



FEBRUARY 2008 | DRAFT



YUBA COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN: APPENDICES

YUBA COUNTY



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

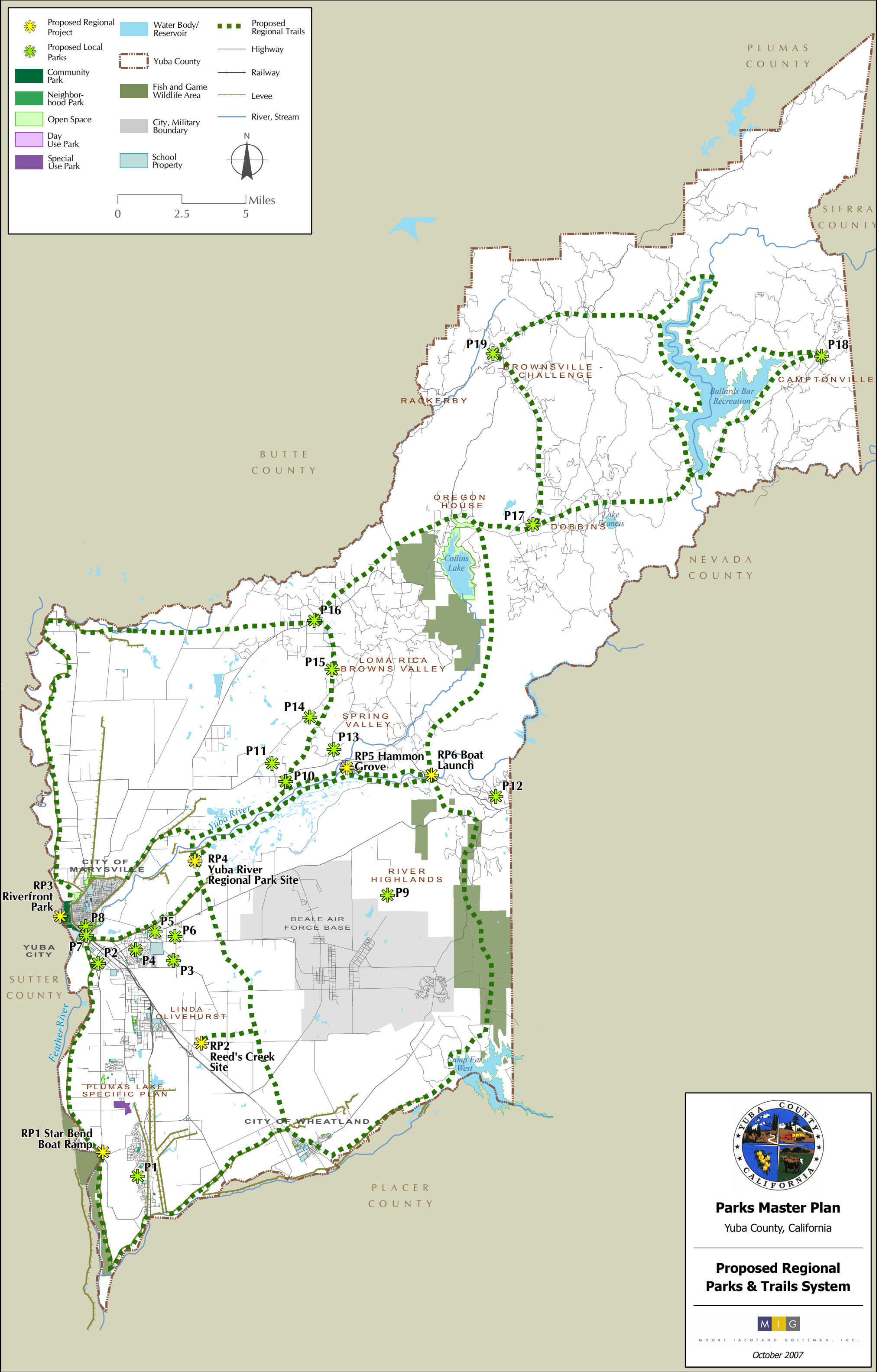


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Parks Master Plan

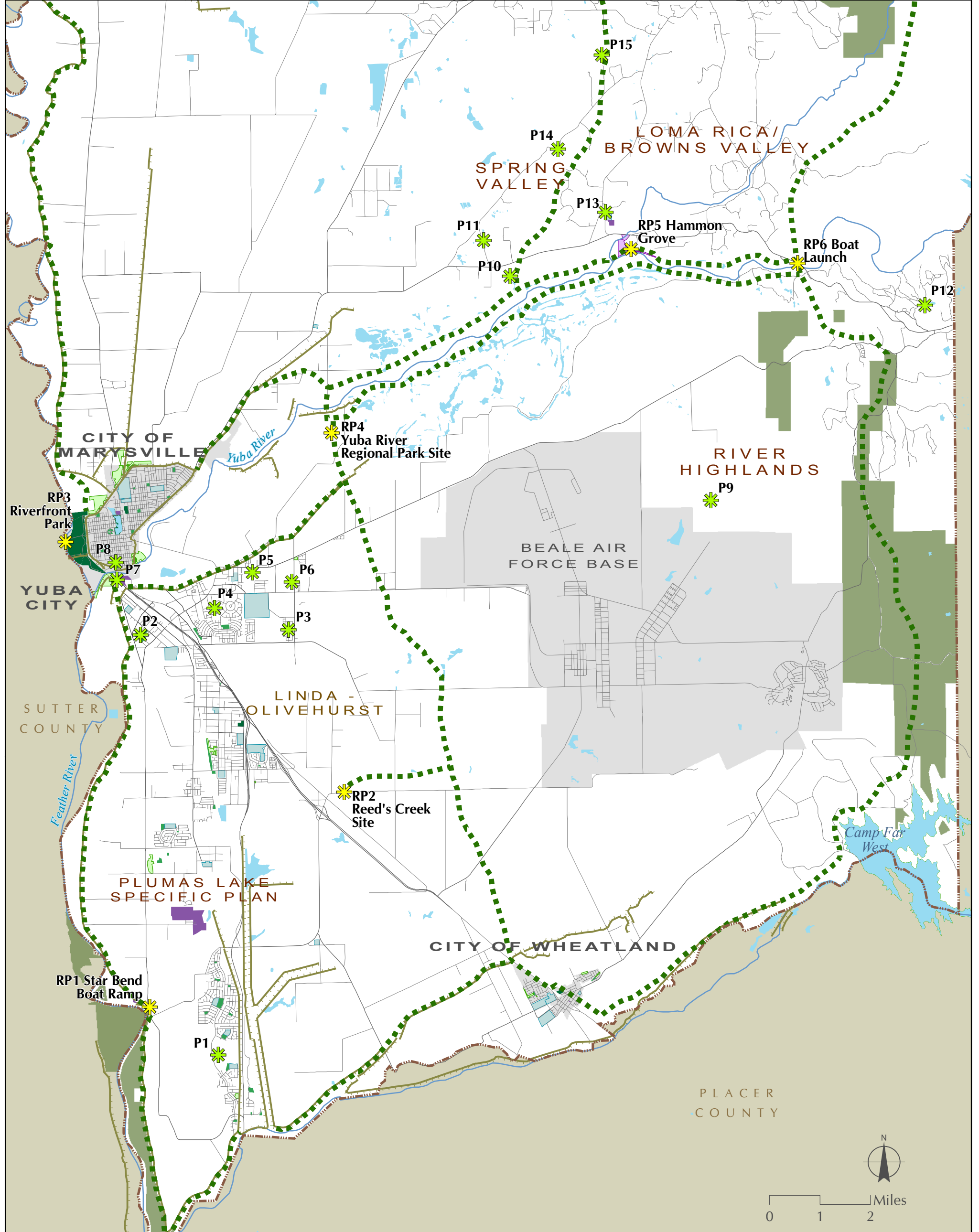
Yuba County, California

Proposed Regional Parks & Trails System



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








Parks Master Plan
Yuba County, California

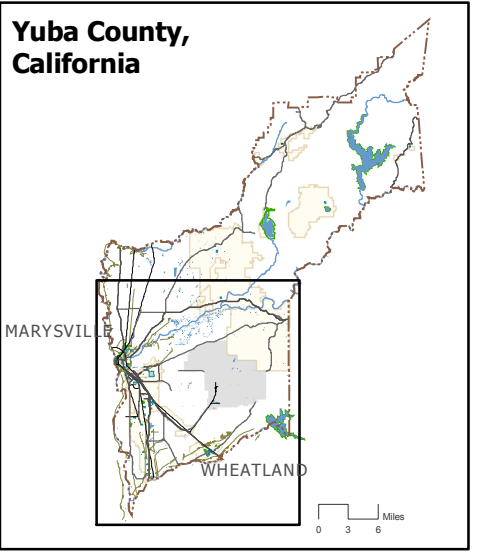
Map B-2: Southwest Park Projects



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|---|---|--|
|  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 |



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.

