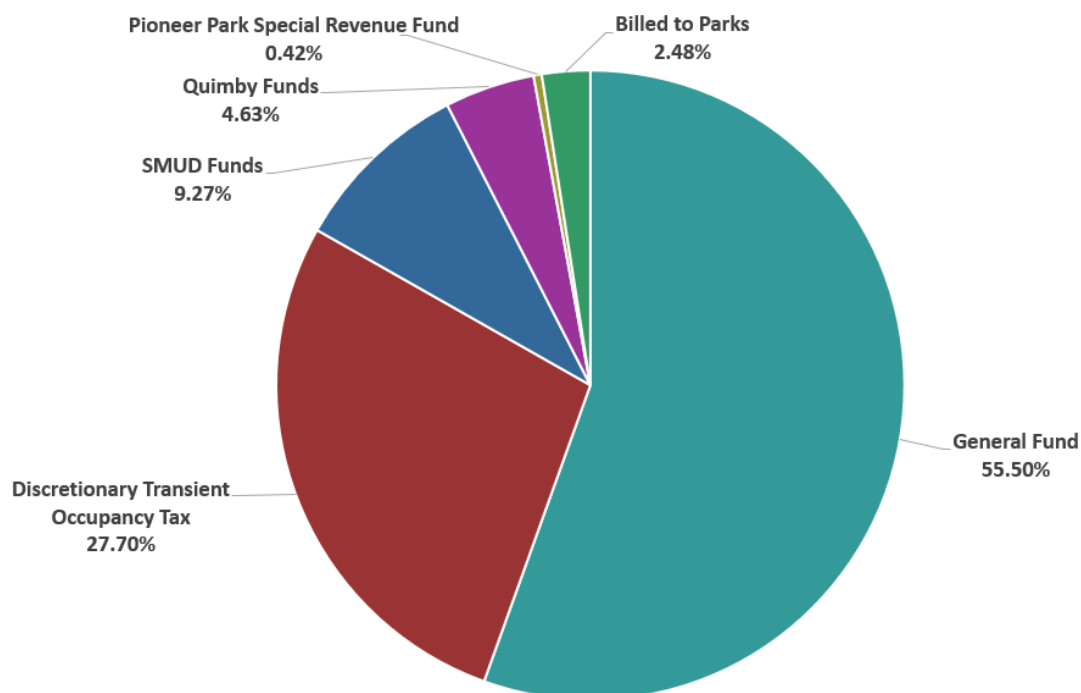
The Accumulative Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund is the County budget unit used to accumulate capital project funding and to plan and track major maintenance and capital improvements to County-owned facilities, other than roads, including parks and trails. Funding from the annual ACO Fund, one percent of all property tax revenues, which amounts to approximately \$2 million each year, is set aside annually for capital projects, countywide.

This funding is in high demand due to maintenance needs for buildings and other non-park grounds throughout the County. Ongoing maintenance and operations of park facilities adds to the long-term obligations. In some years, significant funds are needed for large-scale project phases like design or construction. Other years may see lower spending as projects reach completion or if there are project

delays. The variation shown below is normal when it comes to capital planning and project management, as the funding expenditures are driven by the varying number of parks projects on the schedule at any given year and specific requirements of each project phase.

The chart (Figure 11) illustrates the proportion of funding from various sources utilized for parks related ACO projects over the past five fiscal years (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24), emphasizing a reliance on General Fund, DTOT, and SMUD funds for the park projects on the ACO project schedule. Since these funds are deposited into the ACO Fund, they are not categorized under the Parks Division's funding structure. However, 2.48 percent of the costs associated with these projects were billed directly to the Parks Division and is reflected within the expenditures located in Figure 7, Parks Division Funding Source Utilization.

Figure 11: ACO Fund Sources for Parks Related Projects on the Capital Projects Work Plan (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



FUNDING GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Funding for parks, trails, and recreation is a key component to the implementation of the Master Plan. The development of new facilities and additional amenities historically receives strong community support, however, dedicated funding is limited.

- General fund dollars are competitive with multiple county programs such as law enforcement, roads, social services, and other facility needs and availability of these funds varies based on the County's budgeting process and tax revenue generation.
- Additional amenities and new parks add to ongoing maintenance needs, which is generally funded through ongoing County General Fund.
- Unlike Community Service Districts, the County Parks and Trails Division does not receive a parks-specific portion of general tax revenue and does not have an adopted development impact mitigation fee.
- Most restricted funding sources, including Quimby funds, State grants, active transportation funds, and ARPA can add to the County's level of service by providing funds for development, but cannot be used for ongoing maintenance and operations.
- Grant funding opportunities continue to provide the most cost-effective method for developing new parks, amenities, and expansion of facilities.
- Some restricted funding sources such as the River Fund, Henningsen Lotus Park Fund, SMUD, and OHV funds provide ongoing funding for operations and maintenance for specific locations and types of recreation.



South Fork of the American River.

CHAPTER 3

PARKS AND TRAILS PLANNING STANDARDS



PARKS AND TRAILS PLANNING STANDARDS

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

PARK STANDARDS

In the County of El Dorado General Plan, we define parks in three categories: Neighborhood Park, Community Park, and Regional Park. In addition to these categories listed in the General Plan, the County also maintains Specialty Parks, which do not fit neatly into any of the three categories but are an important part of the overall parks system.

Following is a description of each park category and the associated park planning standards are summarized in Table 3.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks are large multi-use parks that serve several communities within a region, generally within an hour driving distance. biking distance and should avoid arterial roadways. Neighborhood parks provide access to basic recreation opportunities such as fields, court games, and playgrounds. They also provide passive recreation activities that include walking, viewing, and picnicking.



COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are larger than neighborhood parks and intended to serve several neighborhoods as a gathering place and local point for a larger community. They generally serve a larger user area of a half-mile to five miles in radius. Access is provided by collector or arterial streets with bike lanes and sidewalks. Community parks may include areas for more intense recreation activities such as tennis, playgrounds, volleyball, etc. They may also support restrooms and designated parking areas.



Playground at Historical Railroad Park.



REGIONAL PARKS

Regional Parks are large multi-use parks that serve several communities within a region, generally within an hour driving distance. Access is provided by highways, arterial roadways, and regional trail networks. The regional park incorporates natural resources and provides active and passive recreation opportunities, with a wide selection of recreation facilities for all age groups. Regional parks may include, interpretive centers, community centers, aquatic facilities, sports complexes, camping opportunities, trails, and amphitheaters.



River beach area at Henningsen Lotus Park.



SPECIALTY PARKS

Specialty Parks are designed for a single, primary use, like golf course, historical site, skate park, or water park, where the primary focus is on that activity rather than general recreational use. These parks offer specialized amenities that cater to a particular interest or group of users, often drawing visitors from beyond the immediate local area. Access is provided by highways, arterial roadways, and regional trail network.



Riding the pump track at Old Depot Bike Park.

Table 3: Park Planning Standards

PARK TYPE	ACREAGE	SERVICE AREA	MODE OF TRANSPORT	SLOPE	RESTROOM / PARKING
Neighborhood Parks	2 - 10	0.5 miles	Walking, Biking	2%	No
Community Parks	10 - 44	5 miles	Walking, Biking, Driving, Public Transit	2%	Yes
Regional Parks	30 - 10,000	1 hour	Driving, Public Transit	N/A	Yes
Special Use Parks	< 1 - 100+	up to 3 hours	Driving, Public Transit	N/A	Yes

PARK SITE CHARACTERISTICS

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

Park Locations

- Selected based on compatibility the adjacent land uses, site suitability, and opportunities to optimize existing infrastructure.

Access to Infrastructure

- Proposed parkland should have access to appropriate infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, and power.

Land Uses

- The types of land uses surrounding the potential park site should be considered. Land adjacent to an existing or proposed school site is desirable because it offers future joint use opportunities. Land that provides opportunities to connect to trails or bikeways is also desirable. If a proposed park site is adjacent to land uses that are incompatible with the proposed park use, the land may not be suitable.

Environmental Considerations

- Land that is constrained by the presence of special status species, jurisdictional wetlands, cultural/historical resources, or other protected resources may not be suitable, depending on how much of the site is constrained and the extent of the constraint. However, sites may be considered in situations where the resources may offer meaningful interpretive opportunities and provide passive recreation.



Picnic area at Pioneer Park.

PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

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

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

Park Design Guidelines

- Facilities within parks should be sited to optimize recreation value by locating features with similar uses adjacent to each other.
- Multi-use recreation areas and facilities should be emphasized to efficiently utilize park resources.
- Where night lighting is included in parks for safety and anticipated recreational uses, glare impacts on nearby residential areas shall be mitigated through appropriate equipment choices and placement.
- Provide a unique character for each park consistent with the local identity. Express this identity through consistent use of selected colors, materials, and design motifs.
- Sites, facilities, structures, or landscapes of historic or cultural significance within each park should be included where possible in the park design.
- Barriers and screens such as landscaping, earth berms, and fences should be included as buffers between parks and residential or other land uses where park use adversely impacts or is adversely impacted by the adjacent land use.
- Adequate parking shall be provided at parks in accordance with anticipated levels of use. On-street parking shall not cause traffic congestion or interfere with parking for and access to adjoining land uses, particularly residential neighborhoods.
- Park entrance improvements shall include a park name sign with rules and hours of operation.
- An ADA accessible circulation route shall be provided connecting all accessible features in the park.
- Sight lines shall be maintained along circulation routes so that users have adequate opportunity to see oncoming pedestrians and cyclists and to eliminate blind spots.
- Design park facilities to minimize maintenance requirements.
- Preserve natural site characteristics as feasible in park design.
- Preserve mature healthy trees as feasible by locating park improvements outside of the trees' drip line and preserving natural drainage.
- Incorporate fire safe best practices incorporating CAL FIRE's defensible space buffers.

TRAIL STANDARDS

To describe the existing level of service for trails it is useful to first clarify what is meant by the term “trail”. Many different types of features are included under the broad concept of trails, each with different and sometimes overlapping functional objectives and user expectations. There are several different local, state, and federal agencies that have developed their own trail standards. Most have many aspects in common but there are some variations amongst the different jurisdictions. The intent of this section is to describe the different applicable agencies standards, and to articulate the time and place each standard is applied. These trail standards may be consulted over the life of the Master Plan as the County plans for new trails or trail improvements.

PAVED TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Trail and Bike Facilities Standards is the most commonly used standard for paved trails within the state of California and is consistent with the paved trail sections within El Dorado County. As we continue to add mileage to our trail network, we will use the Caltrans Standards for paved off-street trails and on-street bike lanes.

We also need to consider the type of vehicles that will be using the trail facilities. With the recent prevalence of E-bikes it is worth discussing how they play into trail use and what types of trails they are allowed on. Chapter 10.32.010 of the El Dorado County Code defines electronic bikes or e-bikes as a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts as defined in California Vehicle Code §

312.5. Conforming class I and II E-bikes are allowed on all trail facilities as defined by Chapter 10.32.010 (the term “trail facility” or “trail facilities” means any class 1 trail, natural trail, or horseback riding trail owned, maintained, and/or operated by El Dorado County.

For purposes of this chapter, “trail facility” shall also include that portion of the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC) that is located within El Dorado County.) Although the county does currently have policy around the use of E-bikes on trail facilities within the county, further discussion and coordination with adjacent agencies will be necessary to ensure consistency of access for use on regional connector trails.

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



Wilkinson Trail, Henningsen Lotus Park.

Class I Shared Use Paths are paved trails completely separated from the roadway. They allow two-way travel for bicycling and walking and are often considered the most comfortable facilities for children and inexperienced bicyclists because there are few potential conflicts with drivers. The El Dorado County Active Transportation Plan (EDCTC, 2020) identifies approximately 35.9 miles of new Class I bike paths for future development.

Figure 12: Class I Example



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

Figure 13: Class II Example



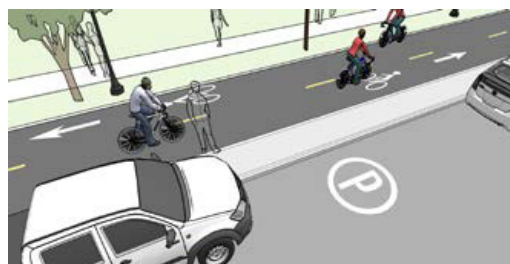
Class III Bicycle Routes are signed routes where bicyclist share a travel lane with drivers. Because they are shared facilities, bicycle routes are best suited for low-speed streets with relatively low traffic volumes or on higher-speed roadways that include a wide outside lane or shoulder to accommodate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

Figure 14: Class III Example



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

Figure 15: Class IV Example



NATURAL TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Trail and Bike Facilities Standards is the most commonly used standard for paved trails within the state of California and is consistent with the paved trail sections within El Dorado County. As we continue to add mileage to our trail network, we will use the Caltrans Standards for paved off-street trails and on-street bike lanes.

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

Multi Use Trails must be designated to accommodate cyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians. Trails that only facilitate use by cyclists and pedestrians or trails that only allow for equestrian and pedestrian uses are not considered multi-use. Multi-use trails are designed with the intention of accommodating a range of uses and user groups on the same trail facility.

A byproduct of having a facility that is meant for multiple uses is that not all of the expectations or design features of each user group can be met. The construction of multi-use trails demonstrates compromise amongst these uses and user groups and often results in lower rates of user satisfaction. In addition to generally lower level of satisfaction multi-use trails commonly pose a greater level of difficulty when it comes to trail design and sustainability.

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

On the following page (Table 4) is a summary of natural trail design standards based on the United States Forest Service standards and can be referenced by the County for natural trails categorization and development along corridors, within parks, or in open space areas. The United States Forest Service has trail classification nomenclature that uses numbers (1-5) to differentiate trail classifications to denote the level of management and range from minimally developed trails (Class 1) to fully developed (Class 5).

PAVED VS. NATURAL TRAILS

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

Natural Trails are usually unpaved and intended to serve hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, depending on constraints of terrain and environmental sensitivity. Natural trails typically provide ways to explore public natural areas and may be served by designated and/or improved trail heads. They function primarily as recreation features rather than for transportation.

There are hundreds of miles of natural trails in western El Dorado County, most of them owned and managed by other regional agencies whose mission includes public recreation. Most residents within the County can access a wide selection of natural trails within a half hour drive from their homes.

CHAPTER 3 PARKS AND TRAILS PLANNING STANDARDS

Table 4: Natural Trail Design Standards

Trail Attributes	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4
Tread & Traffic Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread intermittent and often indistinct. May require route finding Single lane with no allowance constructed for passing Predominately native materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread continuous and discernable, but narrow and rough Single lane with minor allowances constructed for passing Typically native materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread continuous obvious Single lane, with allowances constructed for passing where required by traffic volumes in areas with no reasonable passing opportunities available Native or imported materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread wide and relatively smooth with few irregularities Single lane, with allowances constructed for passing where required by traffic volumes in areas with no reasonable passing opportunities available Double lane where traffic volumes are high and passing is frequent Native or imported materials May be hardened
Obstacles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles common naturally occurring, often substantial and intended to provide increased challenge Narrow passages; brush, steep grades, rocks and log present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles may be common, substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge Blockage cleared to define route and protect resources Vegetation may encroach into trailway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles may be common, but not substantial or intended to provide challenge Vegetation cleared outside of trailway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacles infrequent and insubstantial Vegetation cleared outside of trailway
Features & Trail Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures minimal to non-existent Drainage typically accomplished without structures Natural fords Typically no bridges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures of limited size, scale, and quantity; typically constructed of native materials Structures adequate to protect trail infrastructure and resources Natural fords Bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures may be common and substantial; constructed of imported or native materials Natural or constructed fords Bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures frequent and substantial; constructed of imported or native materials Constructed or natural fords Bridges as needed for resource protection and user convenience Trailside amenities may be present
Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route identification signing limited to junctions Route markers present when trail location no evident Regulatory and resource protection signing infrequent Destination signing, unless required, generally not present Information and interpretive signing generally not present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route identification signing limited to junctions Route markers present when trail location no evident Regulatory and resource protection signing infrequent Destination signing typically infrequent outside of wilderness Information and interpretive signing not present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance Route markers as needed for user reassurance Regulatory and resource protection signing may be common Destination signing likely outside of wilderness; generally not present in wilderness Information and interpretive signs may be present outside of wilderness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance Route markers as needed for user reassurance Regulatory and resource protection signing common Destination signing common outside of wilderness; generally not present in wilderness Information and interpretive signs may be common outside of wilderness Accessibility information likely displayed at trailhead
Typical Recreation Environs & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural, unmodified ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural WROS: Typically Primitive to Semi-Primitive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural, essentially unmodified ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural WROS: Typically Primitive to Semi-Primitive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural, primarily unmodified ROS: Typically Primitive to Roded Natural WROS: Typically Semi-Primitive to Transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be modified ROS: Typically Semi-Primitive to Rural WROS: Typically Portal to Transition

CONNECTORS

Connectors are characterized by the function they serve in providing ways for people to move between neighborhoods and communities. They have both a recreation and transportation function, but for recreation purposes are typically separated from a vehicular route. They may be paved and/or unpaved, depending on their location and intended use. Connectors may function at the scale of a neighborhood, community, and/or region. The El Dorado Trail is an example of a connector that functions at all three scales depending on location and also functions as a natural trail in some areas.

Connectors provide alternative transportation options for people to get from home to schools, parks, and businesses without relying on a vehicle particularly in the more urbanized communities. These are also important recreation features, especially for people who can't drive to a trailhead, such as children, people without cars, and the elderly who no longer drive.

In the more rural areas, such as the Georgetown Divide, these local connectors are also heavily used by equestrians. When people talk about wanting more access to trails for everyday exercise, these are often the types of facilities they have in mind. Connectors are key to being able to develop Safe Routes to Schools and other features of Livable Communities.

There are very few connectors in unincorporated El Dorado County. In some neighborhoods, sidewalks provide for limited pedestrian access. Within the Georgetown Divide, an extensive network of informal trails through private property is used by residents to connect to

neighborhoods, regional trails such as the Western States Trail, and U.S. Forest Service trails. These connectors can also function as natural trails.

TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS

The following standards guide planning, design, and construction of new trails and improvements to existing trails. All trail projects shall also comply with the El Dorado County Design and Improvements Standards Manual as applicable.

Parking and Trailheads

- Designated parking lots should be provided whenever possible at trailheads, particularly at heavily used trails and trailheads. Parking lots shall be of sufficient size to accommodate known or anticipated demand. Consideration should be given to joint-use parking with schools, churches, restaurants, and commercial uses.
- Where parking lots are not provided at trailheads, sufficient on-street parking should be available that will not cause traffic congestion and interfere with parking for and access to adjoining land uses, particularly residential neighborhoods.
- Frequent, convenient access/egress points with appropriate road crossings as needed should be located along trails in neighborhoods and communities to facilitate use and trail security.
- At a minimum, trailheads heavily used by equestrians should include hitching rails. Where practicable, corrals and a water spigot should also be provided.
- Restrooms (permanent or portable) should be provided and maintained within all major trailhead parking lots.
- Trash receptacles shall be provided and maintained in sufficient number and size to accommodate trailhead use.

- Whenever practical, potable water and drinking fountains or bottle filling stations shall be provided at trailhead parking lots.

Signs

- Signs shall be placed at all trailheads, in clear view of parking lots or adjacent streets (where parking lots are not used), directing trail users to trails.
- Signs at trailheads should include the following information, at a minimum: trail name and route numbers; destination(s) and distance to destination(s); overall length and length of segments (where applicable); types of users (i.e., pedestrians, equestrians, bicyclists) permitted.; trail etiquette and safety considerations, including respect for private property, litter control, fire control, and protection of sensitive plants and animals; and degree of difficulty.
- Signs should be placed at various points along trails to identify junctions with other trails, water features, streets, and hazardous or sensitive areas.
- Interpretive signs may be placed at environmentally sensitive areas to educate trail users of the value of the natural resource. Culturally sensitive sites shall not be identified to discourage disruption, theft, and vandalism.

Proximity to Developed Areas

- Trailheads and trails should be located away from noise- and privacy-sensitive uses, particularly residences, to the extent necessary to prevent intrusion. In addition to physical distance, earthen berms and plant materials may be utilized to further screen trailheads and trails from adjoining uses.
- Barriers and obstacles including boulders, logs, bollards, and stiles, may be erected outside of and adjacent to the path of travel where needed to discourage unauthorized motor vehicle access.

Grading and Erosion Control

- Grading for trails and trailheads should be minimized to the extent feasible. Where trails traverse cross slopes, large upslope cuts and downslope fills should be avoided through the use of retaining walls.
- Trail alignments should be selected that will result in the least impact on the existing topography and vegetation.

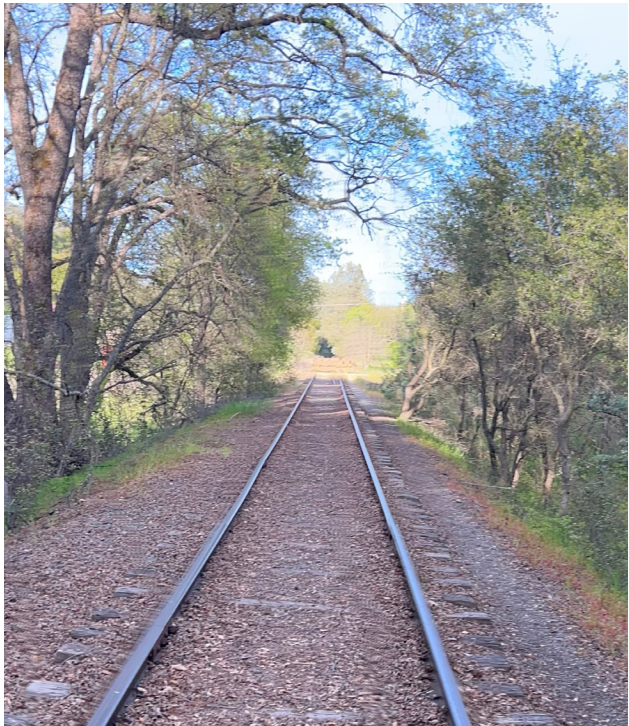
Proximity to Hazardous Areas

- To the extent practicable, trails should avoid proximity to potentially unsafe situations, such as railroad tracks, busy streets and highways, abandoned mines, and steep cliffs. Where trails must be near such areas, fencing or other appropriate barriers shall be installed. Grade separation should be considered where feasible.
- Trail crossings of busy streets or rails should be minimized. Where crossings are needed, a location with adequate sight distance shall be selected and appropriate signage and crossing treatments installed.
- Trail intersections with other trails should be located and designed so that sight distance, grades, and other features enhance crossing safety.
- Where trails are designed within an active or potentially active railroad corridor, trails should be located downslope of tracks whenever possible, should employ physical barriers when necessary, and always be separated by the maximum available distance.
- Trails should not be constructed where cross slopes exceed 20 percent, unless appropriate downslope barriers are provided. In certain instances, upslope barriers may be necessary to intercept falling rocks.
- Barriers constructed of local trees and logs should be provided between trails and steep and hazardous areas.
- Trails located next to steep or other hazardous areas shall be at least four feet in width.

TRAIL DESIGN DETAILS

Class I bike paths will be designed in accordance with the Caltrans Chapter 1000 Bikeway Design Standards. Natural trails will be designed to follow the United States Forest Service Trail Design Standards. To accommodate the tread widths specified previously, trail easements for single-use trails shall be a minimum width of 8 feet. Easements for dual or multiple trails should be a minimum of 14 feet in width.

- To the extent possible design trails to conform with the natural topography of the area.
- When equestrian or bicycle uses are anticipated adjacent to a paved trail a separate natural trail shall be provided at least 6 feet from the paved trail.
- Horizontal clearance for all trail types shall be 2 feet beyond the trail tread.
- Minimum vertical clearance standards are as follows: Hiking trail: 7 feet, Bicycling trail: 12 feet, and Equestrian trail: 12 feet.
- Trails should not be greater than 15% in slope except where necessary for short runs of up to 20%.
- Where retaining walls are employed, natural materials, such as logs and native stone, should be used to the extent possible.
- Landings at the end of switchbacks should be at least 8 feet in width.
- Hiking and equestrian trails located within a public right-of-way shall be at least 5 feet from the traveled way unless a barrier is constructed between the trail and the edge of the traveled way.
- Regional connectors should ideally provide accessible facilities for pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and other users. However, ownership and terrain may preclude the ability to secure a sufficiently wide easement for all uses. In such cases, uses will be selected based on community priorities and feasibility.



El Dorado Trail natural trail segment, right side of train tracks, east of Shingle Springs Station.



Mountain bikers on a natural trail segment of the El Dorado Trail. Photo courtesy Friends of the El Dorado Trail.

OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

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

OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS

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

Regional Open Space is the most abundant type of open space within the county and includes National Forest, BLM, and State Parks Lands. These areas contain passive amenities such as restrooms,

picnic tables, and parking facilities. They also provide a greater range of recreation opportunities and tend to draw visitors from a large geographic range.

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

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



View of South Fork of the American River.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

All scheduled park maintenance is conducted by Parks and Trails Division Maintenance staff and Grounds Maintenance staff within the Facilities Division of the Chief Administrative Office. The maintenance objective is to provide safe, sanitary, and aesthetically pleasing landscaping and maintenance for all County parks and trails. Maintenance is provided on a regular basis at the County's parks in addition to the El Dorado Trail. Tasks include repairs to signs, concrete, fencing, and water fountains, and trash and graffiti removal as needed. Crews provide landscape and field maintenance, restroom cleaning, and any repairs needed to lights, equipment, picnic tables, play areas, barbecues, hardscape, and other park facilities. The El Dorado Trail is maintained seasonally for vegetation management, and periodically for trash removal cleanup at parking lots and trailheads, and any repairs as needed for bollards, kiosk, par course, benches, and other structures, mostly from volunteers. The El Dorado Western Railroad maintains the tracks throughout the corridor under the direction of Parks and Trails Division and Museum staff.



Sports field maintenance conducted by Grounds Maintenance Staff at Pioneer Park.



Restroom maintenance at Pioneer Park.



Trash removal service by Parks and Trails Maintenance Staff at Henningsen Lotus Park.



Landscape maintenance conducted by Parks and Trails Maintenance Staff at Old Depot Bike Park.

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

HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE

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

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

NORMAL LEVEL OF SERVICE

This is below the standard the Grounds unit is committed to providing, but is nevertheless safe, sanitary, and will sustain plant life.

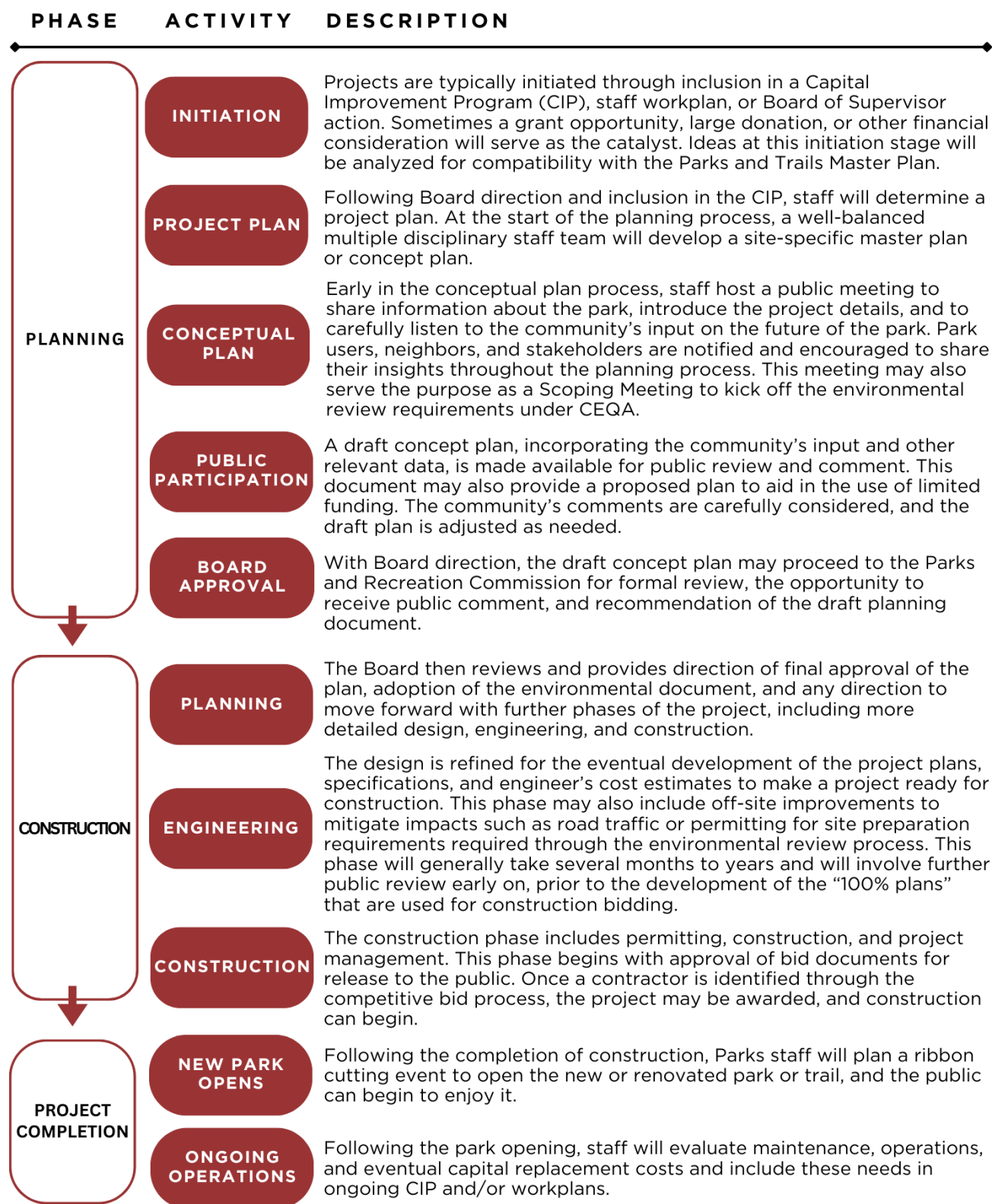
- Citizen complaints infrequent but do occur.
- Hazards / complaints are generally responded to within 2-4 days.
- Minor debris and trash are removed during normal litter removal as scheduled.
- Increased water loss due to delays in breakage repair.
- Presentation of landscape is not always manicured and is less visually pleasing.
- Vegetation abatement to meet fire code.
- Restrooms cleaned intermittently, in sanitary condition, and equipment is functional.
- Legible signs but may be signs of wear.


BASIC LEVEL OF SERVICE

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

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

Figure 16: Parks and Trails Development Process





CHAPTER 4

PUBLIC

ENGAGEMENT

Chapter Page Photo

Laura Ashburn Photography
www.lauraashburnphotography.com



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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

PUBLIC OUTREACH

El Dorado County residents played an integral role in the development of this Master Plan by providing input on parks and trails facility priorities, recreation preferences, operational matters, and funding issues. A variety of mechanisms were used to generate input including a series of workshops, surveys, and one-on-one interviews.

The staff and consultant project team engaged in traditional and nontraditional media outlets based within County boundaries to ensure the community was aware of the project and engagement process. Throughout the project a stakeholder database was utilized to target community partners, parks and recreation user groups, and the general public.

TARGET AUDIENCE & STAKEHOLDERS

The public outreach effort was targeted to engage community members, business owners, and key community-based organizations, including:

- **Current & past park/trail users:** Members of the general public who use parks and trails recreation facilities.
- **Business interests:** Major employers, business leaders, and associations in the area who have a vested interest in improving parks and trails.

- **County leadership & elected officials:** El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Commissioners, Board of Education Trustees, and relevant department heads.
- **Neighborhood associations:** Local community and neighborhood associations in the areas of the parks and trails.
- **Community organizations:** Community groups, such as Kiwanis and Rotary; partner organizations, such as community services districts; faith-based organizations; and youth groups, such as sports associations and outdoor activity clubs.
- **Schools:** Elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges in the County that may have a vested interest in improving parks and trails for their students and faculty; relevant Parent-Teacher Organizations; and the El Dorado County Office of Education.
- **Agency Partners:** Key agency partners including SMUD, Transportation Commission, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and State Parks.

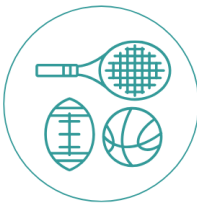
Public Outreach Goals:

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

STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETINGS

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

STAKEHOLDER GROUP KEY THEMES



Sports Teams Access:
Several concerns focused on the high costs for sports teams, field availability, and lack of lighting.



Increase in Use:
We also heard that there are more people going to the river, and a need for more restrooms and parking.



Accessibility:
Another concern was ADA accessible sports fields, and river access points, and the need to provide parks and recreation to the aging community.



Safety:
Safety concerns included pedestrian safety, especially at Henningsen Lotus Park, issues with homelessness, drug and tobacco use, and theft.



Trail Development:
Due to different needs for trail users, walkers, bicyclists, and equestrians, participants asked that the full EL Dorado Trail be paved but also have a parallel off-pavement trail. Connectivity was also a major theme, especially regarding a regional trail system across northern California.



Economic Development:
Connectivity between trails was discussed as an economic driver.



Partnerships:
Participants cited the need for the County to work in coordination with federal land managers and other agencies.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND SURVEY

The project team hosted five community-wide workshops to inform the public about the Master Plan update process, provide interactive stations for gathering opinions on park needs, and listen to the public’s ideas. These workshops were held at park facilities in easy-to-access different parts of the county to create more opportunities for participation. In addition, one workshop was held online via Zoom for participants that could not make an in-person workshop, and an online survey was administered. Complete results of the workshops and participant polling can be found in Appendix C. At each workshop, community input was collected and analyzed for key themes and take aways, listed in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Community Key Themes

WORKSHOP	PARTICIPANTS	KEY THEMES
Coloma/Lotus	70 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Fields • Horse Trailer Parking • ADA Accessibility Trail Development
Shingle Springs	32 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle Trails • Trail Connectivity
Somerset	20 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle Trails • Water Recreation Access
Pollock Pines	34 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Biking Venue • Zipline/Ropes Course • El Dorado Trail Connections
Online via Zoom	25 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Accessibility • Trail Connectivity • Free Open Space • Improved Signage • More Amenities • Interested in Volunteerism



Coloma/Lotus Workshop



Shingle Springs Workshop



Pollock Pines Workshop

MASTER PLAN SURVEY

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


Survey respondents were asked to add their location on a map of the County within one of the seven Plan Area regions for this Master Plan. Most responses were from those living in West County (37%) and Mid-County (28%), and 4.2 percent of respondents reported that they live outside the County. The following map exhibit displays the seven Plan Regions and the top priorities for each (Exhibit 10). Respondents were also asked to plot a map of their favorite park or place for recreation, displayed in Exhibit 11. Full details of the survey and responses can be found in Appendix C.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT KEY FINDINGS

Through the public engagement process, several needs related to neighborhood, community, and regional parks were consistently identified. Further, as seen from the stakeholder and community input, the parks needs expressed by County residents vary depending on where they live and the types of recreational activities they prefer. However, overall, several key findings emerged from these efforts. Following are the seven key themes that inform this Master Plan.

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





CHAPTER 5

LEVEL OF SERVICE

AND NEEDS

ANALYSIS



LEVEL OF SERVICE AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

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

This chapter brings forward background information on our current level of service for parks and trails, and compares our current system of parks and trails with other similar counties to provide a rough estimate of how El Dorado County measures up. The analysis looks specifically at El Dorado County owned and operated facilities. This chapter also considers the needs of the County as a whole wherever possible and includes an analysis of facilities provided by other park providers, as describe in the Existing Conditions Chapter. Through this assessment, the County will be better equipped to strategically plan for future park development and ensure that resource distribution aligns with community needs and regional best practices.

PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE

The El Dorado County General Plan provides general park categories and guidelines for how many acres of park land should be acquired and developed based on population for the County, as well as guidelines for the Community Service Districts (CSDs) and planned communities (Table 6). The guidelines recommend 1.5 acres of regional and community park land and 2.0 acres of neighborhood park land for every 1,000 people. The guidelines for CSD and planned communities are 5.0 acres of neighborhood and community park land for every 1,000 people.

Table 6: 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

ACRES OF DEVELOPED PARK LAND

Although the County ownership, development, and operation of parks is limited to those areas not served by a local park provider (CSD or city), the General Plan standard under Policy 9.1.1.1 applies to the County as a whole. In addition to the parks, trails, and recreation features owned and operated by the Parks Division, the County is also served by Cameron Park CSD, El Dorado Hills CSD, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, City of Placerville, and the City of South Lake Tahoe.

The information in Table 7 shows the acres of parkland in existing County-owned and operated parks and acreage for other park agencies within the County and compares those numbers to the acreage needed by park type. The total population of the County is 191,185, and the population outside of City or CSD jurisdiction and served solely by the County and no other park provider is 86,711 people, according to the 2020 US Census.

General Plan Goal 9.1:
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.

Table 7: Existing County Park Acreage by Population

POPULATION	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)	Specialty Parks (No Guidelines)	Open Space (No Guidelines)	All Parks (5 ac / 1,000)
Total Pop: 191,185 Plan Area Pop: 86,711						
Bradford Park	2.7					2.7
Forebay Park		12.6				12.6
Henningsen-Lotus Park			51.0			51.0
Histoircal Railroad Park	6.3					6.3
Joe’s Skate Park				1.0		1.0
Old Depot Bike Park				2.6		2.6
Pioneer Park		21.0				21.0
Chili Bar Park				15.7		15.7
Cronan Ranch					62.0	62.0
Subtotal:	9.0	33.6	51.0	19.3	62.0	174.9
Guideline Target:	173	130	130	n/a	n/a	434
Total Surplus/(Deficit):	(164.0)	(96.4)	(79.0)	n/a	n/a	(259.1)

CHAPTER 5 LEVEL OF SERVICE AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

When considering County-owned and operated park acreage and the population located outside of City or CSD boundaries, none of the targets in the General Plan are met. According to the General Plan, the County should have a total of 434 acres of parkland, and at a total of 174.9 acres, is deficient by 259.1 acres. As noted in Table 8, the County owns some parks that do not fit neatly into any of the three categories. Three parks are specialty parks, providing an additional 16 acres.

The County-owned Cronan Ranch parcel is 62 acres and would qualify as open space rather than a Regional, Community, or Neighborhood Park. (See the Park Planning Standards Chapter for more information on park types.) In addition, the County owns a

portion of the Pine Hill Preserve, however this is not accessible open space land. The 40-acre Diamond Springs Park is not yet developed and is also not reflected in the table.

Although when standing alone the County is deficient in park acreage categories, the parks system as a whole and the overall access to recreation and amenities is more important than the ownership of acres of land. This Plan aims to holistically look at park land acreage regardless of ownership. The following table (Table 8) illustrates where the County stands in relation to General Plan targets, considering the parks provided by CSDs and cities in addition to County facilities.

Table 8: Existing Park Acreage Totals by Provider and Population

POPULATION		GENERAL PLAN PARK ACREAGE GUIDELINES				
Total Pop: 191,185 Plan Area Pop: 86,711 CSD / City Pop: 104,474	Neighborhood Parks (2.0 ac / 1,000)	Community Parks (1.5 ac / 1,000)	Regional Parks (1.5 ac / 1,000)	Specialty Parks (No Guidelines)	Open Space (No Guidelines)	All Parks (5 ac / 1,000)
El Dorado County	9.0	33.6	51.0	19.3	62.0	174.9
American River Cons.				3.9	272.0	275.9
Cameron Park CSD	26.5	73.7				100.2
City of Placerville	13.5	83.8				97.3
City of South Lake Tahoe	1.4	76.6	56.0	6.2		140.2
El Dorado Hills CSD	93.6	58.2		277.3	38.8	467.9
El Dorado Irrigation Dist.				1,560.0		1,560.0
Georgetown Divide RD	6.7			4.3		11.0
Tahoe Paradise Park Dist		53.3				53.3
Subtotal Existing Acres:	150.7	379.2	107.0	1,871.0	372.8	2,880.7
Guideline Target:	382	287	287	n/a	n/a	956
Total Surplus/(Deficit):	(231.3)	92.2	(180.0)	n/a	n/a	1,924.7

When considering parks provided by the various entities operating in the County, the total existing acreage for parks is 2,880.7 acres, which far exceeds the General Plan target of 956 acres. This figure takes into account both open space and specialty parks, but does not include other recreation areas such as those within the US Forest Service boundary or areas owned by the Bureau of Land Management or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Those areas are considered in depth later in this chapter. Acreage for Neighborhood and Regional Parks, the County as a whole shows a deficit of 231.3 acres and 180 acres, respectively. Community Parks is the only category that has a surplus of parkland at 92.2 acres.

PARK SERVICE LEVELS

The County acknowledges that there is an appropriate place for all the above-described park types within the County but the County's role in acquisition, development, or management of each can vary. For example, direction provided in the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan states that the County will assume the primary responsibility for the acquisition and development of regional parks and assist in the development of neighborhood and community parks.

The County's role in providing parks and recreation amenities is more at the regional or county-wide level whereas the need for smaller neighborhood and community parks is better fulfilled by local special districts and cities within El Dorado County.

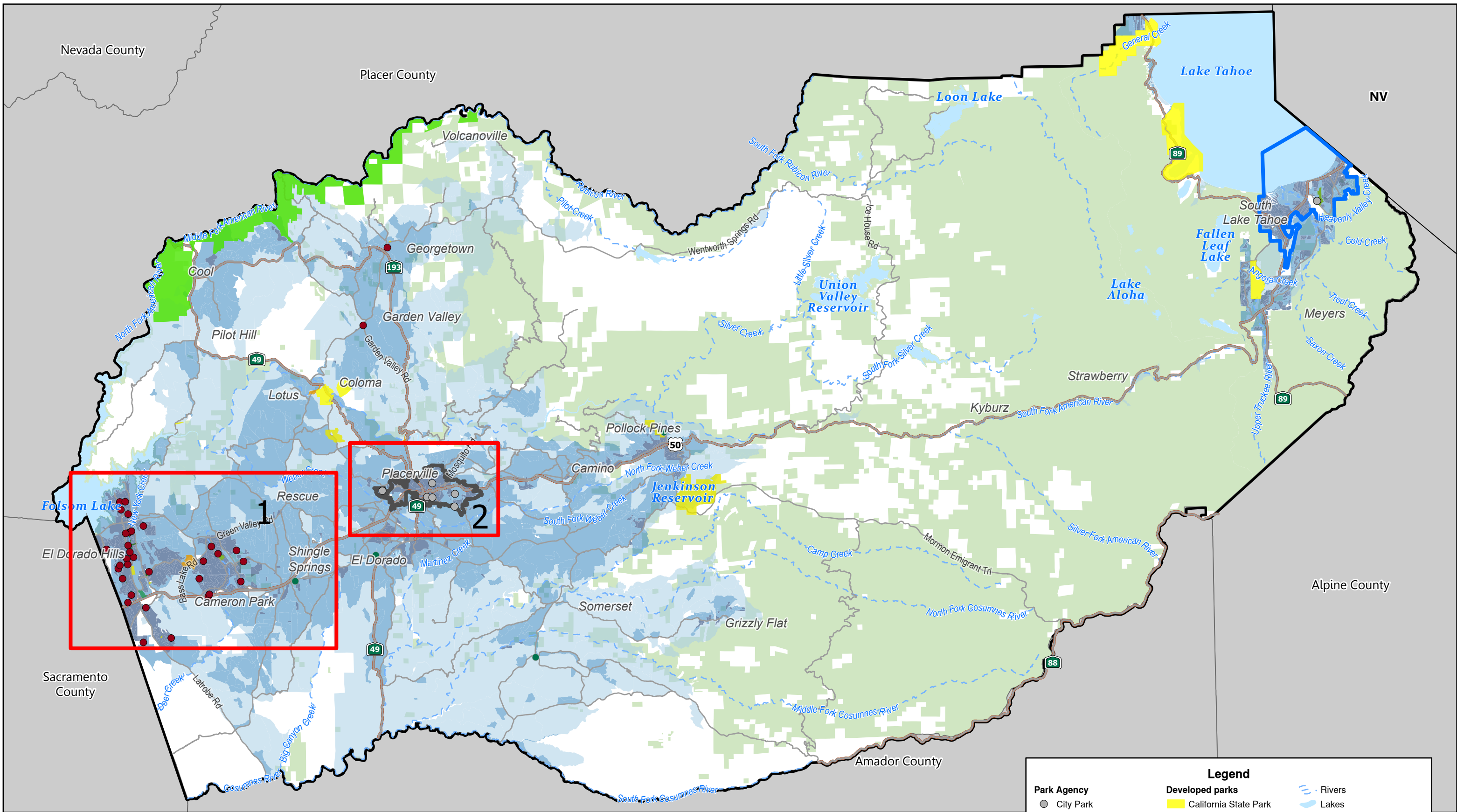
The guidelines in the General Plan were developed over two decades ago, adopted in 2004, and is no longer the approach followed by parks and recreation agencies. There is no universal acceptable level of service standards available. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) replaced their standards in 2009 with a nationwide benchmarking tool to help parks and recreation agencies customize standards to the unique characteristics and needs of their community.

According to Parks and Recreation System Planningⁱ, the new approach is a "decision-making framework" that provides greater flexibility through developing customized standards based on the agency's vision, community values, community context, residents' needs and priorities, and desired experiences.

While the park acreage guidelines established in the General Plan need to be updated, this Plan will continue to use them among other metrics and tools. A future update to the General Plan's Parks and Recreation Element could provide an opportunity to consider revising levels of service guidelines for more flexibility to meet the need for parks and recreation facilities.

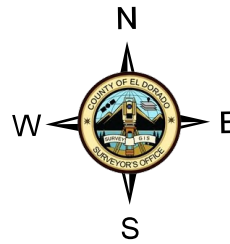
In the interim staff will append this master plan with any subsequent documents that alter or impact how the County goes about assessing levels of service and address that the interpretation of service level may deviate from what is shown in the General Plan and incorporate some of the "decision making framework" principles.

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



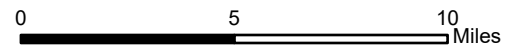
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 MAP PREPARED BY: EDC GIS DATE: 2/12/2025
 G.I.S. PROJECT ID: see0075339, RELATED REPORT: N/A
 EL DORADO COUNTY SURVEYOR/G.I.S. DIVISION
 EMAIL: gis@edcogov.us PHONE: (530) 621-5440
 MAP DISPLAYED IN STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, (NAD 1983 CALIFORNIA ZONE 2, FEET)



Parks by Population Density

County of El Dorado
 State of California



Legend		
Park Agency	Developed parks	Water Features
● City Park	California State Park	~ Rivers
● CSD / RD Park	Community Park	~ Lakes
● County Park	Dog Park	▭ City of Placerville
	Neighborhood Park	▭ City of South Lake Tahoe
	Regional Park	▭ County Outline
	State Recreation Area	▭ Federal Lands
	Special Use Park	▭ Other Counties
Population Per Sq Mi		▭ Other States
0 - 10		
11 - 99		
100-999 (Suburban)		
Greater than 1000 (Urban)		
	~ Highways	
	~ Major Roads	

PARK SERVICE AREAS

A Park Access Map (Exhibit 7) applies buffers over park sites based on travel distance. This assists staff in identifying the parks user base as well as population areas that the park will feasibly serve. Although expressed in terms of service radius, features such as arterial roads, rivers, or other disruptions to normal travel may influence the extent of the service area.

The map exhibits below show a drive distance buffer for neighborhood and community parks and time traveled buffer for regional and specialty parks. Services areas differ based on the type of park, for example the El Dorado County General Plan states that the service area for a neighborhood park is 0.5 miles while the service area for a community park is 5 miles. Although there are large sections of the County that do not have close access to one of these parks, as shown on the map, the survey results show high levels of satisfaction regarding park availability and do not show a large desire for new neighborhood and community parks.

Also worth noting is that the areas with the higher density of developed parks also tend to have fewer nearby open space and natural areas. This reflects a tradeoff for County residents between living in an urban environment with developed active parks or a more rural lifestyle with larger parcels and passive open space and nature areas for recreation. Residents are most likely choosing to live in areas of the County based on preferences, including proximity to different types of recreation.

Due to the nature of regional parks and specialty parks, we do not have a defined service area as people are willing to drive much further to visit them. For these park types, staff analyzed travel time buffers at intervals of 40 minutes, 20 minutes, and 10 minutes to better understand the travel time it takes for people across the county to reach these parks. Open spaces are also not included in the General Plan Guidelines, but are important recreational features, nevertheless.



Example of parks access - children bike riding on the El Dorado Trail to reach a Neighborhood or Community Park that are located within 0.5 and 5 miles, respectively, of the community per General Plan Guidelines.

TRAILS LEVEL OF SERVICE

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

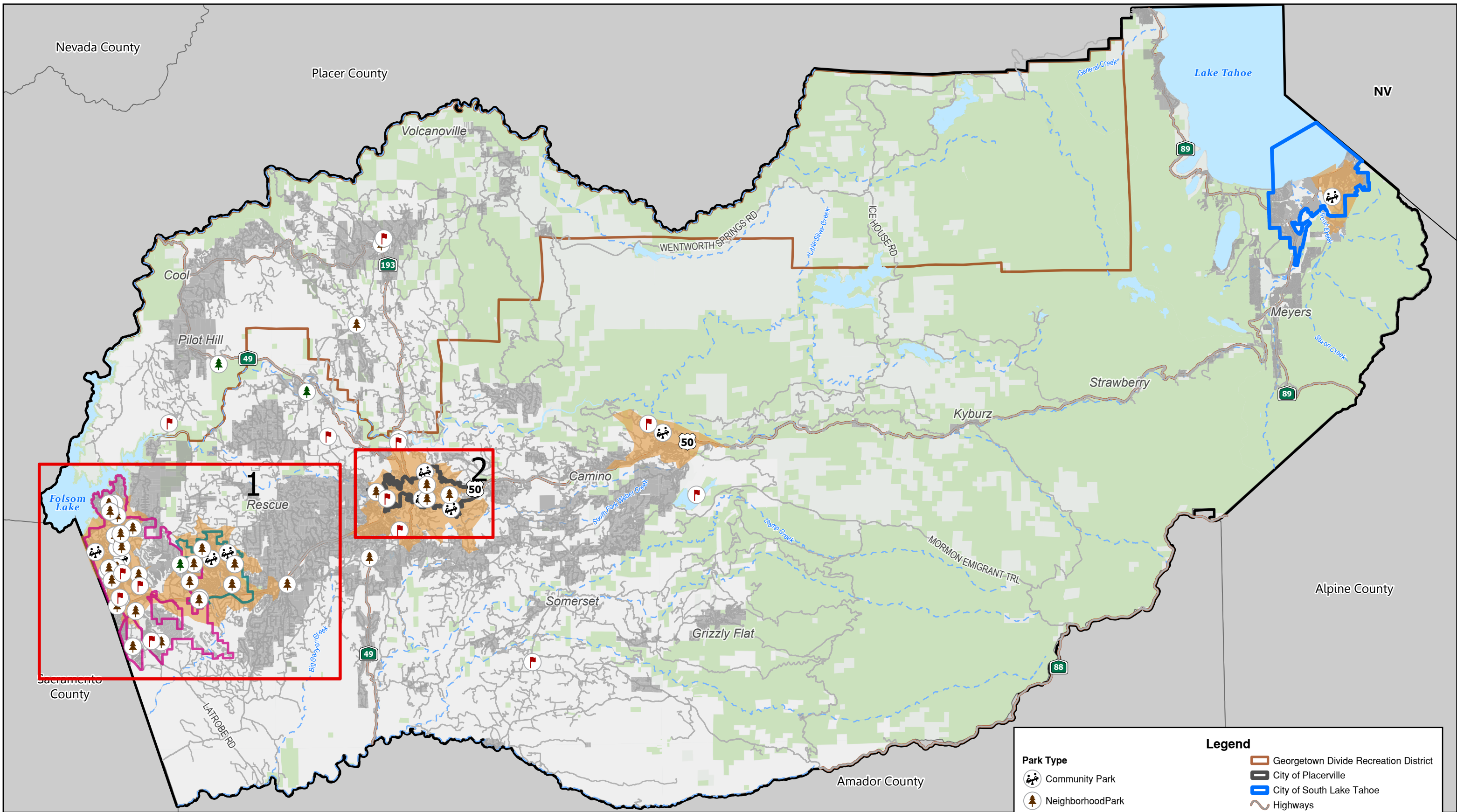
The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) does not have a level of service standard for trails, and trail types and level of service may differ between County areas dependent on their setting. Instead, NRPA has compiled data from agencies throughout the country to track the average number of trail miles typically provided. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have 70.5 miles of trail on average and agencies serving 50,000 residents have 10 miles of trail on average. This equates to approximately 0.25-0.5 trail miles per 1,000 residents.

There are no quantitative guidelines established by the El Dorado County General Plan suggesting how many miles of trails are needed to serve the population. The General Plan does recognize regional trails for hiking and equestrian use along with bicycle facilities and pathways for pedestrians as components of the County's non-motorized transportation system that also have important recreational value. That said, similar to the parks level of service section we plan on taking a slightly different approach to measuring level of service for trails and again incorporating the "decision making framework" to determine service levels and potential future projects.

Following are trail access maps that explore access to paved and natural trailheads in the County. The Active Transportation Trailheads Access Map (Exhibit 8) displays Class 1 trails and trailheads, and the Natural Trailheads Access Map (Exhibit 9) displays natural trailheads in the County

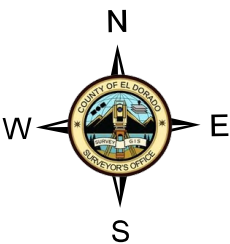


El Dorado Trail trailhead with parking and restrooms.



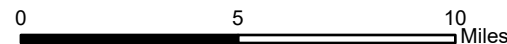
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 G.I.S. PROJECT ID: see0075339 RELATED REPORT: N/A
 EL DORADO COUNTY SURVEYOR/G.I.S. DIVISION
 EMAIL: gis@edcgov.us PHONE: (530) 621-5440
 MAP DISPLAYED IN STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM
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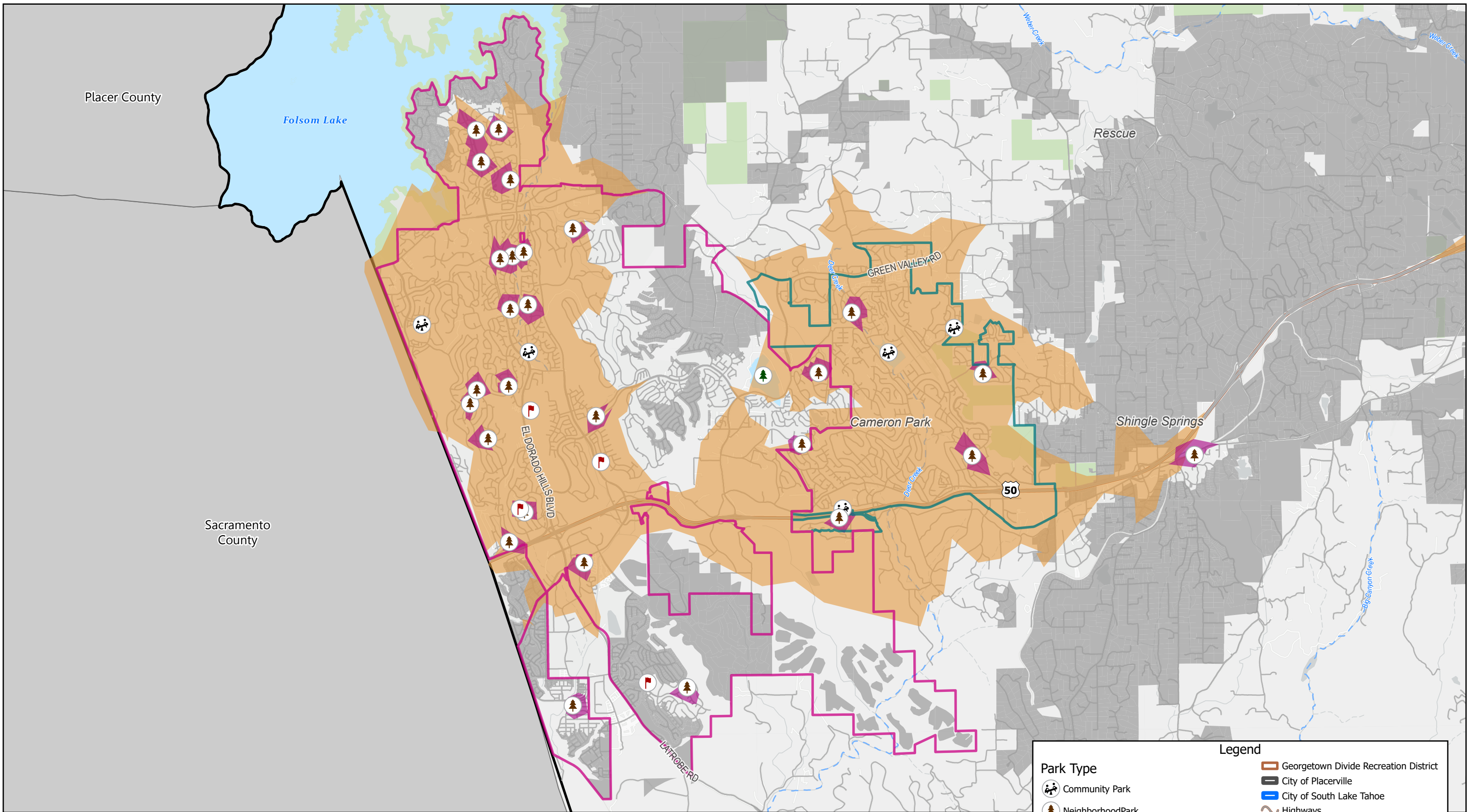


Park Access

County of El Dorado
 State of California

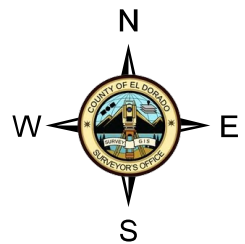


Legend	
Park Type	Georgetown Divide Recreation District
Community Park	City of Placerville
NeighborhoodPark	City of South Lake Tahoe
Regional Park	Highways
SpecialUse	Major Roads
0.5mi Drive Distance From Neighborhood Parks	Rivers
5mi Drive Distance From Community Parks	Lakes
Cameron Park CSD	County Outline
El Dorado Hills CSD	Other Counties
	Federal Lands
	Other States



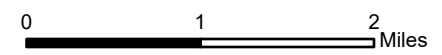
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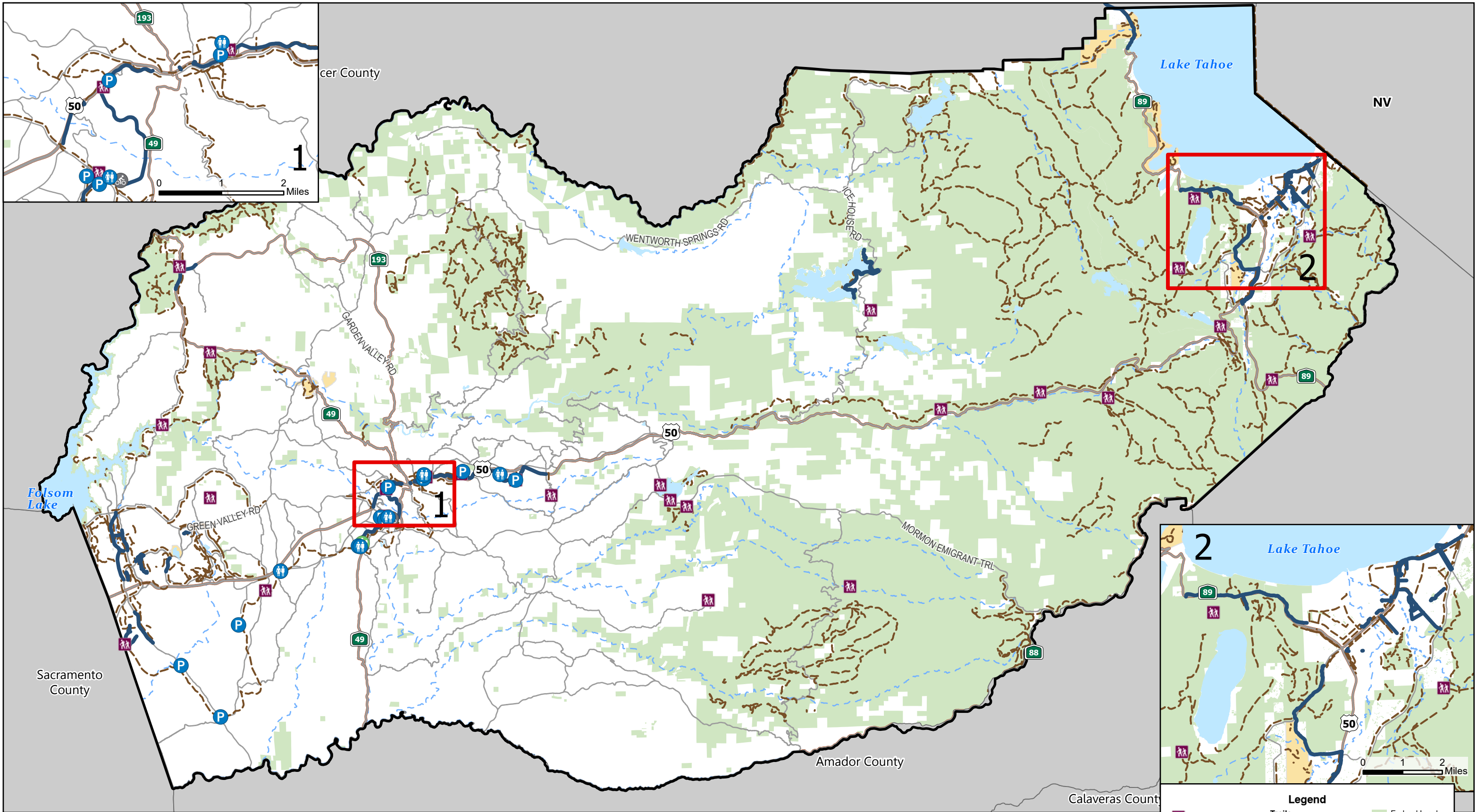


Park Access, Inset 1

County of El Dorado
State of California

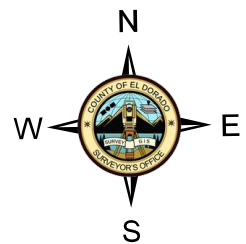


Legend	
Park Type	Georgetown Divide Recreation District
Community Park	City of Placerville
Neighborhood Park	City of South Lake Tahoe
Regional Park	Highways
Special Use	Major Roads
0.5mi Drive Distance From Neighborhood Parks	Rivers
5mi Drive Distance From Community Parks	Lakes
Underserved Community	County Outline
Cameron Park CSD	Other Counties
El Dorado Hills CSD	Federal Lands
	Other States



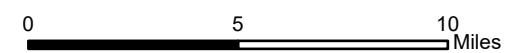
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 MAP PREPARED BY: EDC GIS DATE: 3/3/2025
 G.I.S. PROJECT ID: see0075339 RELATED REPORT: N/A
 EL DORADO COUNTY SURVEYOR/G.I.S. DIVISION
 EMAIL: gis@edcgov.us PHONE: (530) 521-5440
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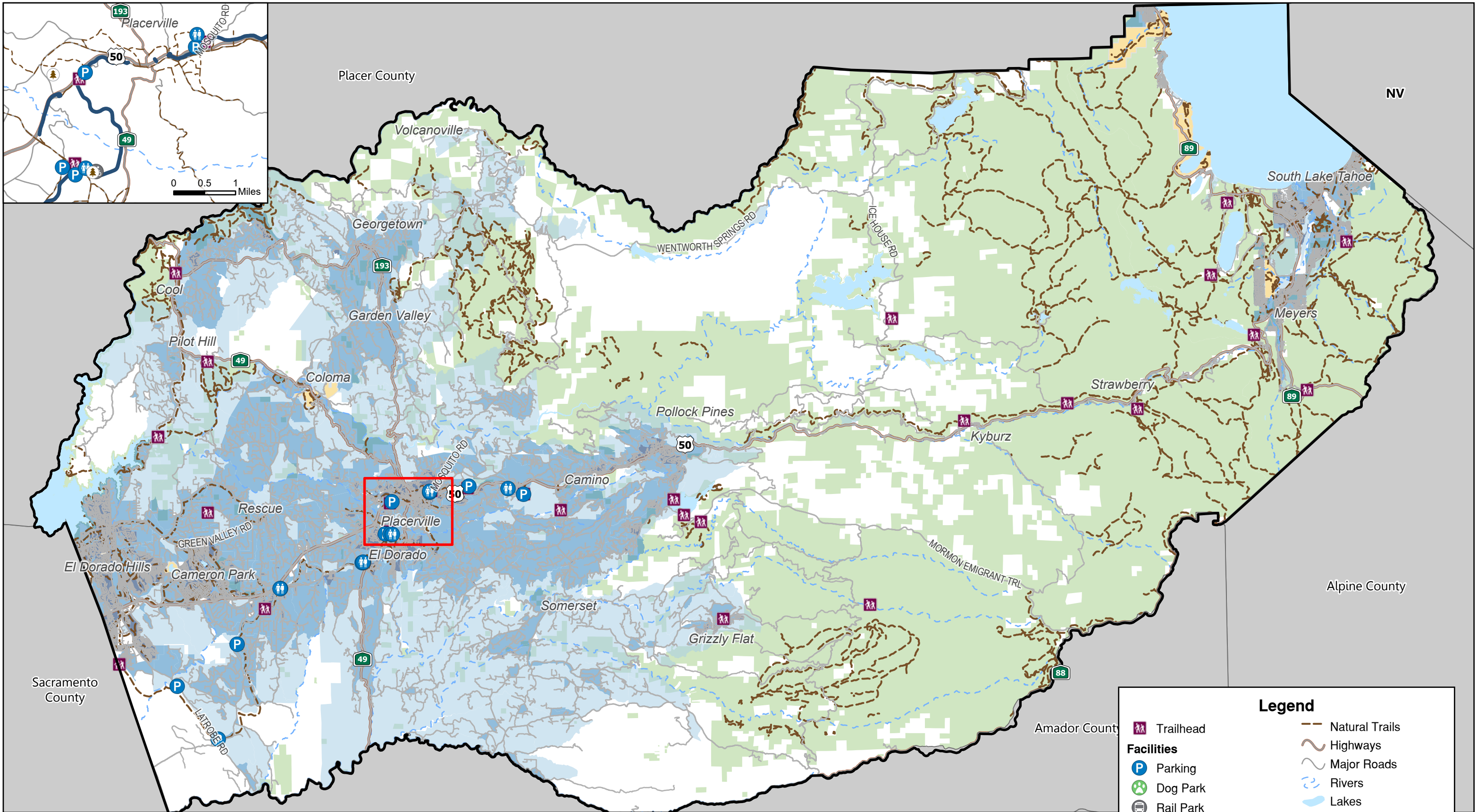
Active Transportation Trailheads Access

County of El Dorado
 State of California



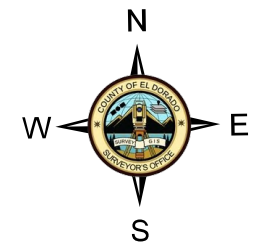
Legend

Trailhead	Trails	Federal Lands
Facilities	Class 1 Bike Trails	Other Counties
Bike Park	Natural Trails	Other States
Dog Park	Highways	
Parking	Major Roads	
Rail Park	Rivers	
Restroom	Lakes	
	County Outline	
	California State Parks	



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Natural Trails Access

County of El Dorado
State of California

0 5 10 Miles

Legend

- Trailhead
- Facilities**
- Parking
- Dog Park
- Rail Park
- Restroom
- Natural Trails
- Highways
- Major Roads
- Rivers
- Lakes
- County Outline
- California State Parks
- Federal Lands
- Other Counties
- Other States
- Population Per Sq Mi**
- 0 - 10
- 11 - 99
- 100-999 (Suburban)
- Greater than 1000 (Urban)

FACILITIES LEVEL OF SERVICE

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

Table 9: Existing County Facilities by Population

Facility Type Plan Area Population: 86,711	Current # of County Facilities	Plan Area Population per Facility
Children’s Play Area / Tot Lot	6	14,452
Horseshoe Pit	5	17,342
Disc Golf Course	1	86,711
Skateboard Park	1	86,711
Bike Park	1	86,711
Dog Park	1	86,711
Equestrian Arena	1	86,711
Baseball Field	3	29,470
Softball Field	2	43,356
Soccer or Multi-use Field	6	14,452
Outdoor Basketball Court	2	43,356
Tennis / Pickleball Court	2	43,356
Community Center	2	43,356
Gym / Multipurpose Room	0	N/A
Swimming Pool	0	N/A
Picnic Tables	16	5,419
Group Picnic Areas	4	21,678
Restrooms	8	10,839

REGIONAL EXPENSES BENCHMARKS

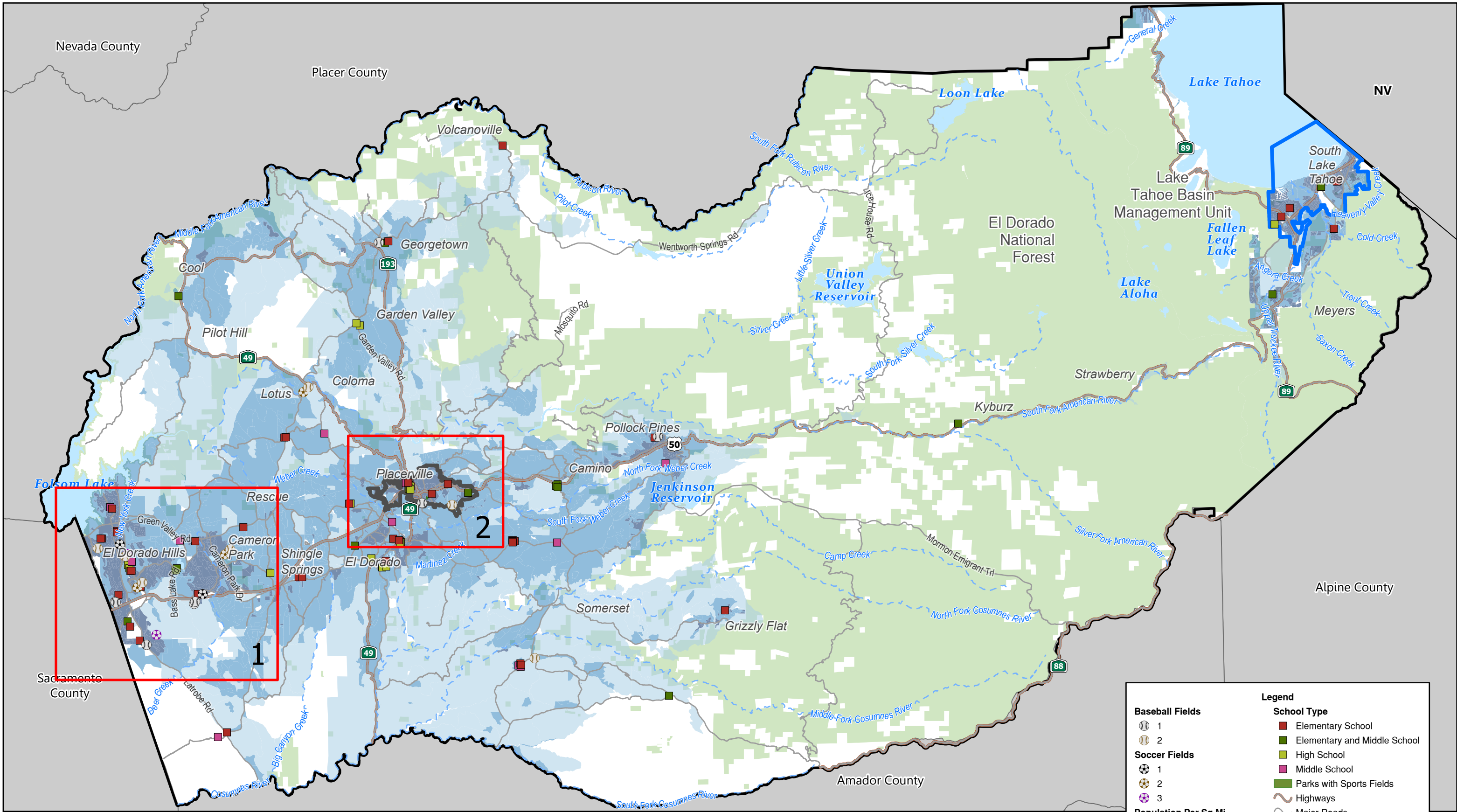
There is no standard or guideline for the portion of funding that should be set aside for park development, operations, or maintenance. This is due to varying needs in different communities as well as the disparate sources and level of funding. Each agency may have different scopes and operational focuses, which can affect their budget allocations and service offerings. Comparing operating expenses between El Dorado County and other Sierra Nevada foothill county parks agencies provides valuable insights into the funding and management of park and trail recreation facilities. Analyzing the financial resources allocated for parks in relation to the population highlights differences in service levels, operational efficiency, and prioritization of recreational amenities. It is important to note that recreation opportunities can be provided by various entities, including cities, Community Services Districts (CSDs), and other agencies, whose budgets are not captured in this data. The analysis presented focuses solely on parks operating expenses at the comparator county-level agencies in the Sierra Nevada foothill region.

Based on the data, spending varies significantly by county. El Dorado County, with a population of 191,185 and a total operating expense of \$2,217,862, spends \$11.60 per resident. Amador County, with a smaller population of 40,474, spent \$4.52 per resident in FY 2023-24, significantly less than El Dorado. Nevada County, which has 102,241 residents, spends \$9.57 per resident, also falling below El Dorado’s per capita expenditure, though closer in scale. In contrast, Placer County, with a much larger population of 404,739, allocates \$14.88 per resident, demonstrating a higher level of investment per capita. Tuolumne County, with a population of 54,993, spends \$15.00 per resident, the highest of the group. Overall, El Dorado County’s spending on parks falls above Amador and Nevada Counties but below Placer and Tuolumne Counties. These variations between counties are likely different from year to year, depending on the type of improvement projects and programming provided.

Table 10: Parks Agency Benchmarking for Operating Expenses

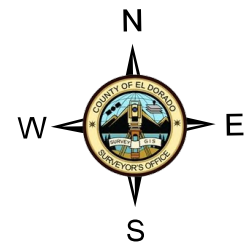
Parks Agency	County Population ¹	Total Annual Operating Expense	Operating Expense per Resident
El Dorado County Parks Division ²	191,185	\$2,217,862	\$11.60
Amador County Parks and Recreation ³	40,474	\$183,049	\$4.52
Nevada County Recreation District ⁴	102,241	\$978,707	\$9.57
Placer County Parks, Trails,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

1. Population data sourced from the US Census Bureau, 2020 Census.
2. Data sourced from the El Dorado County FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget, 2023-24 actuals.
3. Data sourced from the Amador County FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget, 2022-23 actuals.
4. Data sourced from the Nevada County FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget, 2023-24 projected expenditures.
5. Data sourced from the Placer County FY 2024-25 Budget, 2022-23 actuals.
6. Data sourced from the Tuolumne County FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget, 2022-23 actuals.



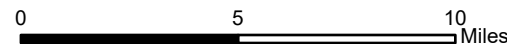
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 PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF: EDC Parks DATE: 12/12/2024
 MAP PREPARED BY: EDC GIS DATE: 2/12/2025
 G.I.S. PROJECT ID: see0075339, RELATED REPORT: Sports Fields by Population Density, Inset 1 and Sports Fields by Population Density, Inset 2
 EL DORADO COUNTY SURVEYOR/G.I.S. DIVISION
 EMAIL: gis@edcgov.us PHONE: (530) 621-5440
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Sports Fields by Population Density

County of El Dorado
 State of California



Baseball Fields		School Type	
1	2	Elementary School	Elementary and Middle School
1	2	High School	Middle School
3		Parks with Sports Fields	Highways
		Major Roads	Rivers
		Lakes	
		City of Placerville	City of South Lake Tahoe
		County Outline	Federal Lands
		Other Counties	Other States

REGIONAL PARKS BENCHMARKS

Evaluating El Dorado County's park acreage per resident compared to other counties in the region provides another metric for determining the overall level of service. By examining the recreational acreage availability across multiple categories relative to population size, we can determine whether El Dorado is leading or lagging in providing recreational acreage. This adds to our understanding of existing gaps and can inform future planning and guide investments to ensure residents have access to adequate recreational land. The following data (Table 11) categorizes land differently than the tables provided in the previous discussion of General Plan guidelines, by including park acreage from federal, state, and other park providers. These figures provide consistent categorization from county to county allowing us to compare them. Table 11 accounts for all park acreage, regardless of provider.

Table 11: Park Acreage by Population and Park Type

COUNTY	COUNTY POP.	OPEN SPACE		REGIONAL PARKS		DEVELOPED PARKS		TOTAL ACREAGE	
		Acres	Acres / 1,000	Acres	Acres / 1,000	Acres	Acres / 1,000	Acres	Acres / 1,000
El Dorado County	191,185	633,634	3,314.2	1,629	8.5	808	4.2	636,071	3,327
Amador County	40,474	26,103	644.9	76	1.9	491	12.1	26,670	659
Nevada County	102,241	215,075	2,103.6	62	0.6	362	3.5	215,499	2,108
Placer County	404,739	1,380,430	3,410.7	1,426	3.5	1,943	4.8	1,383,799	3,419

1. Data sourced from the US Census Bureau, 2020 Census.
2. Data sourced from United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, American River Conservancy, and El Dorado Irrigation District, rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Data sourced from online search of regional parks, with acreage data from OnX Maps, rounded to the nearest whole number.
4. Data sourced from El Dorado Hills CSD Parks Master Plan, Cameron Park CSD Website, City of South Lake Tahoe Website, City of Placerville Website, El Dorado County GIS, rounded to the nearest whole number.
5. Data sourced from Amador County Recreation Agency and Amador Council of Tourism Website, rounded to the nearest whole number.
6. Data sourced from the Nevada County Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan, Oak Tree Parks and Recreation District, City of Nevada City website, Western Gateway Recreation & Parks District, Bear River Recreation and Parks District Website, City of Grass Valley Website, and Truckee-Donner Recreation and Parks District website, rounded to the nearest whole number.
7. Data sourced from the Placer County Website, Colfax Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan, City of Lincoln Website, 2022 Roseville Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Master Plan, the 2017 Rocklin Parks and Trails Master Plan, City of Loomis Website, and Colfax Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan, rounded to the nearest whole number.

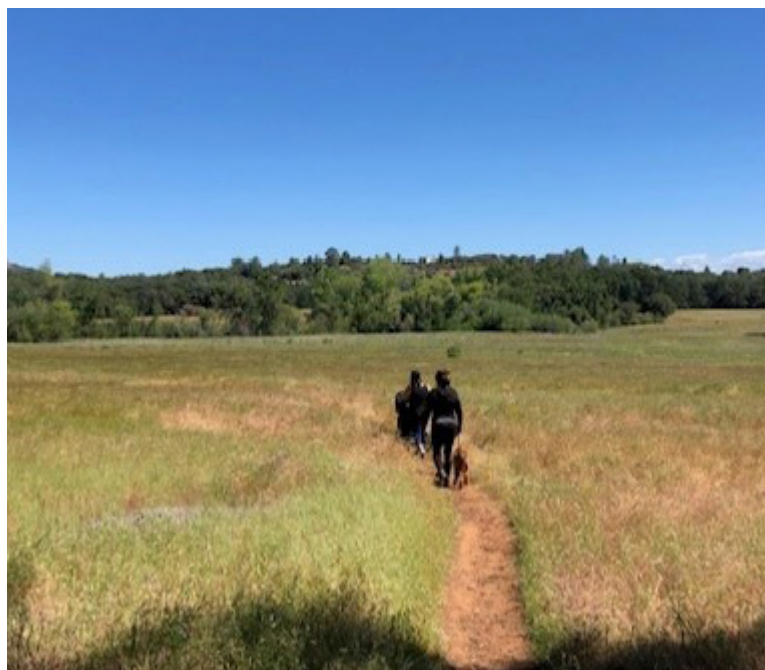
Open space availability, which includes U.S. Forest Service land, BLM land, state parks and other open space, has substantial differences from county to county. Placer County tops the list with 1,380,430 acres of open space, equating to 3,410.7 acres per 1,000 people, offering the most open space relative to population size. El Dorado County follows closely, providing 3,314.2 acres per 1,000 residents with a total of 633,634 acres. Nevada County comes next with 215,075 acres of open space, resulting in 2,103.6 acres per 1,000 people, offering moderate accessibility in relation to Placer and El Dorado counties. Amador County has 26,103 acres or 644.9 acres per 1,000 people, which, while lower than other rural counties, still provides notable access.

Overall, counties like Placer and El Dorado demonstrate significant open space offerings, enhancing quality of life through accessible natural areas. When considering the open space per capita across these counties, it's important to account for the natural geography, especially the substantial portions of land within national forests and protected areas that lie outside of each county's control.

In counties like El Dorado, Placer, and Nevada, large tracts of forestland contribute to the higher acres per 1,000 people. Rather than a direct result of county initiatives, acquisitions, and policies, these expansive open spaces are a direct result of the county's natural landscape. However, like developed park land, this land offers activities like hiking, off-roading, and wildlife viewing.

El Dorado County stands out in terms of recreation area availability, offering 1,629 acres, or 8.5 acres per 1,000 people. These areas include a mix of active and passive recreational opportunities, including sports complexes, accessible nature preserves, and hiking trail areas. With its substantial acreage, primarily due to the popular Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park, El Dorado County leads the way in offering ample recreational areas. Compared to other counties, El Dorado significantly outpaces Amador, which offers only 1.9 acres per 1,000 people (76 acres total), and Nevada, with just 0.6 acres per 1,000 (62 acres total). Placer County offers 1,426 acres, equating to 3.5 acres per 1,000 people, which, while better than some, still falls short of El Dorado's availability.

Overall, El Dorado County's recreation area offerings are a clear strength, emphasizing its commitment to providing accessible, multi-functional spaces for its residents, well ahead of its neighbors in park availability.



Pine Hill Preserve

For all other parks, including neighborhood and community parks, El Dorado County is positioned somewhat average in terms of developed parkland availability with 808 acres of developed parks, or 4.2 acres per 1,000 people.

While the county provides a solid amount of developed park space, it lags behind Amador County, which offers a higher per-capita ratio of 12.1 acres per 1,000 people. Placer County offers a similar amount of parkland at 4.8 acres per 1,000, putting El Dorado in a comparable position. However, Nevada County falls behind with just 3.5 acres per 1,000 people. Overall, this analysis highlights that El Dorado County has room for growth in providing neighborhood and community parks, particularly in underserved areas, to ensure all residents have easy access.

El Dorado County, with a total of 636,071 acres of park acreage space, offers 3,327 acres per 1,000 people. This vast amount includes not only developed parks but also natural areas, open spaces, and preserves. Given El Dorado County's rural and expansive geography, this high total acreage is a significant asset, providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreation

and nature-based activities. When compared to neighboring counties, El Dorado County is positioned favorably in terms of total recreational acreage. Amador County, with 26,670 acres of recreational space, provides just 659 acres per 1,000 people, which is much lower than El Dorado's per capita availability. Nevada County, offering 215,499 acres, provides 2,108 acres per 1,000 people, which is also less than El Dorado, though it still offers substantial recreational spaces. Placer County offers 1,383,799 acres, equating to 3,419 acres per 1,000 people, which surpasses El Dorado's total by a narrow margin, reflecting the county's larger size and population.

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



Cronan Ranch, Photo by Nina Birks.

REGIONAL TRAILS BENCHMARKS

Evaluating El Dorado County’s trail network compared to other counties in the region allows us to assess how we measure up in providing recreational services to our residents. There are no standards for miles of trail per population in the General Plan or other guiding documents. However, we can look at data in surrounding counties to provide some context to the discussion of level of service for trails. By examining specific trail types—Class 1 trails, hiking trails, horse trails, and bike trails—and focusing on the ratio of trail mileage to population, we can determine if El Dorado County offers a greater or lesser range of outdoor opportunities relative to neighboring areas. Understanding how our trail offerings stack up highlights the potential strengths or deficiencies in our service levels, informing future planning and investments in trail infrastructure.

In regard to total trail mileage, nearby counties vary considerably as shown in Table 12. El Dorado County has 1,131 miles of trails, offering 5.92 miles of trails per 1,000 residents. Nevada County provides a notable 13.34 miles per 1,000 people despite a smaller population. In contrast, Amador County, with a much smaller population of 40,474, offers just 1.14 miles of trails per 1,000 people. Placer County, which has a population over double that of El Dorado, offers fewer total trail miles but still maintains 2.30 miles per 1,000 people.

This data indicates that El Dorado County has an extensive trail offering compared to nearby counties, especially those with a higher population. Because this trail mileage count includes natural or unpaved trails, it is likely that the trails by population is mostly influenced by the variations in total population, terrain, and presence of existing open spaces, national forests, or other publicly accessible lands.

Table 12: Total Miles of Trails by County

COUNTY	COUNTY POPULATION	TOTAL MILES OF TRAILS	MILES OF TRAILS / 1,000
El Dorado County	191,185	1,131	5.92
Amador County	40,474	46	1.14
Nevada County	102,241	1,364	13.34
Placer County	404,739	930	2.30

1. Data sourced from the United States Census Bureau, 2020 Census.
2. Data sourced from Trailforks, a crowdsourced platform where users contribute comprehensive trail information. Because it relies on user input, it may not capture all trails or recent updates.

CHAPTER 5 LEVEL OF SERVICE AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

In analyzing the availability of Class 1 trails (Table 13), El Dorado County's provision of 29.6 miles of such trails results in 0.15 miles per 1,000 people. While this is a significant asset, it comes in lower than Placer and Nevada in terms of per capita trail availability. Placer leads with 92.5 miles of Class 1 trails, equating to 0.23 miles per 1,000 people, and Nevada follows closely with 22 miles, resulting in 0.22 miles per 1,000 people.

Comparatively, Amador County offers 0.25 miles of Class 1 trails, yielding just 0.006 miles per 1,000 people, while Sacramento County, despite its larger population, provides 63.8 miles, translating to only 0.04 miles per 1,000 people.

El Dorado County offers 1,131 miles of hiking and walking trails, translating to 5.92 miles per 1,000 people. While this is a substantial figure, it is surpassed by Nevada County, which provides 1,133 miles of hiking and walking trails, with 11.08 miles per 1,000 people.

Placer County, by comparison, offers 930 miles of trails, but with a lower 2.30 miles per 1,000 people, reflecting a larger population base or fewer available hiking paths relative to its population. Amador County, with just 46 miles of hiking/walking trails, provides 1.14 miles per 1,000 people, highlighting a lower level of recreational resources available to its residents. El Dorado County offers a high

Table 13: Total Miles of Trails by County and Trail Type

COUNTY	CLASS 1 TRAILS		NATURAL TRAILS					
	MILES OF TRAIL	MILES / 1,000 PEOPLE	HIKING / WALKING TRAILS		HORSE TRAILS		BIKE TRAILS	
			MILES OF TRAIL ⁵	MILES / 1,000 PEOPLE	MILES OF TRAIL ⁵	MILES / 1,000 PEOPLE	MILES OF TRAIL ⁵	MILES / 1,000 PEOPLE
El Dorado County	29.6 ¹	0.15	1,131	5.92	701	3.67	1,131	5.92
Amador County	0.25 ²	0.006	46	1.14	n/a	0	46	1.14
Nevada County	22.0 ³	0.22	1,133	11.08	608	5.95	1,364	13.34
Placer County	92.5 ⁴	0.04	930	2.30	447	1.10	930	2.30

1. Data sourced from the El Dorado County Active Transportation Plan
2. Data sourced from Amador Countywide Pedestrian Bicycle Plan, October 2017
3. Data sourced from Nevada County Transportation Commission, December 2016
4. Data sourced from Placer County Regional Bikeway Plan, June 2018
5. Data sourced from Trailforks, a crowdsourced platform where users contribute comprehensive trail information. Because it relies on user input, it may not capture all trails or recent updates.

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

level of service for hiking trails particularly when compared to counties with larger populations like Placer. Nevada County, with a lower population but similar terrain and composition of open space and forest land, offers even greater accessibility per capita.

Horse trail availability per 1,000 people across five counties reveals significant variations. El Dorado County offers 701 miles of horse trails, resulting in 3.67 miles per 1,000 people. Nevada County stands out with 608 miles of horse trails, translating to the highest ratio of 5.95 miles per 1,000 people. Placer County has 447 miles of trails, but with only 1.10 miles per 1,000 people, indicating less trail access relative to its population compared to El Dorado and Nevada counties. There could be opportunities for enhancing trail development to meet demand.

In contrast, Amador County reports no data for horse trails, resulting in 0 miles per 1,000 people. This suggests either a lack of dedicated horse trails or unavailable data. While El Dorado County doesn't have the highest ratio of horse trails per capita, it still provides strong access to equestrian trails compared to other counties. El Dorado County's rural landscape and rich natural resources make it an ideal environment for equestrian recreation. With vast open spaces, forests, and a community that values outdoor activities, the county is naturally suited for equestrian infrastructure.

El Dorado County, offering 1,131 miles of bike trails, translating to 5.92 miles per 1,000 people, puts El Dorado in a solid position in relation to other counties in the region in terms of bike trail availability. While Nevada County leads the pack with

an impressive 13.34 miles per 1,000 people, while Amador County trails behind with just 1.14 miles per 1,000 people, indicating a limited trail network. Placer County (2.30 miles) also falls behind in comparison to El Dorado, but it's important to note that the more suburban population skews the ratio.

Overall, the availability of different types of trails is influenced by the overall population, interest levels, the type of activity that the trail is appropriate for, and geographical factors such as terrain, the presence of publicly-owned land including forests and preserves, and opportunity for trail development.



Natural trail segment of El Dorado Trail within the SPTC corridor.

GAPS AND NEEDS

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

UNMET, BUT OUTDATED, COUNTY GENERAL PLAN GUIDELINES

El Dorado County has clear standards and guidelines for the provision of parks and facilities. The County's General Plan notes that 5 acres of park land should be provided for every 1,000 people. Trails and open space areas do not count toward this guideline. A strict reading of these guidelines shows that for the area of the County served only by County-owned parks, there is a need for 259 additional acres of parkland. When considering the County a whole, with all providers, the need for total acreage is sufficient (in excess of 1,772 acres), but Neighborhood, Community, and Regional Park land are lacking.

However, data from outreach initiatives shows that the community is not in need of these types of parks, but would like more open space areas and trails. The County's focus is mainly on the development of community and regional parks, as well as specialty parks that draw visitors from a greater distance. With a projected overall population decline over the next decade, it will be important to refine the needs of the community to ensure that resources are directed toward facilities that fill a true need and become well-used parts of the overall recreation system.

CONSISTENT FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of existing parks was a high priority for participants in the outreach process for this Master Plan. Many participants in the public process said the County should continue to fund maintenance of public assets and improvements to continue to provide safe and diverse recreational experiences.

However, identifying ongoing funding for maintenance that relies on sources of revenue other than the General Fund is a challenge. Opportunities to improve on this involve identifying the ongoing maintenance needs and costs overtime, including annual costs and eventual replacement. It also involves prioritizing the care and revitalization of assets and facilities the County already has over new opportunities.

To add to the challenge, almost all grant funding and development-related funding sources are for new parks or trails rather than for ongoing maintenance. As mentioned previously, ACO funding is sometimes budgeted for larger parks maintenance projects, however, this funding source is also in short supply. The ACO fund is used for all facilities, countywide, and projects are prioritized based on safety needs or liability risks, such as accessibility improvement needs.

CLASS 1 TRAIL ACCESS

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

SPORTS TEAM FIELDS

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

ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE, NATURE, AND NATURAL FEATURES


Better access to open space for hiking, walking, being in nature, and recreation activities is needed to accommodate the demand from visitors and residents. (Goal 1. Preserve and enhance access to natural areas and resource-based recreation, including rivers, trails, and open space).

Including the National Forest lands, open space lands and recreation areas per acre are higher than any other land use. There is no shortage of natural areas in the County, and these areas are of the most importance to residents and visitors. In spite of the abundance of these lands, the community was clear that the County should improve access to these areas. Though these spaces are owned and managed by other entities, there is ample opportunity for the County to collaborate to enhance access.

VARYING NEEDS WITHIN ONE COMMUNITY

Needs for opportunities and access varies across the community. While the County is low in population compared to other California counties, the population is diverse in terms of life stage, physical ability, and interest in different types of recreation. While in some areas the most important role that the County can play is to connect the public to existing open space lands and to expand access through ADA improvements, added trailheads, or amenities, in other areas the availability of sports fields is paramount.

The combination of a small populace with high interest in recreation is that funding for desperately needed improvements will be difficult to acquire, and ongoing funding for maintenance is likely to always be a struggle. The County must prioritize use of funds while acknowledging that every need cannot be filled.



CHAPTER 6

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & INITIATIVES

Chapter Page Photo

Laura Ashburn Photography
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GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & INITIATIVES

The following goals, objectives, and accompanying initiatives expand on the guidance found in the El Dorado County General Plan for parks and trails and were derived from stakeholder and community input and reflect needs based on best practices and regional trends. Their collective purpose is to provide direction for how parks and trails should be planned, operated, and maintained so that current and future decisions about these resources are consistent with the County’s long-range vision for parks and trails. The goals are broad overall recommendations for the direction for Parks and Trails over the next 10 years. The objectives offer more specific direction for the most important aspects of the County’s ongoing work to benefit parks, trails, and recreation. The initiatives are actionable items that are either ongoing efforts or can be accomplished within the 10- year time horizon for this Master Plan.

The five overall Master Plan goals are as follows:



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



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



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



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



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



GOAL 1: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS AND RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION, INCLUDING RIVERS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

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

OBJECTIVE 1.1. PRIORITIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAMS THAT INCREASE ACCESS TO THE SOUTH FORK OF THE AMERICAN RIVER AND COSUMNES RIVER.

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

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

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

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

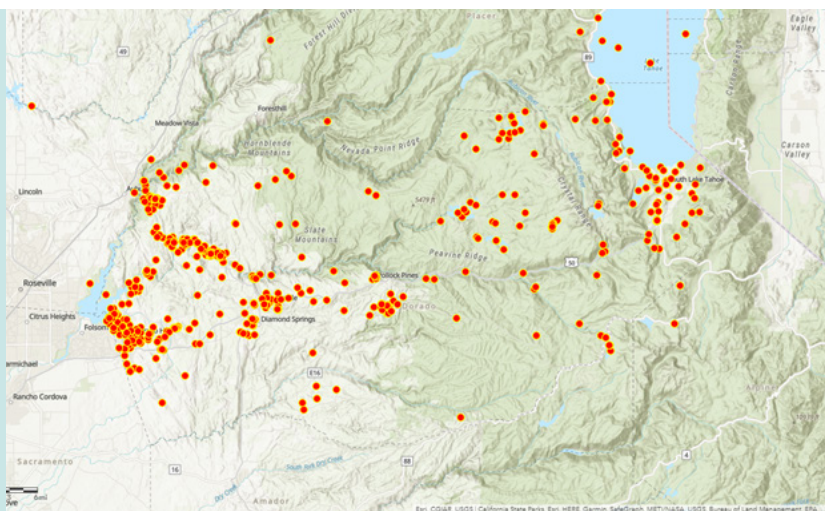
OBJECTIVE 1.2. CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE THROUGH ENHANCED ACCESS TO OPEN SPACES FOR WALKING, HIKING, BIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING, AND NATURE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION.

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

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

According to 110 survey responses, in the northwest region of the County, beach and waterfront areas were overall the third top priority, followed closely by a white water play park.

Survey Question #4 asked respondents to drop a pin at their favorite place to recreate. The pins cluster around many of the County's lakes and rivers, especially the South Fork of the American River.



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.

A major theme from the stakeholder group meetings was connectivity between trails as a regional economic driver.

OBJECTIVE 1.3. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, MAXIMIZE THE USE OF OUTDOOR DESTINATIONS BY ENHANCING ACCESS FOR POPULAR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

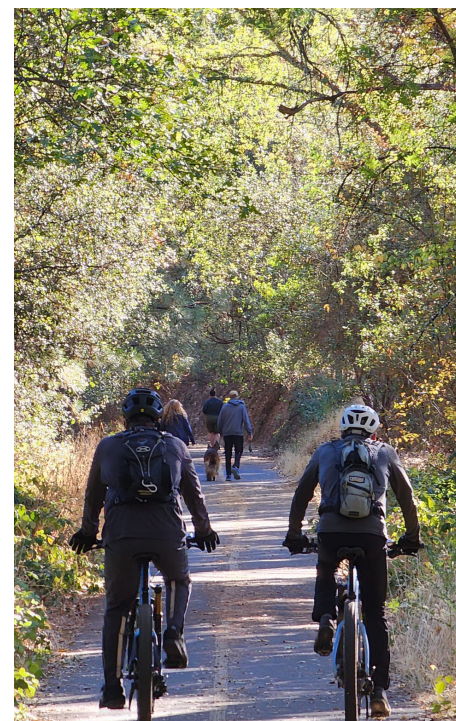
Initiative 1.3.1. Prioritize outdoor recreation facilities that support the broadest cross-section of the population and have high participation levels (hiking, biking, and horseback riding).

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

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

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

Of all the listed priorities for Parks and Trails, survey participants listed, "more trails and recreation access in open space areas" as one of their top three priorities.



Bikers and hikers on the multi-use El Dorado Trail. Photo by Friends of El Dorado Trail.

OBJECTIVE 1.4. PROTECT NATURAL AREAS, PEOPLE, PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND SURFACE AND GROUND WATER FROM CONTAMINATION BY HARMFUL PESTS, POLLUTANTS, WILDFIRE, AND OTHER HAZARDS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Initiative 1.4.7. Use the Parks and Trails Division 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.



Parks and Trails Division pumper truck for waste management on the Rubicon Trail.



The Division's Program Coordinator and River Instructor provide river and safety education to improve user experience.



GOAL 2: MANAGE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN A REGIONAL CONTEXT TO ACCOMMODATE PUBLIC ACCESS, LEVERAGE FUNDING, AND PROVIDE INTERCONNECTED TRAILS

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

OBJECTIVE 2.1: LINK EXISTING TRAILS, REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORKS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES, AND COMMUNITY DESTINATIONS THROUGH A SYSTEM OF PAVED AND UNPAVED TRAILS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.



El Dorado Trail segment that accommodates natural trail, train tracks, and paved trail. Photo by Friends of El Dorado Trail.

OBJECTIVE 2.2. LOCATE CLASS I, CLASS II, AND OTHER PAVED SURFACE TRAILS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO NEIGHBORHOODS AND PUBLIC PLACES SUCH AS SCHOOLS, PARKS, AND CIVIC AREAS TO ENCOURAGE WALKING AND CYCLING AS A MODE OF TRANSPORTATION AS WELL AS RECREATION.

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

“Complete planning for natural and paved portions of the El Dorado trail along the SPTC corridor so that groups can work toward funding opportunities and complete plan.”
-Somerset Workshop Participant



During the online workshop, top priorities were:

1. Trail connections
2. Parking
3. Trail amenities (water fountains, bike stations)
4. Signage

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 Parks and Trails Division's website to encourage the use of transit or biking to trailheads.

OBJECTIVE 2.3. ESTABLISH OR PRESERVE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND INSTALL IMPROVEMENTS FOR MULTI-USE NATURAL TRAILS FOR WALKING, BIKING, AND HORSEBACK RIDING.

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

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

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

OBJECTIVE 2.4. STRATEGICALLY PURSUE NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT BASED ON LOCAL COMMUNITY NEED, AND WITH CONSIDERATION OF RECREATION PLANNED OR ALREADY PROVIDED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES IN THE AREA.

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

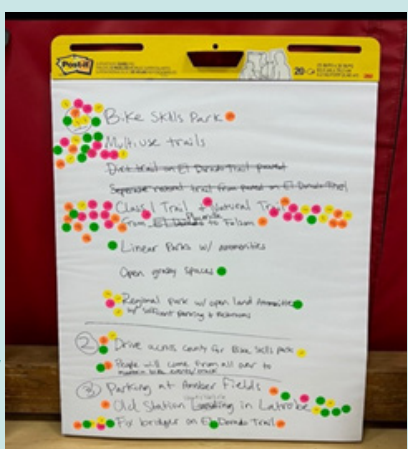
Initiative 2.4.2. Calculate recreation acreage standards pursuant to the General Plan considering all publicly accessible parkland, including opportunities provided through partner agencies.

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

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

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

At the community workshop in Shingle Springs, the top identified need was "Class I and Natural Trails."



OBJECTIVE 2.5: COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL AGENCIES ON MULTIJURISDICTIONAL PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENT STANDARDS TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE REGIONALLY.

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

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

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

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

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



Wordcloud based on online workshop responses to “Describe El Dorado County in three words”.

OBJECTIVE 2.6: WORK WITH PARTNERS TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE FOR PUBLIC USE AND TO ACCOMMODATE PUBLIC ACCESS, EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES, AND RESOURCE PROTECTION.

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

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

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

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

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



Natural surface shared-use segment of El Dorado Trail. Photo by Friends of El Dorado Trail..

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

OBJECTIVE 2.7. GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL AMENITIES, TRAILS, AND NEW PARKS AND ENSURE BEST USE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES WITH FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECT COORDINATION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

El Dorado Hills CSD owns and operates 94 acres of neighborhood parks, whereas County Parks only has 9 acres.



GOAL 3: PRIORITIZE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ASSETS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SAFE AND DIVERSE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

Maintenance of existing parks was a high priority for participants in the outreach process for this Master Plan, as parks and trails become community “third places”, mainstays in active lifestyles, and provide regular access to nature. Ongoing maintenance and strategic renovations and improvements remain a priority for the program, though identifying funding for maintenance is a challenge. To meet this goal going forward, the County must strive to anticipate ongoing needs, keep up-to-date on innovative solutions, and prioritize safety, access, and the security of ongoing funding.

OBJECTIVE 3.1. INVEST IN PROVIDING AMENITIES AT KEY PARKS AND TRAILHEADS, PRIORITIZING BASED ON EACH COMMUNITY’S INTERESTS AND IMPROVING ACCESS FOR ALL PHYSICAL ABILITIES AND LIFE STAGES.

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

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

45% of seniors 75+ years old and 19% of seniors 65 to 74 years old have a disability.

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.

One major theme from the stakeholder group meetings was the need for ADA accessible sports fields, river access points, and recreation amenities to benefit the aging community.

El Dorado County’s population is projected to decrease over the coming decades, from 191,185 to 175,367 in 2044.

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.



Basketball court and disc golf course at Pioneer Park.

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

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

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



At the Community Workshop in Pollock Pines, participants listed a zipline park/climbing as a priority, and most participants indicated that they would travel to get to such an amenity.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: PRIORITIZE FUNDING FOR ONGOING MAINTENANCE NEEDS OVER THE LIFETIME OF THE ASSET OR IMPROVEMENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An average of 40% of Parks Division spending is from grant funding for new projects.

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

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

The 2024 El Dorado County Strategic Plan requires staff to prepare a five-year facilities Capital Improvement Program.

OBJECTIVE 3.3. UTILIZE A TOTAL ASSET MANAGEMENT APPROACH AS PART OF A CAPITAL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM TO PLAN FOR MAINTENANCE AND CONSIDER LIFE-CYCLE AND OPERATIONS AS PART OF MAINTENANCE PLANNING.

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



Kanaka Valley, Photo by Grant Webber.

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.

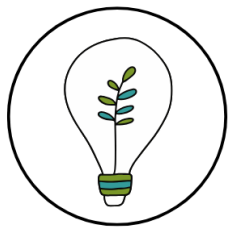
Initiative 3.3.3. Ensure sound fiscal principles are used when developing funding strategies, including funding for both one-time expenses and for on-going costs.

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.

Survey respondents indicated that they would spend 17% of funding on maintenance and sanitary measures and 7% for security and staff presence.

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



GOAL 4: ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY TO REFINE ONGOING RECREATIONAL NEEDS, ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION, AND PROMOTE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

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

OBJECTIVE 4.1. UTILIZE THE SUPPORT OF COMMITTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEER EFFORTS TO THE FULLEST EXTENT.

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

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



High Schoolers volunteering with Parks and Trails Division Maintenance staff on a drainage project at Old Depot Bike Park.

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.

47% of survey respondents said they would "join a work party" for improved parks, trails, or other recreation.

OBJECTIVE 4.2. CREATE FORUMS FOR COMMUNITY INPUT ON PARK AND TRAILS TO FOSTER A STRONGER AWARENESS OF THE COMMON PUBLIC PURPOSE, VALUE OF THESE RESOURCES, AND ONGOING ADVOCACY.

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

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

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

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

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

During the online workshop, 19 out of 21 participants said they would be willing to join a volunteer group to help bring their dream park amenity to life.

OBJECTIVE 4.3: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS THROUGH UPDATING BRANDING AND MARKETING STRATEGIES.

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

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

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

80% of survey respondents said that they find information on County parks, trails, and recreation online using websites. 46% use social media.

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.

On a scale from 1 (difficult) to 5 (very easy), survey respondents rated information availability on parks, trails, and recreation at 3.3 out of 5.



GOAL 5: INVEST IN AND SUPPORT THE PROMOTION OF RECREATION FEATURES AS A DRAW FOR TOURISM AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS.

Tourism and visitation are economic drivers throughout the County, due in large part to the wealth of opportunities for recreation in all four seasons. The County recognizes its role as the place that regional tourists “come to play” and that parks, trails, and recreation are integral to the economic prosperity of the County. Implementing projects and promoting services that support the use of County recreation amenities by tourists will generate revenues that can be reinvested in the park and recreation system, without straining other County resources. Access to and enhancement of these spaces will also continue to add to the quality of life of residents.

OBJECTIVE 5.1. PROMOTE COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION AS A REGIONAL DESTINATION, AND FUND IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH TOURISM AND RECREATION FUNDS.

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

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the first use of TOT for park purposes was \$1 million in discretionary TOT allocated for the redevelopment of the upper area at Chili Bar.

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.

Survey data indicates that 42% of respondents would pay a use fee for improved parks, trails, and recreation, and 56% said they would vote in favor of a bond measure.

OBJECTIVE 5.2. WITH A FOCUS ON PROGRAM COSTS AND ON-GOING MAINTENANCE, DEVELOP SPORTS FIELDS THAT MAY ACCOMMODATE REGIONAL USE FOR THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL TEAMS.

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

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

At the community workshop hosted at the Grange in Coloma, baseball and softball fields were the top identified park need, among all of the five small groups.



Photo courtesy of Bandits Little League at Henningsen Lotus Park sports field.

“My brothers have been playing baseball for 7 years. I believe there should be more fields and the current fields should be better upkept. In the future I would like to see more fields in order to expand the leagues and let the children play more baseball.”

-Participant, Coloma Workshop

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.

“I think that of all the topics discussed, one future is biking. With all ages able to do it now, with e-bikes being available. Having cross country and downhill park available would bring people from all over the world as well as build our local community. Which in the end would grow our economy in a number of ways. The sport is getting kids outside together, competitive or leisure. Please consider in investing in this opportunity.”-Participant, Pollock Pines Workshop

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 or 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

CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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.	⌚⌚⌚	\$

CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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.	🕒🕒🕒	\$










CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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.	🕒	\$\$

CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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.	⌚⌚⌚	\$

CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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.	🕒	\$\$

CHAPTER 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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.

APPENDICES



Appendix A: Existing Conditions

Appendix B: Division Funding and Budget

Appendix C: Public Engagement

APPENDIX A: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PLANNING DOCUMENTS

El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Element

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

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

Under Objective 9.1.1, the County shall assume primary responsibility for acquisition and development of regional parks and shall assist with acquisition and development of neighborhood and community parks.

Neighborhood parks are identified as being within walking or biking distance of the residents they serve, generally 2 to 10 acres in size, and preferably located adjacent to schools. Typical improvements include play area, turf, and picnic facilities. Community parks and recreation facilities are intended to provide a focal point and gathering place for the larger community and range from 10 to 44 acres in size. They

may include sports fields and courts, picnic facilities, play areas, a swimming pool, and a community center. Regional parks and recreation facilities shall incorporate natural features and serve a region involving more than one community. Size may range from 30 to 10,000 acres with the preferred size being several hundred acres. Facilities may include all those found at neighborhood and community parks, as well as special use facilities such as amphitheaters, trails, campgrounds, and interpretive centers.

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

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

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

maintenance. Other priority trails are those with historical associations or those that provide essential linkages.

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

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

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

Goal 9.2: Funding

Goal 9.2 addresses securing adequate and stable funding to implement a County-wide parks and recreation plan.

Objective 9.2.1 acknowledges the various aspects of park implementation that need to be funded, including acquisition, development, maintenance, and

management.

Objective 9.2.2 and its related policies provide direction on the Quimby Act Implementation Ordinance, directing the use of dedicated land and fees in-lieu primarily to meet neighborhood park needs, and to assist with meeting community park standards. The Parks Commission is also tasked with reviewing tentative subdivision maps of 50 or more parcels located outside the jurisdiction of special recreation or community services districts and providing recommendations to the Planning Commission on the appropriate provision of recreation services.

Development projects that create new community or neighborhood parks are to provide mechanisms for the ongoing improvement, operation, and maintenance of these facilities unless they can be annexed to an existing special district or jurisdiction providing parks services.

The County commits to work with cities and special districts to acquire land for and develop neighborhood and community parks using the Quimby Act Implementing Ordinance and as funding allows. In addition, the County is to establish a development fee program applicable to all new development to fund acquisition and improvements for neighborhood, community, and regional parks beyond the park land acquisition requirements addressed by the Quimby Act.

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

Further policies under Objective 9.2.2 direct the County to evaluate and pursue

ownership of Federal, State, and other lands as the opportunities arise when such lands are appropriate and needed for public recreation use.

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

Goal 9.3: Recreation and Tourism

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

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

El Dorado County Conservation and Open Space Element

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

Policy 7.4.2.3, consistent with Policy 9.1.3.1 of the Parks and Recreation Element, states that low impact uses such as trails

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

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

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

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

El Dorado County Land Use Element

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

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

Land Use Element Policy 2.2.4.1 allows

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

El Dorado County Transportation and Circulation Element

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

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

communities to include bicycle/pedestrian connections to parks.

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

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

OTHER EL DORADO COUNTY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

El Dorado County Active Transportation Plan

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission's Active Transportation Plan (2020) is an evaluation of existing

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

El Dorado County Coloma Sustainable Community Mobility Plan

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

El Dorado County River Management Plan

The El Dorado County River Management Plan (2018) deals exclusively with whitewater recreation activities on the South Fork of the American River from Chili Bar Dam to Salmon Falls Road. The River Management Plan (RMP) provides

direction on management of whitewater recreation and addresses environmental protection, user experience, and safety. Recommendations in this Master Plan pertaining to whitewater and other river recreation activities and related facilities need to be consistent with the direction provided by the River Management Plan.

El Dorado County Oak Woodland Management Plan

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

El Dorado County Henningsen Lotus Park Conceptual Master Plan

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

of natural resources, recommendations for additional planning, and improvements to park operations.

Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor Master Plan

The Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC) Master Plan (2003) describes alternative uses for the Sacramento-Placerville railway corridor that was purchased from the Southern Pacific Railway Corporation by the SPTC Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The agencies of the JPA are the counties of El Dorado and Sacramento, the City of Folsom, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District.

The Master Plan identifies potential uses such as excursion trains, multiple use trails, and utility easements, as well as strategies for environmental protection, safety, and fire prevention. Design and operational guidelines are also included. In 2009, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved the concept plan for the El Dorado County Historical Railroad Park to be located within the SPTC corridor at Oriental Street in the community of El Dorado as a satellite facility of the El Dorado County Museum and park site.

In 2014, the JPA drafted a Natural Trail Implementation Plan for the corridor from Missouri Flat Road in the community of Diamond Springs to Iron Point Road in the city of Folsom to provide a current overview of general conditions within the SPTC including trail features, natural resources, drainage, crossings, etc. as they may relate to implementing the natural trail to identify the next steps that are necessary to open the SPTC natural trail to public use. In 2016 the Board of Supervisor's approved a segment plan for the corridor as follows:

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

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

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

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

South Lake Tahoe Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan

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

The plan provides direction for enhancing recreation opportunities for residents and visitors by increasing collaborative efforts and focusing resources where they are most needed. The Parks, Trails & Recreation Master Plan provides direction so that the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County can work independently or together with residents, interest groups, businesses, and other agencies to achieve the priorities.

El Dorado County Department of Transportation Capital Improvement Program

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

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

OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS

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

City of Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2017) provides planning direction for the existing park and recreation resources of the City of Placerville and El Dorado County serving residents of Placerville and the surrounding unincorporated areas of El Dorado County. The unincorporated area addressed in this planning effort includes

the communities of Coloma, Lotus, Gold Hill, Diamond Springs, Camino, Pollock Pines, and portions of Rescue.

The plan provides specific guidance for the City and supporting analysis for the County to better understand how best to cooperatively manage and develop new parks and programs to meet the needs of the current and future population. The plan was adopted by the City of Placerville for aspects relating to City owned and/or operated parks. Analysis in the Placerville Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan related to County parks will be brought forward into the comprehensive analysis of County facilities and needs in this Parks and Trails Master Plan.

City of Placerville Active Transportation Plan

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

City of South Lake Tahoe 56 Acres Master Plan

The 56 Acres Master Plan, a collaboration between the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County, aims to create a

signature park in the heart of South Lake Tahoe to focus on recreational and civic needs, including a new Recreation Facility.

Sacramento Area Council of Governments

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

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS

Cameron Park Community Services District

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

El Dorado Hills Community Services District

The El Dorado Hills CSD Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2021)

provides a 15-year vision for how parks, facilities, and recreation programs will be managed in the CSD to respond to anticipated growth and changing recreation trends. The plan includes the vision and priorities of district residents, implementation strategies, and analysis of funding requirements. The plan also addresses open space and trails.

Georgetown Divide Recreation District

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

El Dorado Irrigation District

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

Tahoe Paradise Recreation and Park District

The Tahoe Paradise Recreation and Park District Master Plan (2016) was created for Tahoe Paradise Park, a 53.5-acre park located west of the city of South Lake Tahoe, in the unincorporated town of Meyers at the base of Echo Summit.

The Park is governed and managed by the Tahoe Paradise Recreation and Park District. The District Master Plan was developed to help the park better fulfill its mission as a recreational asset for the property owners and residents of the district and the broader community.

The plan lists seven broad goals and specific objectives for each.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management prepared The South Fork American River: A Management Plan (2004) to guide management activities on public BLM lands along the South Fork American River between Salmon Falls Bridge and Chili Bar Dam. The plan was developed through an extensive public consensus process and recognizes the partnership between the BLM, El Dorado County, and numerous other parties with interests along the river. Management guidelines and decisions are provided for an extensive range of issues including trails, roads, biological and cultural resource protection, weed and fuels management, hunting, grazing, gold-seeking, camping, and commercial uses.

The BLM also prepared The Cronan Ranch: A Management Plan (2007) to provide direction for public access and use of the 1,400-acre Cronan Ranch property located along the South Fork of the American

River in El Dorado County. The vision for Cronan Ranch as described in the plan is “to preserve open space for public use and to restore and enhance plant and wildlife habitats. Reasonable public access to the river and the land will accommodate a wide range of uses including but not limited to recreational and educational experiences that are consistent with resource protection.” Specific management actions address natural and cultural resource protection, vehicle access, commercial uses, camping, trails, hunting, and recreational gold dredging.

Eldorado National Forest

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service manages the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) according to planning direction provided by several documents and initiatives. The Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was prepared in 1988 to provide comprehensive management direction for the ENF. However, it was only intended to address a 10-to-15-year planning period and is pending an update. Several interim planning initiatives have been undertaken to address specific aspects of managing the ENF. The Business Plan for the Eldorado National Forest (2006) provides information on financial resources and strategic direction for managing the diverse resources in the ENF for a broad range of stakeholders. The Recreation Site Facility Master Planning process carried out in 2007 focused on aligning the developed recreation sites with the unique characteristics of the ENF, in coordination with projected recreation demand, visitors’ expectations, and revenue opportunities.

The Eldorado National Forest Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management Project was undertaken in 2008 to identify

and designate off-highway vehicle routes in the ENF, while enhancing protection of habitat and aquatic, soil, air and cultural resources. In addition, the USFS publishes dozens of Recreational Opportunity Guides for particular forest activities and maps of specific campgrounds, trails, and destinations.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park General Plan

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

Auburn State Recreation Area and Auburn Project Lands General Plan and Resource Management Plan

California State Parks and the Reclamation prepared the GP/RMP through a multi-year public planning process to guide the long-term management of ASRA/APL. The Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) includes 40 miles of primarily federal lands along the North and Middle Forks of the American River and is managed by California State Parks under a service contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The 2021 GP/RMP

provides a long-term and comprehensive framework for the management of ASRA/APL in its current condition, consistent with the missions of CSP and Reclamation. The GP/RMP identifies goals and guidelines to achieve the purpose and vision for ASRA/APL. It includes management strategies and improvements to serve visitors while protecting natural and cultural resources.

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park General Plan

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

California Recreational Trails Plan

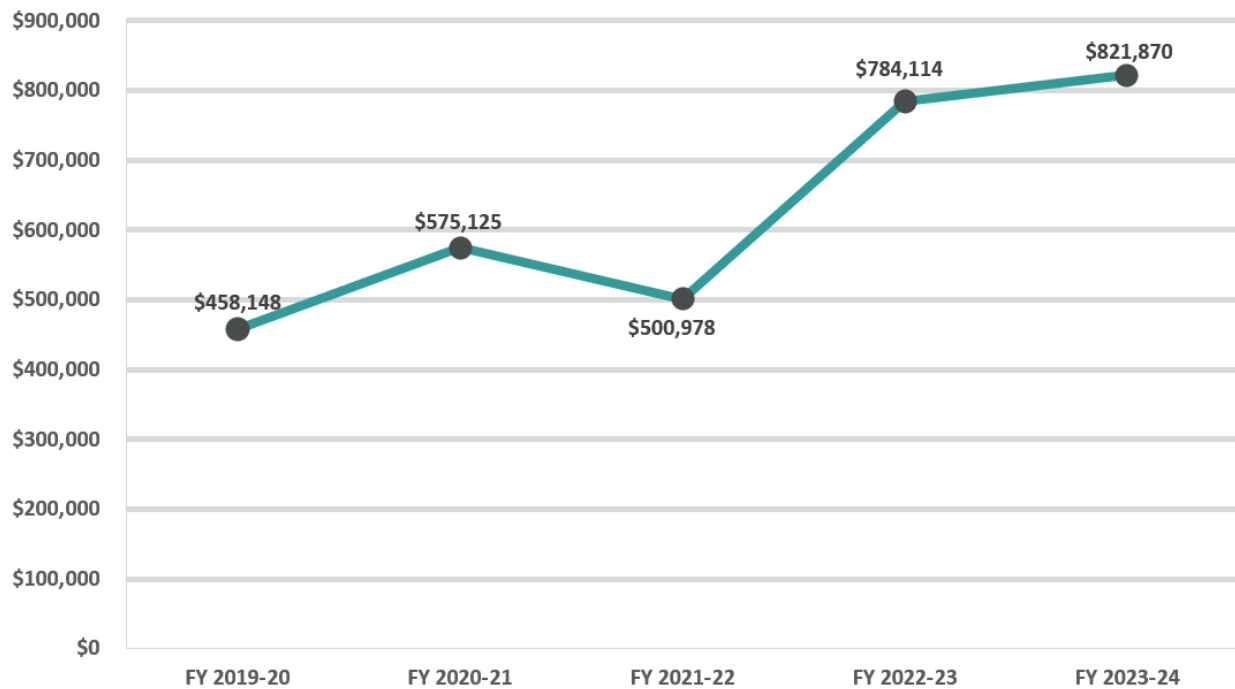
The California Recreational Trails Plan (2002) produced by California State Parks provides guidance for all California agencies and recreation providers that manage trails. The plan includes information on trail demand, funding, integration, and stewardship.

APPENDIX B: DIVISION FUNDING AND BUDGET

GENERAL FUND

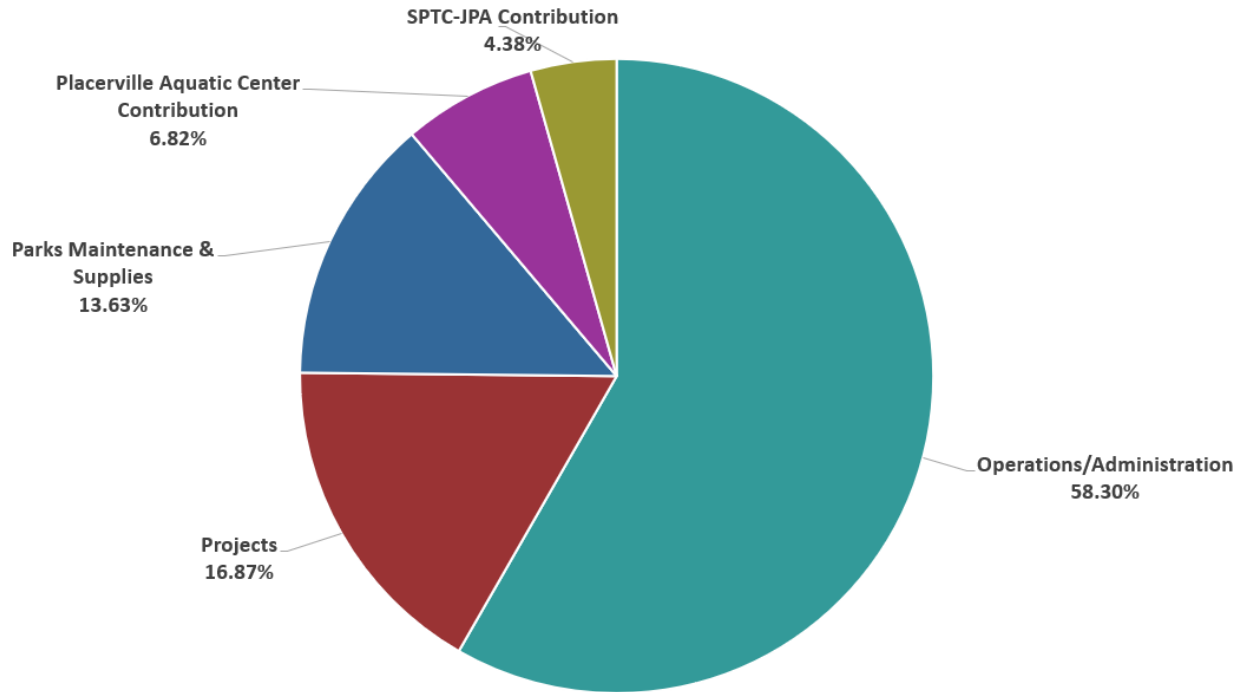
The General Fund is the County’s primary operating fund, used to finance the basic functions and services of the County, such as public safety and infrastructure. It primarily consists of revenue from property tax and sales tax. Generally, County departments strive to lessen their dependence on the General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

Figure 1: Total parks Division General Fund Usage Per Fiscal Year



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

Figure 2: Breakdown of Parks Division General Fund Utilization (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)



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

SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT (SMUD) FUND

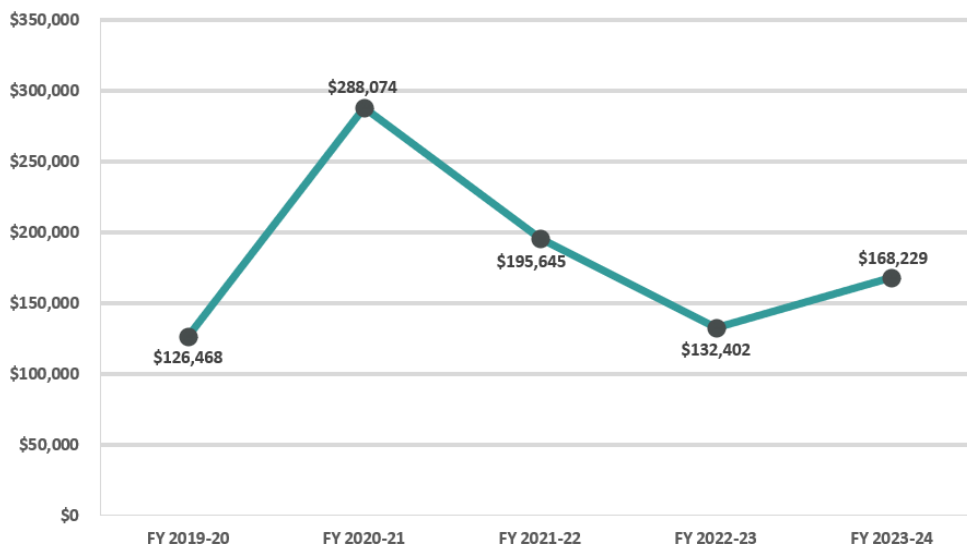
The Upper American River Project (UARP) is a network of reservoirs and powerhouses located along the American River that contain recreational facilities owned and operated by Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). SMUD pays the County annually for the impact to County infrastructure based on their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

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

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

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

Table 3: Total Parks and Trails Division SMUD Fund Usage Per Fiscal Year

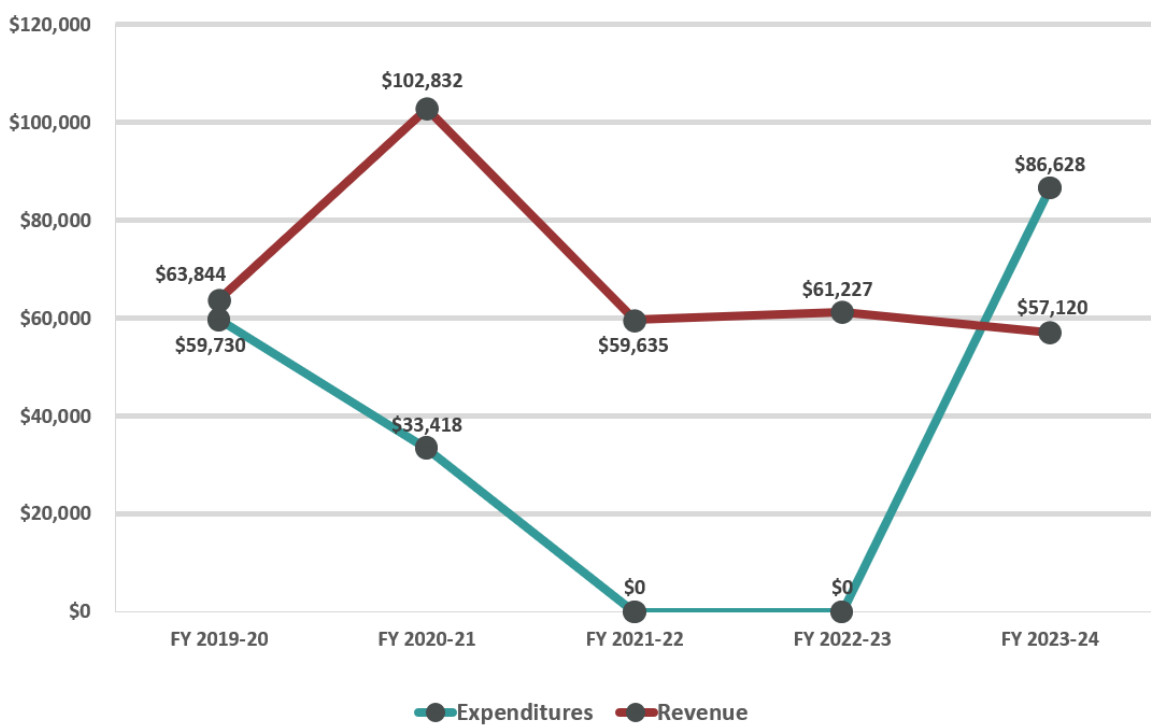


STATE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) GREEN STICKER FEES

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

The above chart illustrates the varying usage of Green Sticker Fees, as they are only typically drawn down after SMUD funds have been utilized. This approach reflects a strategic reliance on available resources, demonstrating a careful management of financial assets in response to operational needs. The chart also shows the annual Green Sticker Fee revenue the County receives, which remains relatively consistent except for FY 2020-21, when revenue increased by 70 percent compared to the average of the rest of the years (\$60,457), reaching \$102,832. The Green Sticker fees received from the state are not fixed and can vary each year depending on the number of OHV registrations. The volume of registrations can be influenced by factors such as economic conditions and outdoor recreation trends.

Table 4: Total Parks and Trails Division SMUD Fund Usage Per Fiscal Year

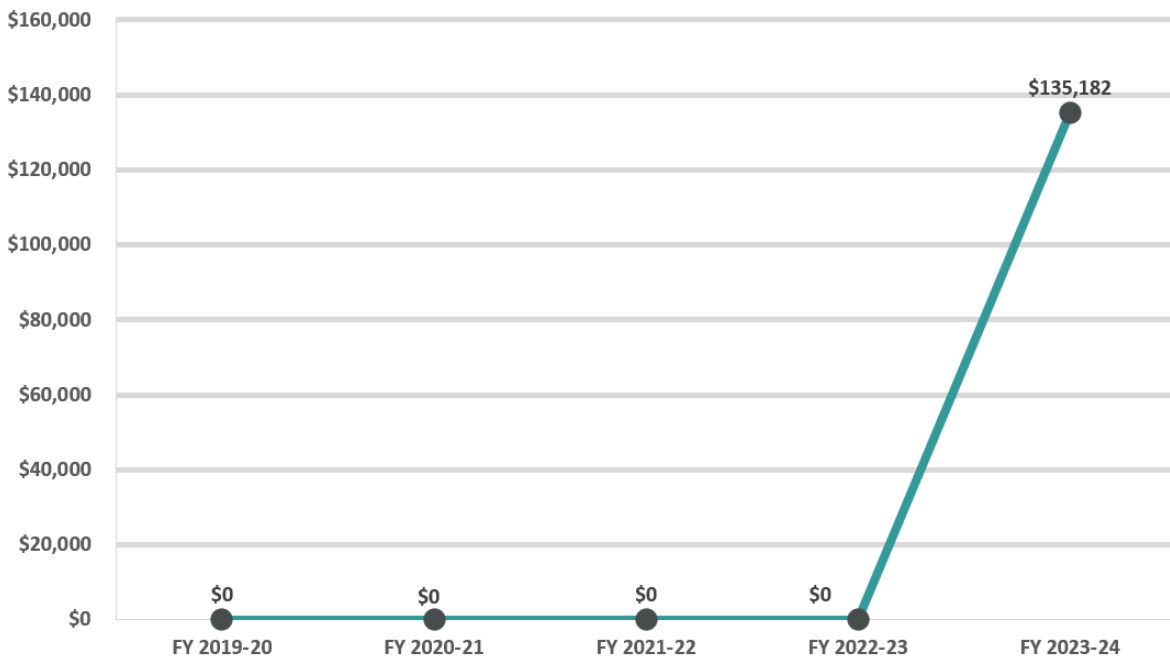


DISCRETIONARY TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX (DTOT)

The Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is a general tax charged to guests of transient lodging facilities (vacation home rentals, hotels, motels, etc.). In El Dorado County, this tax is levied at a rate of 14 percent for the unincorporated portions of the Tahoe Area and a rate of 10 percent for the unincorporated areas outside of the Tahoe Area. The 10 percent collected can be used for discretionary purposes (Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax), while the additional 4 percent in the unincorporated portions of the Tahoe Area specifically goes toward snow removal and maintenance of existing roads. Each year, the Board of Supervisors can allocate funds from the Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax (DTOT) Budget for any County purpose, is generally used to address the impacts of tourism on local services, facilities, and roads.

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

Table 5: Total Parks and Trails Division DTOT Usage Per Fiscal Year

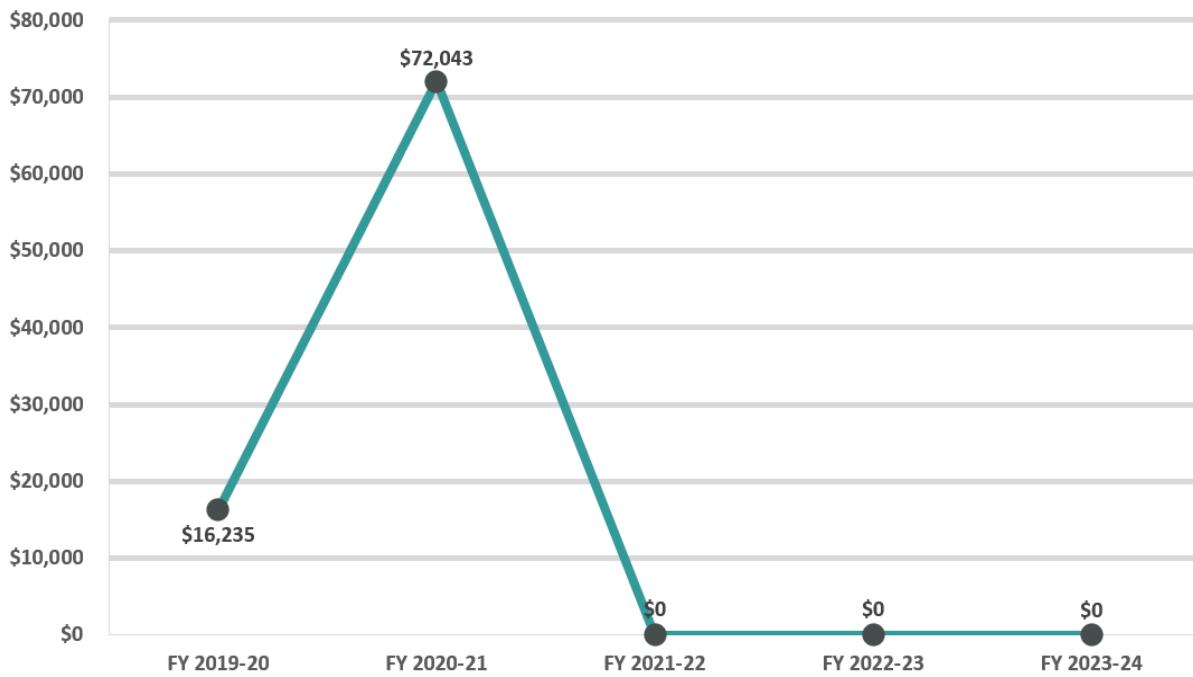


FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROJECT AND CAL OES FUNDING

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

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

Table 6: Total Parks and Trails Division FEMA/Cal OES Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year

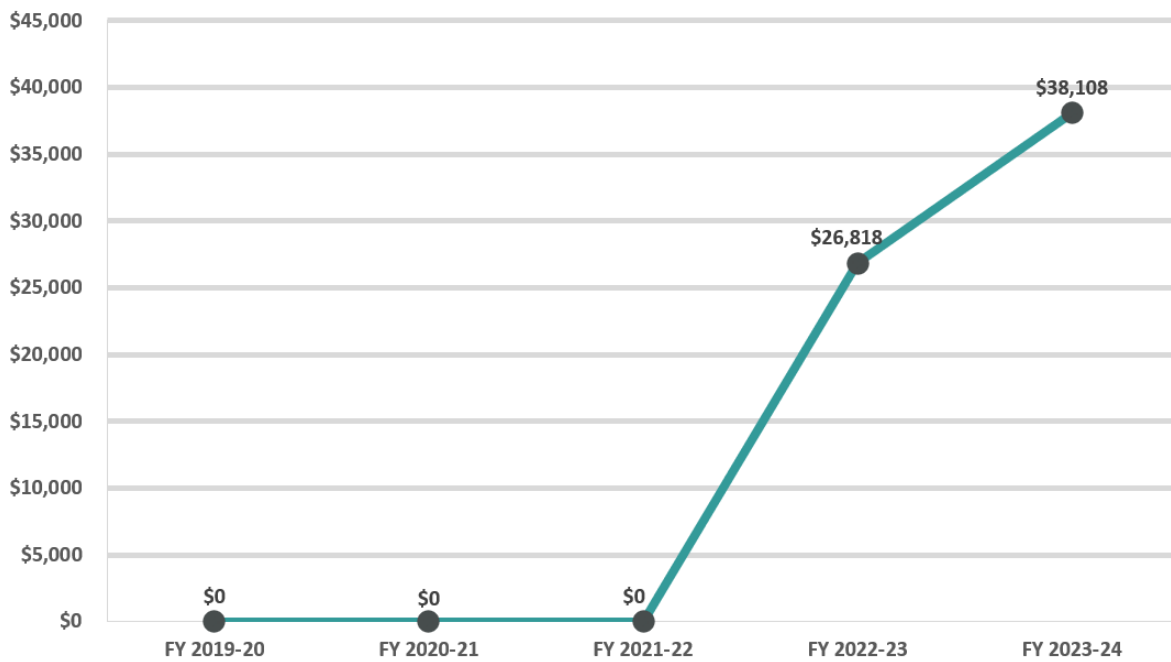


AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

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

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

Table 7: Total Division ARPA Funding Usage Per Fiscal Year



MISCELLANEOUS FUNDING SOURCES

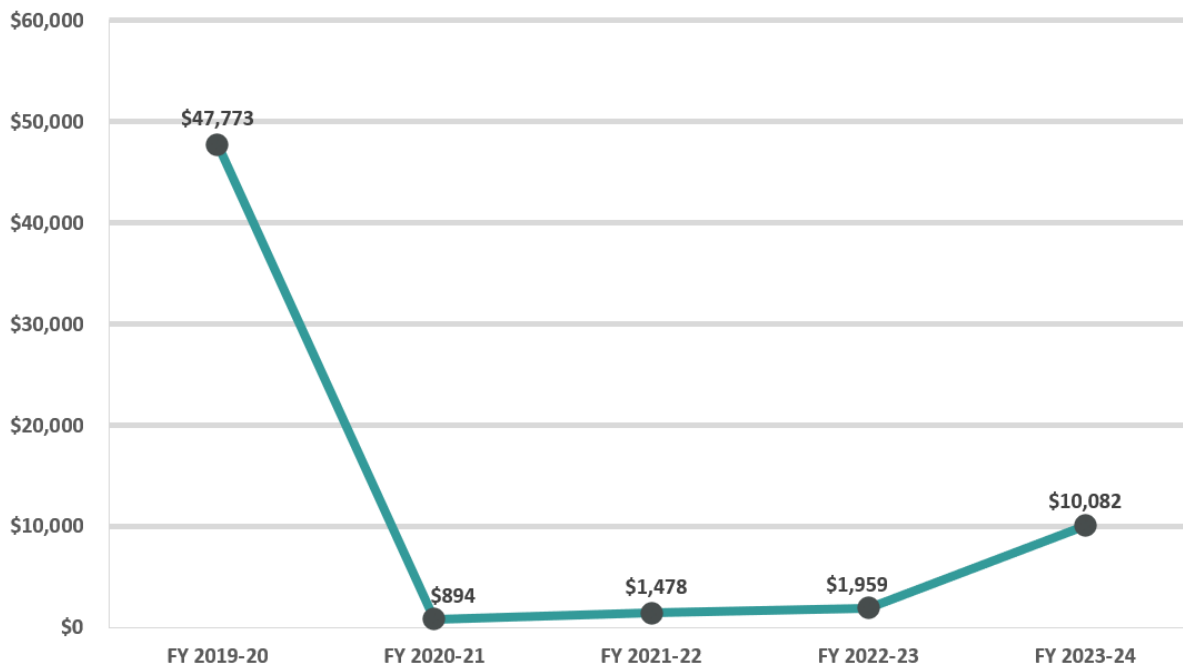
The Parks and Trails Division occasionally receives funding from sources that fall outside the typical categories. These "Miscellaneous" funds can come from one-time or irregular events, such as the sale of a fixed asset or reimbursements from agencies like the U.S. Forest Service for restroom maintenance on the Rubicon Trail. These unscheduled or atypical revenues provide additional support for park operations and projects but are not relied upon as regular funding streams. These funds provide supplementary support but are not as stable or integral as other funding sources.

DONATIONS

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

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

Table 8: Total Parks and Trails Division Donations Per Fiscal Year

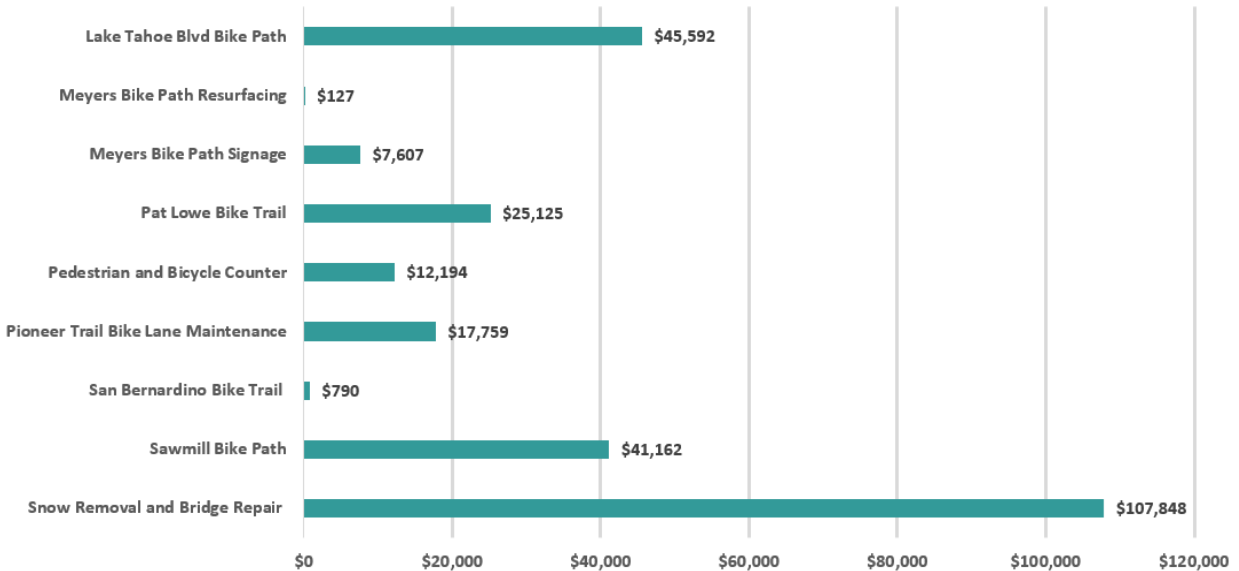


DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) MEASURE S FUNDS

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

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

Table 9: Measure S Fund Trail-Related Utilization (FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24)

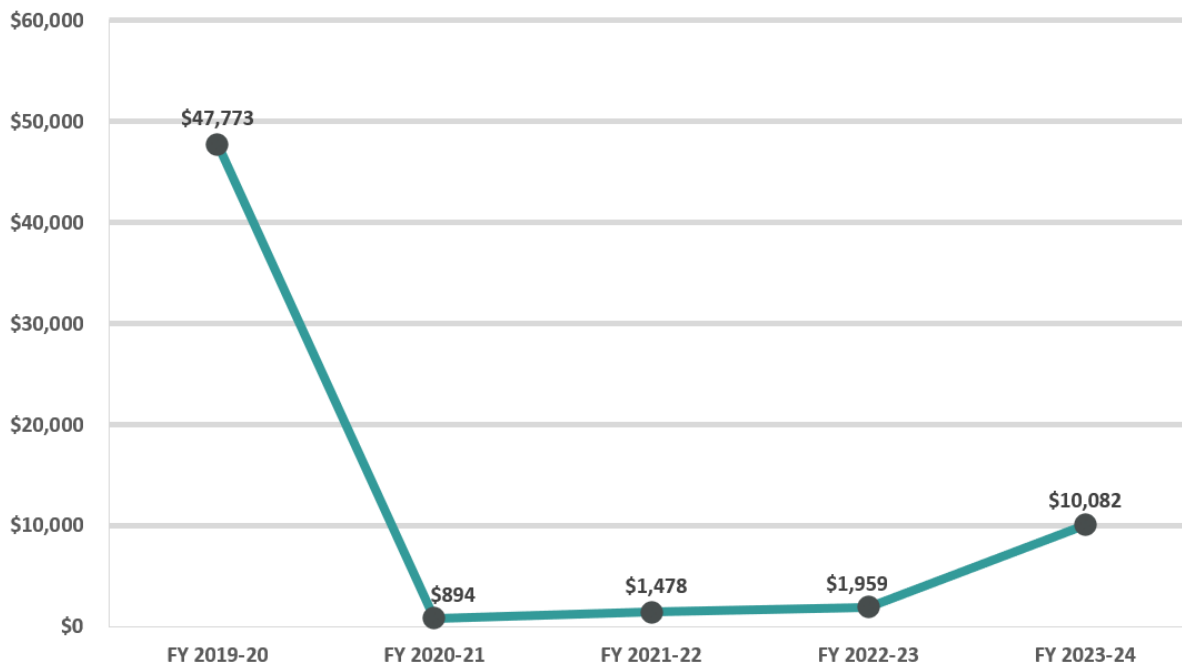


ACCUMULATIVE CAPITAL OUTLAY (ACO) FUND

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

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

Table 10: Total ACO Parks-Related Project Cost Usage Per Fiscal Year



APPENDIX C: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Several meetings of the El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) were dedicated to gathering additional input on the Master Plan and providing updates on the process to the public. Throughout 2023 and 2024, the Commission deliberated on all aspects of the Master Plan, including the goals for the plan and the vision for Parks in El Dorado County. Each draft chapter was provided to the Commission for feedback and changes were incorporated.

The Commission also organized and provided an ad hoc committee made up of two Commissioners to the Master Plan Advisory Committee. Commissioners served as co-editors of the plan to review the Master Plan process, identify key issue areas, suggest ways to increase public participation, and review and refine specific recommendations for park and trail facilities, maintenance, and administration.

KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

Two stakeholder focus group meetings with the local schools, neighborhood associations, business interest representatives, underrepresented community-based organizations, and other key stakeholder groups were planned to be held early on during the public engagement process.

The purpose of the Key Stakeholder Focus Group meetings is to provide stakeholder groups with the opportunity to participate in project planning to help identify project needs. The initial meetings were meant to provide a forum to discuss potential key issues, challenges, and opportunities. The groups to be invited to participate in the Key Stakeholder Focus Group meetings were facilitated to discuss constraints and opportunities, and the needs of the groups and interests they represented.

The first stakeholder meeting was held on October 24, 2022, and the second occurred on December 14, 2022. Representatives in attendance included the Little League District, soccer clubs, EDHCSD, the Marshal Foundation for Community Health, the Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee, the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, Motherlode Trail Stewardship, Friends of the El Dorado Trail, the American River Conservancy, Folsom Auburn Trails El Dorado Trail, Backcountry Horsemen, the Coloma Business Council, Bureau of Land Management, Ponderosa Little League, El Dorado High School District Facilities, and County Departments including Transportation, Sheriff's Office, and Public Health.

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

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

WORKSHOP FORMAT

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

The workshop was structured in three parts:

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

IN-PERSON MEETINGS

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

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

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

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, El Dorado County hosted the first of five community workshops regarding the Parks & Trails Master Plan Update. A total of 70 community members attended the workshop, held at the Gold Trail Grange at 319 CA-49 in Coloma, CA.

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

GROUP 1 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Equestrian	3	1	3	1
Parking for horse trailers	10	3	2	2
Safe trails for cycling / horses	6	2	3	5
Baseball fields in fourplexes	15	6	12	13
Lighting			1	
Mixed-use fields	3	2	2	1
Snack bars			2	1
Education of parks		1		
Dog park		3		
Obstacle course				2

GROUP 2 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Protect cultural heritage sites	2		1	1
Outdoor amphitheater		12	3	
Batting cages	2		1	1
Redesign for field drainage	1		1	1
Running water equestrian staging	3	3	5	3
Lighted fields	2			2
Indoor gathering hall	1	1		
Baseball / softball fields	20	5	9	9
Basketball court	1			
Soccer field	1			
Quad complex with snack bar	3	1	7	9
Horse trails	6	9	7	10
Equestrian arena		2	6	3
Parking for equestrian trailers at existing facilities	11	6	3	5
Education on trail etiquette		1	1	7
Parallel trails	4		2	1
Enforcement & maintenance	5			3

GROUP 3 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Equestrian park / parking lot / arena / water / corrals	12	4	4	6
Sports complex - quadplex	13	10	11	11
Zipline park / ropes course		2	1	
Equestrian trail connectivity	2			
Habitat & wildlife restoration	2	4	5	6
Swimming facilities		2	1	
Equestrian bridge crossing	1	1	1	1
Trails access & information	1	2	1	1
Rodeo arena		1	1	
Law enforcement	5	1	4	4
Trail signage & education	2	1	3	3
Equestrian ADA access		1		
Single-use trails	5	7	3	2

GROUP 4 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Horse arena	2		2	
Baseball complex	11	2	6	8
Multi-sports complex	2	3	1	1
Horse trails	9	2	1	8
Basketball court	1			
Trail network & open space	8	5	3	9
Bike track / park	1			2
Cultural walk	1		1	3
ADA compliant fields		1		
Swimming pool			1	
Whitewater park	1	1	1	
Trail connection to Tahoe	2	3	6	
Indoor event space		1	1	1
Cross-country ski trails	1	4	1	2
Snowpark		1		
Amphitheater		1	5	
Dog park		1		
Shooting range		3	2	
Campground facilities			1	1
River access points	8	4	5	3

In response to “If you had \$100 to spend on a Parks & Trails Master Plan opportunity, what would it be?”:

- horse trailer parking
- clean up river
- HLP ADA access
- Lotus park in-field drainage,
- keep CSD out
- more trails (too used)
- shade structures
- dock at Stumpy Meadows
- complete fencing at Lotus Park (impacting baseball/softball games and water issue)
- clean confluence trails
- potable drinkable water at Tells Creek
- ADA fields and bathrooms
- educational courses (how to use/operate trails)
- lighting and security.

COMMUNITY INPUT

In the middle of the room was a table with comment cards and pens to encourage the community to give input on the project. A total of 23 community members submitted feedback via comment cards during the workshop. The following comments were submitted:

- “I am an equestrian that believes in shared use. My biggest want is patrols that are on the trails and facilities and ticketing those that break the rules. With a large fine!”
- “I ride horses and my husband rides mountain bikes, including bikes. We both have encountered problems with other trail users not riding safely or considerately on shared trails. Education programs for all kinds of users are very much needed, especially as non-users are coming from EDC from less rural areas. Also, enforcement of rules on shared trails is softly needed – Most users are willing to comply with rules if they are aware of them (better signage needed) and understand their purpose: safety!”
- “Equestrian parking Cronan Ranch or enforce large parking lot. 5-year plan multi road, horses – hiker, bike only trails. 5-year plan areas, water for horses. It is only going to get worse, with outdoor people coming up the hill. Look at Placer County confluence horse people are run out of all our trail by the river and Forest Hill range.”
- “We would like to respectfully request a multi-sport facility on the Georgetown divide, with lights and a concession facility. Specifically, a baseball complex. The Georgetown divide community does not have a lot of opportunities for our youth, poverty levels are high, and sports have shown to have a tremendous positive impact on student grades, lower crime rates, and more well-rounded individuals. With one field, Lotus, we are not able to host games. We are severely limited in our ability to create a community for our youth.”
- “Better fields and additional fields in the County. Field needs for Little League: four fields in Cameron Park, three additional fields in Forebay, four-field complex in Eldorado Hills, four-field complex in Placerville, four-field complex in Divide/Cool.”
- “We need safe trails – not safe talking kids, horse, or hiking with bicycle speeding to Racum/Down trails. Water facilities – so hot – need availability to fresh water. Also need more parking for horse trailers.”
- “The equestrian community has been pushed out of traditional parking spaces by an influx of other trail users. Equestrians need dedicated parking for our rigs with access to major trailheads. Trails that connect are important along with new trail development that is safe for multi-use.”
- “Please build us baseball fields.”
- “I serve on the board for little league and we desperately need fields. We would love to collaborate about what would be most helpful. Thank you so much!”
- “My name is Colt. I want to see more baseball fields.”
- “My name is David I have played baseball for 6 years and I would like to see better fields.”
- “Our youth on the divide need a sports complex and baseball fields/soccer/skate/concessions.”
- “Divide little league would like to see a quad complex for baseball.” (this comment appeared on two different comment cards)

- “My brothers have been playing baseball for 7 years. I believe there should be more fields and the current fields should be better upkeep. In the future I would like to see more fields in order to expand the leagues and let the children play more baseball.”
- “Thank you for considering community input. I would like to see ample and designated parking for horse trails and safe trails for cyclists and horses. Community education about trails.”
- “I am a civil engineer with Lumos and Associates in El Dorado Hills and I am looking forward to hearing more about the parks and trails master plan. I would like to be involved in the upcoming design efforts.”
- “Please use tax dollars funds to acquire more open space for multiuse, especially along the hwy 50 corridor. Cronan Ranch is too impacted already if you build an equestrian facility or pump track for mt bikes you are not meeting the needs of all users. And it will draw more people from out of the area who are not County Tex.”
- “Katie – can we also mention drones? They are causing havoc and near or serious ridding accidents. Also – if you could post where and when 300 sheep will be at Olmstead and Cronin this would help. Basically, it is sports against equestrians. I hope we can find a hole in the middle.”
- “The youth in El Dorado County need an area they can do all sports and b with their friends that they feel safe and do not have to pay. Baseball fields are needed most – soccer, basketball and football fields would be amazing too.”
- “All in favor of parks and trails. However, the respect of private property rights is essential to the private property and landowners in respective areas. I appreciate the time and energy put into these gatherings. Thank you see you next meeting.”
- “Cool, Pilot Hill, Greenwood, Georgetown, Garden Valley Divide residents are very tired of traveling off the Divide. We have been doing it for years to the Placerville, El Dorado Hills area. THAT’S where the most money is spent by the County. Population, tax dollars, number of residents??? We desperately need a (4) football/softball/baseball complex with snack bar area and restrooms.”
- “Please consider buying Sniber Ranch in Shingle Springs (or similar size parcel of open space for trail systems) to relieve the pressure on the existing trail system on the north side of the County.”
- “Wouldn’t call the attendees (can’t read handwriting) – more like two groups organized: horse people and ball players.”

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #2

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

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

GROUP 1 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
More walking / biking trails	4	2	2	2
Connection to schools / parks			1	
Extend trails to South Lake Tahoe	2		1	7
Pony Express trails for horses			1	
More signage			1	
Native large trees	2	2		
Bike pump track		1		1
Skate park			1	
Swimming hole / pool at Pioneer Park		5	3	
Educational services				1
More children playground activity areas	1		1	2
Pocket park			1	
Pickle ball	1	1		
Concert areas		3	1	
Farmers market		1		1
Dog park		1		
Rebuild from fire	6	1	3	3
More little league areas	2		1	2
Spacious trailheads for horses	2			1

GROUP 2 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Indoor / outdoor pool		1		
More hiking trails	2	6	1	1
More access to Rocky Bar	6		2	2
Access to Cosumnes River	1	1	3	1
Dog park				1
Bike lane adjacent to Pony Express	4			
Grizzly Flats community center	1		1	1
Emergency relief center				1
Trails connecting Rocky Bar to Tahoe	3		1	1
Baseball sports field	1	1	2	1
Ziplines		3		
ADA accessible parking			1	
Community & club tournaments				1
Music venue				4
Signage improvements			2	
Larger community room	1			

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

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

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #3

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

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

GROUP 1 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Bike skills park	2	4	2	2
Multi-use trails	5	3	5	2
Class 1 & natural trails	13	5	5	11
Linear parks with amenities			1	
Open grassy spaces			1	
Open space regional park with parking and restrooms	1	3	1	
Drive across county for bike skills park		2	1	1
Mountain bike events / track				1
Parking at Amber Fields	1	1	2	1
Old Station landing in Latrobe		1	3	
Fix bridges on El Dorado Trail	1	2	3	2

GROUP 2 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Trail connectivity	5	2	2	4
Zipline / ropes course park	1	1	2	1
Climbing facility		2		
Pickle ball		2		
Expand Bike Park with mountain bike trails		1		
Cross country mountain bike park with amenities	3	3	3	2
Special event space	1		3	2
Dog park		4	1	1
Security	1			1
Drainage on El Dorado Trail				1
More parking on El Dorado Trail				
Water at Cronan Ranch for horses	2	1	2	1
Paved trail connecting to Folsom	1	1		
Bathrooms	1			
Biking trails along major arterials	6	3	5	5

Trail connectivity	5	6	2	6
Undeveloped parks		1	1	
Baseball field with lights	5	1	2	2
Multi-complex sports fields	2	2	2	2
Open space	3	2	4	3
Separated trails for walk, bike, and horses	5	1	1	1
Natural parks vs structured parks		1	1	
Better boat access	1		1	
Whitewater park	1			

GROUP 3 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Bigger parking spaces for trailers and boats			2	
Manage vegetation overgrowth				3
Water troughs	3			
Parking			2	
Clean up along trails	1			2
ADA access			1	3
Access to creek trails		1	1	
Signage		4	1	
Mounting platforms			1	
Overnight parking		1	1	
Tie posts at trailheads			1	2
Tourist bike management		1		
Safety at parking lots	1	1	2	
Partnership with nature agencies	2	2	2	1

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

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

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #4

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

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

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

GROUP 1 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING				
ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Off-highway vehicle venue	4	3	1	3
Zipline park / climbing	3	15	2	1
Mountain bike race venue	9	4	6	10
Amenities at Forebay Park (lights, ADA bathroom, etc)	7	2	4	8
Basketball / sports complex			1	
Spin cycle facility			5	1
Pump track	4		6	2
El Dorado Trail natural trail improvements	2			2
Kid play structure	1	1	1	1
Snow park			2	1
Indoor batting cages		1	1	
Rodeo	1	3	2	1

GROUP 2 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Water bottle filling station	1		1	
More education	1		1	
More maps			1	
Dog-friendly park	2		1	1
Bike race venue	3		15	
Water park	1			
El Dorado Trail improvements	5			13
Finishing trails	1			4
Multi-use trails		1		
El Dorado canal (Gilmore to Forebay to Silver Fork)	3	1	2	3
Bike park	6	11	1	3
Zipline course	3	13	2	2
Go carts	1		4	1
Frisbee golf				1
Off-trail bike tracks	1	3		
Paintball	4	2	5	4

GROUP 3 BREAKDOWN OF COLORED-DOT VOTING

ITEM	TOP	DRIVE	PAY	WORK
Indoor sports facility with batting cages, basketball, etc		1	1	
Downhill mountain bike park	2	4	2	3
Cross country mountain bike park	11	7	12	14
Community park with playground and picnic area	3	3	3	4
Soccer fields		1		
Indoor skate park	1	1	1	
Zipline and ropes course	2	7		1
Drive-in theater			2	
Baseball diamonds	2	3	2	2
OHV track	3	2	5	3
Free biking activities	1	1		3
Pave El Dorado Trail from Camino to Tahoe	1			

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

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

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #5

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

Workshop Format

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

What follows are the polling results:

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

Common themes included:

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

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

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

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

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

This polling had the breakdown of the following answers:

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

Question 4: What is missing from your parks experience? Common themes included:

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

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

Common themes included:

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

Question 6: Rank the top seven amenities in order. The final ranking was:

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

Question & Answer

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

- Question 1: "What budget do we have for the parks within the next year?" Sanders responded with two answers. If it is regarding the park maintenance budget, that is its own budget and project. When speaking about new facilities, the Board of Supervisors has granted three million dollars to renovate Pollock Pines, four million towards Diamond Springs Community Park, and one point two million to improve Chili Bar Park. This is in addition to restroom upgrades and various improvements at parks in the area.
- Question 2: "Is it true the river patrol is down to one person this year?" Sanders explained that is not true. As of right now, there is a parks program coordinator and three patrol officers.
- Question 3: "Will there be paving in the back parking lot in Forebay Park?" Sanders chimed in that there will be paved parking and that is one of the main goals her team has to improve the park's infrastructure, including an inclusive playground, new restrooms, and a dog park.
- Question 4: "What percentage or dollar amount does the County invest in Lake Tahoe?" Sanders explained they do not have parks in Tahoe because it is mainly done by the City of Tahoe or Tahoe Paradise recreation district. The County does maintain trails, but Sanders does not have the dollar amount and notes that it does come through Measure R funding.
- Question 5: "Does this plan incorporate efforts from the Tahoe Trails Strategy?" Sanders confirmed that all those plans will be incorporated for the entire County, which is different from the 2012 plan that did not encompass Lake Tahoe.
- Question 6: "Do we ask organizations that utilize the park to help with the cost or the maintenance?" Sanders responded that they do not operate programs, however, if an organization like a soccer club wants to use the fields, they do pay a use fee.

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

Describe El Dorado in three words. Open-Ended answers:

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

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

What does your dream park look like? Open-Ended answers:

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

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

Tell us what is missing from your park's experience. Open-Ended answers:

- Water play, ex. splash pad. The river is not safe for younger children. Shade over play structures.
- Better trail signage.
- Trailhead access from county roads into forest service lands for backcountry skiing
- Good river boating to access. Put in and take out with boat ramps.
- Gathering places at trailheads

- Restrooms, parking, and signage along the El Dorado Trail
- Trail access for all users. Trails near water. Options for short and long rides. Short carry of personal watercraft to water. Safe and maintained toilets
- Maintenance and upkeep
- Lighting, maintenance, signage, maintained roads and parking lots
- Restrooms
- Signage
- Lighting, parking, trash cans
- Recycling bins
- Cell phone charger
- Better signage, for instance, distance I'm walking between features. Would be great if there were QR codes, too. I like the new history signage on El Dorado Trail in some places.
- Security cameras; water fountains; bike racks; maintained parking lots
- Updated bathrooms. Small play area for the little kids, where the parents can watch the little ones as they watch a baseball game.
- Trails wide enough for walkers and bikes
- Repair station for bikes
- Trash cans on trails for doggy bags
- More clarity on where is safe to park vehicle.
- Bathrooms
- Blue bags for pets
- Real dirt trails in Serrano as opposed to steep gravel roads.
- Accessibility
- Trail maintenance
- Lighting, crosswalk flashing lights
- Greenbelts connecting parks
- Bathroom
- Resting spots
- Trash cans and hand washing stations
- More parking for the El Dorado Trail trailheads
- EV chargers
- Available parking from the county in Rubicon Peak for access to skiing
- Trail connectivity. The potential exists for a cross-state trail from the Bay Area to Tahoe incorporating the El Dorado Trail.
- Paved parking
- Better maps and kiosks
- Signs
- Trash cans
- Removal of the railroad track in the SPTC corridor so construction of trails will be easier and cost less.
- Rinse off station from river
- Better parking management
- Better signage
- Correction of drainage problems on the dirt section of the El Dorado Trail.

- Invasive species informational signage
- Message boards
- Decking the railroad bridges on the dirt section of the El Dorado Trail so horses can cross, and bikers and hikers don't have to step from tie to tie.
- More parking for Salmon Falls Bridge river take out
- A trail from Salmon Fall Bridge to Kanaka Valley
- Trails for different physical abilities
- More parking
- Security patrol

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

Open-Ended answers:

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

SURVEY

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

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

Survey Question #1

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

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

Figure 1: Primary Residence Location – Survey Question #1

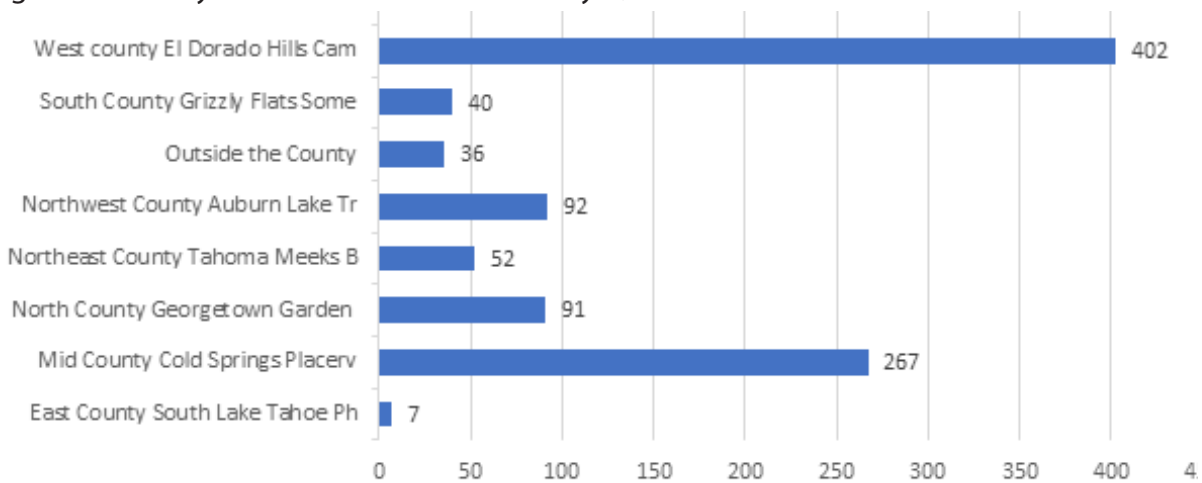
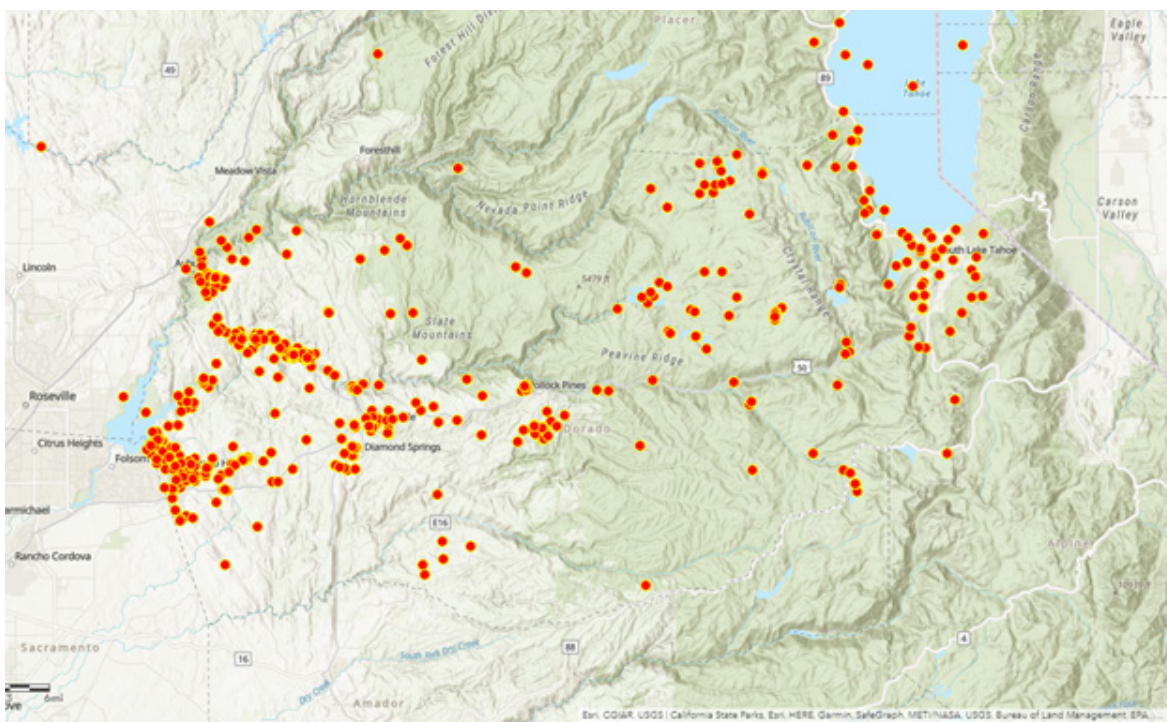


Figure 2: Primary Residence Location – Survey Question #1



Survey Question #2

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

Figure 3: Park Rating – Survey Question #2

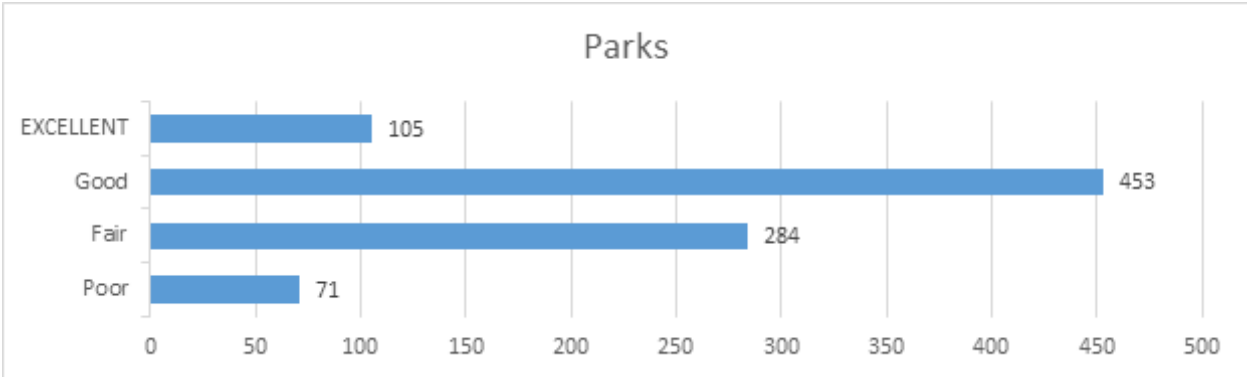


Figure 4: Trails Rating – Survey Question #2

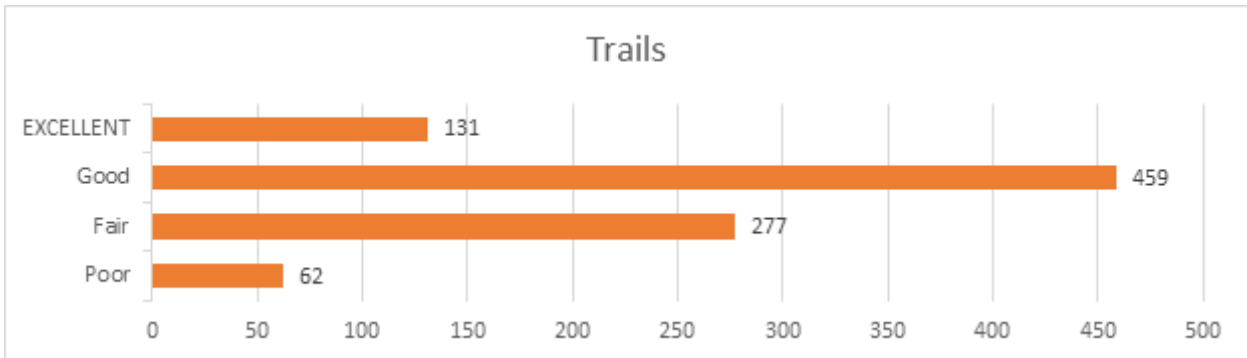
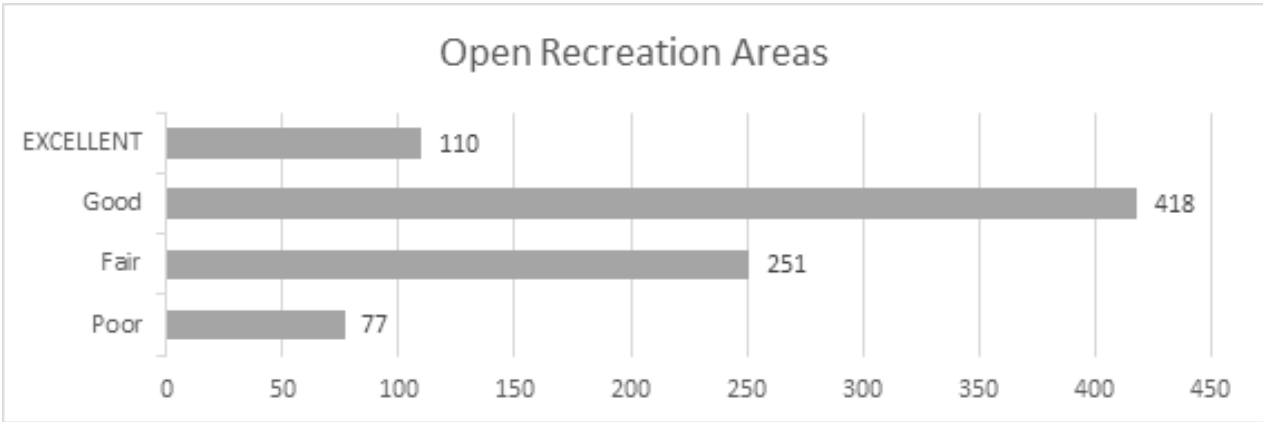


Figure 5: Open Recreation Rating – Survey Question #2

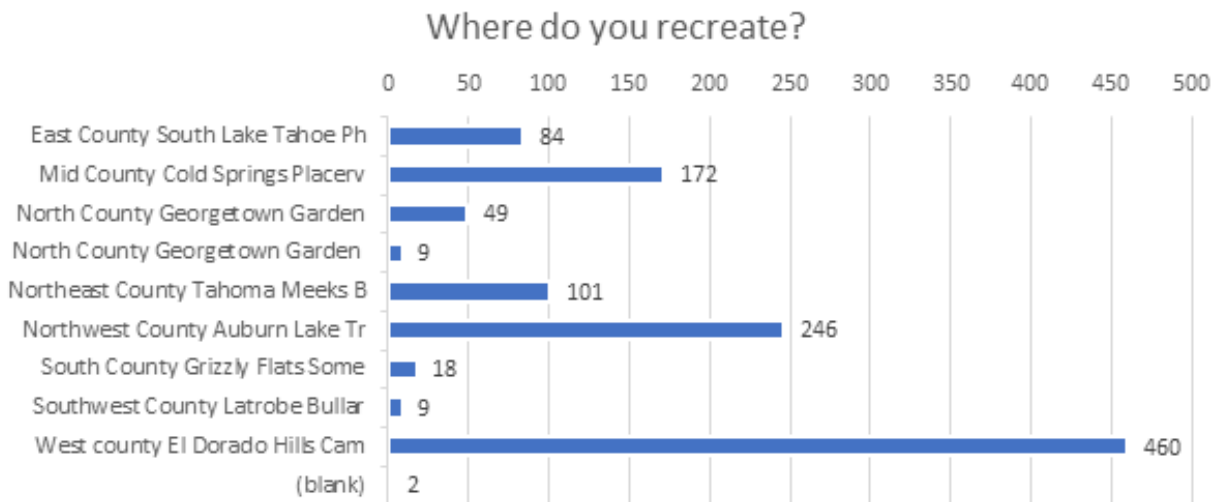


The next section of the survey asked for activity information.

Survey Question #3

The survey asked “Where do you recreate?” and asked for respondents to choose up to three, using the same seven areas as in the first question. The top choice was mid-County (Cold Springs, Placerville, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, Smithflat, Camino, Pollock Pines) with 498 responses, followed by West County (El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Shingle Springs) and northwest County (Auburn Lake Trails, Coloma/Lotus, Pilot Hill) at 462 and 414, respectively.

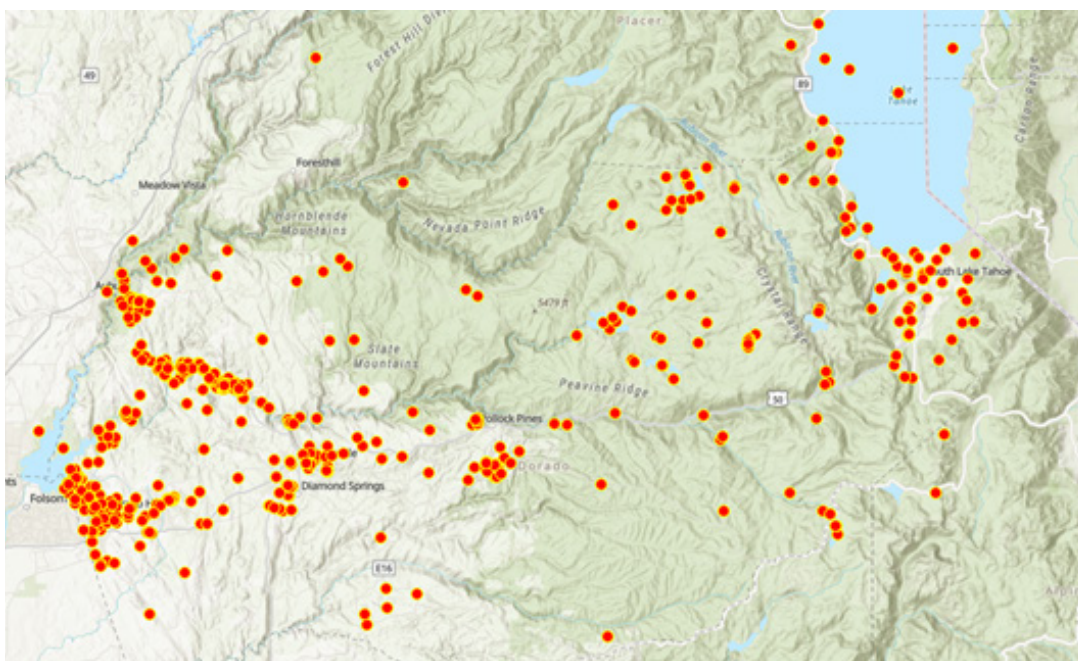
Figure 6: Where do you recreate – Survey Question #3



Survey Question #4

Respondents were asked to drop a pin on a map to identify their favorite park or recreation place. The results for all dropped pins are shown on the map below.

Figure 7: Map of favorite park or place for recreation – Survey Question #4

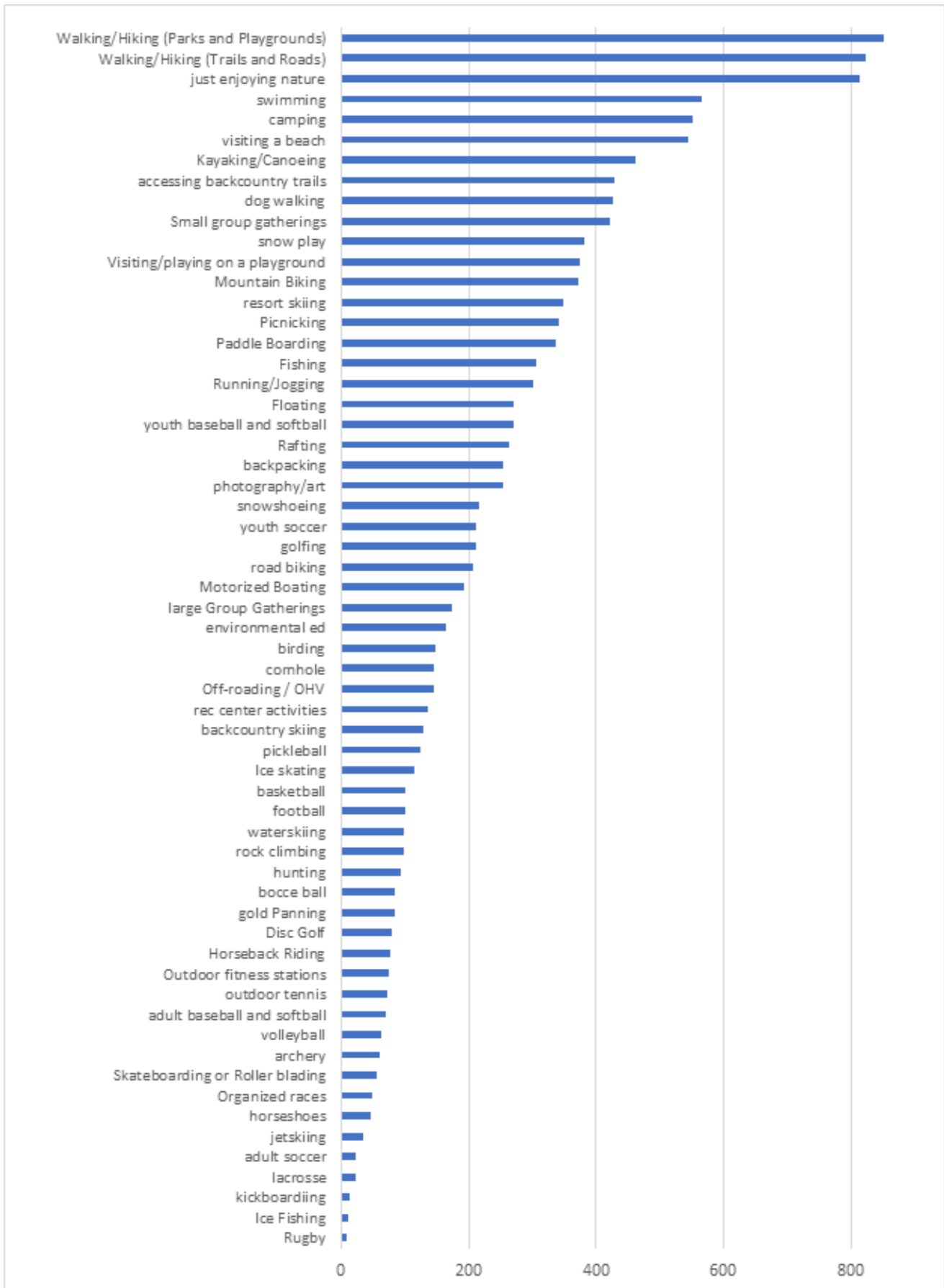


Survey Question #5

The next question asked which activities the respondent participated in the the past year. This question provides information on what activies respondents in El Dorado County are already doing. Respondents were asked to choose from a list of 1) parks and playgrounds, 2) Trails and Roads, 3) Recreation and Sports Activities, 3) Beaches, Lakes, and Rivers, 4) Winter Recreation, 5) Open Space and Backcountry, and 6) Other recreation. "Walking and hiking" was the most selected choice in both the parks and playgrounds and trails and Roads categories.

In Recreation and Sports Activities, Youth Baseball and Softball had the highest number, followed by Youth Soccer. Under Beaches, Lakes, and Rivers, several selections had high numbers, with swimming and visiting a beach coming in highest. In Winter Recreation, resort skiing and snow play were the most popular. "Just enjoying nature" was the most popular selection under Open Space and Backcountry, and golfing had the highest number under the Other Recreation category. Below is the full breakdown for each activity.

Figure 8: Activities the respondent participated in the the past year – Survey Question #5



Survey Question #6

This question asked respondents to indicate whether they would be willing to pay a fee, support a bond measure, or join a work event in order to achieve added or improved parks.

The majority of respondents (56%) indicated that they would vote in favor of a bond measure. One-hundred-fourteen said they would be willing to do none of the options.

Figure 9: Parks and trails funding – Survey Question #6



Survey Question #7

The next question was included to gauge the value placed on park and trails improvements: “If you had \$100 to spend on Parks and Trails improvements, how would you spend the money?” There were six different categories to choose from: New Parks, Improvements at Existing Parks, Maintenance and Sanitary Measures, Expanded Trail System, Security / Staff Presence, and Parks Information / Maps and Signs.

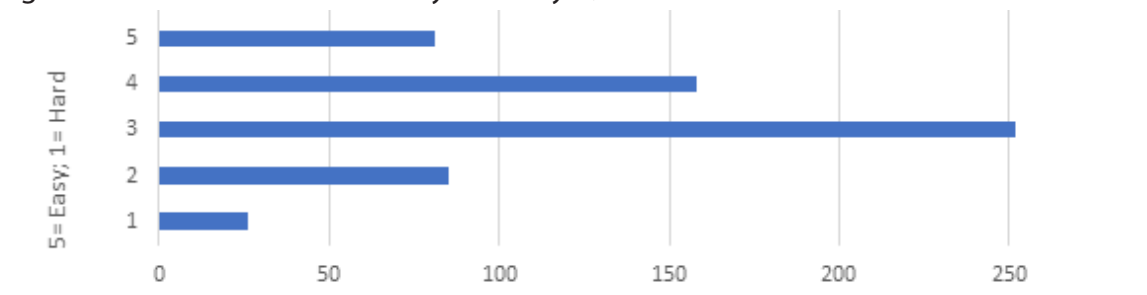
As an average of all responses, \$19.76 was allocated to New Parks, \$22.17 was allocated to Improvements at existing parks, \$17.01 was allocated to Maintenance and Sanitary Measures, \$26.37 for an expanded trail system, \$6.64 for Security and Staff presence, and \$4.99 for Parks Information / Maps and Signs.

Survey Question #8

Next, we asked about information availability for parks: “On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being very easy and 1 being very difficult, please indicate how easy or difficult it is to find information about El Dorado County’s parks, trails, beaches, and open space offerings”.

Respondents rated information availability as somewhere in the middle, with most respondents indicating three out of five thumbs up. The average answer was 3.3/5.

Figure 10: Information Availability – Survey Question #8

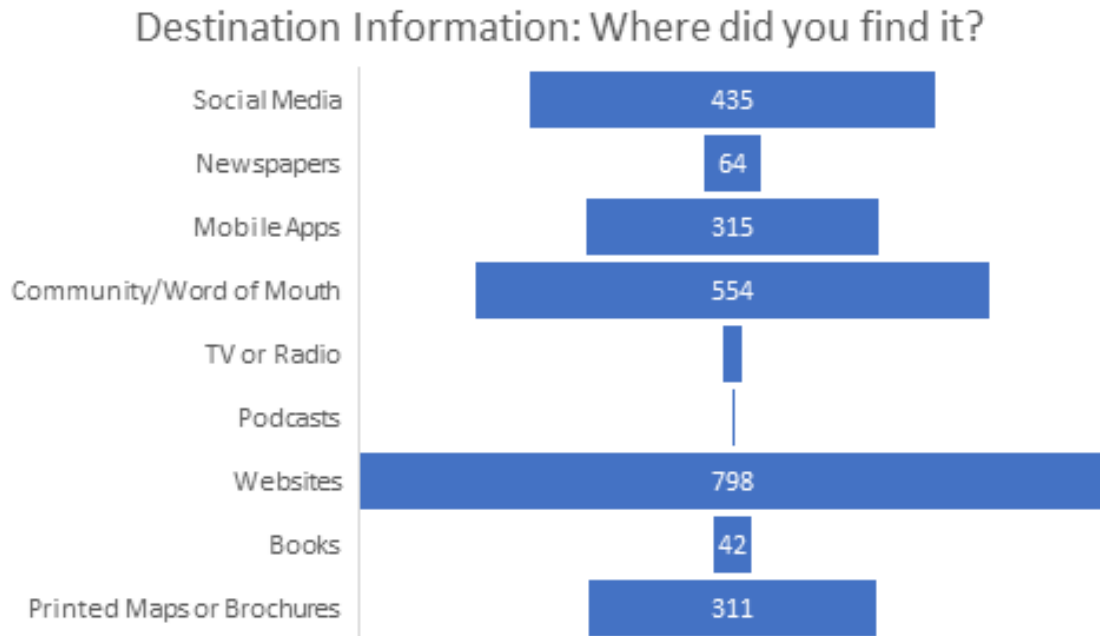


Survey Question #9

The next section focused on destination information: “What are your 3 ways of finding information regarding parks, trails, beaches and open spaces in El Dorado County? Select three”.

Most respondents find information about recreation in El Dorado County using Websites. Community/Word of Mouth and Social Media were also high-ranking sources of information.

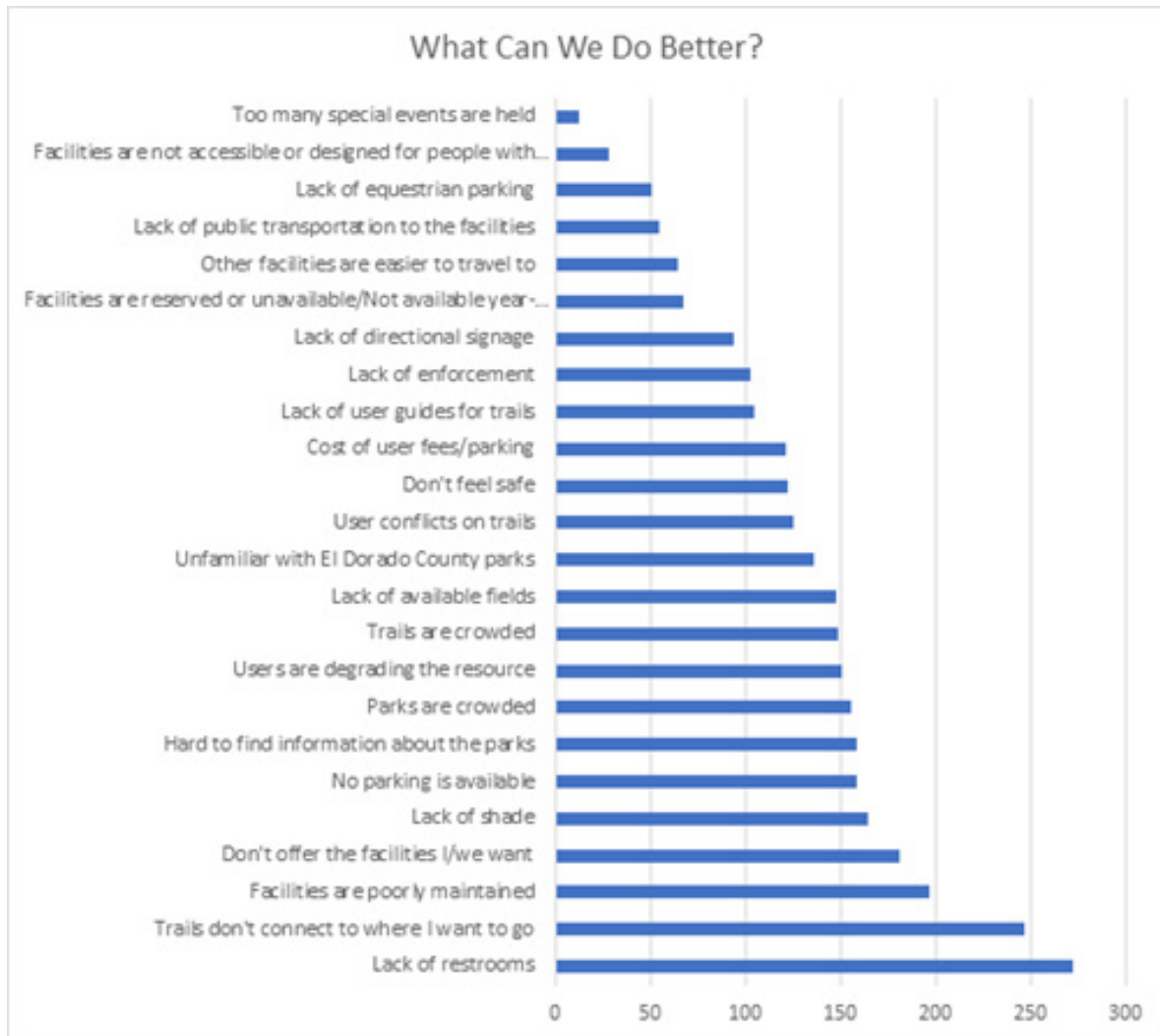
Figure 11: Destination Information– Survey Question #9



Survey Question #10

Next we asked for all reason that prevent the use of parks, trails, beaches, and open space more often. Lack of restrooms were the top issue for respondents.

Figure 12: What Can We Do Better? – Survey Question #10



Survey Question #11

We then asked about priorities. We had respondents select from a list of potential priorities.

A. RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES

1. Build baseball/softball fields
2. Build multi-purpose fields (soccer, football and lacrosse fields)
3. Add lighting to existing fields for extended hours of use
4. Build more sports courts (e.g., tennis, pickleball, basketball)
5. Build more bocce ball or horseshoe pits
6. Build more disc golf courses
7. Develop a BMX/mountain bike park/pump track
8. Develop a mountain bike skills course
9. Provide additional outdoor fitness equipment
10. Build skate parks
11. Build a recreation center (including indoor pools, fitness equipment and exercise facilities, sports courts)
12. Install a climbing wall

B. PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

1. Add smaller neighborhood-based parks
2. Add larger multi-purpose parks that serve the different regions
3. Provide off-leash dog parks
4. Add/expand park shelters/small group gathering areas
5. Add more opportunities for water activities
6. Redevelop existing parks (update facilities, better use of space and circulation)

C. BEACHES, LAKES AND RIVERS

1. Acquire more beach/waterfront areas
2. Provide more designated parking
3. Provide transit and trail connectivity
4. Provide more boating put-in and take-out areas
5. Build a white water play park

D. OPEN SPACE AND BACKCOUNTRY

1. Acquire more natural areas/open space
2. Provide more trails and recreation access in open space areas
3. Add more OHV trails
4. Build more nature centers and environmental education
5. Expand parking areas

E. SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVES/POLICIES

1. Improve energy and water use efficiency
2. Add food and beverage options in parks
3. Add rentable venues in parks (e.g., individual and group picnic shelters and facilities)
4. Add equipment rentals
5. Increase the maintenance service level of existing parks
6. Develop volunteer or community stewardship program

The results for top three priorities, last three priorities, and a combination of responses to Questions 1 to 11 to show the priorities for each of the seven survey areas of the County follows:

Figure 13: Top Three Priorities – Survey Question #11

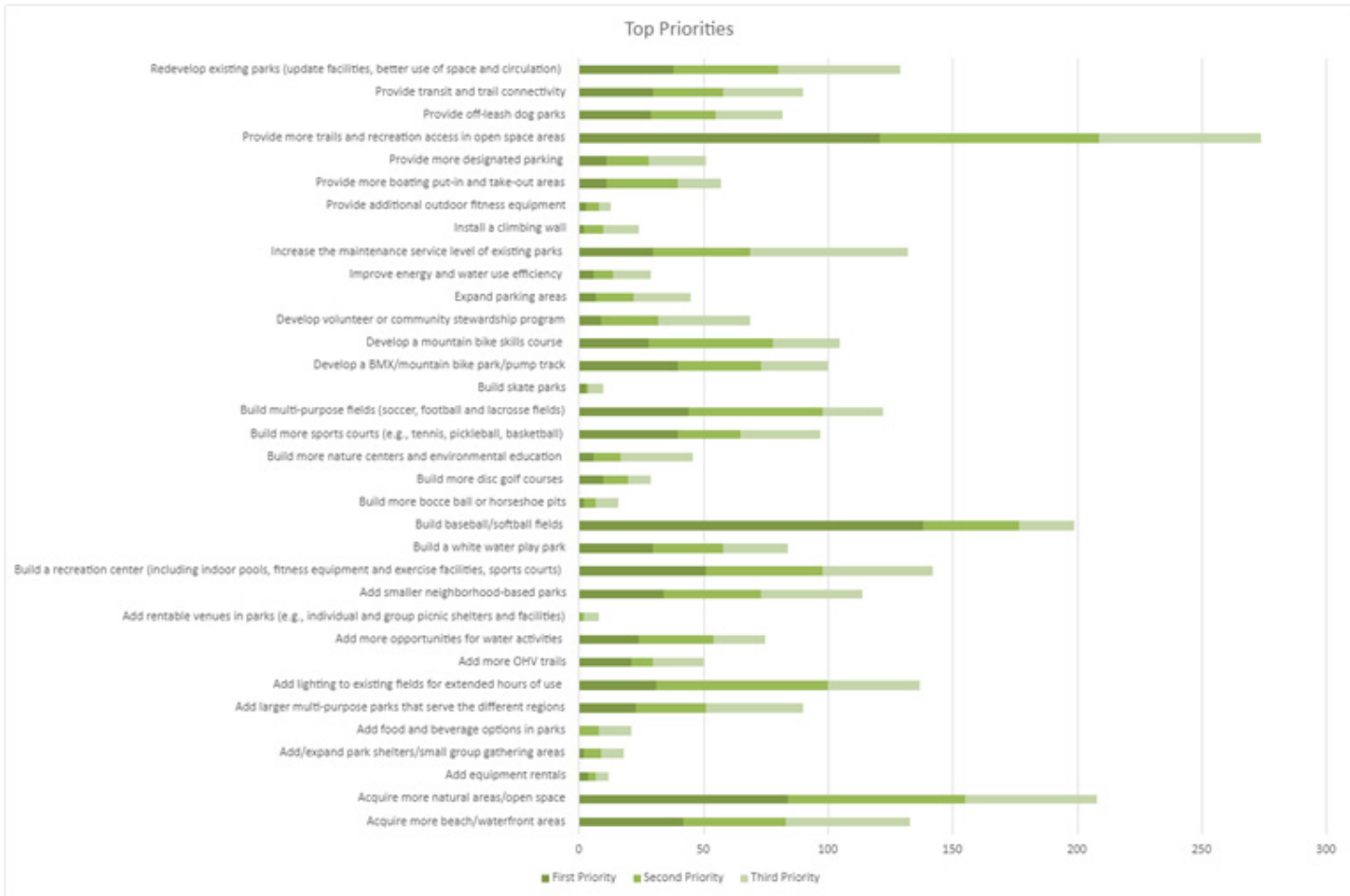


Figure 14: Last Three Priorities – Survey Question #11

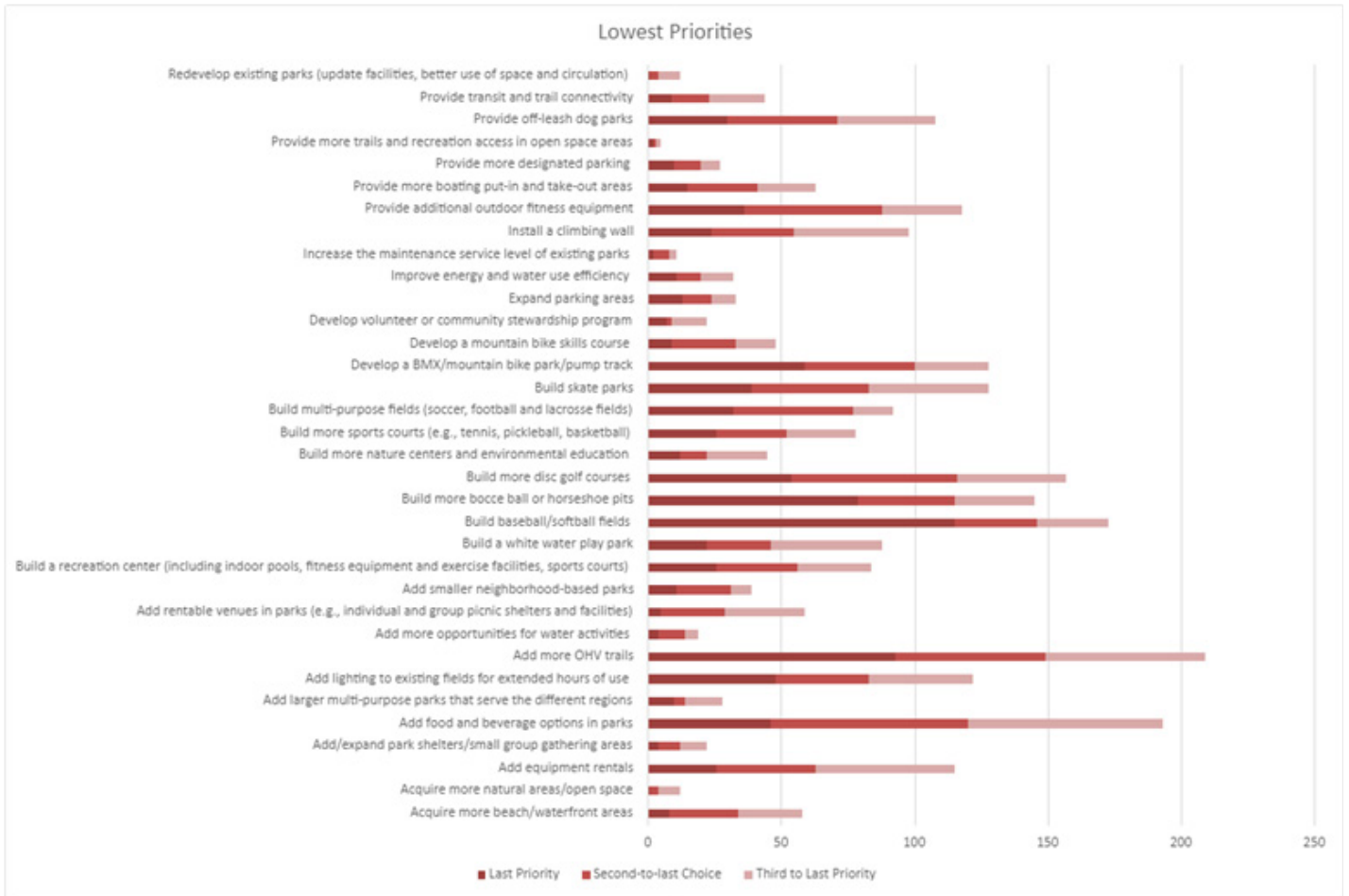


Figure 15: Top Priorities for Mid County – Survey Question #11

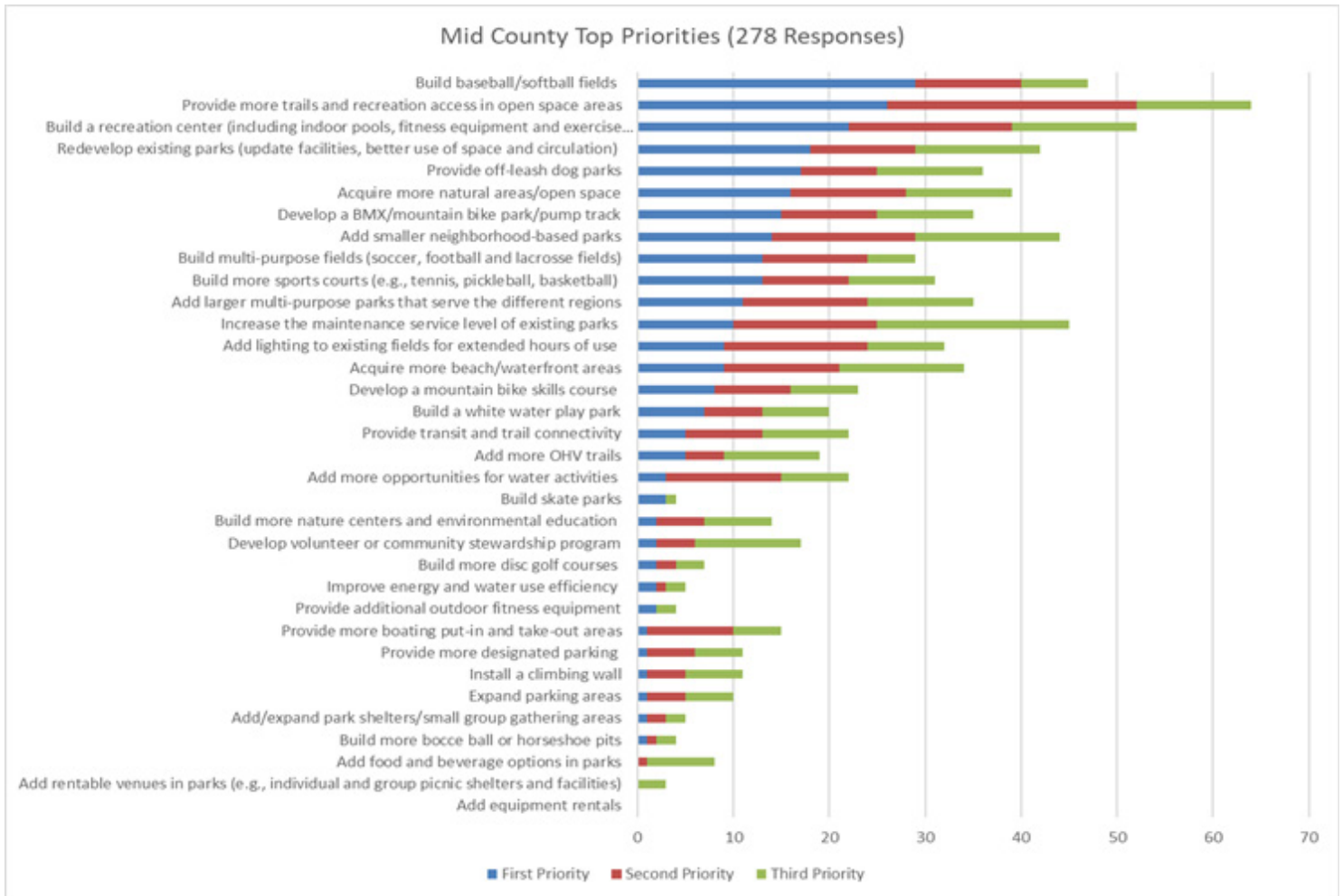


Figure 16: Top Priorities for North County – Survey Question #11

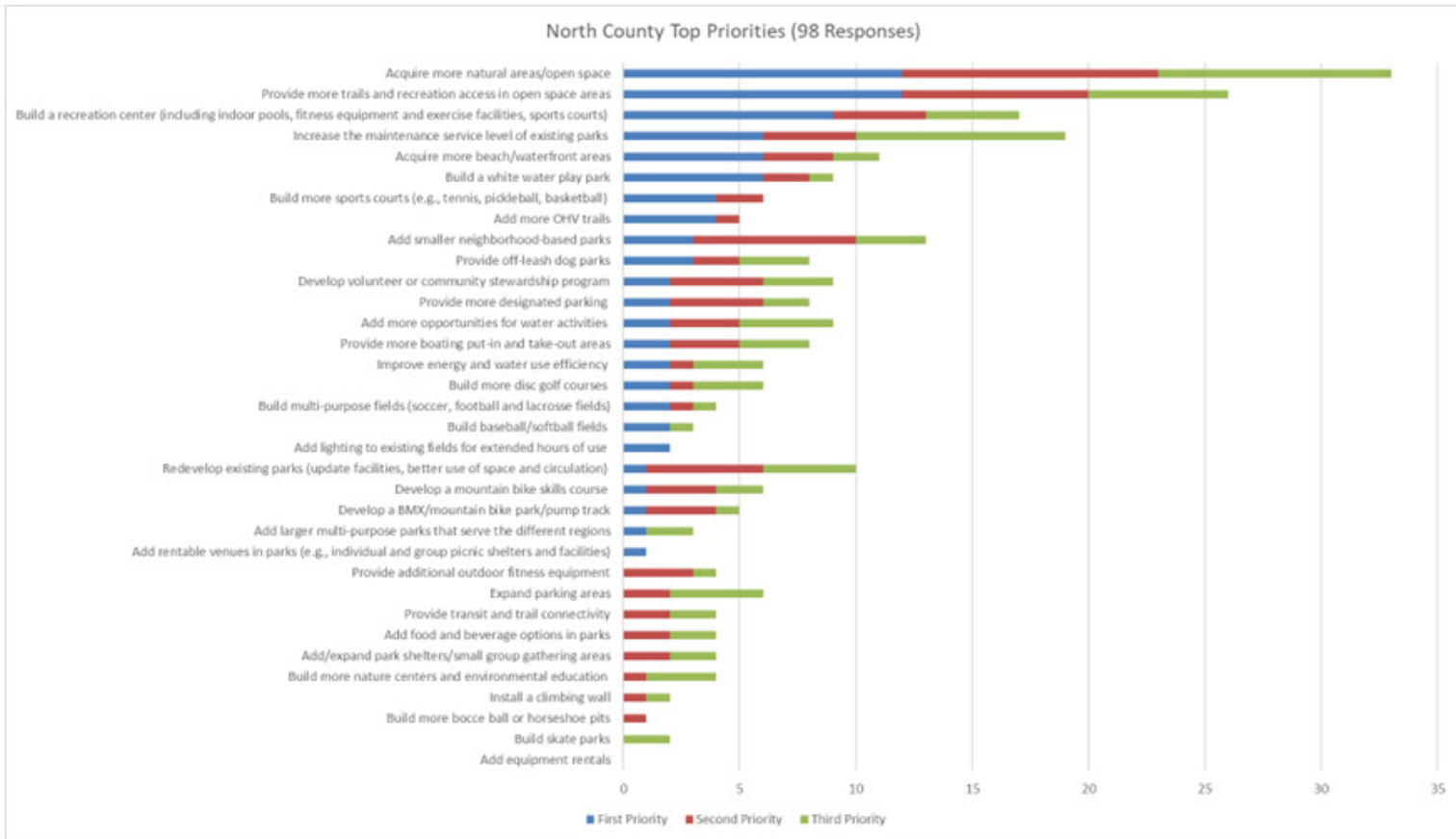


Figure 17: Top Priorities for East County – Survey Question #11

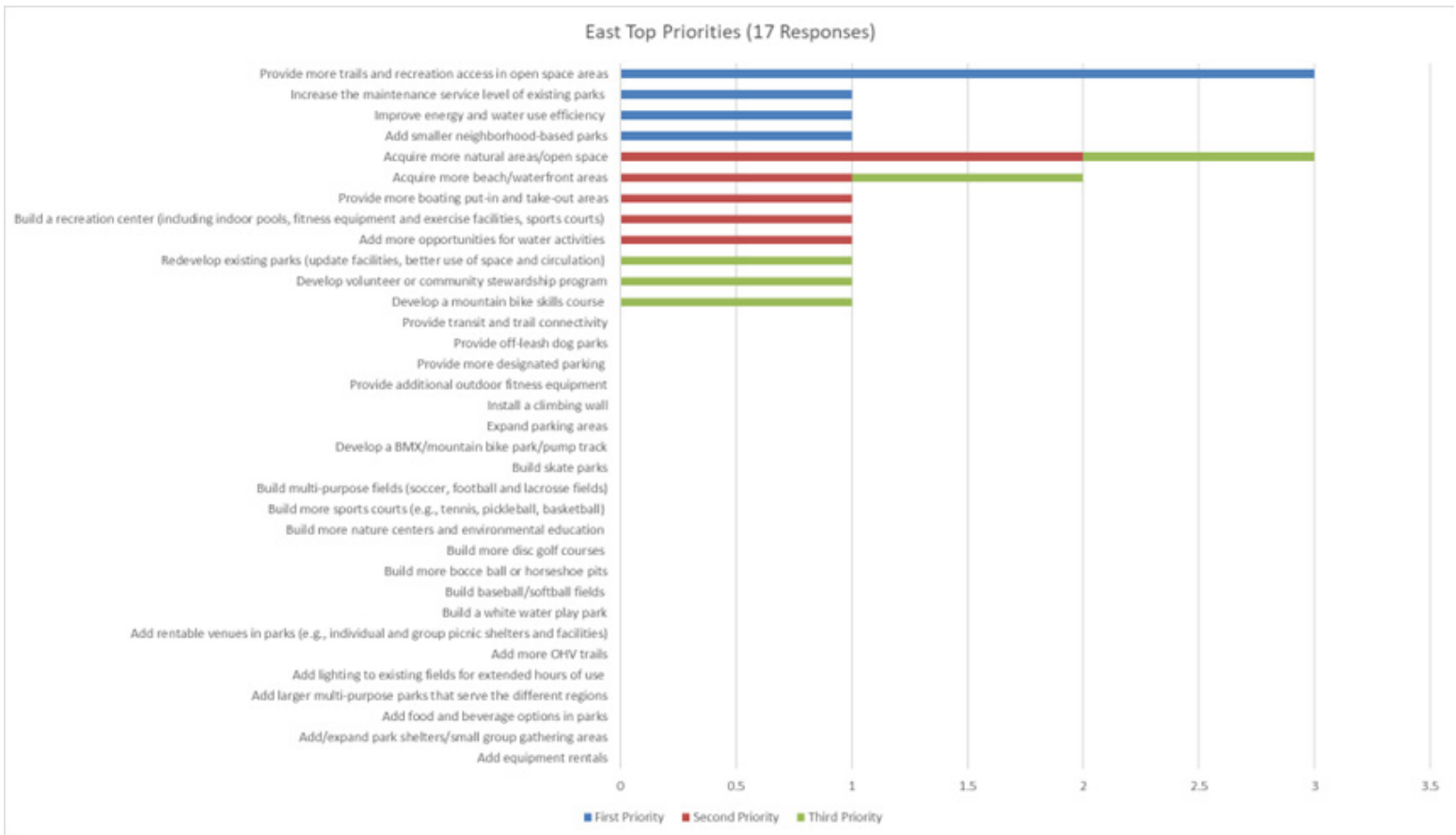


Figure 18: Top Priorities for North East County – Survey Question #11

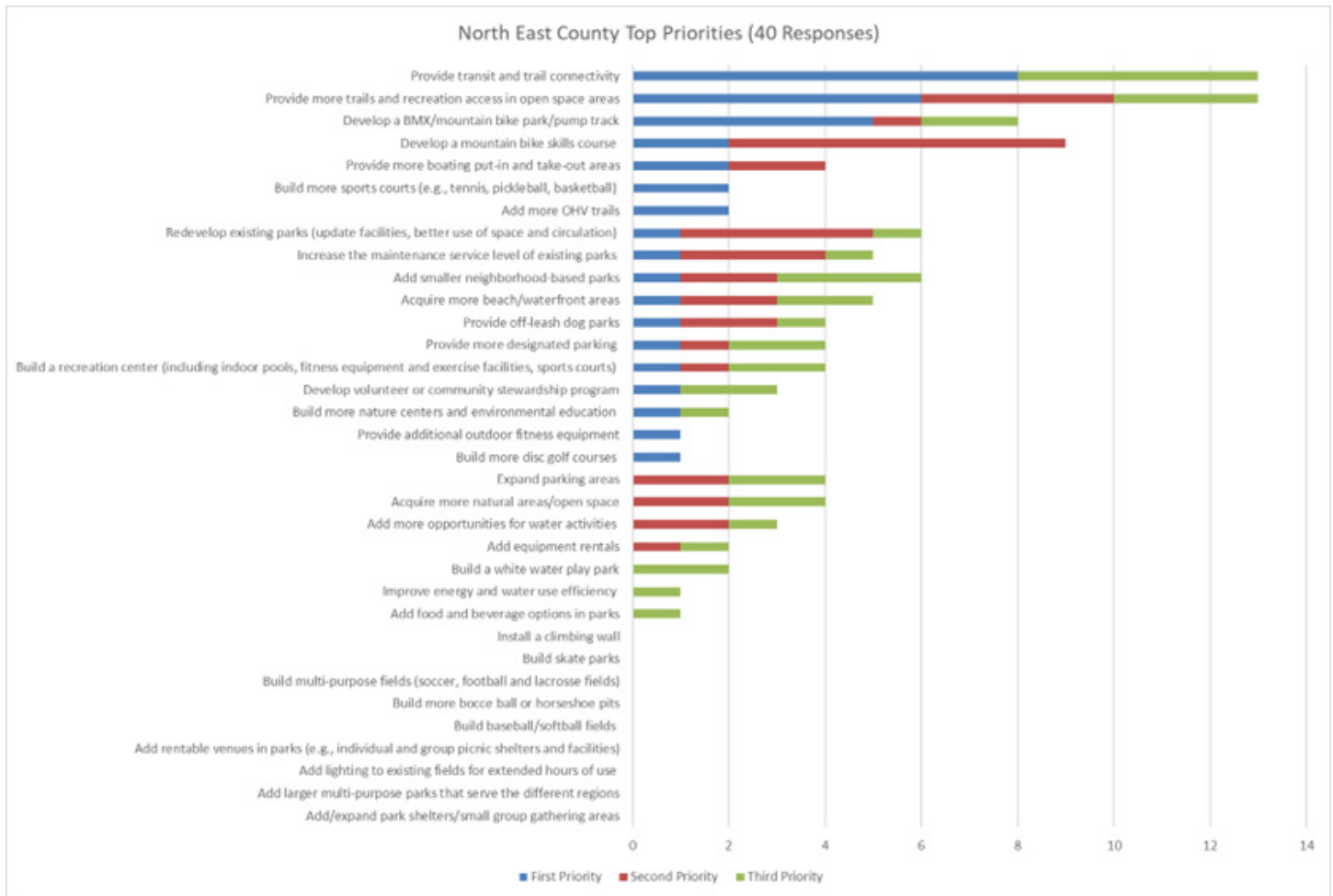


Figure 19: Top Priorities for North West County – Survey Question #11

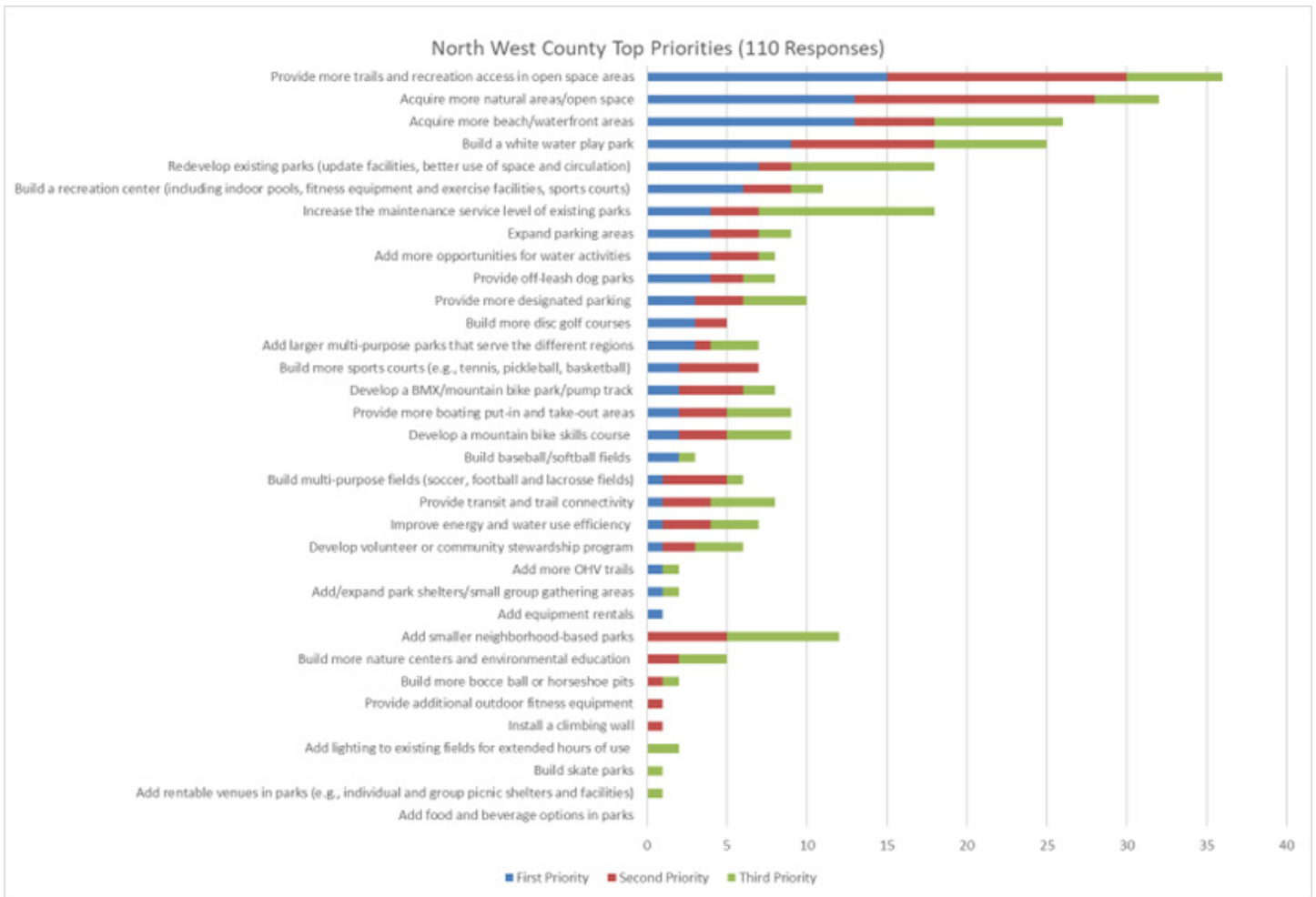


Figure 20: Top Priorities for South County – Survey Question #11

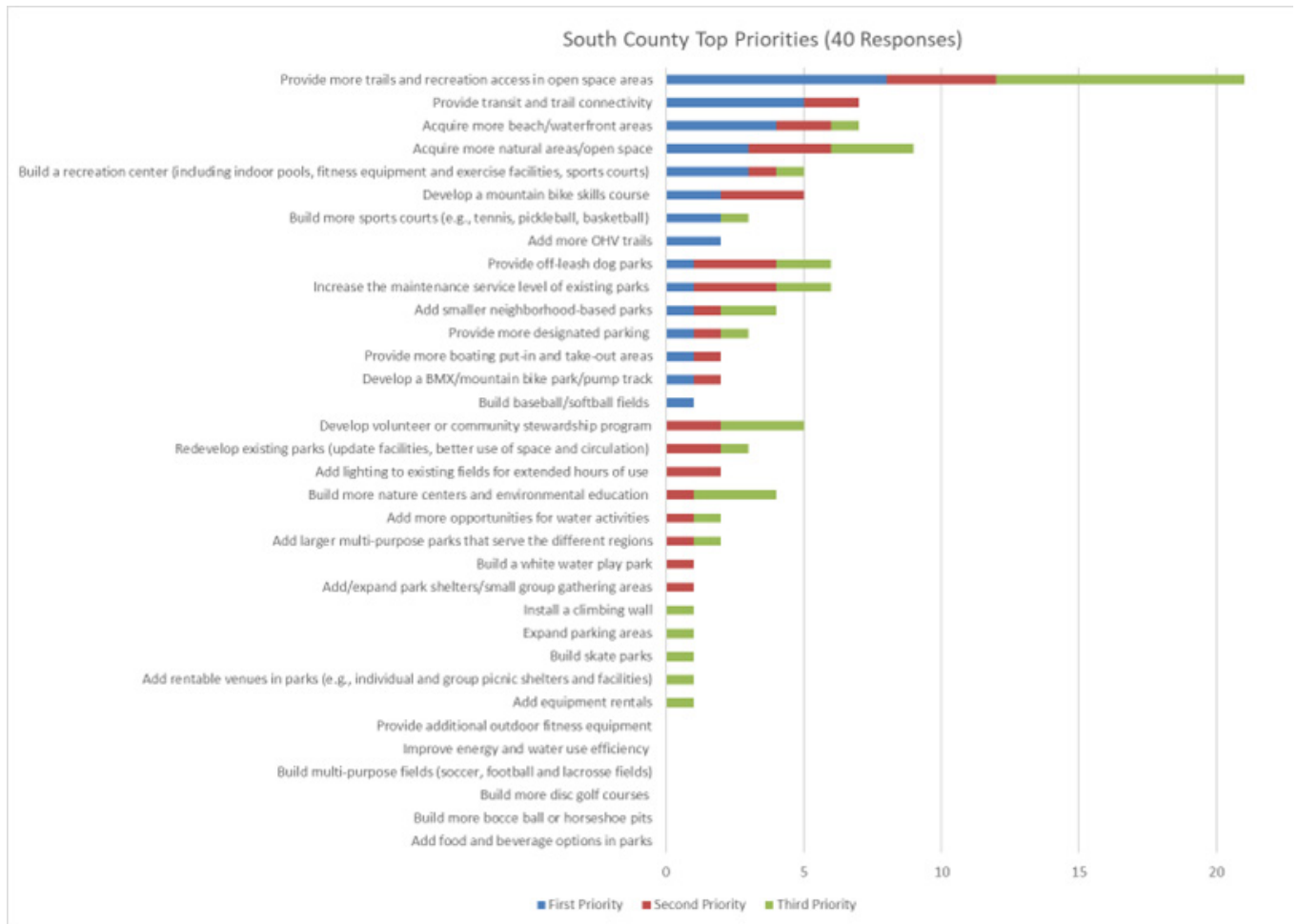
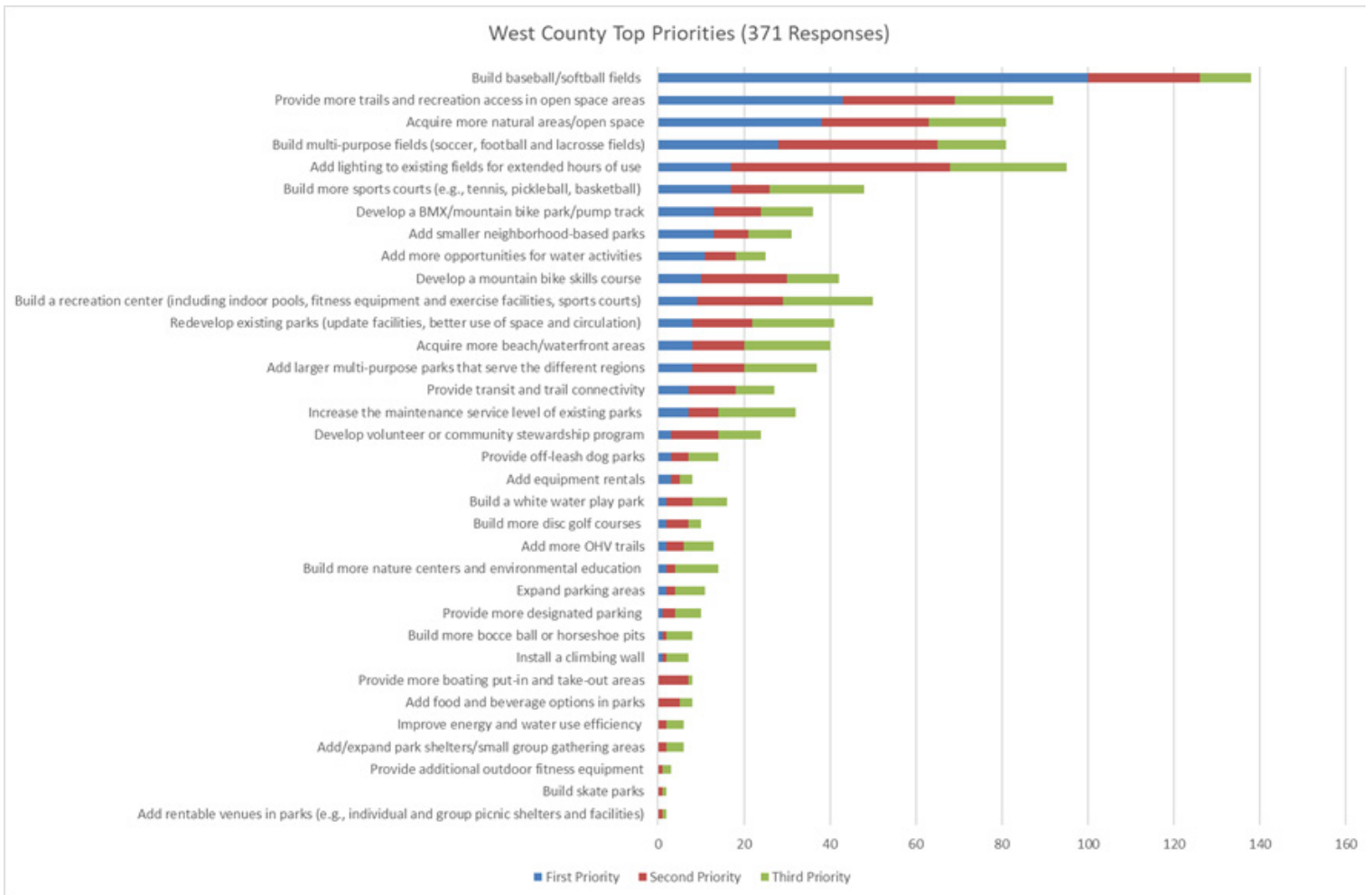


Figure 21: Top Priorities for West County – Survey Question #11



Survey Question #12

The final question in the survey was open-ended. More than 400 responders submitted comments; some submitted multiple comments, meaning the comment total approached 500. To make sense of these comments, a Parks Commissioner reviewed all the comments and categorized and tallied them. Below are the categorized comments arranged the categories by the number of comments in that category, in descending order. The last category tallies comments determined to be irrelevant to the County’s master planning project.

Tally Total	Comment Category
40	More/improved (condition, all-weather, lighted) playing fields; build a sports complex
39	More security/law enforcement for parks, parking lots, trails; concerns about trash, presence of homeless people deterring use
39	More trail opportunities; (about half mention El Dorado Trail completion/enhancements/ single-track)
36	Facility maintenance/signage (most maintenance comments were favorable given staffing limits; many sought improvements to playing field conditions and increased signage)

Tally Total	Comment Category Continued
20	Improved trail connectivity generally
18	More bike lanes, routes, trails; improved connectivity for bike recreation
15	More clean, available restrooms
15	Park at Rasmussen Pond
15	More preserved open space
15	Overuse of existing facilities (esp. Henningsen/Lotus Park, Confluence)
14	Trail users should be separated (esp. horses and bikes)
11	More equestrian parking/facilities/trails
11	More playgrounds and shade, better playground surfaces, playground fencing
9	Skunk Hollow boater takeout improvements
9	Pollock Pines park
8	Less emphasis on motorized recreation
8	More pools, splash pads
8	More courts for pickleball, tennis, volleyball (about half pickleball)
7	More park and recreation information (mostly requests for online info)
7	More/better parking at existing facilities
7	More dog parks and dog-friendly recreation
6	Organizational/funding/staffing improvements
6	More senior/multi-generational/inclusive recreation facilities
5	Allow e-bikes on more trails; allow bikes on more equestrian trails
4	More OHV recreation
3	Parks in Diamond Springs area
3	More small/neighborhood parks
3	Master plan/development of County parcel at Cronan Ranch
3	Joint-use facilities with schools
3	More/better parks in North County
2	No more campgrounds
2	More cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snow play
2	More recreational shuttle services
2	More BBQ/firepits
2	Develop Chili Bar property
2	Fitness/recreation center
1	More Placerville-area facilities; Discounts / free use for locals; More seating on trails; More on-water recreation; More resources for long-distance/endurance riding & running; Bridge water crossings on trails; More put-ins & take-outs for kayaks and rafts; Separate soccer and baseball/softball fields; More disc golf
52	General comments, survey complaints, non-jurisdictional comments (many re: CSD fees, Cameron Park Lake)

**El Dorado County
Parks and Trails Division**

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