



ADOPTED FEBRUARY 19, 2008



YUBA COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN





Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction

In the summer of 2006, Yuba County began a Parks Master Plan process to evaluate the County's current park and recreation resources, assess the needs for the future, and develop a road map to achieving those needs. The County government embarked on this planning process with the stated goal of including the many different agencies and stakeholders that make up this region. The entire community of Yuba County, made up of residents, leaders, and government agencies, was involved in developing a plan for what the Yuba County government can do to improve parks and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.



1.2 Plan Context

Yuba County is situated north of the Sacramento metropolitan area and covers approximately 644 square miles. Extending from the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers and into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, this county's terrain varies from low valleys to steep forested hills. The highest of these hills is 4,825 feet; the lowlands in the southwest of the County require levee protection from flooding. This extensive system of levees completely encircles Marysville and protects both Wheatland and the Plumas Lake area. Further up the Yuba River, a large number of ponds and displaced rock and gravel remain from over 150 years of gold mining in the region.

The area along the lower Yuba River, known as the Gold Fields, played an important role in the history of Yuba County. Gold extraction began here in the late 1800s; in 1903, the first dredging began; by 1949, the Gold Fields area had been worked by as many as five dredges. This dredging radically altered the area and has been a major contributor to Yuba County's unique landscape. In addition, the river rock that has been left as tailings from the gold dredging or washed downstream from hydraulic mining has become an economic boon. The extraction of high-quality aggregate for both concrete and decorative purposes is currently a major economic activity in the area.

Population Projection

Making projections about population growth is critical to long-term planning. These projected figures help planners recommend park and recreation system designs that can meet current and future needs. For the purposes of this planning effort, the end of the planning horizon (the length of time over which any improvements would be implemented) is considered to be 2030. The current and projected populations of Yuba County are listed on the following page.

Table 1-1: Yuba County Population and Projection

Current Population (2006 est.)	Projected Population (2030)
70,396	145,592

Source: Yuba County Economic Forecast, State of California

Much of this projected population growth is anticipated as a result of the expanding development to serve the housing needs of the Sacramento metropolitan area. As communities closer to Sacramento build out and become more expensive, homes in Yuba County are an attractive option to employees in the Sacramento area.

The number, age, and income levels of Yuba County residents and the rates of population and housing stock growth help to determine both the type and size of the park system, and the financial support that can be expected. For additional information on demographics see *Discussion Paper 1: Existing Resources*, prepared earlier in this planning process.



Governments

There are multiple, sometimes overlapping, layers of government within the planning boundary that are directly or indirectly involved in park and recreation planning for the County. In some cases the agencies may operate recreation facilities, such as trails, campgrounds, boat ramps, etc., while in other cases they may own land or other resources with potential recreational value.

State and Federal jurisdictions within and around Yuba County include the California Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Forest Service, and the Department of Defense (Beale Air Force Base).

Yuba County government provides a wide range of services to residents throughout the County. The Yuba County Board of Supervisors sets policy for and oversees at least 19 different service areas, ranging from child support services to weights and measures, as well as administrative services and other supporting functions. Within this range of services, the County's parks are planned for and maintained by the Public Works Department within the Community Development and Services Agency.

Within Yuba County there are two incorporated cities: Marysville and Wheatland. Both cities have developed park systems of their own with a

variety of park types. These parks are maintained by the City Services and Public Works departments in their respective City governments.



To the south of Marysville, Linda and Olivehurst are unincorporated, urbanized communities that include a significant portion of Yuba County's population. In addition to these areas, there are a number of smaller, unincorporated communities throughout the County. These include rural communities such as Camptonville, Loma Rica/Browns Valley, and Dobbins-Oregon House. Governmental functions and services for these communities are provided by the County government.

Two additional areas adjacent to Olivehurst and Linda have been developed under specific plans. The development of Plumas Lake and East Linda has been guided by these additional elements of the County's general plan. The specific plans provide locally specific land use regulations and typically detail how much park land is expected and where parks will be located. Other communities that have an area plan (specific plan, community plan or area plan) are Spring Valley Yuba Highlands and River Highlands, which also have associated park and recreation projects.

There are also several local districts that serve particular functions for communities within the County. Significant among these, from a parks and recreation standpoint, are the Olivehurst Public Utility District, Yuba County Water Agency, the Browns Valley Irrigation District, and several reclamation districts, responsible for levees throughout Yuba County. Of these special districts, Olivehurst Public Utility District is especially significant for its development and maintenance of an independent park system, including Olivehurst and the Plumas Lake Specific Plan area.



A final recreation resource spread throughout the County are the many schools of the Camptonville, Marysville Joint Unified, Plumas Lake, Wheatland and Wheatland High School Districts. Most of these facilities include playgrounds and some field space, and many include gymnasiums in addition to classroom spaces. The Yuba County Office of Education oversees these districts at the county level.

1.3 Purpose of the Plan

Yuba County has become the next residential frontier of the greater Sacramento area. New residential growth, in addition to adding stress to existing parks, brings new recreation needs and expectations. The demand for new recreation opportunities is present in areas that are under County jurisdiction as well as within the cities, districts, and unincorporated

communities throughout the County. This plan identifies and evaluates these new needs and provides a path for the community to meet them.

The ultimate objective of this plan is to create a road map to guide park development. This will include specific projects identified during the planning process. In addition, the plan includes a set of goals and objectives that can be used to evaluate any new projects that are identified in the future. Finally, the plan makes recommendations about how to fund new parks and facilities, including both the capital cost and the ongoing maintenance that ensures they remain an asset to the community far into the future.

1.4 Planning Process

The Yuba County Parks Master Plan set out to evaluate the existing conditions and recreation needs throughout the County. The process involved the many agencies that play a role in providing recreation services and facilities in order to build a picture of the county as a whole. Following this analysis, the process examined how the various players could best work together to meet the needs of the entire community. Finally, the important role of County government in this regional effort was further refined to create a detailed action plan to put the ideas into action.

The first stage of the planning process included an inventory of existing park and recreation resources and the first round of public input. The Planning Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from area cities, the public utility district, the school districts, and other important groups, was formed at the beginning of the planning process to help guide the project team and feed information back and forth between the represented groups.

The second stage of planning included public outreach and analysis of the park system to determine the key recreation needs in the community. This assessment identified needs in a number of park and recreation service areas, including local parks, regional parks, open space, trails, waterfront access, aquatics, indoor recreation, recreation programs, sports fields, and specialized facilities.

The third stage of the Yuba County Parks Master Plan process included an involved discussion of regional cooperation to meet the needs identified in the plan. This discussion also included developing a vision for an ideal park system. At this stage the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies in this cooperative effort were also delineated.

After creating a vision and a breakdown of how each of the community partners could participate in a cooperative effort, the specific role of the



Yuba County government was determined. Working with County staff and leadership, an important role was outlined for the County in expanding the park system.

1.5 Organization of the Plan

The Yuba County Parks Master Plan is organized into five chapters. The chapters include the following information:

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter outlines the context, purpose and organization of the plan.

Chapter 2: Community Needs and Resources

Establishing the baseline of existing park and recreation resources, this chapter provides details about the parks, schools, and other recreation assets present in Yuba County. The chapter also reviews the findings of the public input process and extensive work with representatives of governments and agencies working to improve the recreation opportunities. From these conversations, a series of needs were identified.



Chapter 3: Vision, Goals and Objectives

Synthesized from the community and staff input and community needs, a detailed vision outlining nine areas of park and recreation service is presented. From this vision, a series of goals and objectives are proposed to help the community make and track progress toward its ideal situation.

Chapter 4: Achieving the Vision

Chapter 4 is a regional look at how the community can work together to meet the needs of Yuba County residents. This chapter includes recommendations about creating new regional parks, trails and open space. The plan also makes recommendations about new park and recreation services, such as recreation programming and park system advocacy.

Chapter 5: Path to Success

This chapter includes the specifics of implementing the vision. The steps to building support for a regional district, the capital improvement plan, financing strategy, and immediate action items are included.



Chapter 2: Community Needs and Resources

2.1 Overview

This chapter establishes, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, the need for park land and recreation facilities in the community. It also presents the methods and data used to analyze need in Yuba County, and includes a summary of findings and the results of several community involvement activities, which influenced the needs assessment analysis. Furthermore, it provides the background information that is essential to understanding the current conditions in Yuba County and its existing park and recreation resources.



Each of the governments and communities within the County has a role in providing some part of the park and recreation system. The plan will consider all of the resources that make up the system but will focus special attention on Yuba County's role within the larger context. In order to understand the recreation opportunities and needs of Yuba County, it is important to examine what exists in the County and the characteristics of its residents.

2.2 Current Park and Recreation Providers

There are a variety of agencies, nonprofits and other community groups that play a role in providing park and recreation services in Yuba County. The roles of each of the major types of providers are summarized below.

Yuba County

Yuba County government provides a wide range of services to residents throughout the County. The range of services that the County provides is indicated in its vision and mission statement.

Yuba County Vision:

Yuba County provides quality and diverse employment opportunities for residents by leveraging economic development resources, promoting a balance between residential, commercial, and industrial development setting high standards for achieving quality of life for county residents, and displaying responsibility for environmental concerns.

Yuba County Mission:

Yuba County shall promote quality and diverse employment and shall pursue financial health and well-being of our local economy for all residents by leveraging and strengthening economic development partnerships, opportunities, and resources.

Yuba County's current role as a park provider is split between planning for and maintaining local parks , mostly in specific plan areas (more on

this below), and providing regional parks and facilities such as Hammon Grove Park and Star Bend Boat Ramp. Park projects and maintenance are managed by the Public Works Department of the County.

Cities

Marysville and Wheatland are the only two incorporated cities in Yuba County. Each has a developed park system with a variety of park types. Marysville has a series of basic neighborhood parks, a baseball stadium, a signature community park at Ellis Lake and a regional-scale park on the Feather River. In the past, Marysville operated a recreation department that ran programs in the parks. This department was the victim of budget cutbacks, so the maintenance and development of parks is now the responsibility of Community Services. Wheatland is a smaller city that has a few neighborhood parks, a community park and a special use park. The City of Wheatland is planning for expansive growth and the addition of new parks as new neighborhoods are developed. Park maintenance is currently the responsibility of the Public Works Department.



Unincorporated Communities

There are a number of unincorporated communities throughout the County, including populous areas such as Linda and Olivehurst as well as rural communities such as Brownsville and Oregon House. Some of the rural communities maintain park facilities, including the large community park in Brownsville, Ponderosa Park. Olivehurst has an established park system managed by the Olivehurst Public Utility District. This special district is responsible for providing fire protection, water, wastewater and park services to Olivehurst and the Plumas Lake Specific Plan Area. Outside of the Olivehurst Public Utility District, Yuba County government is the primary provider of park facilities in unincorporated Yuba County. In these communities there is a range of service provided, from communities with no park or recreation facilities, to community groups maintaining parks that were created with County assistance, to Friendship and Fernwood Parks in Linda that are provided and maintained directly by Yuba County.

Plan Areas

Several of the communities have been developed under specific plans. A specific plan is a detailed element of the County's general plan. This closer look is helping to guide the development of the Plumas Lake area, Olivehurst Avenue and East Linda. Other specific plans include more rural areas, including River Highlands and Spring Valley. The specific plans provide more detailed land use regulations and identify park sites and funding, provided by developers, builders and new homeowners, to



build and maintain the new parks. Most of these plans fall under the management of the County government and services are provided and maintained by the Public Works Department. The Plumas Lake Specific Plan Area is an exception to this, being under the jurisdiction of the Olivehurst Public Utility District. The County Board of Supervisors has also approved plan areas in East Linda, Spring Valley and River Highlands, each of which includes additional park and recreation resources.

Other Agencies

There are also several districts and agencies that serve parks and recreation-related functions for communities within the County, including the Yuba County Water Agency, the Browns Valley Irrigation District, and Reclamation Districts 784, 2103, 817, 10 and the Marysville Levee Commission. There are also several school districts serving the County that have a mix of facilities from gyms to sports fields to swimming pools.

There are also a number of state and federal jurisdictions with recreation interests within Yuba County, including the California Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Forest Service and the Department of Defense (Beale Air Force Base).

Community Groups



Yuba County has a number of community groups, from local foundations to small nonprofit corporations to service clubs, that are working to improve their local parks and programs. For some of these groups, such as the Lions Clubs and Harmony Health, parks and recreation is just one part of their service to the community. Others have a more specific focus, such as the Yuba-Sutter Youth Soccer League and Friday Night Live (which operates the Allyn Scott Youth and Community Center, youth activities and a mentoring program in Marysville). In the rural communities, community foundations have played a major role in developing community parks and facilities. Yuba Feather Community Services is responsible for developing the largest public park outside of the City- or PUD-managed systems. Ponderosa Park is maintained and upgraded through the efforts of local volunteers. Similarly, the Dobbins-Oregon House Community Foundation, with volunteer help and community donations, has been working on developing an indoor facility for community gathering and as a location for local community health and safety services.

Private Providers

In addition to the public sector and nonprofit agencies, a number of private operators are currently providing unique recreation opportunities

in Yuba County. The Sleep Train Amphitheatre is a regional destination in the southern portion of Yuba County that hosts major outdoor musical events. Further into the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas, the Collins Lake Campground offers boating, swimming and fishing. An additional, membership-based campground, Thousand Trails: Lake of the Springs, is located north of Dobbins and Oregon House. The Timbuctoo Sporting Estate is a hunting lodge with property south of the Yuba River in the center of the County. These are examples of the types of recreation opportunities provided by for-profit businesses in Yuba County.

2.3 Existing Recreation Resources

In this section existing park sites in Yuba County will be classified by type. In many cases, parks in any given category will be owned by different agencies. Each of the parks inventoried here are also indicated on the Existing Conditions Maps appended to this report. The sites owned by Yuba County that make up the existing County park system are inventoried in more detail in Appendix A: Yuba County Park Inventory. Inventory information in this report was provided by the Yuba County Public Works Department and refined during the planning process through conversations with other agency staff and site visits.



Developed Parks

County park systems are typically made up of a variety of park and facility types that can be classified by the service area and by type of use. Parks in this plan will be divided into two categories: local facilities and regional facilities. Within each of these categories, several classifications clarify the types of activities in and service area of a particular park.

Local Facilities

Neighborhood Parks: These sites serve a small area and a small population within a densely developed residential area. Neighborhood parks are typically less than five acres in size, although the determining factor in size is the anticipated type of use. These parks are intended to provide easy access—particularly for pedestrians and cyclists—to frequently used park and recreation facilities, such as playgrounds, turf fields and sports courts. Neighborhood parks can also be small green oases that are primarily intended for enjoying nature.

Neighborhood parks are supported through local sources of funding, including special district tax levies, and mostly benefit the population living within walking distance of the park.

Community Parks: These parks serve a broader population and wider geographic area. Because they attract a larger number of users from



throughout the area, community parks can support a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities. Typically community parks will be ten acres or more, in order to accommodate a variety of facilities. Some community parks will be large and extensively developed with various facilities, while others will be smaller, providing an appropriate range of facilities for the size of the community they serve.

Regional Facilities

Regional Parks:

Regional parks are large, multi-use parks that can include a wide variety of facilities. These parks can be very large versions of community parks that provide large complexes of sports fields, specialized facilities for performance or large group gatherings, or unique facilities that are not appropriate for local parks due to the large number of people using them. Other types of regional parks are themed around a particular facility, historical reference or natural resource that attracts a high level of interest. The primary distinction of a regional park is that it draws visitors from a very large geographic area due to the uniqueness of the facilities, setting or theme within the region.

Marysville's Riverfront Park is an example of a regional park, in this case one that is maintained by a local authority. This park contains the majority of the sports fields in Yuba County. Other facilities in Riverfront Park, such as the pavilion, motocross area and the BMX track, draw users from the entire county and beyond. While field maintenance has been supported by independent sports groups, and the motocross operation is self-supporting, the City of Marysville maintains the supporting facilities that are part of this large park site at great expense.



Day Use Parks: Day use parks are often medium to large parks, typically larger than ten acres, developed for passive activities such as picnicking and access to nature. These parks often serve a large geographic area and may draw from beyond Yuba County.

The sole day use park in Yuba County is Hammon Grove Park, which serves as a large group picnic area and as an access point to the Yuba River. This park provides the only large group picnic area in the parks owned by Yuba County.

Special Use Sites: Special use areas are sites that are occupied by a specialized facility or fulfill a particular purpose. Typical special use sites include boat ramps, sport field complexes or community centers. These facilities can serve either a local or a regional function, depending on the type of activity and the availability of that activity in other locations. For example, Star Bend Boat Ramp is one of only two public boat ramps on the Feather River in Yuba County; because of this, Star Bend serves a large geographic area and can be considered a regional facility.

In addition to Star Bend, other special use sites in Yuba County include: Shad Pad, a riverfront site currently leased to a motocross operator; Bryant Field, the baseball stadium in Marysville; and the Plumas Lake Golf Course. The camping, boating and fishing facilities at the reservoirs and lakes, including Bullards Bar, Lake Francis, Collins Lake and the privately operated Thousand Trails: Lake of the Springs site, are all regional special use facilities.

Open Space and Natural Areas

Open space is land left primarily undeveloped or in its natural form. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces, as well as land intentionally left undeveloped to protect surrounding land uses or manage stormwater. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and may include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors or unique or endangered plant species.

Yuba County is known for the abundance of natural beauty in its forests, rivers and hills. Portions of the County are within the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests. The Yuba River, the Feather River and the major and minor tributaries provide excellent salmon habitat and are popular for fishing and casual rafting. The banks of the Yuba, particularly in the gold field areas, are very attractive for additional recreational uses. The rivers, lakes and reservoirs also provide boating, swimming and other water sport opportunities. The banks of the Feather River are rich with wildlife habitat, some of which is protected by California Fish and Wildlife.

Natural areas, such as the wildlife areas owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, national forest lands, and Camp Far West Lake, provide hiking, equestrian camping and hunting opportunities. Forest Service and Department of Fish and Wildlife lands are owned and managed by the federal and state governments for a variety of uses and allow recreation use where appropriate.



Recreation Programming

Currently no government agency is providing organized sports, classes or other recreation programming. The closest recreation programming department is in Yuba City in neighboring Sutter County. Some program areas are provided by community groups, particularly youth sports. Other youth activities include the Friday Night Live mentoring and activity nights. However, in many parts of Yuba County there are no available recreation program offerings.

2.4 Community Input



There are many reasons to create a parks master plan, but the most compelling is the health and wellness—on all levels—of the people that parks are intended to serve. To craft a plan that will best suit the residents of Yuba County, the planning process must go beyond government chambers and “into the streets.” Community members are the experts on what their communities need.

To learn from the residents of Yuba County, MIG created multiple forums for outreach, including two advisory committees, stakeholder interviews, and public workshops. Citizens also had the opportunity to facilitate more intimate workshops within their own organizations and communities via workshop kits. The planning effort also connected with other groups formed around other projects and incorporated this input into the identification of needs and the recommendations of this Parks Master Plan.

Advisory Committees

Two ongoing committees—the Policy Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Group—were formed at the start of this project to provide direction for the master plan and to report back to a variety of constituencies.

The Policy Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from the incorporated cities of Marysville and Wheatland, the Specific Plan Area of Plumas Lake, the Olivehurst Public Utility District, the Marysville Joint Unified School District, County staff, and other relevant jurisdictions and organizations. Members of the PAC bring to this project a special knowledge of parks-related policies, challenges, and opportunities in the County. The planning process, in exchange, offers members of the PAC an opportunity to address countywide parks-related issues in a collaborative manner.

During the planning process Policy Advisory Committee members and several additional representatives of agencies and institutions in Yuba County convened a pair of meetings to specifically discuss the potential for partnerships between agencies at a countywide level.

The planning process also included a Technical Advisory Group, made up of key County staff from relevant departments. The TAG brings to the planning process specific data regarding County parks operations, ensuring that accurate financial, operational and inventory information is at the base of a feasible plan.

Stakeholder Interviews/Focus Groups

MIG held a series of focus groups and stakeholder interviews, in person and by phone, during the initial information gathering stage of this project. A wide range of interests were represented, including park users, neighborhood groups, the Beale AFB recreation office, community activists, motocross interests, elected officials, organized sports leaders, equestrian groups, and officers from the County sheriff's office. While individual stakeholders voiced their particular priorities, several overarching themes emerged as well.

Yuba County has physical opportunities for recreation that need to be more fully explored and utilized. Access to the river is limited, thereby cutting residents off from a natural recreation area. BLM, flood control district and railroad land could be better utilized to strengthen the trails network. County sites with historical significance are also underutilized. Old towns, mines, and gold fields could be popular attractions for residents and visitors alike, and could present opportunities for public-private partnerships.

Activities that have already proven popular with Yuba County citizens need more support and better facilities. Motocross, as well as quad and motorcycle riding, draw participants and spectators from all around the area. Facilities for these visitors are inadequate; campsites or an RV park could alleviate crowding and security issues. While growing noise levels are a potential concern, motocross and similar events provide inexpensive recreation for local youth and adults, justifying regional support.

Horse shows and roping are other events that work well in Yuba County, but public equestrian facilities are aging and of poor quality. To draw bigger events that will excite the public, the county needs a Class A arena, with dedicated staff who can provide a high standard of care for the animals. Adding and improving equestrian facilities will also establish safe places for children to learn and recreate, further developing the local 4-H program in addition to other events.

Many issues facing Yuba County's parks system were mentioned in stakeholder interviews, including the need for more bike-friendly streets



and trails, as well as more regular maintenance in general. However, nearly all stakeholders and focus groups agreed that a lack of facilities and programming for youth is the most wide-ranging and far-reaching issue facing the County. While groups in Marysville and Yuba City (in Sutter County) offer recreation opportunities for youth, the rest of the region is not well-served, resulting in kids “hanging out” or having nowhere to go. As mentioned above, better motocross and equestrian facilities would improve the youth recreation situation.

Sports fields, especially for soccer, need to be added and maintained. New basketball courts would take some of the load off the area’s deteriorating gymnasiums. Improved lighting, general maintenance, and security cameras would make parks a safer place for youth to spend their time.

Community Workshops

Two community workshops were held on November 8th and 9th, 2006 to involve a diverse group of citizens in the visioning process for the Parks Master Plan. The workshops were planned for locations and times that would accommodate participants from across the County. Each workshop was well attended, with more than 20 participants signing in for each session. The participants represented a broad range of interests and ages.

The majority of the issues and needs raised in both workshops can be grouped into several common themes. The highest priority issues/needs from both workshops are listed in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Themes from Community Workshops

Safety
Maintenance (quality and appropriate funding)
Creativity in using resources
Partnerships to meet big needs
Accessibility
Quality design
Public involvement/representation
Accountability
Follow through (i.e. finishing what’s started)
Equity (geographic distribution of resources)
Liability limitations
River access
Natural area access
Shared indoor facilities
Trails
Equestrian facilities

Throughout the workshop process, the community stressed the need to add opportunities for recreation in the County. In the foothills, this took

the form of adding park services and facilities to this traditionally underserved part of the County. In the more urbanized southwest of the County, increasing programming and other positive opportunities for youth was a priority.

Workshop Kits

In response to the expressed desire of many workshop participants, a kit of materials was prepared to assist community members in holding workshops with groups in their communities and organizations. The kits were distributed to participants of the community workshop by request and through the county's website. The workshops followed the basic outline of those hosted directly by MIG. Participants were asked to identify their vision, the needs and issues surrounding parks and recreation in Yuba County, and the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities they see in this area.

Using these workshop kits, additional input was gathered from youth at the Camptonville School, as well as community members from Brownsville and Camptonville. The feedback from these workshops was worked into the needs and vision presented in this plan.

Common vision themes from these workshops were a desire for indoor facilities with a variety of recreation opportunities, fields, and facilities for organized sports. Specific ideas that were given high priority by individual workshops included designated areas for motor sports (OHV), public sites that allow individual and community expression, expanding Ponderosa Park, and developing regional facilities.

Other Input

In a self-initiated effort, the Leadership Council of the Harmony Health Family Resource Center (located in East Linda) discussed improvements to the local park system at an October 8th meeting. The minutes of this meeting suggest improvements to lighting, signage, and security, along with additions to parks, including site amenities such as picnic tables, water fountains, and restrooms.

A letter was also received from the president of the Oregon House-Dobbins Improvement Foundation describing the community facility being constructed by this organization. This project includes a centrally located, 20-acre site that they envision as a community park to complement the community center.

The efforts of those groups and individuals that provided input during this stage of the planning process also highlighted one of Yuba County's



strengths—namely, the thoughtfulness and enthusiasm that local groups bring to the community and the parks planning process. Yuba Feather Communities Service, Camptonville Community Partnership, Harmony Health Leadership Council, and the Dobbins-Oregon House Improvement Foundation are just a few of the many active community organizations that are potential partners for park and recreation improvements in Yuba County.

2.5 Recreation Needs

During the course of the community input process, advisory committee meetings, site visits and research about the community, the planning team identified a series of recreation needs. As the discussions continued, the needs were classified into nine categories that capture both improvements to existing recreation opportunities and creating entirely new ones:



- Local Parks;
- Regional Attractions;
- Open Space;
- Trails;
- Waterfront Access;
- Aquatics;
- Indoor Recreation;
- Recreation Programs; and
- Sports Fields and Specialized Facilities.

Local Parks

In the developed portions of Yuba County the local parks are largely either already developed or planned for as part of the city general plans or specific plans within the County general plan. Geographic analysis of local park resources, detailed in *Discussion Paper #2: Needs Assessment* (available under separate cover), showed good distribution of neighborhood parks in the dense residential areas of Marysville, Wheatland, and Plumas Lake. Most residences are within ½ mile of a neighborhood park. Outside of these areas, neighborhood parks, designed to be walked or biked to, are not seen as practical by the community or the planning team.

Public input and the experience of the planning team indicated that community parks should also be available within a reasonable amount of time. However, due to the large size of the parks and the assumption that most people would drive, the area served by each park is much larger. In a geographic analysis, existing community park coverage (based on a 5 to 10 mile service area) leaves much of the central portion of the County and

the remote community of Camptonville without access. In order to provide community park service within a reasonable distance, six additional parks would be needed. This includes planned community parks in the south of Plumas Lake and in East Linda.

Regional Attractions

Special facilities and large parks that could draw visitors to enjoy recreation in Yuba County were a common topic in public discussions and in goal-setting with local government and agency staff. Residents were very interested in finding ways to build new facilities and at the same time develop new ways of paying for their upkeep. Other needs include opportunities to interpret and explore the cultural, industrial and historical sites in the County. Based on the facilities and scale of what is desired, one large new regional park is needed in addition to the existing regional facilities.

Open Space

In the community input, a frequently repeated theme was making the most of the natural beauty of the area. The feature of Yuba County that most people identified with was the natural and open character of the place. At the same time, many recognized that the County was within the urbanizing frontier of the greater Sacramento metropolitan area. The housing boom of recent years may have slowed, but an increase in population and developed land nonetheless seems inevitable. An important opportunity in the near future is to protect key natural sites from development, to allow the many new residents to enjoy the open space that surrounds them.

A special topic of discussion also involved the Beale Air Force Base. The joint land use study process for military installations across California and the Country has often raised the issue of encroaching development threatening the long-term viability of certain types of bases. From this observation arises a need for land providing a buffer between the current boundaries of the airbase and the surrounding area.

Natural open spaces can also serve other public needs. One such need is the protection of developed areas from flooding. Open spaces can absorb, retain and treat large quantities of stormwater. The relevant agencies can also explore ways to restore river bank areas to help protect the levees and strengthen the bank in flood events.



Trails

An important part of enjoying the wide open spaces and environmental features of Yuba County is providing access to and through them. The trails that exist in parts of the County, such as the levee top trails in Marysville and the natural trails in the Spenceville Wildlife Area, are highly valued by residents. The need expressed by the community is for more opportunities for trips of various lengths along safe, developed trails. Those who desire additional trails include users who would like to walk on relatively level, smooth trails and equestrian and mountain bike riders who would like more rustic trails with a variety of slopes. A valuable feature of any potential trail is the ability to travel in a loop, in order to make an outing of the hike, bike or ride that does not require back-tracking. The planning team was also informed that parking and easy access to trails would be important. People involved in the process would like to see a trail system that connects to the existing parks and other trails in the area. To provide the access and connectivity desired by the community, many miles of new trail will be needed. The exact number of miles could vary greatly based on land availability and geography.

Waterfront Access

The existing waterfront sites, particularly on the banks of the major reservoirs, are highly valued for fishing, camping and swimming. Following the theme of making the most of existing natural resources, gaining additional access to the major rivers in Yuba County, especially the Yuba and Feather Rivers, was a priority for residents. Access to these rivers needs to include overlooks, trail access, as well as opportunities to get on to the rivers in small boats for fishing and floating.



Boat use on the rivers varies from fishing boats to small craft such as kayaks, with additional motor boating and houseboating taking place on the reservoirs. Facilities needed to launch them vary as well. Small boat launches can be as simple as a clear path to walk canoes and kayaks down to the water. Larger boat ramps, such as the existing ramp at Star Bend, are needed for trailered boats. Boat access is needed at multiple points on each of these major rivers.

Aquatics

There is a recognized need for swimming and water play in Yuba County that has been partially met by the two operating swimming pools. However, both the Marysville Joint Unified School District and the Olivehurst Public Utility District (the operators of these pools) have had a difficult time funding the ongoing operational needs of these facilities.

The community participants suggested the possibility of concentrating efforts on one pool, or potentially a larger aquatics center, that could serve the needs of the County as a whole.

In addition to a safe place to swim, a large part of the aquatics need in Yuba County is connected to simply getting wet and playing in the water. This could be met by expanding access to the rivers and other natural bodies of water, or by providing a playground that includes water spray features and allows for interactive water play.

Indoor Recreation

One of the most mentioned facility needs in all of the public input efforts was for indoor recreation space. The desired uses varied, but in most cases, the focus was on indoor opportunities for active recreation. Throughout the County there are community meeting halls that provide at least some level of service for community gatherings, meetings and potentially even recreation classes. What are lacking are sufficient gymnasiums and other indoor courts that allow year-round active use, particularly in the rural communities.

Indoor space takes on additional importance in both the valley and the foothills of Yuba County due to the environmental risks of flood and fire. As populations increase in both areas, additional capacity should be added to community centers that can serve as evacuation sites during natural disasters.

Recreation Programs

The first idea to be raised by most of the participants in the planning process was to provide additional activities for youth in Yuba County. This need varied from a basic place for kids to go and have something to do after school, to highly developed recreation programs. The community identified a need to better coordinate with existing organizations to distribute their best ideas to other parts of the County. Other ideas include tapping into the educational expertise of the school districts and Yuba College to create exciting class opportunities. Additional programs are also needed to serve communities and populations not reached by current providers.



Sports Fields and Specialized Facilities

Organized sports are an important part of community life and are largely supported within the park systems in Yuba County. Input from the community workshops and stakeholder interviews indicated a need for additional and upgraded sports fields. In the foothills the focus was additional sports fields, in line with the lack of park land in these communities. In the Marysville area, Riverfront Park provides a large

concentration of a variety of sports facilities, including baseball/softball fields and a large soccer field complex that serves the entire region. School fields were discussed as additional resources, but many comments were made about the limits placed on access to the fields and the condition of the facilities.

Based on this input, the communities of Yuba County should be looking for opportunities to upgrade existing facilities, potentially in partnership with the school districts where feasible. In addition, soccer and baseball fields should be considered for new community parks in the foothills.

In addition to traditional sports facilities, such as sports fields, pools and courts (which are typically included in local parks), there are a number of identified needs for specialized facilities. For example, equestrian events are popular among many residents but the County lacks a high-quality indoor equestrian space. The planning team also heard that other specialized needs, such as motocross, are being met but could be supported to a greater degree; in addition, many new activities will increase in popularity over the time period of this plan and will require specialized facilities to support them. In order to accommodate these as-yet-unknown needs, Yuba County will need an advocate for parks and recreation to help the community continue to improve opportunities.





Chapter 3: Vision, Goals, and Objectives

3.1 Overview

This chapter lays out a vision, developed by the community, of the type of park and recreation opportunities that should be available to residents and visitors of Yuba County in the future. This vision is intentionally inclusive of all areas of the County—even those that have their own park systems and planning responsibilities, including Marysville, Wheatland, and the Olivehurst Public Utility District. Representatives of these agencies, as well as the school districts, Yuba Community College, the Yuba County Resource Conservation District, and many community organizations were involved in drawing this picture of the future.

Following a general vision for parks and recreation in Yuba County, the chapter details nine areas of service, including the future facilities and services in each area. The areas of service are broken down as follows:

- Local parks;
- Regional attractions;
- Open space;
- Trails;
- Waterfront access;
- Splash and swim;
- Indoor recreation;
- Recreation programs; and
- Sports fields and specialized facilities.

Each of the vision statements is phrased as though we are observing the county's park system in the year 2030.

Following the vision statements, a series of goals and objectives are recommended to assist the community agencies in moving toward this vision.

3.2 A Vision for Parks and Recreation

Yuba County in 2030 offers a full range of recreation opportunities that emphasizes the varied natural resources of the area and serves the needs of a growing and diversifying population. In all residential areas, including neighborhoods and rural communities, homes are within a short distance from basic park services such as a playground, an open area for casual games and unstructured play, as well as open spaces for gathering. There are many specialized recreation opportunities—some mainly serving the residents of Yuba County, while others are designed specifically to draw visitors from throughout the region. A comprehensive offering of recreation programs is provided at indoor and

outdoor locations in all of the communities in the County, in partnership with schools and other community groups.

Local Parks

Local parks include both neighborhood and community parks, which are designed and located to serve a relatively small geographic area. What local parks look like varies based on the density of housing in the area served. For example, in more urban residential communities local parks are different than in rural communities.

Local Parks in Developed Communities

In denser communities, developed based on specific plans, neighborhood parks are available within walking distance of nearly all homes in the community. Community parks, which are large and contain more specialized facilities, are distributed around these areas within a short drive from homes. Between these two types of parks residents have convenient access to playgrounds, sports fields, open grassy areas, and courts within their area. Community parks also include facilities, such as a water playground or a ball field complex, that draw from a larger area. In addition to parks that have come with new development, older developed areas also have good access to neighborhood and community parks.



Local Parks in Rural Communities

Rural communities in the Sierra Nevada foothills each have a central community park with play equipment, sports facilities, and gathering places that help draw the community together and create a safe and fun place to play. These parks are based around long-standing community resources, such as schools, meeting halls, and existing park land. The recreation facilities included reflect the needs of the specific community and might include other facilities such as indoor recreation space, event venues, or specialized sport facilities such as a skatepark.



Regional Attractions

Yuba County's regional parks are attractions that draw residents and tourists from Yuba County and the region at large. Riverfront Park takes advantage of extensive river frontage along the Feather River, providing varied opportunities for enjoyment. An extensive trail system allows for running, walking, hiking, bike riding, and horseback riding, while connecting the riverfront and its bordering communities. A new regional park provides education and entertainment, themed around the history of the county. This park is a draw for family trips, school outings and as a destination for visitors from the Sacramento area. Such a centralized space also allows the communities to host larger events, such as community/regional festivals. As a local asset, the waterfront areas in

regional parks provide much-desired access to the water for swimming, floating, fishing, and other water activities. These activities also draw people—and economic support—from neighboring counties, serving to connect the region and support the upkeep of these facilities.

Open Space

There are key areas of protected open space that preserve the natural character of Yuba County. The protected land is spread across the varied landscapes in the County, from the river confluence to the national forests in the Sierra foothills. The land is owned by many agencies and is managed to protect important resources, while providing appropriate access, so that residents and visitors can enjoy and appreciate the value of open space. Many open space sites are multi-purpose, serving environmental functions such as: controlling floods and stormwater runoff; protecting valuable habitats; creating recreation opportunities; providing buffer areas between different types of land uses; and improving the attractiveness of Yuba County to visitors. The open space in Yuba County is not only a resource to the people of the County, but an example to the surrounding counties, demonstrating how natural amenities serve the public good on many levels.

Trails

Yuba County's regional trail system connects the various communities, attractions, and natural parks through a series of bike, foot, and horseback trails. Many of the trail routes build upon existing levees, tracing some of the cultural history of the County. The trail system includes trails that join communities and housing developments, larger waterfront recreation trails or boardwalks, and more rural, natural trails in less developed areas of the County. Making it possible to move safely between towns, cities, and parks is important to Yuba County; this can be accomplished easily with the unified trail system. Among the many trails, there are opportunities for quick walks on loops, or trips on longer stretches of the riverfront. There are also larger loops that form networks, ensuring that those who want a longer trip have the chance to spend as long as they want exploring safe, beautiful trails. The diverse lengths, locations, and types of trails complete the County's system, and also connect the surrounding counties to create a truly regional trail network.



Waterfront Access

The extensive waterfront area, comprising the Feather and Yuba Rivers and the many reservoirs, is one of Yuba County's most important community assets. Access to that waterfront is a priority for the County because it provides significant natural beauty, is a tool for learning how nature works, and serves a breadth of recreational functions. Having the

chance to float, fish, and enjoy scenic beauty improves residents' quality of life tremendously, and also draws those outside of the County. The riverfront, in particular, has proven to be a significant part of the regional trail system, linking various communities and recreational areas, and has contributed to the health of Yuba County's natural areas.

Splash and Swim

The community has focused and combined efforts to provide swimming pools to make sure that these highly valued and expensive facilities are available. Existing facilities were consolidated to provide a small number of high-quality, public pools in the County, which now serve educational, team sport, and recreational uses. In addition, Yuba County is home to a first rate interactive water playground that draws children and adults to play and cool down on hot summer days.

Indoor Recreation

Classrooms, gymnasiums, and indoor gathering places are available across the County for programmed and one-time use. Schools, meeting halls, and other community buildings are designed to be shared by a wide variety of users, including attendees of recreation programs, community meetings, and private gatherings.

The community recognizes that these facilities serve multiple roles. The park and recreation agencies work together with school districts and other community providers to help fund expansions and upgrades to existing and new community facilities in exchange for public access. The public and community organizations can schedule time in gymnasiums and classrooms by contacting one central authority.

Recreation Programs

Yuba County residents enjoy a multi-faceted recreation program.

Program areas include:

- Team sports;
- Arts and crafts;
- Aquatics (swimming lessons and teams);
- Senior activities;
- After school academic and recreation programming for youth;
- Environmental programs; and
- Summer camps.

These programs grow and change with the needs of the community, so that new activities can be added and others phased out as they become less popular.

Programs are provided at community facilities such as community centers, schools, parks and other gathering places. Residents of Yuba



County can contact one office to get information about all of these offerings and sign up for any program.

Sports Fields and Specialized Facilities

The sports fields in City parks, in County parks, and on school grounds are shared across the community. Information about field scheduling is available through a single point of contact. Large tournaments are regularly played in multiple locations around the County with the final events held at the large regional parks.



Yuba County is also home to a number of specialized facilities that serve particular niches in the park system. Equestrian facilities are incorporated into park locations in key trail sites (such as near the wildlife areas), while motocross and off-highway vehicle facilities take advantage of the unusual landscapes and resources of the gold and aggregate extraction areas. Additional special facilities have been added over the years as new sports gain prominence. Others have been converted flexibly as recreation habits and trends change.

3.3 Planning Goals

In order to achieve this vision, a great deal of action is required from a number of community groups and agencies. In order to coordinate these efforts, this plan includes four major goals, from the discussion of the vision for Yuba County, to guide the selection of current and future projects. These goals were generated from discussions with the entire community and would apply equally well to a new regional authority.

Goal 1: Maximize local resources for parks and recreation

It is critical that the community make the most of the existing financial, staff and social capital resources available to it. This can be accomplished through efficiency, cooperation and communication. Furthermore, key strategic projects and actions can help develop new sources of funding through matching funds and voter support.

Goal 2: Partner in responsible economic and community development

Recognizing that parks and recreation are an important aspect of community livability and attractiveness, key Parks Master Plan projects should be included in local and countywide economic and community development projects.

Goal 3: Enhance individual and community health and wellness

Park and recreation projects should create opportunities for active and passive recreation. These activities should promote fitness and develop stronger communities as people recreate together.

Goal 4: Preserve and promote enjoyment of Yuba County's natural character

Yuba County is an attractive place to live, work and play in large part because of the natural beauty of the surroundings. Park and recreation projects should add to this natural asset.



3.4 Objectives

The goals above define the broad outcomes to be produced by implementing the Parks Master Plan. Objectives set forth clear directions for providing services and for creating a visionary park system. Taken together, goals and objectives can be a means of measuring the performance of a park and recreation program. Applying these goals and objectives to park and recreation projects allows for prioritization and guides the allocation of available resources.

Goal 1: Maximize local resources for parks and recreation.

- 1a) Develop a cooperative regional park and recreation authority.
- 1b) Encourage and actively pursue cooperation between governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private business in providing park and recreation services.
- 1c) Leverage additional funding through matching grants and contributions.
- 1d) Provide a quality park, recreation, natural open space, and trail system that is efficient to administer and cost-effective to maintain.
- 1e) Provide a diverse range of recreation programs and services to serve multiple ages, populations, and interests.
- 1f) Encourage and track volunteer assistance in maintaining the park system and operating recreation programs throughout the County.

Goal 2: Partner in responsible economic and community development.

- 2a) Create signature recreation opportunities that attract visitors from outside of the area.
- 2b) Utilize plans as a tool to enhance the park system.
- 2c) Create opportunities for recreation-based entrepreneurs (such as fishing guides and independent instructors).

Goal 3: Enhance individual and community health and wellness.

- 3a) Provide high-quality opportunities for active recreation that are engaging and convenient to users.
- 3b) Develop recreation programming to serve residents in all communities within the County.
- 3c) Promote a special focus in recreation programming to serve the youth of Yuba County.
- 3d) Increase the availability of trails for active transportation (walking, biking, etc.).

Goal 4: Preserve and promote enjoyment of Yuba County's natural character.

- 4a) Provide trails that appropriately access key natural areas.
- 4b) Preserve land that reflects the diversity of habitats and scenery present in Yuba County.
- 4c) Use natural areas for multiple purposes, including buffering land uses, managing stormwater, habitat and recreation use.





Chapter 4: Achieving the Vision

4.1 Overview

Chapter 4 of the Parks Master Plan provides the recommended actions to address the needs described in the previous chapter and to achieve the vision for parks and recreation services in the County. This chapter begins with the primary recommendation of this plan, the creation of a new regional park and recreation authority. The next section includes recommendations for capital projects developing parks, trails and open space. At the end of this chapter additional, non-capital projects are recommended for providing recreation programming and other services for the county as a whole.

4.2 Regional Cooperation

During the planning process, a clear theme of discussion among community members and staff was the need for the many agencies in Yuba County to work together to achieve key results. A combination of a relatively small current population, the diversity of needs, and geographic separation has made cooperative efforts both necessary and difficult to implement.

The Case for Cooperation

Achieving the vision described in Chapter 3 is a major undertaking for even a large park and recreation provider. Yuba County is an extensive geographic area with many communities spread widely across it. Two of these communities are incorporated as cities and another major residential area is served by the Olivehurst Public Utility District, but the remainder of the county relies on County government for essential services such as public safety and parks and recreation.

Additionally, the communities in Yuba County lack the large population numbers that are needed to independently support specialized recreation facilities such as swimming pools, sports field complexes, and recreation centers. This has, in the past, resulted in recreation facilities and programs failing due to lack of funding, advocacy, or management. This is partly because the major city, Marysville, supports facilities and programs solely on local taxes, even when they serve residents well beyond the City limits. Where these facilities have succeeded—such as the soccer complex at Riverfront Park—it has been in partnership with sports groups and other organizations.

The County government, as the jurisdiction responsible for the area as a whole, is potentially in a position to take on a larger role in providing parks and recreation services across the county. However, competing demands for resources could limit its effectiveness and ability to implement many of the necessary steps toward the community's vision.



Regional Services and Facilities

Two park and recreation service areas are particularly good candidates for regional cooperation. Regional parks and recreation programming would likely require some level of cooperation across existing jurisdictional boundaries. For regional parks, providing a facility that serves a regional audience and has amenities to attract visitors to the County and serve local residents would require considerable financial and organizational support, both to develop and to maintain. Regional parks often require a specific, dedicated funding source for maintenance and operations. To appropriately share the financial investment required, this funding source should be spread across the entire area benefiting from the investment. The benefits of regional facilities within Yuba County may well extend beyond the political borders of the County, but for the purposes of this plan the recommended area of service is the county boundary.

Similarly to regional parks, recreation programming has the potential to benefit the entire population of the County. Programs add both direct enjoyment and indirect benefits such as the reduction in youth crime, strengthened communities, and enriched individual lives.

4.3 Regional Parks and Recreation Authority

In order to take on some of the larger, region-wide areas of service, the communities of Yuba County should take a leadership role in forming a new regional parks and recreation authority. This new entity should be specifically focused on the park and recreation needs of residents and visitors. There are several ways that this entity could be created and empowered to make key improvements to the park and recreation system.

Form

There are a variety of organizational and legal forms that this new authority could assume. For the long term, the best form to suit the needs of Yuba County is the independent park district. An independent park district is a special district with its own board of directors (typically made up of five members) elected from the area served by the district. This board sets policy and provides guidance for agency staff.

Funding

A park district can secure funding for capital and operations in a variety of ways. A park district has taxation and bonding authority, subject to voter approval, and can create benefit assessment districts. Park districts can also contract with agencies to provide park and recreation services. (Specific funding plan details can be found in the next chapter.) One



challenge to adding dedicated park and recreation funding will be the perception of double charging for park services. Many Yuba County residents will already be paying additional property taxes for local parks within their specific plan area. Regional funding will need to be clearly differentiated from local funding.



Responsibilities

The new regional park and recreation authority should take on all regional-scale projects within Yuba County. Control of existing regional parks, including those owned by County government and the City of Marysville, should be turned over to the regional authority in order to share the support for these facilities across the region, which will benefit from having these amenities.

The regional authority should be specifically responsible for the following facilities and programs:

- A new regional park designed to serve residents throughout Yuba County and attract visitors from outside of the region;
- Upgrading and management of Riverfront Park in Marysville;
- Improvements to existing regional facilities;
- Assistance in local park improvements including consulting and some financing;
- Regional trail development;
- Water access along both the Yuba and Feather Rivers;
- Open space acquisition in key areas to protect the natural character of Yuba County;
- Recreation programs throughout the County; and
- Serving as an advocate and resource for parks and recreation services.

Additional detail about these projects is provided in the following section.

4.4 Recommended Capital Projects

The primary recommendation for Yuba County is to pursue a new regional park and recreation authority, as explained in the previous section. The efforts of Yuba County government and its partners should be focused on this long-term goal, and the projects recommended below relate to regional facilities and services. Some of these projects could be initiated by the County government during the formation of the regional authority and subsequently turned over to the authority for management and operation. However, many of the projects will require the new financial resources that will be a part of the package presented to voters when considering the creation of the regional park and recreation authority.

Regional Park Recommendations

The parks and facilities recommended below are the projects that serve the regional-scale needs of the residents of Yuba County. Potential locations for regional park projects are illustrated on Map 1; Proposed Regional Park System, on the following page. Each project is designated with an asterisk and a letter-number combination for identification purposes (for example, a regional park site might be RP-1). These locations are conceptual and are subject to change based on site conditions, availability and other factors. Also, the names provided for proposed parks are for reference purposes only. Final park naming would be the responsibility of the regional authority.



New Regional Park


One large (50 acres or more) regional park should be developed in an easily accessed location in the populous southwestern portion of Yuba County. The park should include a variety of recreation activities that are themed around the natural, industrial and cultural heritage of the County.


Topics for interpretation at this park could include the various methods of gold mining employed in Yuba County, including placer, shaft, dredging and hydraulic mining. The County's role in pioneer settlement, and the rich history of the native people who populated the area prior to the arrival of these settlers, are other stories that could be told through interactive exhibits, signage and the relocation of historic houses or other structures. These important aspects of Yuba County's past could also influence more purely entertaining aspects of the park, such as an interactive playground that includes water features, simulating hydraulic mining, gold panning and other activities. The site could also include Wild West-themed amusement park rides such as a runaway train ride or a log flume ride. Other, more general amenities could also be included in the park site, depending on the amount of property that could be acquired. These features could include sports fields, regional-sized playgrounds, and natural areas.


This recommended regional park should be specifically planned to attract visitors from beyond the County and be used as an economic development tool, creating opportunities for new and existing local businesses. A feasibility study examining the revenue potential for different options should be conducted prior to a final site and feature selection.





Three sites have been identified as potential locations for this regional park. The first two are new sites in the central-southern portion of the county. The third would be an expansion of an existing regional facility. All three sites are described below.


Proposed Regional Project


Community Park


Neighborhood Park


Open Space


Day Use Park


Special Use Park


Water Body/Reservoir


Yuba County


Fish and Game Wildlife Area


City, Military Boundary


School Property


Proposed Regional Trails

Highway

Railway

Levee

River, Stream



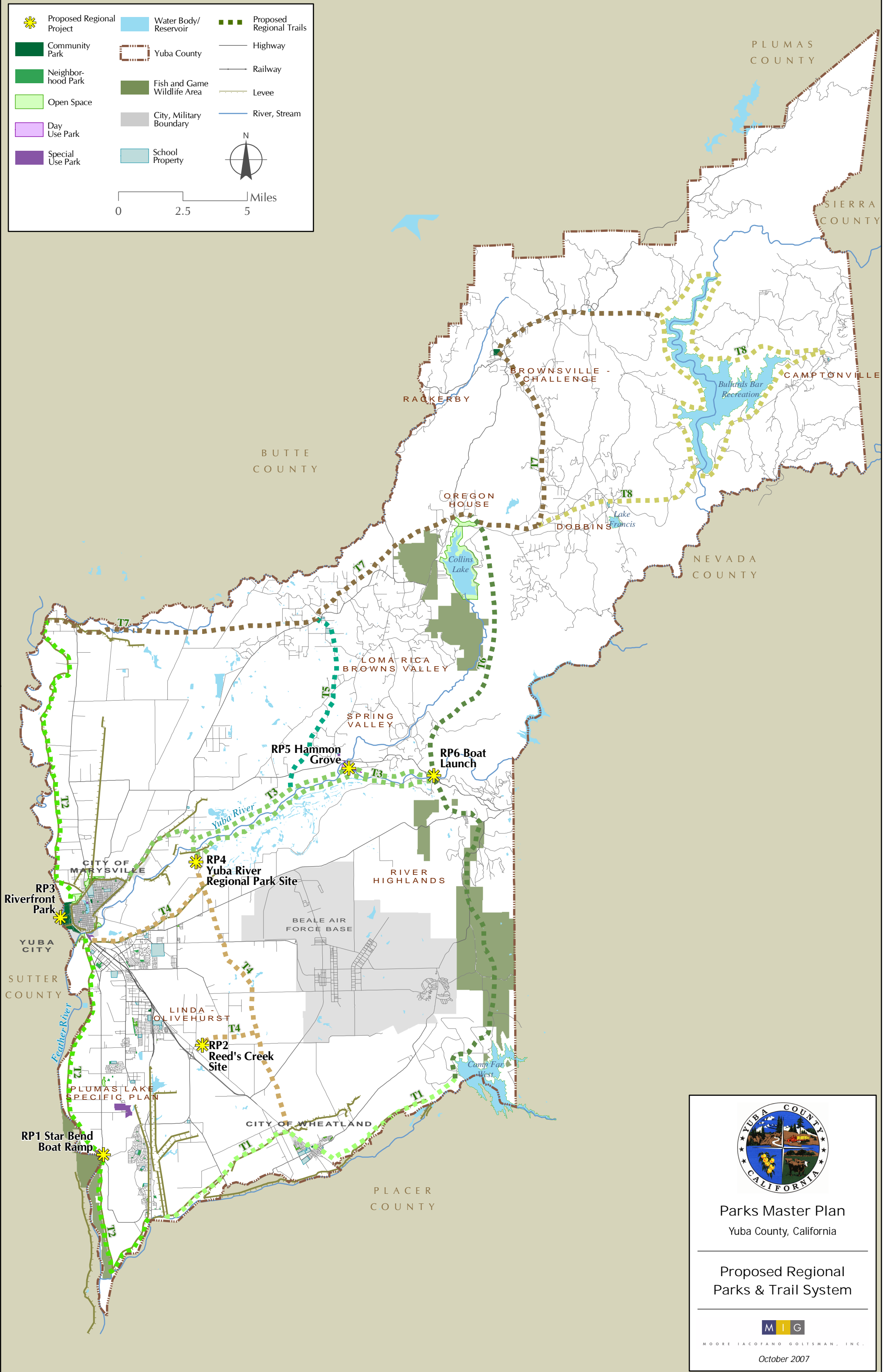
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YUBA COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

Parks Master Plan
Yuba County, California

**Proposed Regional
Parks & Trail System**



MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.

October 2007

RP2: Reeds Creek Regional Park Site

This potential regional park location is south and east of Olivehurst, near the entertainment zone and the Sleep Train Amphitheatre. The nearby Reeds Creek flood basis could provide an adjacent natural area. The adjacent natural area could extend to the Beale AFP buffer area discussed later in this chapter. This site offers easy access from the largest communities of Yuba County and the Sacramento Metropolitan Area. The proximity to the amphitheater would bring a higher level of visibility to the site. In addition, the combination of these two attractions would also benefit any additional entertainment businesses choosing to locate in the specially zoned area.

RP4: Yuba River Regional Park Site

Much of the land currently used for aggregate extraction to the north and south of the Yuba River will eventually be reclaimed for other uses. Yuba County should take advantage of this opportunity to identify a site in the gold fields for a regional park. This site would be especially appropriate for interpretation of the fields' industrial past. This park should also include a wide variety of recreation opportunities appropriate to the location.

Improvements to Existing Regional Facilities**RP1: Star Bend Park**

Star Bend Park has the potential to be expanded into a much more significant park with multiple types of facilities. If adjacent agricultural land to the north and to the east could be acquired cost-effectively, this could also be a site for the new regional park described above.

In any case, Star Bend Park should be maintained and expanded as an important connection to the Feather River. The County and the new regional park authority should work closely with the Department of Fish and Game to coordinate appropriate access to the Feather River Wildlife Area adjacent to the site. The park site should be a major trailhead for the Feather River Trail and should provide interpretation of the natural features, wildlife and flood protection measures.

RP3: Riverfront Park

Riverfront Park should be officially recognized as a regional park serving the residents of Yuba County and beyond. However, the current tax base supporting this park is drawn only from the City of Marysville, which has struggled to keep up with the necessary maintenance and updating of the facilities. The operation and maintenance of this regional park should be turned over to the new regional authority, with all current agreements for use intact. The park is an excellent regional location for a large interactive water playground. This park should be upgraded to make maintenance of the entire park more efficient. A park master plan should



be developed to provide a better layout of facilities, create a riverfront trail system, open the river to better views and access, and physically tie the park into one park facility rather than a series of independent recreation areas.

RP5: Hammon Grove Regional Park

Hammon Grove Park is currently a well-developed day-use park that provides an important access point to the Yuba River. This site should retain these uses, and expand the recreation opportunities at the park as possible. The primary improvement to the site should be a developed river access point. This access should include a space for taking out small, non-motorized boats launched upriver. This take-out should also include high-visibility signage warning of the submerged dam downstream from Hammon Grove. Consideration will be needed for the salmon habitat and the effects of river flooding. Development of this amenity should be linked to the following recommendation for RP6.



RP6: Yuba River Small Boat Launch

As a part of the improvements to Hammon Grove Park, the County or the regional authority should improve the small boat launch on the south side of the Highway 20 crossing of the Yuba River. This facility should provide parking, signage and a safe access point to the river for small, non-motorized boats. The completion of the two small boat facilities will greatly improve the access to this 3.75 mile stretch of the Yuba River.

Local Park Recommendations

In addition to these key projects, many projects were identified that would meet needs across a wide variety of service areas. Projects throughout the County were identified to acknowledge the broad range of recreation needs. These park projects would primarily benefit the residents of the immediate area and should therefore be maintained by a local funding source.

Many of the projects identified are included in existing area plans and will be built as the residential areas are developed. Overall, the parks included in existing area plans will meet the local park needs and include some special facilities, such as open space and equestrian facilities. These plan area parks, as well as other identified local service parks, are summarized in the table on the next page.

Table 4-1: Recommended Local Park Projects

Location	Project Description
Camptonville	Community park on school grounds
Dobbins-Oregon House	Community park, community center
East Linda	Neighborhood park
East Linda	Neighborhood park
East Linda	Community park
Fernwood Park	Master plan and renovate
Friendship Park	Master plan and renovate
Little League Park	Lights, restroom facility
Loma Rica	Community park
Plumas Lake	Community park
Plumas Lake	Numerous neighborhood parks
Ponderosa Park	Upgrade; reinvest in park facilities
River Highlands	Community park
Shad Pad	River access
Smartsville	Community park
Spring Valley	Town Center park
Spring Valley	Community park
Spring Valley	Special facility: equestrian center
Spring Valley	Community park
Yuba River Greenway	Natural area on Marysville bank of Yuba River



To supplement these new local park sites, the County, and later the regional authority, should make targeted capital investments in local parks when these investments can add to the types of recreational opportunities of the region and funding is available. Examples of this type of investment would be the addition of a new type of facility, such as a water playground, or helping to develop a facility that can support other regional goals such as recreation programming. Water playgrounds, with spray features and no standing water, are an immensely popular amenity with a relatively small ongoing maintenance cost. This type of facility can be quickly designed and constructed using off-the-shelf components.

Water playground facilities should be constructed at existing park sites that are well-positioned to serve a wide area. The ideal locations are in the more populous southwest area of Yuba County, either inside an existing regional park, or as a regional special use facility in a smaller

existing park. The site would need good visibility and access, and would ideally be somewhat separated from neighboring residential areas.

Additional discussion of local projects is included in Appendix B which includes Map B-1 (showing the entire County) and Map B-2 (enlarging the southwest portion of the County), illustrating the project locations. These local park projects are important to the needs of Yuba County residents and should be taken up by local communities as their contribution to an integrated park system throughout the region.

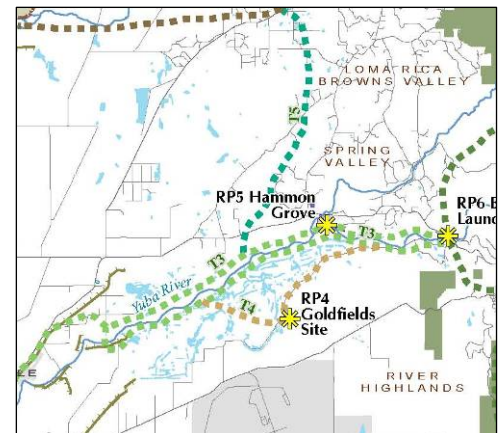
One of the main challenges to implementing local park needs, particularly outside of the jurisdictions of Marysville, Wheatland and OPUD, is the absence of a strong park and recreation agency that is advocating for and assisting with park and recreation improvements. To address this concern, the regional authority should serve as an over-arching advocate for parks and recreation within Yuba County (discussed more completely in Section 4.5, Recommended Non-Capital Projects).

Regional Trail System

To address the needs for popular recreation trail activities, such as horseback riding, bicycling, walking, and hiking, Yuba County and the new regional park and recreation authority should develop a regional trail network that connects the communities and important natural, park, and recreation resources. The proposed system is illustrated on Map #1: Proposed Regional Parks and Trails, on page 41. The actual alignments of trails will be highly dependent on land availability; the important features of the regional trail network are the connections between communities and destinations and the ability to form loops. In total, this conceptual trail network represents approximately 175 miles of regional trails.

Trail Acquisition and Development

The extensive regional recreation trail network proposed in this plan will require many years to complete. The first phase of development should involve coordinating with the levee districts and/or Reclamation Board to develop the levee-top service roads into publicly accessible trails. This development would include trailheads that allow for parking, informational signage and safe access to the trails. Properly executed, this effort could create a tremendous recreation asset for the community with relatively little capital cost. In addition, the increase in appropriate use of the levee trails will help to deter illegal and destructive use of the levees by off-road vehicles.



The regional authority should also allocate funding to opportunity-based acquisition and development of trail segments that are not along the levee system. The acquisition of trail corridors can also be combined with the purchase of open space, as recommended below.

Recreation Trail Projects

Similarly to the projects labeled on the Proposed Park Projects Maps, trail segments are each assigned a T (denoting trail) and a number for the specific segment, for example, T1. The names given to the trail segments are for identification purposes only. The approximate alignment of each proposed trail segment is described below. The actual path the trail will follow will be determined by land availability and terrain.

T1: South County Regional Trail

Trail T1 crosses the southernmost part of Yuba County from the southeastern edge of the Plumas Lake area to Wheatland, and continues on to Camp Far West. This trail connects T2 to T6.

T2: Feather River Regional Trail

Trail T2 is proposed for the top of the levee following the Feather River north-south along the western border of the County. This trail connects through Marysville and joins all of the east-west trail routes. If possible, T2 should connect to trail systems in Butte and Sutter Counties.

T3: Yuba River Regional Trail Loop

Trail T3 begins at Marysville and extends along the north bank of the Yuba River, through Hammon Grove and on to the Highway 20 bridge. After crossing the river, the trail loops back through the gold fields (T4) and meets the original segment at the proposed bypass (Yuba River Parkway) crossing of the Yuba River. The primary trail on the south bank of the Yuba River should be as close to the river as practicable and should include access points for fishing and enjoying the river's edge. Additional smaller trails could also be developed to connect to mining town sites and other locations that offer opportunities to interpret the historic, economic and environmental implications of the extraction industries that have operated here.



T4: Regional Park Site Connector

Trail segment T4 connects T3 to the proposed location of a regional park near Reeds Creek and T1. This trail segment includes connections between Marysville and Wheatland, as well as access to natural areas proposed near Beale Air Force Base and the potential Reeds Creek regional park site.

T5: Spring Valley – Loma Rica Regional Trail

Much of this trail is included in the Spring Valley Specific Plan. The trail corridor should include enough room for parallel paved and dirt tracks to accommodate bikes, pedestrians and equestrians.

T6: Camp Far West – Collins Lake Regional Trail

This north-south trail segment connects to T1, T3 and T7, and also connects the Spenceville Wildlife Area to the Doherty Hill Wildlife Area and the Collins Lake recreation area. Local trails within the River Highlands plan area, Oregon House and Dobbins should be linked to this major regional trail. This trail should be multi-use, and accommodate hiking, biking and horseback riding.



T7: North County Regional Trail

Beginning at the northern end of T2, T7 should connect the north-south trails across the northern edge of Yuba County. This trail will also connect the communities of Loma Rica, Oregon House, Dobbins and Brownsville/Challenge.

T8: Bullards Bar Regional Trail Loop

Trail segment T8 connects to T7 at Dobbins-Oregon House Community Park and encircles the Bullards Bar Reservoir. The trail should extend to Camptonville and connect to the proposed Camptonville Community Park.

Connections to Other Regional Systems



















As trails are developed, the regional authority should communicate with neighboring counties and cities to coordinate possible connections between them and Yuba County's regional trail system. Adding connections to other systems will increase the use of the entire trail system and add additional value to residents and visitors. Where these connections will be located depends on the terrain, land availability and the connection points in the neighboring trail systems.

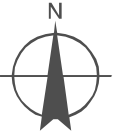
Local Trail Policy

Local trails are the most basic parts of the overall trail system. These pedestrian paths can include sidewalks, off-street trails and nature trails that are part of a neighborhood, subdivision or area plan. The County government should ensure that new area plans include local trails—as well as the means to develop and maintain them—that connect to neighboring planned areas, existing trail systems, and the planned regional trail system described above. The regional park and recreation authority should not develop or maintain local trails.


Open Space Projects and Policies

Open space is an important part of the natural character of Yuba County. As the population increases and residential and commercial areas expand, access to open space is likely to become a much more important issue. Anticipating this need and responding to the goal of preserving and enjoying the County's natural character, this plan recommends that the County, in cooperation with the new regional entity and other supporting organizations, looks to preserve open space in the following areas. It is important to note that most of this land is currently in private ownership and much of it is active agricultural land. The indication as an open space preservation area does not direct the removal of land from agricultural production or the forced acquisition from other private ownership. Instead, this plan recommends preserving this land as open space if a willing seller emerges or if the land were to be removed from agricultural or open space use in the future.

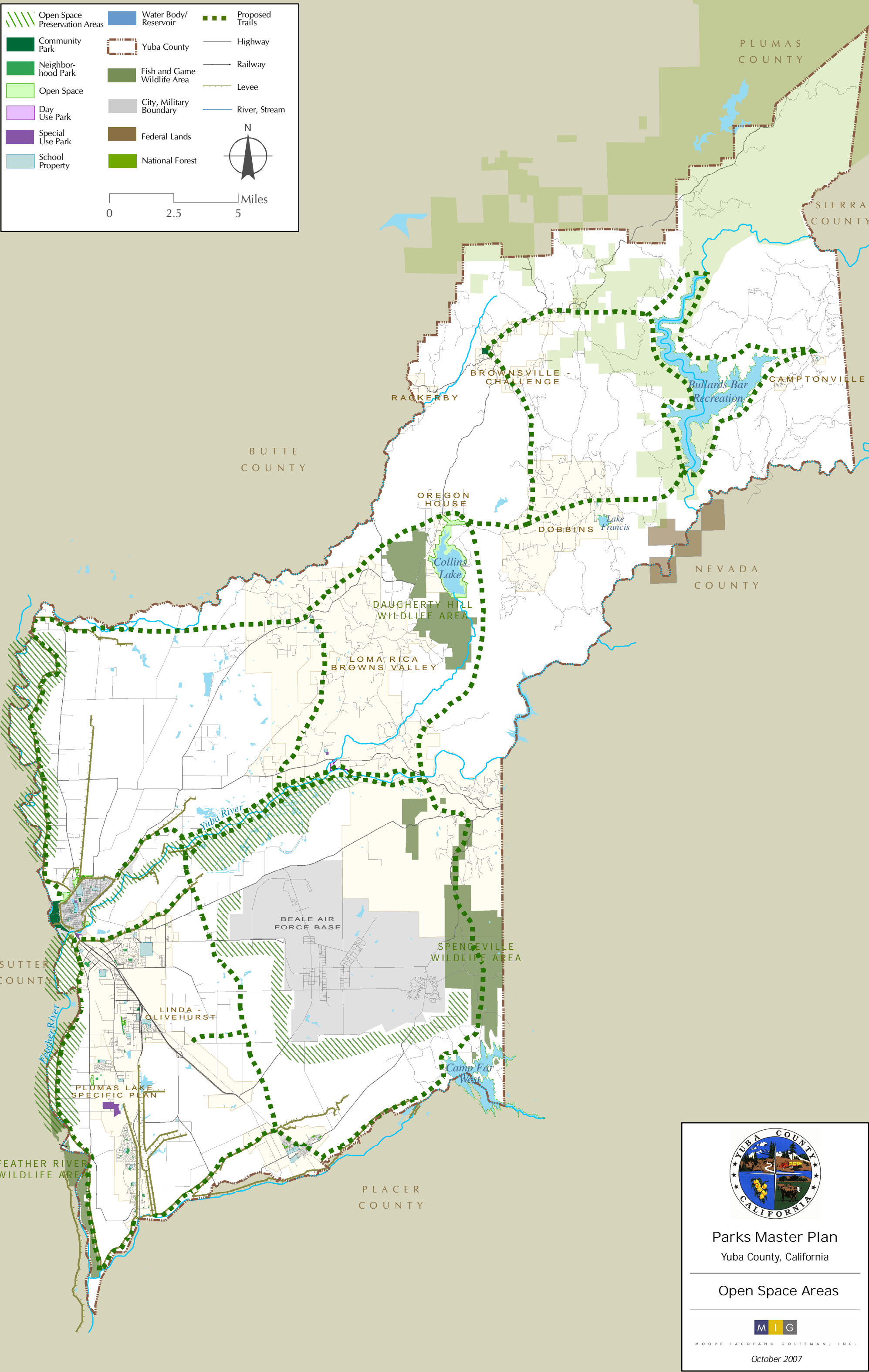
 Open Space Preservation Areas	 Water Body/Reservoir	 Proposed Trails
 Community Park	 Yuba County	 Highway
 Neighborhood Park	 Fish and Game Wildlife Area	 Railway
 Open Space	 City, Military Boundary	 Levee
 Day Use Park	 Federal Lands	 River, Stream
 Special Use Park	 National Forest	
 School Property		



N



0 2.5 5 Miles





YUBA COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

Parks Master Plan

Yuba County, California

Open Space Areas



MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.

October 2007

On Map 2: Open Space and Natural Areas, located on the previous page, several areas have been indicated with a green hatch as Open Space Preservation Areas. Each of these areas is described below, along with an explanation of the importance of these areas.



Feather River Bank

In the southern part of the County, California Fish and Game has preserved several large areas of the Feather River bank for habitat protection. These protected areas also afford many recreation opportunities, including wildlife watching, fishing and space for quiet contemplation. To the extent possible, and as land and funding becomes available, Yuba County, the regional park authority and other partnering agencies should acquire additional river bank land along the Feather River. Additional publicly owned open space along the Feather will mirror similar efforts occurring in Yuba City and create a greenway along both banks. Projects along the bank of the Feather River should focus on habitat restoration and preservation, flood control and appropriate recreation access to help visitors appreciate the value of natural lands.

Yuba River and Gold Fields

In addition to providing fish and wildlife habitat and recreation value, the Yuba River has an important story to tell about the resource-based past and present of Yuba County. Much of this land is currently zoned and used for extraction of aggregate. However, as aggregate operations wind down in particular areas of the Gold Fields, large pieces of this land may be available for recreation use. Yuba County should communicate interest in acquiring land in the Gold Fields to the aggregate mining operations. As land becomes available, the County government and partner agencies should pursue options and outright purchases as feasible.

Beale Air Force Base Buffer

The Beale Air Force Base is currently the subject of a Joint Land Use Study examining the long-term viability of the airbase. By creating a buffer zone of protected open space, the community can protect the boundary of the airbase and preserve land in the oak savannah.



Stormwater Management Sites

Yuba County and the various other agencies have done a good job of creating attractive, multi-use stormwater containment and infiltration sites. Stormwater management features can be added to serve the needs of specific parks. Also, when regional stormwater facilities are planned, complementary park uses, such as trails, viewpoints and open play areas, should be incorporated to enhance the park system and make the most of the public funding use for stormwater management.

Other Open Space Acquisition

Other areas where the regional authority could pursue open space preservation are around the edges of existing large protected lands. The regional authority should work closely with the Department of Fish and Game and the National Forest Service to purchase lands that complement and improve access to lands owned by these agencies, if such lands become available

These recommendations, along with those for trails and other park sites, should be considered as planning continues on the County's Habitat Conservation Plan. This planning process, currently underway, may identify sites that, in addition to their conservation value, may be able to offer recreation opportunities.

4.5 Recommended Non-Capital Projects

In addition to the physical development (capital) projects in parks, trails, and open space, there are a series of operations recommendations that will enhance the regional recreation opportunities.

Recreation Programs and Classes

One of the top needs expressed by the community during the Parks Master Plan process was not a new playground or sports fields, but "something for the kids to do." With no current provider of recreation programs within Yuba County, the regional authority should assume this function for the entire area. The program should start small, targeting locations and populations that are unable to take advantage of the closest provider (Yuba City)'s offerings. Alternately Yuba County recreation programs can identify program niches that are unserved by Yuba City. Until the program is well established, direct competition for participants is not recommended.

The initial focus of recreation programming should be on after-school and other youth programs. Most youth sports are well-coordinated by community organizations, but could be supplemented with new or emerging sports provided by the regional program. Other opportunities include outdoor and environmental programs, senior activities, historic tours and excursions to recreation areas in the foothills.

It will be important for the recreation programming efforts to be extended to the rural communities. Existing facilities, such as the Ponderosa Community Center and the Camptonville School, could provide programming locations in these communities, and instructors would either have to be recruited locally or travel significant distances. After it



is established, the regional authority's role will be to provide funding and support in developing and publicizing these program opportunities.

County government should initiate a regional recreation programming effort as soon as funding can be committed. The County's role should be to fund and otherwise support the hiring of a recreation program manager to begin developing the relationships needed to offer a limited series of programs to test the concept.

Park and Recreation Advocacy and Administration

Yuba County also has no operating park and recreation department at this time. Yuba County Public Works currently manages the maintenance and operation of County parks, but is a department with many additional responsibilities. Countywide, there is no official organization specifically focused on parks and recreation. The end result is very little organized advocacy for improvements to the park system. A similar situation exists for the cities of Marysville and Wheatland and the Olivehurst Public Utility District. While the respective departments do their best to provide the systems needed by their residents, none have the ability to apply special focus on providing a park system. The regional park and recreation authority's recommended advocacy and administrative roles are described below.



Park Planning and Funding Assistance

As the primary advocate for parks and recreation in Yuba County, the regional authority should provide assistance to community groups, city staff and any other interested parties as to how to improve their local and regional parks. The regional authority would not be the park planner on the local level, but would have connections to landscape architects, planners and other professional services that could provide the required assistance. Additionally, a small capital funding source could be included in the regional funding package to assist in local park projects, including contributing matching monies for grants and otherwise reinvesting in the local parks.

A second service that the regional authority could provide is circulating information about potential park funding sources. The regional authority's staff would be an important resource for connecting local projects to the funding necessary to complete them. This would include knowledge of grant programs, local funding sources and places to inquire about donated and in-kind services. The staff would also help communities establish and update local funding mechanisms that pay

for maintenance and improvements to neighborhood- and community-level facilities.

Interagency Coordination

A key element to the regional authority's success in implementing the projects in this plan is the cooperation and coordination of the agencies already providing community facilities and services. This will include partnerships with the local park authorities, City of Marysville, OPUD, City of Wheatland and Yuba Feather Community Services, as well as school districts, the levee district, and community service groups, thereby gaining access to existing facilities for new recreation programming opportunities. Areas where a regional perspective would be most useful include:

- Scheduling sports fields;
- Arranging access to school gymnasiums and other indoor facilities; and
- Negotiating agreements for use of the levee tops as trails.

The staff of the regional authority should work regularly with the public works and facilities staff of these agencies to establish and maintain a relationship that allows for the maximum use of community facilities. Clear, upfront agreements with these partner agencies will help to avoid user conflict, and will set out a system to resolve conflicts (such as scheduling of sports fields) when they arise.

The staff of Yuba County's regional park and recreation authority should also be participating in and coordinating planning efforts that span across jurisdictional boundaries. This will help to create a truly regional park and recreation system, with pieces developed by local agencies integrated into the larger system, and then connected by recreational trails.



Chapter 5: Path to Success

5.1 Overview

This chapter provides the process for implementing the recommendations of the previous chapter. This chapter defines the roles of each major partner in providing a regional park system, suggests methods for building support among voters, and details potential projects and funding methods to meet the needs of the community. The strategies presented are focused on the primary recommendation of establishing a park district to serve as a new regional park authority. However, a series of smaller short-term steps will start to provide important new services immediately; building support for a long-term, sustainable regional park system.



5.2 Establishing Roles and Responsibilities

Many recreation providers within the community will have important roles and responsibilities in the implementation of this plan. Clearly identifying these roles and responsibilities for each will be an essential part of fairly distributing the financial resources available, and managing park and recreation services. This section establishes the role of each major type of park and recreation provider.

County Government

As the agency with the broadest coverage in Yuba County, the county government has a unique role to play in facilitating the development of a regional park authority. This Parks Master Plan describes a process to enhance park and recreation services to all residents in the County. The key to implementing the long-term recommendations will be the formation of a regional park authority or park district. Yuba County government should initiate the process for forming the district, and implement key projects to build support for regional parks and services, but once in place the new park authority should assume the leadership role in regional park and recreation services. Its specific responsibilities are described below.

Following the creation of the regional authority, the government of Yuba County should continue to plan for local parks in its jurisdiction. These parks will be developed much as they have been prior to this plan, using funds from Quimby Act collections and impact fees specific to the plan area. The maintenance and operation of these parks should be funded within the local area using county service areas, landscape and lighting districts, or other local funding mechanisms. Operations and maintenance of these park sites can be either contracted to a private party or to the regional park authority.

The County will also continue to collect impact fees and Quimby Act in-lieu fees outside of the cities. These fees are intended to pay for the park and recreation services of the entire region, and should be applied to the projects of the regional park authority.

Regional Parks Authority

A new regional parks authority should be formed to develop, operate and maintain all regional park and recreation facilities and services within Yuba County. This will include existing and future regional-service parks such as Riverfront Park in Marysville, and the new regional park and recreation programs and classes. If requested, the new authority will also take on the maintenance responsibilities for parks outside of incorporated areas that are not served by a public utility district or other park agency, including plan area parks and Friendship and Fernwood parks in Linda. However, because funding for the regional authority will be limited to selected regional facilities, maintenance costs for other parks and facilities should be done under contract only.

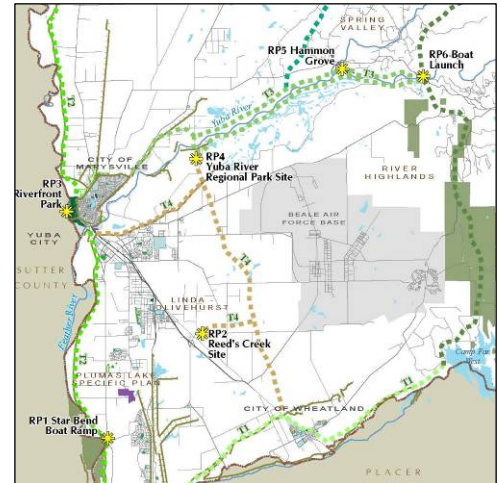
Because at the current time, no one organization or agency is an advocacy agent for park and recreation services in Yuba County, the regional parks authority should take on an added responsibility of assisting local groups and organizations to seek grants or expand their park and recreation services.

While the initial responsibility of the parks authority is to develop and maintain regional park facilities, offer limited recreation programs and provide guidance and consulting services to other recreation providers, over time, it is expected that this agency will take on more responsibilities as it builds community support.

City Government and Public Utility District

The two cities and the Olivehurst Public Utility District (along with any future utility districts or incorporated cities) would continue to be responsible for park planning and the funding of maintenance and park development for local parks within their boundaries. Each agency should also be a part of the preliminary cooperative efforts leading up to the creation of a regional park district. The support of these groups will be critical to the success of a new funding source for regional facilities.

In the future, the regional authority will also be able to offer contract maintenance and administrative services to the other park agencies in Yuba County. This will allow these agencies to benefit from specialized



park maintenance knowledge and the regional authority to gain efficiencies of scale.

Other Agencies and Community Groups

There are a number of key partners that will also have important roles to play in establishing a region-wide park system. These include the school districts, organized sports groups and community service groups. These are described below.

School Districts

Partnerships with the school districts across the County will be the key to providing indoor recreation space, sports fields and other shared large-scale recreation facilities. School district leadership will need to establish the policies necessary to clearly identify any limitations on sharing facilities to meet security and scheduling needs. The regional park authority, as well as local park agencies, should look for all possible opportunities to partner with schools to co-locate facilities that can be shared with wider community uses.



Organized Sports Groups

Organizations that sponsor sports in Yuba County will continue to be essential to the community, as they provide youth and adult sport programs. The regional authority should not compete with community organizations in managing organized sports. The operation of sport leagues and youth sport activities should continue to be the responsibility of existing and new sport organizations. However, this is not to say that over time, sport organizations may wish to partner with the regional parks authority to expand sports programs and develop new facilities.

In order to use fields more efficiently and assure fair access to facilities, field scheduling should be coordinated by the regional authority. Priority scheduling should be assigned to those groups that perform maintenance and other tasks above and beyond standard field prep and clean-up activities required with scheduled field use.

Organized sports groups can also play an important role in distributing information and emphasizing the benefits of a regional collaborative approach to providing park and recreation facilities and services. Sports groups have large established networks of recreation advocates who, if they see the benefits of the plan, can be enthusiastic supporters.

Community Service Groups

Several parks in Yuba County have benefited extensively from the assistance of community groups, such as service clubs, community foundations and other nonprofit organizations. This type of community ownership of parks should not be overlooked as a source of support. In

rural communities service groups have been the primary park advocates and have developed and maintained existing facilities, such as Ponderosa Park and Little League Park in Browns Valley.

5.3 Building Community Support

A regional parks authority will be a new concept to most Yuba County residents. In order to gain the public support that will be needed for the successful creation of a park district, as well as the subsequent funding for regional park facilities voters will need to be informed about the benefits of the proposed management and development concept.

Initially, Yuba County government should take on the leadership role of building public support for new park and recreation facilities and services. The short-term goal should be to establish recreation programs, a highly desired service that can benefit the entire county. After regional recreation programming is in place, the County government and its partners should proceed with placing the park authority proposal on the ballot. As a first step, a regional park authority formation committee (RPAFC) should be formed to develop a campaign strategy, educate the public and present the program to the public. Connecting the ongoing funding of new recreation programming to the creation of a park district would add to the benefits of the new organization to the voters.

Informing Voters

It is a challenge to create a new governmental agency and pass a funding measure. A common feature of successful funding measures is a well-coordinated public information campaign that discovers what voters in Yuba County want and effectively communicates the benefits of the proposal to them. This campaign will need leadership within governments and among community members. This support can be built up among the participants in the recreation program. The campaign will have the best chance of success with high-quality professional assistance to craft the messages, test voter opinions and campaign materials. This effort would likely involve detailed polling of the population to tailor the messages, building on the needs identified in this planning process.



Partner Agency Support

During the Parks Master Plan process, the County government called together representatives from the various providers of park and recreation facilities and services to discuss the needs of County residents and the path toward meeting those needs. The official support of the other park agencies within the new regional park authority will be very important to

satisfy the community's desire that their resources be used as effectively as possible. However, the boundaries of the proposed park district can be drawn to include the entire county, or to exclude any portion of the area. If any one agency is not interested in being part of the regional parks authority, the boundary of the district could be drawn to remove that particular area.

Key Implementable Projects

A final critical element of gaining the voter support necessary for the creation of a park and recreation district and its funding is proceeding toward a new model of regional cooperation. The recommended first step is to establish recreation programming across the County. This will build the relationships with facility providers, agencies and citizen participants that will be needed to persuade the voters of the long-term viability of the regional program.

A second major step will be assembling the right package of capital projects for the initial work plan of the new regional authority. These projects must meet regional needs, provide economic benefits to the region as a whole, and build excitement and ownership in the community. The projects should focus on providing benefits throughout the County. In addition to the ability to fund construction of these projects, the community has indicated that a key measure of success will be the financial resources to maintain the facilities once they are built. Additionally, investing in a small number of key local projects and reinvesting in existing facilities will help to demonstrate the possibilities of parks and recreation to the community.

5.4 Project and Financing Alternatives

Recognizing the financial and political realities of Yuba County, the Parks Master Plan presents two potential packages of regional projects, funding and operations strategies. This discussion presents two potential options for meeting the capital and ongoing operations needs for developing the regional park system as envisioned in this plan. The final mix of projects and funding methods should be determined based on voter interest, available funding and compatibility with the vision, goals and objectives laid out in this plan.

A summary of the approach for each project and funding package is provided below, and the details are included in the capital improvement plan, capital funding strategy and operations funding strategy sections of this chapter.

Project and Funding Package A

Package A is based on a conservative impact fee approach combined with a new regional park district and associated funding mechanisms, several varieties of grants and some existing funding. These resources will be used to develop and improve a set of regional facilities, add a limited set of local park improvements across the region, and fund trail development and open space acquisition. Funding is also included for the operation and maintenance of regional facilities and establishing a recreation program to serve the County.

Project and Funding Package B

Package B assumes a more aggressive impact fee approach for regional facilities. In other respects the funding is similar, including new regional park district funding, grants and existing funds. The additional resources will be used to develop more of the new regional park and will add the operation of and improvements to Riverfront Park. A higher level of funding is included for the operation and maintenance of regional facilities, reflecting the larger developed acreage in this package.

5.5 Capital Improvement Plan

Planning Costs

The costs presented for the projects recommended in the Capital Improvement Plan are based on current construction costs for similar parks in California as well as the experience of the planning team. It is too early to generate an exact cost for each project since no specific plans have been developed. As a result, the costs presented below should be

viewed more as a project budget than a cost estimate. As the projects move forward, site designs will result in more accurate estimates.

Six-Year Regional Capital Improvement Plan

The capital improvement plan described below is for the funding of capital projects that will be the responsibility of the regional parks authority. Responsibility for ongoing operation of these facilities will be determined by the facility's relationship to the regional system and agreements with local park providers. Over the first 6-year development period, the projects for each package are as follows:

Package A

- Acquisition of land and construction of the first phase of a new regional park;
- Additional phases of regional park construction as additional impact fee funds become available;
- Yuba River access improvements, including a small boat launch at the Highway 20 bridge and take-out at Hammon Grove Park;
- Trailhead at Star Bend Park to serve the Feather River Trail;
- Trail development and open space acquisition as opportunities become available; and
- Local park investments including water playgrounds and improvements to meet needs in the foothill region.



Package A projects are summarized in Table 5-1, below.

Table 5-1: Six-Year Regional Capital Improvement Plan – Package A

Project	Planning Cost/Allocation
New Regional Park	\$19,000,000
Local Park Investments	\$1,000,000
Hammon Grove Park Small Boat Facilities	\$600,000
Star Bend Park Trailhead	\$500,000
Trail Acquisition and Development	\$700,000
Open Space Acquisition	\$2,000,000
	\$23,800,000

Package B

- Acquisition of land and construction of the first phase of a new regional park;
- Additional phases of regional park construction as additional impact fee funds become available;
- Site master plan and minor maintenance-focused improvements at Riverfront Park;
- Yuba River access improvements, including a small boat launch at the Highway 20 bridge and take-out at Hammon Grove Park;
- Trailhead, local nature trails, and interpretation of natural areas at Star Bend Park with access to the Feather River Trail;
- Trail development and open space acquisition as opportunities become available; and
- Local park investments including three water playgrounds and improvements to meet needs in the foothill region.



Package B projects are summarized in Table 5-2, below.

Table 5-2: Six-Year Regional Capital Improvement Plan – Package B

Project	Planning Cost/Allocation
New Regional Park	\$23,000,000
Improvements to Riverfront Park	\$1,500,000
Local Park Investments	\$1,000,000
Hammon Grove Park Small Boat Facilities	\$600,000
Star Bend Park Improvements	\$900,000
Trail Acquisition and Development	\$800,000
Open Space Acquisition	\$2,000,000
	\$29,800,000

5.6 Capital Funding Strategy

A wide variety of potential sources could be applied to regional park and recreation projects in Yuba County. A listing of major financing sources is provided in Appendix C. However, not all of these funding opportunities will fit with the project types that are the highest priority. The potential funding sources can be matched to the priority projects, while also being the limiting factor of how many projects and how quickly Yuba County proceeds.



Revenue Sources

Regional Landscape and Lighting District

The new regional authority will have the ability to create a landscape and lighting district to fund both capital costs and operations for regional facilities. The total proposed assessment in both funding packages is recommended at \$50 per parcel per year. The final amount should be based on the final package of projects selected for the long-term, as adjusting the assessment will require an additional election. How the funding from this district will be split between capital and operations will vary based on the final funding package, two potential options are summarized in Table 5-3, on the next page. The totals for each potential package are based on a preliminary count of approximately 29,000 taxable parcels in Yuba County. In each case the capital portion of the assessment will be used to finance bonds to raise the initial capital for regional facilities. The figures in the table below assume a 5.25% interest rate and a 20-year term for the bonds.

The remaining portion of the landscape and lighting district should be reserved for maintenance of regional facilities and administrative operation of the regional authority. These specifics of the operations funding are discussed in section 5.7. The formation of the landscape and lighting district is subject to approval of the voters of the district by a simple majority. Once approved, the district would continue for as long as the services and facilities are provided.

Table 5-3: Landscape and Lighting District Funding Breakdown

	Package A		Package B	
	Unit	Total	Unit	Total
Capital Portion	\$30	\$870,000	\$20	\$580,000
Bonds Financed		\$10,500,000		\$7,000,000
Operating Portion	\$20	\$580,000	\$30	\$870,000
Total Assessment	\$50	\$1,450,000	\$50	\$1,450,000

Package A devotes the majority of the funding to capital, leaving considerably less for the operation and maintenance of regional park facilities. This is partially mitigated by a smaller amount of land to be maintained (because Riverfront Park is not included in the regional entity's responsibilities in this package). Package B reverses the split, ensuring adequate funding for more acres of regional park land and reducing the capital portion.

Countywide Park Impact Fees

Countywide park impact fees are intended to offset the impact on the park system of development outside of incorporated or otherwise served areas of the county. The existing countywide park impact fees fund should be utilized for regional projects that benefit the County as a whole. The current rate assessed on new housing is approximately \$130 per household. This fund currently has \$108,951. The current assessment rate in place is extremely low when compared to most jurisdictions in California. Depending upon location and facilities planned, some impact fees are as high as \$15,000 – 20,000 per household.

Over the past 4 years, approximately 1,000 housing permits per year have been completed and charged the existing impact fee. Because of the slow-down in housing construction now occurring, it is assumed that the construction rate will decline for the next few years. As a result, a more conservative rate of 500 housing starts per year is anticipated.

It is recommended that County park impact fees be increased to more accurately reflect the impact of new development and the true cost of developing parks and facilities. While a nexus study will be needed to calculate a new rate structure, based on the facilities required to adequately serve Yuba County residents, a new fee could potentially be set as high as \$10,000 per unit. However, considering the impact fees in place for local parks (as high as \$3,000-4,000 in some areas of the County) as well as other political realities, the fee for regional facilities should be adjusted to avoid overburdening new housing development. Package A

assumes a relatively low countywide impact fee of \$2,000 per unit. For Package B \$5,000 per household is recommended, an amount that is still unlikely to cover the full impact of new development. For each package a conservative number of 500 housing permits per year over six years was used in calculations. The impact fee assumptions used in the funding packages are outlined in table 5-4, below.



Table 5-4: Impact Fee Assumptions for Funding Packages

	Per Unit	6-Year Total
Package A	\$2,000	\$6,000,000
Package B	\$5,000	\$15,000,000

Over the six-year planning horizon, accumulated impact fees are expected to be a significant funding source for park development. If impact fees are not increased, the capital portion of the proposed landscape and lighting assessment could be increased. To reach similar totals, the assessment would need to be increase by \$15-\$45 per unit annually.

Any increase in the impact fee is subject to further study and subsequent Board of Supervisors approval. Following the creation of the regional authority, countywide park impact fees should be contributed to regional capital projects implemented by that authority.

Because Yuba County only collects impact fees outside of incorporated cities, part of the regional discussion should concern a fair way for new development within the existing and future incorporated cities to contribute to the development of regional facilities. This could be an addition to the city's impact fees to be passed on for regional projects or some other consideration. Existing and future special assessments with funding for recreation services, such as county service area 66 (Plumas Lake), could potentially become a local contribution toward the regional programming efforts, if the structure of the funding allows this use.

Quimby Funds

The County government is currently collecting Quimby Act in-lieu fees based on five acres of land per thousand population at the time of a new subdivision. The countywide fund for these in-lieu fees has grown to nearly \$3,500,000. A portion of existing and future countywide Quimby funds should be applied to the regional park projects.

Trail Grants

Regional trails are a major emphasis of the federal transportation grant programs and should be a strong source of funding. The County

government should strive to meet the first available grant deadline to initiate this funding method for the regional authority. Yuba County and the regional authority should be able to average almost \$85,000 per year in trail funding.

Open Space Grants

Other grant sources should also be pursued to fund open space acquisition and protection projects. Many programs are prioritizing the preservation of open space for habitat uses, as well as for recreational access. Yuba County sites are well-positioned for open space grants due to the encroaching residential frontier of the Sacramento Metropolitan Area. Additional grant income (beyond the trails projects) can be reasonably expected to bring in over \$300,000 per year.

Park Grants

Grants specifically for traditional park purposes, such as playgrounds, ball fields and restrooms, are also available. Securing these funds is extremely competitive; however, Yuba County can reasonably expect to raise \$50,000 per year to supplement other resources in developing park amenities. This category would also include grants targeted at mining reclamation projects.

Community Development Block Grants

From time to time, CDBG grant money should be made available for park projects that meet community development program guidelines. Over the six-year period, a reasonable amount to plan for is \$100,000.

Donations, In-Kind Services, and Other Funding

The county should actively seek donations—from land to equipment to labor—from area citizens and businesses for the improvement of the park system. This will not only decrease the tax-supported cost of improvements, but will increase the community ownership of the resulting facilities. Other sources of capital funds could include naming rights and sponsorships of specific facilities within regional parks. For certain park sites, oak tree mitigation funds could be used for natural area preservation in oak habitats. The value of this category will vary greatly over time, but should average \$50,000 per year. This could increase significantly if large gifts, such as parcels of land, were made.



Proposition 40 Funding

The county has been allocated a portion of the funds raised by California Proposition 40, of which there are \$1 million remaining. This funding has a fixed deadline and must be applied immediately to capital projects. Due to the short timeline, these funds should be used for a project that both meets regional needs and can be implemented immediately. The recommendation of this plan is to use the Proposition 40 funds for easy to

implement local park investments. By splitting the funding into four equal parts, the community can invest in three water playgrounds in existing parks and to address park needs in the foothill region. These local projects are selected based on adding a new type of facility to the region and supporting regional recreation programming.

Table 5-2, below, summarizes the totals for each proposed funding source.

Table 5-2: Six-Year Total from Proposed Capital Funding Strategy

Funding Source	Package A	Package B
Regional Landscape and Lighting District ¹	\$10,500,000	\$7,000,000
Countywide Park Impact Fees	\$6,000,000	\$15,000,000
Quimby Funds ²	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
Trail Grants	\$500,000	\$500,000
Open Space Grants	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Park Grants	\$400,000	\$400,000
Community Development Block Grants	\$100,000	\$100,000
Donations, In-Kind, and Other	\$300,000	\$300,000
Proposition 40 Grant Funds	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	\$23,800,000	\$29,800,000

1. Bond funds financed using a portion of the L&L income

2. Includes only existing countywide Quimby funds

Local Park Improvement Program

An additional funding mechanism that should be considered, as a component of a regional funding source such as a Landscape and Lighting District, is a program to fund small improvements and general reinvestment in local parks throughout the County. Such a program would take a small portion of the regional district's funding source to fund a local park grant program to fund projects that have long-term viability. The guidelines of the local grant program should emphasize the availability of ongoing maintenance resources (volunteer or funding) and the distribution of projects around the county. This concept should be tested with the community in connection with the regional funding source and is not included in the financing proposals at this time.

5.7 Operations Funding Strategy

Community input about parks and recreation emphasized avoiding the construction of new facilities that cannot be supported in the long term. As noted above, the regional park and recreation authority will be funded primarily by a landscape and lighting district. One of the major advantages of this funding mechanism is its ability to split the resulting funding between capital and operations costs. The operating share of the landscape and lighting assessment is \$25 per parcel per year. This amounts to approximately \$730,000 per year in operating funds. Most of this revenue will go towards the maintenance of facilities. In addition to revenue produced from the landscape and lighting district, revenue could be generated from gate fees at the new regional park and from recreation program classes. The annual estimated revenue and operating costs for years 3-6 is shown in the table below.

Table 5-3: Annual Anticipated Operating Budget –Years 3-6

Function	Package A	Package B
L&L Assessment Revenue	\$580,000	\$870,000
Operating Revenues (program fees, gate fees, etc.)	\$215,000	\$230,000
Total Revenues	\$795,000	\$1,100,000

Function	Package A	Package B
Regional Park Maintenance ¹	\$450,000	\$745,000
Recreation Programs	\$100,000	\$100,000
Administration	\$140,000	\$150,000
Overhead	\$105,000	\$105,000
Total Expenses	\$795,000	\$1,100,000

1. Gross maintenance cost

The operating budget is based on the following assumptions.

- Approximately \$7,000/developed acre in total maintenance cost, averaged over the regional park system.
- Yuba County plan areas will contract with the regional authority to manage and maintain parks. Local parks will be maintained at a level determined by their local funding mechanism.
- Local park maintenance contracts will include some funding for administration of the contract.

- Regional Park Maintenance includes direct costs such as labor and materials or contracting with private parties.
- Recreation Programs will have an overall target of 25% cost recovery for the first two years and 50% after that.

Additional funding can be obtained for operations and recreation programming through strategic partnerships that build on benefits of parks and recreation to health and public safety. Agencies that currently provide, or that are planning, services and classes in the community could become partners to the recreation programming efforts to expand the reach and operational efficiency of their programs. Many health and human service, crime prevention and public safety funding sources include provisions for recreation and educational programming.

5.8 Immediate Implementation Items

There are a number of recommendations in this plan that the government of Yuba County should proceed with immediately. The long-term success of this plan relies on a motivated agency with a regional focus to initiate the formation of a regional park and recreation authority. These immediate actions focus on proving the value a regional authority could provide, the administrative steps to exploring the formation of a regional district and developing the community's understanding of the proposed agency and funding structure.

- Initiate a county-level recreation program by hiring a full time recreation coordinator and providing start-up funding for materials and advertising.
- Develop water playgrounds in three locations, Marysville, Linda and Olivehurst. Responsibility of its development and initial maintenance should be Yuba County but over time, this will become management responsibility of the regional parks authority. Because two of locations will be in park sites owned by other agencies, close coordination and final approval will be needed.
- Allocate a portion (\$250,000) of the funds from Proposition 40 to address capital needs in the foothill region.
- The County should gain formal support from partner agencies' governing bodies for the regional park and recreation authority.
- Create the Regional Park Formation Committee to begin developing support and forming a strategy for public approval.
- The process of creating an independent park district should begin by contacting the Yuba County Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO) about the processes and approvals needed to create such a district.
- The countywide impact fee for parks and recreation should be revised, based on the projects included in the capital improvement plan. The outcome of the nexus study can guide the project and funding strategy.
- Voters should be informed about the benefits of a new park district through a public information campaign.





Appendix A: Park Inventory



Neighborhood Parks:

Neighborhood parks serve a small area and a small population within a densely developed residential area. Neighborhood parks are typically less than five acres in size, although the determining factor is the type of uses for which the park is designed. These parks are intended to provide easy access, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists, to frequently used park and recreation facilities such as playgrounds, turf fields, and sports courts. A neighborhood park can also be a small green oasis in a neighborhood or small community that is intended for enjoying nature more than active use.

Neighborhood parks in Yuba County

Park Name	Size (acres)	Ownership
Friendship Park	22.2	Yuba County
Fernwood Park	7.7	Yuba County
POW/MIA Park	7.8	Yuba County
Purple Heart Park	6.8	Yuba County
Gavin Park	2.8	City Of Marysville
Minor Park	2.6	City Of Marysville
Motor Park	3.3	City Of Marysville
S.J.Field Park	0.8	City Of Marysville
Triplett Park	2.2	City Of Marysville
Veterans Park	2.6	City Of Marysville
Yuba Park	4.2	City Of Marysville
Basin Park	2.1	City Of Marysville
Plaza Park	0.6	City Of Marysville
3rd & D St Mini Park	0.3	City Of Marysville
Washington Square	4.7	City Of Marysville
C Street Park	4.5	City Of Wheatland
Wheatland Ranch	1.5	City Of Wheatland
Park Place Park	1.5	City Of Wheatland
Toddler Park	0.6	City Of Wheatland
Johnson Park	0.8	Olivehurst PUD
Olivehurst Park	2.4	Olivehurst PUD
Plumas Lake Park	4.7	Olivehurst PUD
Plumas Ranch Park	2.2	Olivehurst PUD
Riverside Meadows Park	4.8	Olivehurst PUD
River Park	1.0	Olivehurst PUD
Orchard Glen Park	1.3	Olivehurst PUD
Chestnut Park	0.5	Olivehurst PUD
Prairie Trails Park	0.7	Olivehurst PUD

In addition to the parks listed above, Olivehurst Public Utility District has a number of planned park sites that will be developed as new residential areas in the Plumas Lake area are completed.

Some neighborhood parks are supported through local sources of funding, including special district tax levies, mostly benefiting the population living within walking distance of one of these parks.

Community Parks:

Community parks serve a broad population and wider geographic area. Because they attract a larger number of users from throughout the area, community parks can support a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities. Typically community parks will be ten acres or more in order to accommodate the variety of facilities. Some community parks will be large and extensively developed with various facilities while others will be smaller, providing an appropriate range of facilities for the size of the community they serve.

Community parks in Yuba County

Park Name	Size (acres)	Ownership
Ponderosa Park	37.6	Yuba Feather Community Services
Riverfront Park	232.5	City of Marysville
Ellis Lake	46.9	City of Marysville

Marysville's Riverfront Park is an example of a community park maintained by a local authority. This park contains the majority of the sports fields in Yuba County, which will be inventoried and analyzed in detail in the community needs assessment. Other facilities in Riverfront Park, such as the pavilion, motocross area and the BMX track, draw users from the entire county and beyond. While field maintenance has been supported by independent sports groups, and the motocross operation is self-supporting, the City of Marysville has had a difficult time maintaining the supporting facilities that are part of this large park site.

Day Use Parks:

Day use parks are often medium to large parks, typically larger than ten acres, developed for primarily passive activities such as picnicking and access to nature. These parks will often serve a large geographic area and may even draw from beyond Yuba County. The sole day use park in Yuba County is Hammon Grove Park, which serves as a large group picnic area and as an access point to the Yuba River.

Day use parks in Yuba County

Park Name	Size (acres)	Ownership
Hammon Grove Park	43.6	Yuba County

Special Use Areas:

Special use areas are sites that are occupied by a specialized facility or fulfill a specialized purpose. The sites in this category vary from a highly developed baseball field to a riverfront site with a motocross track. In all cases the primary purpose of the site is to support the specialized facility associated with it.

Special use sites in Yuba County

Park Name	Size (acres)	Ownership
Shad Pad	16.0	Yuba County
Star Bend Boat Ramp	9.2	Yuba County
Bryant Field	42	City of Marysville
Plumas Lake Golf Course	20.3	City of Marysville



Many of the individual sites within Marysville's Riverfront Park could be, on their own, considered special use sites (such as the BMX course and the sports field complex); however, the park as a whole fits better in the community park category.

Open Space:

Open space is land left primarily undeveloped or in its natural form. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar undevelopable spaces, as

well as land intentionally left undeveloped to protect surrounding land uses or manage stormwater. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and may include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. In Yuba County there is a great deal of land that is contained within the National Forest System or is currently used for resource extraction. Forest Service land is managed by the Federal government for recreation use where appropriate. For this reason, National Forest Land will be excluded from the inventory of this planning process.

Several of the governments within Yuba County own land that is kept open or in a natural state for a variety of reasons. Land included in this category may be riverfront or other land that is undeveloped due to flood risk. Other land is kept for stormwater management purposes.

School Facilities

There are five school districts and one community college serving nearly 19,000 students within Yuba County. The school districts include:

- Marysville Joint Unified School District;
- Plumas Lake School District;
- Camptonville School District;
- Wheatland School District; and
- Wheatland High School District.

The facilities operated by these school districts are important public resources. In addition to classrooms, many of these sites have sports fields, gymnasiums, and playgrounds that are the primary source of recreation for many youth.



Public Schools in Yuba County

School Level	School Name
Elementary and K-8 Schools	Arboga Elementary Browns Valley Elementary Camptonville School K-8 Cedar Lane Elementary Cordua Elementary Covilaud Elementary Dobbins Elementary Ella Elementary Kynoch Elem. & Mckenney Intermed. Linda Elementary Lindhurst Elementary Loma Rica Elementary Olivehurst Elementary Rio Del Oro K-8 Wheatland Elementary Yuba Feather Elementary K-8
Middle/Intermediate Schools	Alicia Intermediate Bear River Middle Foothill Intermediate Yuba Gardens Intermediate
High Schools	Lindhurst High Marysville High Wheatland Union High
Charter School	Plumas Lake Charter K-12
College	Yuba College

Most of the elementary schools in Yuba County have basic recreational facilities, usually made up of an informal field or open grass area and a playground. Some of the middle/intermediate schools have small gymnasiums in addition to sports fields. Each of the three high schools has a variety of sports fields and indoor facilities, including gymnasiums and (in the case of Marysville High) a pool.

Yuba College has the most extensive on-site recreation facilities. These include a tennis court complex, full size soccer, baseball and football fields, an Olympic size outdoor swimming pool (currently unfilled/unused), and gymnasium with weight room. While some

of these facilities are actively used, others are unused or in need of maintenance. Yuba College also has a considerable amount of additional land beyond the currently developed campus.

The school districts of Yuba County have at least three sites reserved for future school use. These sites present a significant opportunity to partner with the respective school districts to co-develop or share facilities for recreation.

School facilities will also be considered in the needs assessment that will follow this discussion in the planning process.

Neighboring Cities

The area surrounding Sacramento has expanded rapidly in recent years. Many of the communities are developing their own park and recreation systems that include resources that draw residents of Yuba County. However, none of these communities has as developed a relationship with Yuba County as does Yuba City. Yuba City has a developed park system that includes 12 neighborhood parks, three community parks and three passive parks.

Yuba City also maintains the only recreation department in the area. This department provides:

- Youth sports (basketball, track & field, T-ball, and youth football);
- After-school enrichment programs;
- Adult sports;
- Special classes (for youth, teens, and adults);
- Aquatics (swim lessons, family fun nights, and lifeguard programs);
- Senior services; and
- Special events and trips.



Natural Resources

Yuba County is known for the abundance of natural beauty in its forests, rivers and hills. Portions of the county are within the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests. The Yuba River, the Feather River, and the major and minor tributaries provide excellent salmon habitat and are popular for fishing and drifting. The banks of the Yuba, particularly in the gold field areas, are very attractive for additional recreational uses. The rivers, lakes, and reservoirs also provide boating, swimming, and other water sport opportunities.

Natural areas, such as the Spenceville Wildlife Area (owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Camp Far West, provide hiking, equestrian camping, and hunting opportunities.

Other Resources

To show a complete picture of the recreation resources in the County, it is important to recognize facilities and sites, publicly and privately owned, that add to the recreation opportunities of its citizens. A partial list of these other facilities is provided in the table below.

Other Yuba County Recreation Resources

Facility Name	Use
Sheriff's Posse Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equestrian training and showing
Sleep Train Amphitheater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts
Plumas Lake Golf and Country Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18-hole golf course Event space
Bok Kai Temple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual festival Historic/cultural site
Thousand Trails: Lake of the Springs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RV camping (membership based) Boating Fishing Swimming
Timbuctoo Sporting Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting



Appendix B: Local Park Projects

Local Park Projects

During the course of the Parks Master Plan process, a wide variety of projects were identified. While the emphasis (based on community input and needs) of the Parks Master Plan is regional-level parks and facilities, there are also a number of local park projects that are important to the community. Some of these projects have been discussed in other existing plans; some were new or partially developed ideas from the community; and others are based on observations of the planning team during plan development.


The following list of projects is organized by the identification code used on the Local & Regional Park Projects Maps (Maps B-1 and B-2, providing a county-wide and southwest focused view) and includes the plan recommendations for each project. Park names given to proposed parks are for identification purposes only. Official park names will be decided for these locations as they are developed.





On the Maps, each project is assigned a letter and number code for identification purposes. For example park project 1 is indicated as P1. The numbering begins in the southwest and moves northeast with no implied priority in the park numbering. Park sites identified as RP# are regional projects addressed in the body of the Parks Master Plan.


P1: South Plumas Lake Community Park


This community park is identified in the Plumas Lake Specific Plan Area park master plan and was also identified as an important project during the planning process. This project will be developed by OPUD. For more information about specific plan projects, see the next section.


Proposed Regional Project


Proposed Local Parks


Community Park


Neighborhood Park


Open Space


Day Use Park


Special Use Park


Water Body/Reservoir


Yuba County


Fish and Game Wildlife Area


City, Military Boundary


School Property


Proposed Regional Trails

Highway

Railway

Levee

River, Stream



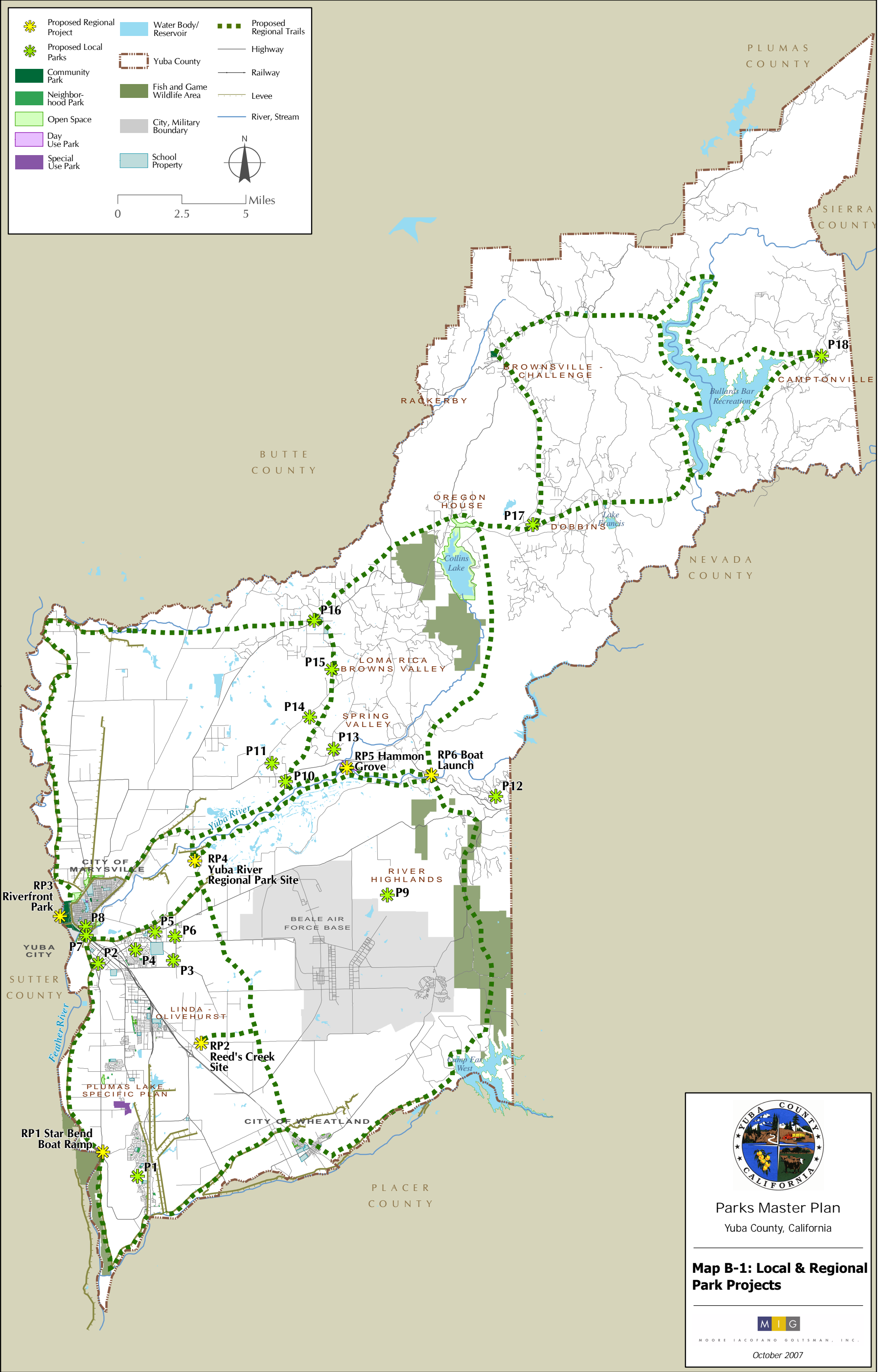
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Parks Master Plan

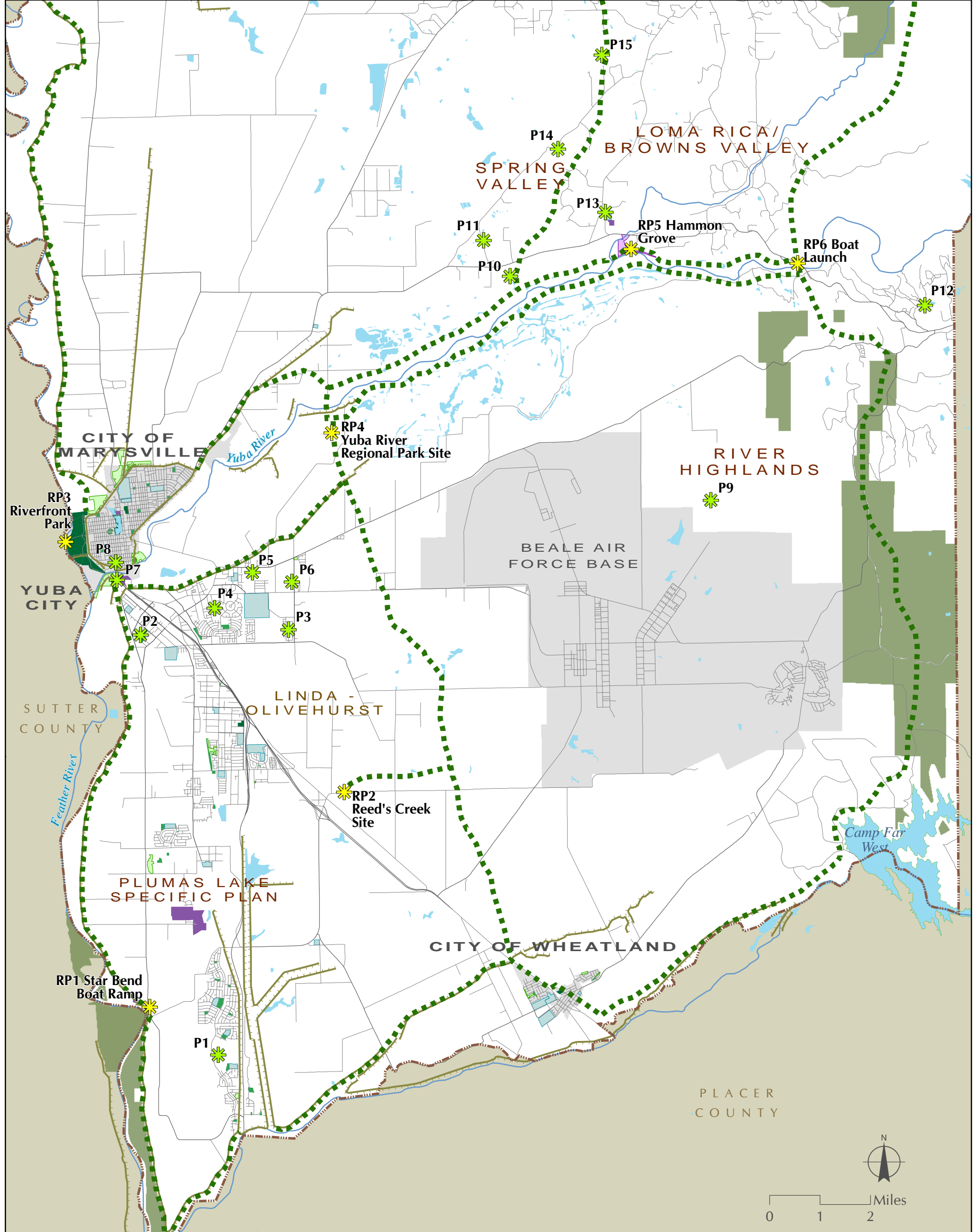
Yuba County, California

Map B-1: Local & Regional Park Projects



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October 2007



Parks Master Plan
Yuba County, California

Map B-2: Southwest
Park Projects

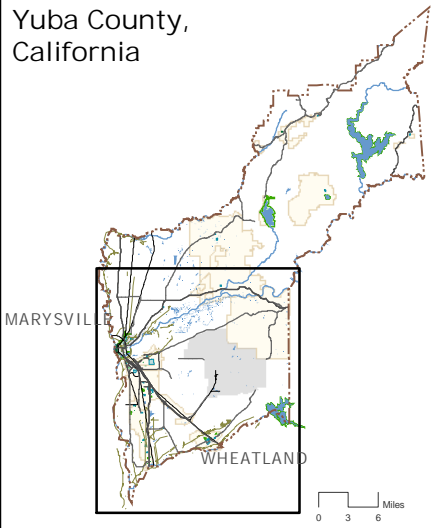


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October 2007

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Regional Parks | School Property | Proposed Regional Trails |
| Local Parks | Yuba County | Highway |
| Community Park | Fish and Game Wildlife Area | Railway |
| Neighborhood Park | City, Military Boundary | Levee |
| Open Space | Special Use Park | River, Stream |
| Day Use Park | | Water Body/Reservoir |

Yuba County,
California



P2: Friendship Park

Friendship Park is in need of a new master plan to guide future redevelopment of the site. This master plan should address access from the west side of the site, redevelopment of the sports fields (if needed in the local area), and the aging trees on the site. The County, as the authority in charge of this site, should also consider a community garden policy to guide the ongoing use of the expansive garden. Improvements to the site should be made only if they can be supported by the maintenance dollars committed by the local community.

P3, P5, P6: East Linda Specific Plan Parks

One community park and two additional neighborhood parks are planned in the East Linda Specific Plan area. For more information about specific plan parks, see the next section.

P4: Fernwood Park

This park site has limited access and visibility, creating a number of problems related to safety and maintenance. At a minimum, the internal trail system should be extended to the west side of the site and a formal entrance to the park developed on Grove Avenue. If possible, additional property should be acquired to provide more street frontage. Redeveloping this site with a mix of improved park uses and new residences facing the park should be considered. Alternately this site could be a good candidate for a property exchange for better park land in the neighborhood, if an appropriate site could be identified. Improvements to the site should be made only if they can be supported by the maintenance dollars committed by the local community.



P7: Shad Pad

This park site is leased to E Street MX, a motocross operation with a developed track on a portion of the property. A waterfront access point should be developed alongside the motocross track. In the long term, the County should consider the best use of this site and evaluate the ongoing viability of motocross use in the floodplain.

P8: Yuba River Greenway

Several potential sites outside of the Marysville levees present opportunities to improve waterfront access and enhance the bank of the Yuba River.

P9: River Highlands Community Park

A new community park will be needed to serve additional housing in the area north and east of Beale Air Force Base. A park to serve this need is included in the River Highlands area plan. For more information about specific plan parks, see the next section.



P10, P11, P14, P15: Spring Valley Plan Parks

One town center park, an equestrian center, and two additional community parks are planned in the Spring Valley Specific Plan area. For more information about specific plan parks, see the next section.

P12: Smartville Community Park

A site should be identified and developed to provide a rural community park in the vicinity of Smartville.

P13: Little League Park

To support increased softball and youth baseball play in the central area of Yuba County, lighting could be enhanced at the Little League Park fields. This site is also in need of a restroom. Along with other facilities, this could be shared with the adjacent school.

P16: Loma Rica Community Park

A site should be identified and developed to provide a community park central to the Loma Rica community.

P17: Dobbins Oregon House Community Park

To meet the need for a rural community park in the foothills communities of Dobbins and Oregon House, a community park site should be acquired and improved in a location that is easily accessible to both communities. The initial size of this site should be determined by the adjacent amenities, such as schools, community halls, etc. but should be a minimum of five acres.

P18: Camptonville Community Park

The Camptonville School is currently the primary community facility in this rural community. The school grounds should be redeveloped to include play areas for multiple age groups and an improved turf field for informal play.

P19: Ponderosa Community Park

This rural community park has been developed in partnership between Yuba Feather Community Services District and Yuba County, with the County providing occasional investments and the Community Services District performing all of the regular maintenance. This park represents a considerable investment in recreation facilities and is the only developed park in this area. The park will require capital funding over the next 10-20 years to begin replacing and upgrading aging facilities.

Local Trails

In addition to the local park projects, many communities are in need of local trail systems to provide opportunities for active transportation and recreation in their local area. These trails should be owned and maintained by local authorities and community groups. To maximize the value of these trails, they should be connected to the regional trail system depicted on the proposed park system maps in this appendix and in Chapter 4 of the Parks Master Plan.



Plan Area Park Projects

Many of the projects identified are included in existing area plans (specific plans, community plans, and area plans) and will be built as per those plans as the residential areas are developed. Overall, the parks included in existing specific plans will meet the local park needs for the area and include some special facilities, such as open space and equestrian facilities.

Table B-1: Park Projects Associated with Specific Plans

Project ID	Specific Plan	Park Type
P5	East Linda SP	Community Park
P3	East Linda SP	Neighborhood Park
P6	East Linda SP	Neighborhood Park
P1	Plumas Lake SP	Community Park
N/A	Plumas Lake SP	Numerous Neighborhood Parks
P9	River Highlands SP	Community Park
P10	Spring Valley SP	Town Center Park
P11	Spring Valley SP	Community Park
P14	Spring Valley SP	Special Facility: Equestrian Center
P15	Spring Valley SP	Community Park

These projects are very significant for the local areas and many will also provide better local park access for existing residences in the rural parts of Yuba County. The funding for these parks projects, both capital and operating, is included in the specific plan. Under the existing management arrangement, Yuba County government would take on the operations and maintenance of the parks developed under specific plans, except for Plumas Lake Specific Plan which is served by the Olivehurst Public Utility District. From the perspective of this plan, park projects included in specific plans are all category three projects, because the funding will be available as the residential development occurs and timing will be dependent on many outside factors.

Introduction

This Master Plan appendix includes a set of general park design and development guidelines for the Yuba County park system. This appendix establishes design and development guidelines for all park classifications:

- Local Parks;
- Regional Parks;
- Regional Trails; and
- Open Spaces.

Park design guidelines for specific classifications provide information regarding recommended size, layout, amenities, facilities, and other park planning and development concerns.

It should be noted that every site and part of the County is unique, and that these guidelines are not intended to override specific site concerns or opportunities. In some cases, exceptions that address community preferences or site issues may take precedence if consistent with park function and the goals of the Master Plan.

General Design and Development Guidelines

Each park within the County should be designed in a context-specific manner and in ways that enhance connections between community members and their environment. All parks in Yuba County should be designed to:

- Engage community members of all ages in meaningful participation in the park planning and design process;
- Respond to local conditions, including topography and site context;
- Reflect specific uses and activities that help define the park and create an identity;
- Involve maintenance and program staff in the design process so that maintenance and programming requirements are considered during the master planning and design processes; and
- Encourage the use of environmentally sustainable park development practices, materials, and green building techniques,



including those that minimize surface runoff and provide habitat for native species.

Amenities

- Provide Standard Yuba County park signage, and appropriate sign furnishings (e.g. picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles), for the intended park use in all parks.
- Evaluate the use of turf versus other landscape types when designing new parks or renovating existing ones to efficiently use maintenance resources.
- Preserve and enhance the area’s characteristic landscape by emphasizing native tree and plant species.
- Emphasize drought-tolerant species in landscape plans.
- Blend landscaping with the existing native vegetation both ecologically and visually. Non-native trees and plants, fully adaptable to the area’s environmental conditions, may be provided when they add visual compatibility and beauty, and avert losses caused by overdependence on one species.
- Integrate “placemaking” elements, including water, art or appropriate historic landscape features that reflect local culture and history, into parks.
- Locate park amenities which will generate noise or light in context-sensitive locations. For example, locate fields and courts away from neighboring homes.
- Consider lighting and coverings, such as shade structures, to extend the use of outdoor facilities such as picnic areas and children’s play areas.
- Design lighting systems and select fixtures to minimize light pollution.
- Locate permanent restrooms in highly visible areas with high visitation in order to reduce the risk of vandalism.
- Locate park amenities such as playground equipment, skate parks, and basketball courts proximate to adjacent streets in order to improve visibility, promote use, and enhance user safety.



Accessibility and Circulation

- Connect parks to schools, neighborhoods and other public amenities through system of sidewalks, bikeways, streets, and off-street trails.
- Design parks using universal access principles to facilitate use by people of all ages and abilities.
- Provide adequate parking for intended uses, including parking for major facilities and special events.

Safety

- Design parks to enhance safety of both park users and the surrounding community.
- Where ever possible, create sightlines from existing or future residential properties to the park, increasing the number of eyes on the park.
- Collaborate with local law enforcement during the design process to identify features that can simplify patrol of park sites.
- Consider lighting in parks as a means of increasing safety.

Maintenance

- Account for maintenance requirements in the design of parks and the selection of amenities, or develop a maintenance plan as part of the design process, including identifying maintenance costs and funding sources.
- Balance maintenance impact with creative park design.
- Incorporate maintenance efficient technologies, such as computer-controlled irrigation and locks, into park designs.

Guidelines for Specific Park Classifications

The following guidelines for specific park classifications reflect the Department's commitment to providing a diversified and well-designed park system. The guidelines include:

- *Definition:* A definition of the park classification.
- *Size:* Typical park size
- *Site Selection:* Criteria, including location, site size, and access, to consider when selecting sites for park development.
- *Amenities to Provide:* Elements which should be provided in every park within this classification.
- *Amenities to Consider:* Elements which should be considered during the master planning and design process.
- *Amenities to Avoid:* Elements not compatible with the park classification.

Local Parks

Definition

Local parks provide nearby residents with access to basic active and passive recreation opportunities. These parks should be designed to enhance neighborhood identity, preserve community open space and improve the quality of life of nearby residents. They can be designed to accommodate medium sized group activities, including sports facilities.

Typical local park users:

- Come from within 1 ½ miles of the park.
- Arrive by auto, bus, bicycle or foot.
- Visit the park for one to three hours.

Size

- 2 to 15 acres

Site Selection

- Site should be a minimum of two acres and can be as large as fifteen acres or more in size.
- At least 50% of the site should be relatively level and usable.
- Site should have at least 200 feet of public street frontage.
- Access for smaller sized sites should be provided via a local street with sidewalks, not an arterial, and by non-motorized trails; and the walking or bicycling distance should not exceed one-half mile for the park service area.



- Access to larger sized sites should be provided via a collector or arterial street with sidewalks and bicycle lanes, and a bus or transit stop nearby.
- If residential uses abut the site, additional access points of at least 25 feet in width should be provided from the neighborhood.
- Site should be reasonably central to the community it is intended to serve.

Amenities to Provide

- Appropriate site furnishings, including drinking fountains and bicycle storage
- Open turf area for unstructured play
- General landscape improvements (including tree plantings)
- Playground equipment or comparable structure
- Accessible pathway connecting park elements

Amenities to Consider

- Looped pathway system
- Designated sports fields for baseball, soccer or softball (consider potential future field lighting in locating sports fields).
- Designated sports courts for basketball, volleyball or tennis
- Special recreation areas for horseshoe, lawn bowling, croquet or bocce
- Picnic shelters (including one capable of accommodating groups of 25-30 in larger local parks) and barbecues
- Skate features
- Sprayground
- Off-leash dog area
- Community gardens
- Interpretive signage
- Natural area/greenspace
- Permanent or portable restrooms
- Public art
- Tot and youth playground equipment
- On- or off-street parking, approximately 5 spaces per acre of developed areas or 50 spaces per scheduled field that is included in park design

Amenities to Avoid

- Regional-scale specialty facilities, sports complexes and other unique regional amenities
- Signature facilities

Regional Parks

Definition

Regional parks are planned to provide access to unique features that appeal to residents from throughout the County and beyond. These parks can accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support camping, special events, and festivals. Regional parks enhance the economic vitality and identity of the region. In some cases, these parks provide community park facilities for residents residing in smaller towns or unincorporated areas.

Typical regional park users:

- Come from throughout Yuba County and region, with a smaller number coming from other portions of the state and beyond.
- Arrive by auto, bus, bicycle or foot.
- Visit the park for one hour to more than four hours.

Size

- 25 to 100+ acres

Site Selection

- Site size should be a minimum of 25 acres in size and should be sufficient to accommodate the site's unique features or amenities.
- Access to site should be provided by a collector or arterial street.
- Site should be acquired based on its capacity to provide access to unique features such as rivers or reservoirs.

Amenities to Provide

- Appropriate site furnishings, including benches and bicycle storage
- General landscape improvements (including tree planting)
- Permanent restrooms
- On- or off-street parking to accommodate the planned use of the site (if scheduled fields are provided, consider 50 spaces per field)
- Multi-use and pedestrian trail (maybe be looped pathway system)
- Natural areas/greenspace
- Picnic areas (may include shelters and be able to accommodate 100+ people)

Amenities to Consider

- Community gathering and event space
- Expanded utility and electrical service to support community events
- Concessions, vendor space, and commercial lease space (may be food service)
- Storage or maintenance buildings (if visible they should be architecturally compatible with other park elements or screened from view if they are exterior work areas)
- Water features
- Public art
- Signature or unique special facilities
- Tot and youth playground equipment
- Boat ramps (if near water source)
- Fishing areas
- Camping facilities
- Dog parks
- Designated sports fields for baseball, soccer and/or softball (may include lighting)
- Designated sports courts for volleyball, tennis and/or basketball (full or half court)
- Other sporting facilities (horseshoe pit, disc golf, lawn bowling, croquet, bocce etc.)
- Open turf for unstructured play



Amenities to Avoid

- Ornamental landscaping and heavily landscaped areas

Regional Trails (including trailheads)

Definition

Trails can be designed for single or multiple types of users. The regional trails in the Yuba County Parks Master Plan are recreational and single-to multiple-use in nature. Sidewalks and on-street bike routes which emphasize transportation are not addressed in this plan.

Typical regional trail users:

- Come from throughout Yuba County and region, with a smaller number coming from other portions of the state and beyond.
- Arrive by auto, bus, bicycle or foot.
- Visit the trail for one hour to more than four hours.

Size

- 2 ft to 6ft for single use trails
- 8 ft to 14 ft for multiple use trails

Site Selection

- Wherever possible, trails should be placed on existing public lands, e.g., parks, undeveloped rights-of-way, easements, etc.
- Trail alignments should take into account soil conditions, steep slopes, surface drainage and other physical limitations.
- Routes should be located for construction and maintenance cost efficiency, while taking into account the need to provide a quality experience for the trail user.
- Multi-use trails should be located on existing former roadways, circulation networks or in previously developed areas whenever feasible.
- Trailheads should be located near public transportation stops.

Amenities to Provide

- Trails should be designed with grades ranging from flat to steep to provide trail users with a variety of challenges and access.
- Trails should be developed in compliance with ADAAG guidelines on trail accessibility, unless the trail is specifically designed to provide users with challenges.
- Trails should be planned, sized, and designed for non-motorized multiple uses, except for dedicated nature trails, and/or areas that cannot be developed to the standard necessary to minimize potential user conflicts.
- Trails should be developed throughout the community to provide linkages to schools, parks and other destination points.
- Consider trail surface based on trail's intended use. Soft (permeable) trails include soil, crushed rock, sand, mulch and rubber-based paving. Hardened surfaces include asphalt (permeable or impermeable), concrete, crushed rock or soil stabilized with resin products or cement, and open or solid masonry such as brick, "turf-block" or other cast concrete products. Other hard surfaces include boardwalks, bridges, steel grates or plates.
- Surfaces should be designed to encourage users to stay on trails, avoid erosion, and to maintain soil cover over tree and other plant roots.
- Trailheads should have secure bicycle parking and trash receptacles.
- Wayfinding kiosks, with orientation and interpretive information at trailheads.



Amenities to Consider

- Trail location, connections and orientation should encourage users to walk or bicycle to the trail.
- Depending upon the expected and desired level of use, parking may be required at particular trailheads. Secondary trailheads require 3+ parking spaces, whereas primary trailheads may have 20 or more parking spaces. A percentage of parking spaces should be reserved for persons with disabilities.
- Trails should be looped and interconnected when possible to provide a variety of trail lengths and destinations. They should link various parts of the community, as well as existing park sites.
- Where feasible and appropriate, a planted or constructed buffer should separate trails from roadways.
- While off-street routes are preferable, in some cases trails may be routed on existing streets. In these cases, the pathway should be designed to minimize potential conflicts between motorists and trail users.
- Developers should be encouraged to provide pathways through proposed developments, where such improvements would provide needed linkages between planned trail routes and other public destinations.
- Standard trail signs with information regarding trail conditions and degrees of difficulty.
- Access to drinking water at trailheads.
- Benches or other places to sit at trailheads with thought to locating them near scenic viewpoints or overlooks.

Amenities to Avoid

- Wherever appropriate, recreation trails should not be part of a street roadway.

Open Spaces

Definition

Open spaces are permanent, undeveloped natural or green spaces which are managed for both their natural value as well as for recreational use. They contain natural spaces that are managed for conservation, environmental education and nature-based, unstructured, low-impact recreational opportunities such as walking and nature viewing. Open

spaces can vary in size from small to very large and may include wetlands, wildlife habitats, or stream corridors. These parks may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as unique or endangered plant and animal species.

Typical open space users:

- Come from throughout the County.
- Arrive by auto, bus, bicycle or foot.
- Visit the park for one or more hours.

Size

- Varies

Site Selection

- Site size should be based on natural resource needs, with acreage based on area needed to preserve or protect the resource.

Amenities to Provide

- Interpretive signage
- Appropriate site furnishings
- On- and off-street parking, the amount dependent on facilities provided in the open space

Amenities to consider

- Shelters
- Picnic areas
- Trail or pathway system with trailhead and/or kiosk
- Viewpoints or viewing blinds
- Seasonal or permanent restrooms
- Indoor or outdoor interpretive or educational facilities
- Amenities should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining its resource value, natural character, and the intended level of solitude
- Restoration of the natural resource values of the site

Amenities to Avoid

- Turf area
- Ornamental plantings
- Active use facilities (sports fields, paved courts, etc.)





Appendix D: Funding Sources

Potential Funding Sources

This appendix provides a wide variety of funding options that have been discussed in the course of the planning process. Chapter 5 of the Parks Master Plan provides several approaches for meeting the financial needs of the recommended park system. The approaches presented in the plan represent the most likely and politically viable funding options at this time. However, over the course of implementing the plan other funding possibilities could be explored.



General Fund: This is the County's primary source for operating revenue and comes primarily from taxes. Since park and recreation services must compete with other County operations for these funds, this source can change from year to year.

Park and Recreation Impact Fees: This is a fee paid by developers for the impact of their residential project on the existing park system. The money received can be used for the acquisition and development of parks, open space, trails and other recreational facilities. The current fees for park and recreation impacts vary greatly between specific plan areas and the rest of the county. The County government is responsible for collecting impact fees for all unincorporated areas of the county. Within incorporated cities, the local government is the sole authority authorized to collect impact fees.

Mitigation Fees: Governments can impose fees to mitigate other impacts of development or improvement of property. One example in Yuba County is the Oak Tree Mitigation Fund. This money is reserved for the preservation or enhancement of native oak habitat areas and is funded by a mitigation fee for removal of oaks on other property. The fee is based on the size of the trees removed.

Landscaping and Lighting Act: This funding mechanism permits a public agency to assess housing units or land parcels for a variety of services. The assessment revenues can be used for park land acquisition, development and/or maintenance. The agency can choose to use the revenue generated on a pay-as-you-go basis or can sell bonds in order to receive a lump sum amount. The bonds are then paid back from the annual revenue generated from the assessment. Establishment of a district or revision to an assessment district requires a simple majority vote of property owners. Because establishing a landscape and lighting district requires only a simple majority vote, it has become more popular than seeking approval of a general obligation bond.

County Service Areas (CSAs): Special districts called County Service Areas can be formed for a wide variety of purposes including parks; these assessment districts collect a fixed fee. A CSA is initiated by a petition of registered voters or by adoption of a resolution at the county level. Once proposed, the formation of the CSA will be subject to public notice and a public hearing. If more than 50% of registered voters or landowners protest, the CSA may need to be subject to voter approval at a special election. When a CSA exists, the property owner will pay taxes and fees to the CSA instead of the county for the services provided. These will be billed as line items on the county property tax bill. The taxes may take a variety of forms: •

- General property taxes may be levied depending upon Prop. 13 constraints. These taxes, referred to as “ad valorem taxes,” are based on assessed value. •
- Special taxes may be levied for specific purposes. These taxes must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of CSA residents. •
- Benefit assessments may be levied for specific purposes and are based on the direct benefit each parcel receives from the improvements or services financed. These charges are subject to annual approval at a public hearing.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds: Grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are available for a wide variety of projects. These funds are mainly used for projects and programs in the lower income areas of the community. Yuba County has made use of CDBG funds for park projects in the past, and could continue to do so where these projects meet program goals.

General Obligation Bond: These are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The money can only be used for capital improvements but not maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Passage requires a two-thirds majority approval by the voters. Major disadvantages of this funding option are the high approval requirement and the high interest costs.

Revenue Bonds: These bonds are sold and paid from the revenue produced from the operation of a facility. These bonds are a good fit for improvements that will eventually involve user fees, such as community centers, swimming pools and some types of regional parks.

Donations: The donations of labor, land, or cash by service agencies, private groups or individuals are a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. Such service agencies as Lions and Rotary often fund small projects such as playground improvements.

Exchange or Sale of Property: If the County has an excess piece of property with some development value it could be traded for a private piece of property more suitable for park use.

Joint Public/Private Partnership: This concept has become increasingly popular for park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is for a public agency to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build, and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives that a public agency can offer is free land to place a facility (usually a park or other piece of public land), certain tax advantages and access to the facility. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost.

Exactions: Costs of necessary public improvements that are passed on to the adjacent landowners.

Public Land Trusts: Private land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy can acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a public agency.

Government Grant Programs: There are a number of government grant programs for park and recreation projects. Key programs are:

- a. **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU):** Originally called The *Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act* (ISTEA), this federal program has funded a wide variety of transportation-related projects. Funding is passed through the states. In 2005 the latest version of this legislation was authorized as SAFETEA-LU for the 5-year period of 2005-2009. Over the years, California has received considerable revenue for trail-related projects from these funds. In terms of recreation, the program primarily funds landscape and amenity improvements related to trail and transportation projects. The money can be used for both maintenance and capital construction, and is primarily focused on regional systems and not local neighborhood trails.
- b. **Land and Water Conservation Funds:** This grant program is funded by the National Park Service and administered by California State Parks. In the past this was one of the major sources of grant money for local agencies. In the 1990s, funding at the federal level was severely cut, but in recent times more money has become available. The funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities and requires a 50% match.
- c. **Urban Forestry Grants:** There are several grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. One is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides grants to

purchase and plant trees. This program sometimes funds urban street tree planting programs.

- d. **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW):** USFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation, and enhancements to water crossings.
- e. **California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):** CDFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation, and enhancements to water crossings.
- f. **State Bicycle Funds:** This is revenue from state gas taxes that is distributed to California cities for the development of bicycle lanes. This can be a good funding source for developing bicycle lanes and off street bicycle trails.
- g. **Recreation Trails Program:** This is a grant program funded through the California Parks and Recreation Department. Projects eligible under this program include 1) maintenance and restoration of existing trails, 2) development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities, 3) construction of new recreation trails, and 4) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property. Grants are distributed on an annual basis and require a 20% match.
- h. **Statewide Park Bond (Proposition 40):** In recent years, California has passed two statewide bond measures for funding parks and open space projects. The funding program has several elements including a grant based on a per capita allocation, a matching grant and several competitive grant programs.

Private Grants and Foundations: Grants and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects. They are sometimes difficult to find and equally difficult to secure because of the open competition. They usually fund unique projects or ones of extreme need.

