

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN VOLUME I

JANUARY 2022



VOLUME I

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Placer County

Parks & Trails Master Plan

January 2022

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Jim Holmes, District 3 Supervisor
Suzanne Jones, District 4 Supervisor
Cindy Gustafson, District 5 Supervisor

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James Ricker, District 5 – Colfax
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Bryan Hacker, Management Analyst
Matt Levesque, Management Analyst

Municipal Advisory Councils (MAC)

District 1

West Placer MAC

District 2

Rural Lincoln MAC
Sheridan MAC

District 3

Horseshoe Bar-Penryn MAC
Newcastle Ophir MAC
North Auburn MAC

District 4

Granite Bay MAC

District 5

Donner Summit MAC
Foresthill Forum
Meadow Vista MAC
North Auburn MAC
North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council
Olympic Valley MAC
Weimar/Applegate/Colfax MAC

Focus Group Organizations

(The following organizations participated in Focus Group meeting or follow-up conversations. Additional organizations may have been invited but were not able to participate.)

Valley

Auburn Area Recreation & Parks District
Auburn Trail Alliance
California Conservation of Trails
California State Parks
City of Colfax
City of Lincoln
City of Rocklin
City of Roseville
Coalition for Placer Youth
Eureka Union School District
Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition
Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
Gold Country Trails Council
Granite Bay FC
Granite Bay Youth Lacrosse
Loomis Basin Horseman's Association
Loomis Youth Soccer Club
Meadow Vista Trails Association
Mother Lode Trails
Newcastle Elementary School District
North Fork American River Alliance
Placer County Health and Human Services

Placer County Office of Education
Placer County Resource Conservation District
Placer County Transportation Planning Agency
Placer County Visitor's Bureau
Placer Land Trust
Placer Land Trust
Placer Nature Center
Placer Valley Tourism
Rocklin Unified School District
SACOG Bikeway Partnership
Sierra Foothills Audubon
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Town of Loomis
US Bureau of Reclamation
USDA Forest Service, Foresthill Ranger District
USDA Forest Service, Nevada City District
Western States Trails Foundation: Auburn Area

Tahoe Region

California Off-Road Vehicle Association
Lake Tahoe West Project
North Lake Tahoe Resort Association
North Tahoe Public Utilities District
Northstar Community Services District
Olympic Valley Pickleballers
Olympic Valley Public Service District
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Sugar Bowl Ski Corporation/Royal Gorge
Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association
Tahoe Backcountry Alliance
Tahoe City Downtown Association
Tahoe City Public Utility District
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Tahoe Rim Trail Association
Tahoe Water Trail
Truckee Donner Land Trust
Truckee Donner Public Utility District
Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District
Truckee Trails Foundation
USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest

Consultant Team

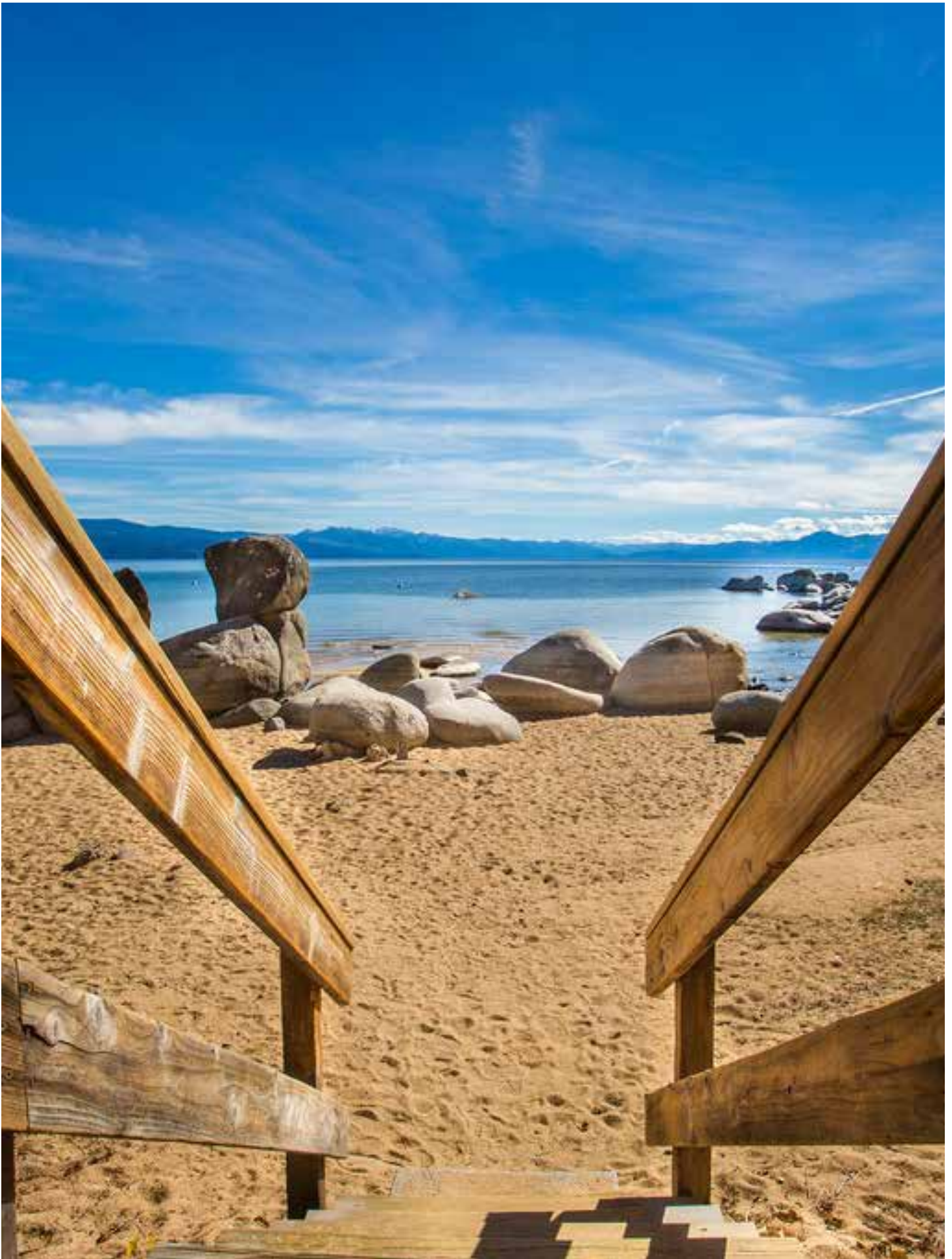
Design Workshop
PROS Consulting
Stantec
Smith + Jones
Goodwin Consulting

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AARPD	Auburn Area Parks and Recreation District	NTPUD	North Tahoe Public Utility District
ACS	American Community Survey	OHV	Off-highway vehicle
ADA	American with Disabilities Act	PAC	Physical Activity Council
ASRA	Auburn State Recreation Area	PC	Placer County
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	PCCP	Placer County Conservation Plan
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation	PCGC	Placer County Government Center
BOS	Board of Supervisors	PVPRD	Placer Vineyards Park and Recreation District
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation	PCT	Pacific Crest Trail
CAPRA	Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies	RDA	Redevelopment Agency
CFD	Community Finance District	SCORP	California Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan	SPOA	Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California
CSP	California State Parks	TCPUD	Tahoe City Public Utility District
CTC	California Tahoe Conservancy	TDLT	Truckee Donner Land Trust
DOF	Department of Finance	TOT	Transient occupancy tax
FLSRA	Folsom Lake State Recreation Area	TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
FTE	Full-time Equivalent Staff	TRT	Tahoe Rim Trail
HOA	Homeowners Association	UPR	Union Pacific Railroad
LOS	Level of Service	USFS	United States Forest Service
MAC	Municipal Advisory Council	VSVSP	Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan (now known as Palisades Tahoe)
MPI	Market Potential Index	WST	Western States Trail
MVT	Martis Valley Trail		
NCSD	Northstar Community Service District		
NGO	Non-governmental organization		
NPWMA	Nevada-Placer Weed Management Area		
NRPA	National Recreation Parks Association		



INTRODUCTION | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



PLAN PURPOSE

The Parks and Trails Master Plan (Master Plan) is Placer County's first plan to comprehensively address parks and trails at a countywide level. This plan will shape the future of recreation in Placer County, directing strategies and investments over a 20 year planning horizon that aligns with the pace of development and growth of the general fund as county population increases. It provides a framework for decision-making and guidance to the Department of Parks and Open Space (Department) to ensure the County's parks, trails, and open spaces reflect community values and vision, meet the needs of a growing population, and enhance residents' and visitor's quality of life.

The Master Plan addresses the following questions in regards to parks, trails and open spaces in Placer County:

- What does the County provide today and how is it supported?
- What do Placer County residents and visitors want and need to meet future demands?
- What are the County's park, trails, and open space needs in the next decade and beyond, based on community and stakeholder input, industry best practices, benchmarks, trends, and demographic projections?
- What goals and strategies are recommended to meet those needs?
- What are the operational and funding

needs and recommendations?

- How should the County prioritize capital project recommendations?
- What are the policy implications?

A key element addressed in the Master Plan is the need for flexibility and context sensitivity. Placer County stretches from the Sacramento Valley floor west through the foothills and east across the mountains of the Sierra Nevada to Lake Tahoe and the Nevada state line, almost 90 miles wide as measured from the southwestern corner near Roseville to the northeastern corner north of Kings Beach. Not only does this wide geographic area create variety in landscape and ecological systems, but it also forms distinct community areas where residents have varying values, uses and needs for parks, trails, and open space.

Previously, the County's public parks and trails elements have only been addressed at a countywide level as part of the County's General Plan. This has limited the County's ability to respond to changing trends and opportunities in a timely manner. This standalone document will allow the County to adjust and update the Parks and Trails Master Plan more regularly and with greater ease. Additionally, it allows residents and decision-makers to focus specifically on parks, trails, and open space needs as part of the planning process and align those needs with current standards, funding and operational considerations.

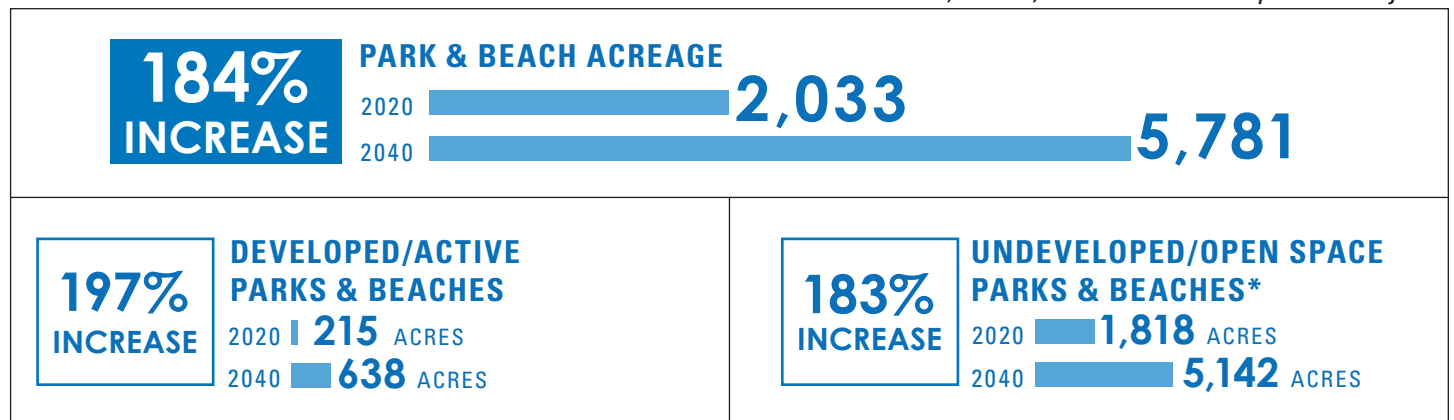
THE FUTURE OF PLACER COUNTY'S PARKS & TRAILS

The vision for Placer County's park, open space, and trail systems is one in which residents and visitors are connected to nature and have the opportunity to create memorable experiences in Placer County's outdoor spaces, from the lake shores of Tahoe to the valley floor hills in West Placer.

This Master Plan provides the blueprint for the County to grow and adapt its parks, open space, and trails system to meet the varied needs of its communities. The growth in park acreage

and trail mileage shown on the following page is calculated using the acres of park and miles of trails provided by Placer County in 2020 and comparing it to the projected quantity of facilities based on the Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects described in this plan as well as the estimated quantity of facilities projected to be provided by development projects in the established time frames.

PARKS & BEACHES INVENTORY GROWTH BY 2040 *Tier 1, Tier 2, & Private Development Projects*



**Only includes open space parks. Does not include other property requiring vegetation management (i.e. former Redevelopment Agency properties)*

PARKS & BEACHES | DEVELOPED/ACTIVE: Parks or beaches that are well-developed and include several facilities to support various programs such as playgrounds, fields, or picnic areas.

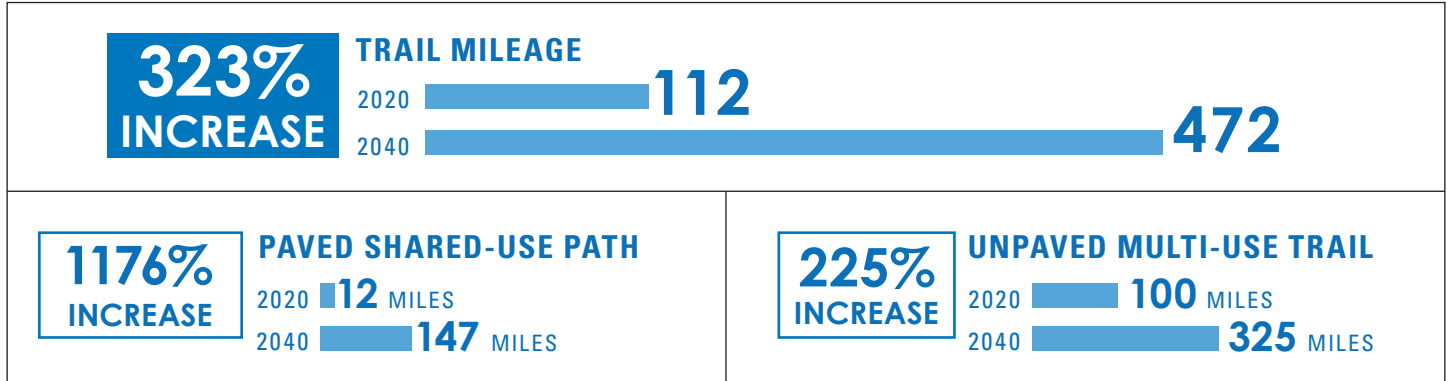
PARKS & BEACHES | UNDEVELOPED/OPEN SPACE: Parks or beaches that are undeveloped and are limited to minimal facilities such as restrooms, parking and signage.



INTRODUCTION | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TRAIL INVENTORY GROWTH BY 2040

Tier 1, Tier 2, & Private Development Projects

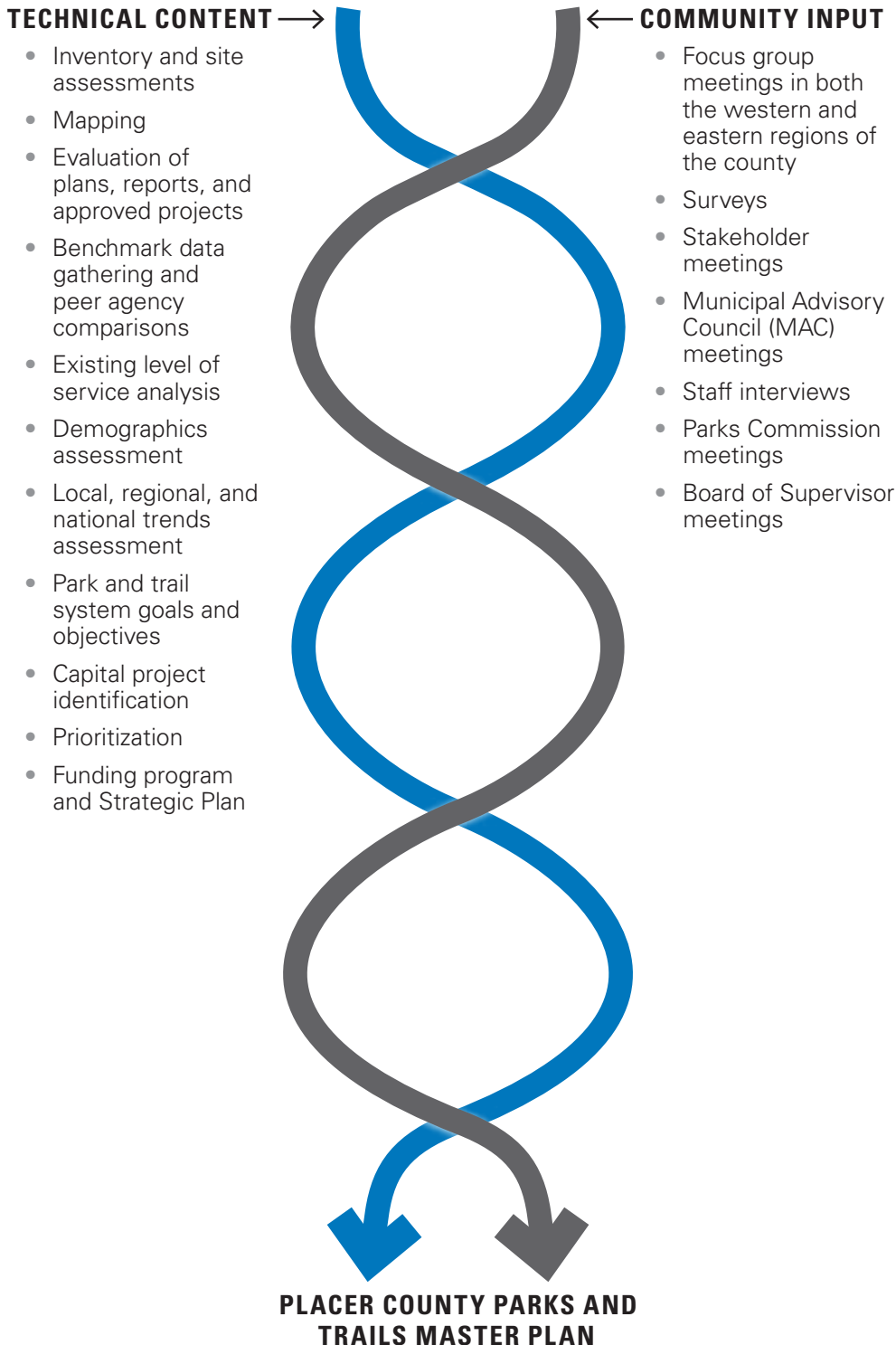


Note:

The Master Plan researched 2017 and 2018 demographic data which was summarized in a 2019 draft document. Final revisions and approval of the plan by the County was postponed during 2019 and 2021 while the environmental review of Hidden Falls Regional Parks Trails Expansion Project was completed. The Master Plan was finalized in 2022 and reflects changes from the outcomes of projects completed during 2019 through 2021. Demographic data was used as one of many reference points for recommendations in the Master Plan. Although there have been changes in demographics while the project was on hold, it was determined the changes did not significantly impact the Master Plan's recommendations. Therefore, throughout the document, demographic data and growth rates use existing and projected demographic data gathered in 2017 and 2018. Future updates of the Master Plan should utilize current numbers and projections.

PROCESS

A collaborative process was used to integrate the development of technical content with the input of parks and trails users, stakeholders, decision-makers and interested community members. Findings from professional assessments and analyses were tested and confirmed with residents and stakeholders guided the focus of additional research and critical questions for the plan to address. The result is a set of principles, recommendations, and strategies grounded in best practices that also reflects the local perspectives of Placer County's communities.



FINDINGS

Assessments, analysis, and community input revealed both strengths and challenges of Placer County's parks and trails system. Survey results and conversations with stakeholders through a series of focus group meetings, one-on-one meetings, and MAC meetings distilled the analysis into a set of key needs. Capital projects, initiatives, and recommendations reflect findings from the needs assessment while recognizing the correlated funding and operational requirements. Items listed below do not indicate priority or significance.

STRENGTHS

- Parks are fairly well distributed throughout the county and provide a variety of opportunities to connect with the outdoors
- Efficiencies gained from partnerships and joint-use agreements with government and non-governmental organizations and stakeholder groups
- Active citizenry who value parks, open space, and trails
- Placer County Conservation Plan and the resulting open space areas and opportunities for trail connectivity
- County rights-of-way offer trail connection opportunities
- Significant trail projects are in design and implementation stages
- Hidden Falls Regional Park and the trails and beaches in the Lake Tahoe region are some of the County's signature recreation resources

CHALLENGES

- Deferred maintenance
- Lack of wayfinding and user recognition of the role Placer County's parks and trails play in providing access to the outdoors
- Parking and access to Lake Tahoe beaches, Hidden Falls Regional Park, and trails and winter play areas in Eastern Placer County
- Smaller parks reduce maintenance efficiency
- Park needs and desires vary throughout the county
- No central location for trail mapping
- I-80 and the railroad create barriers to trail connectivity, especially for the Dry Creek Greenway and cross-Sierra trails

NEEDS

- Connected and convenient paved and unpaved trail systems
- Branding, wayfinding, and mapping
- Sports fields to serve the Loomis Basin/Granite Bay area
- Flexibility in County standards
- Shaded walking loops and paths
- Volunteer program
- Staffing and funding support to address deferred maintenance and meet park maintenance level of service needs
- Leadership to facilitate completion of trail projects by involving organizations in the Tahoe Region
- Accessible play facilities
- Larger, more centralized parks in lieu of small mini-parks
- Indoor recreation facilities in the Lake Tahoe region



PRIORITY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Tier 1 and Tier 2 priority projects focus efforts over the next 20 years. Improvements to existing facilities and key trail linkages are identified. Tier 1 projects may be partially or fully funded and in some stage of planning or design. Tier 2 projects have high potential for partnership and leverage funding. They may have some initial design or planning work completed. Projects include both improvements to existing parks and trail connections.

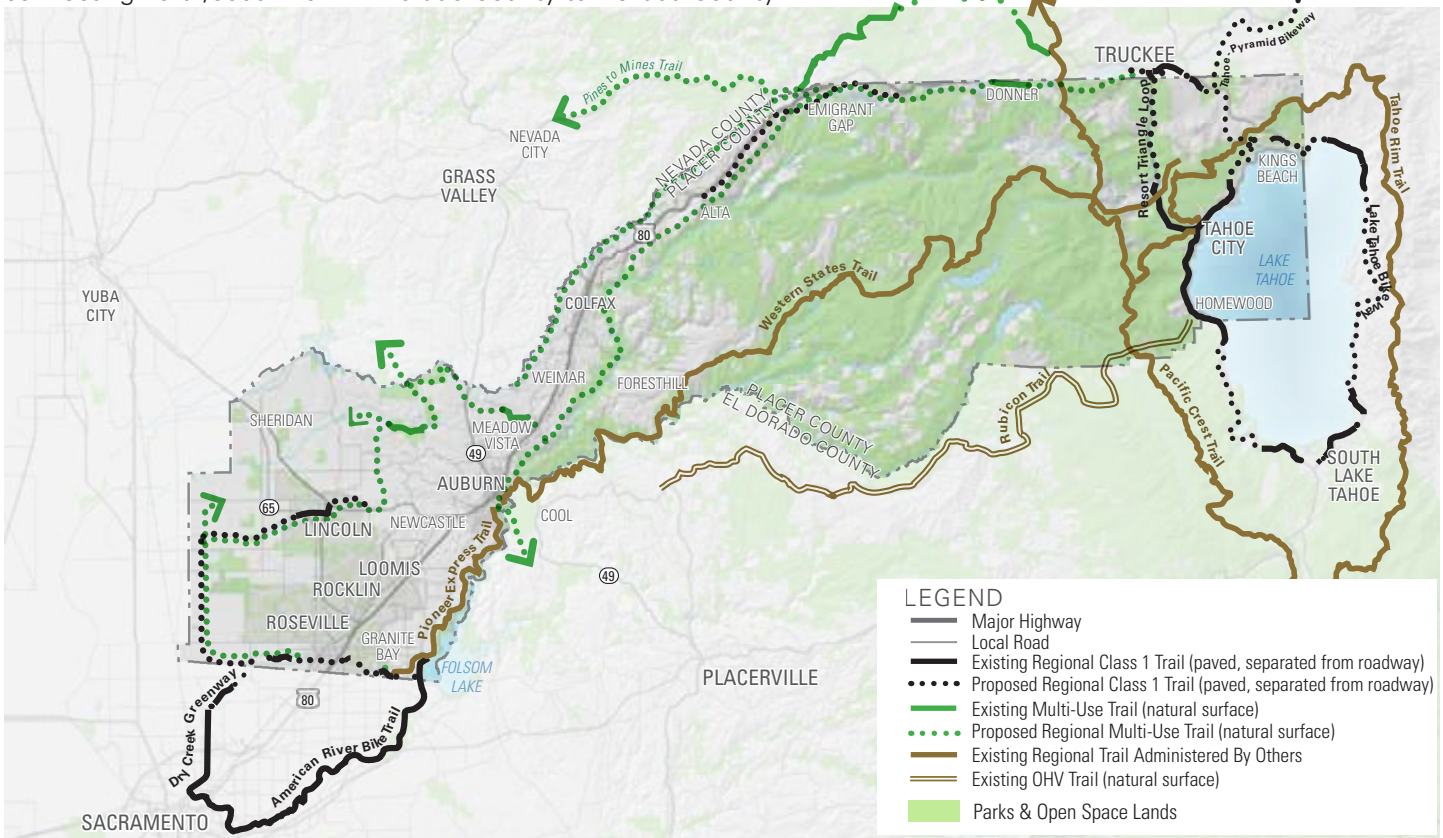
INITIATIVES

Four initiatives are recommended for Placer County in the Master Plan. These initiatives relate to the overall parks and trail system. All four initiatives will better connect people to Placer County's parks and trails.

- Mapping & Communication
- Volunteer Coordination
- Art in Public Recreation Areas
- Outdoor Recreation Programming

PROPOSED REGIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

A backbone system of trails connecting east/west from Sacramento to Lake Tahoe and continuing to Reno and connecting north/south from El Dorado County to Nevada County.



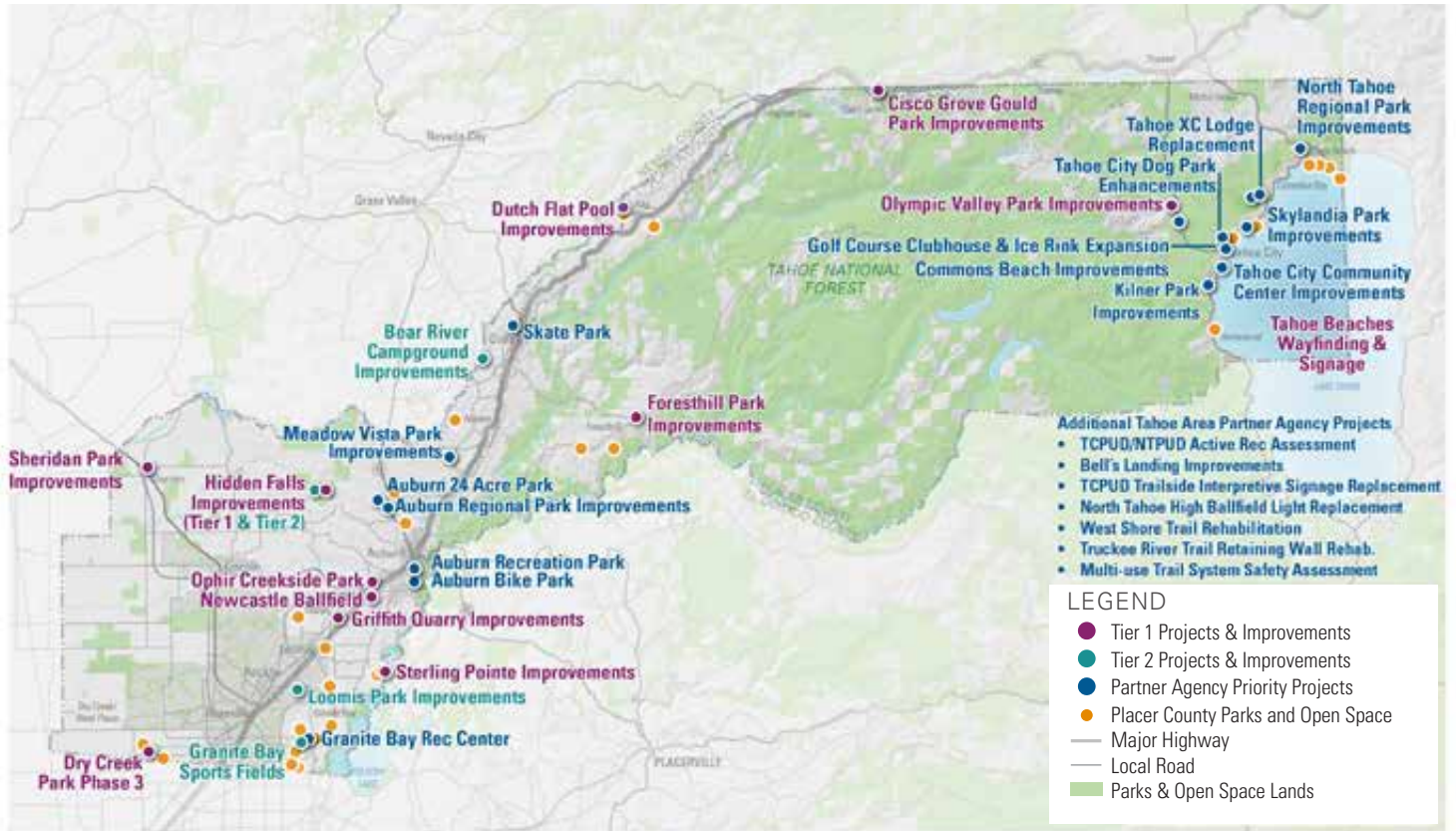
Note: Use restrictions, such as bike and/or equestrian, are per agency administration

Note: Trails extending outside of Placer County are owned and managed by other agencies.

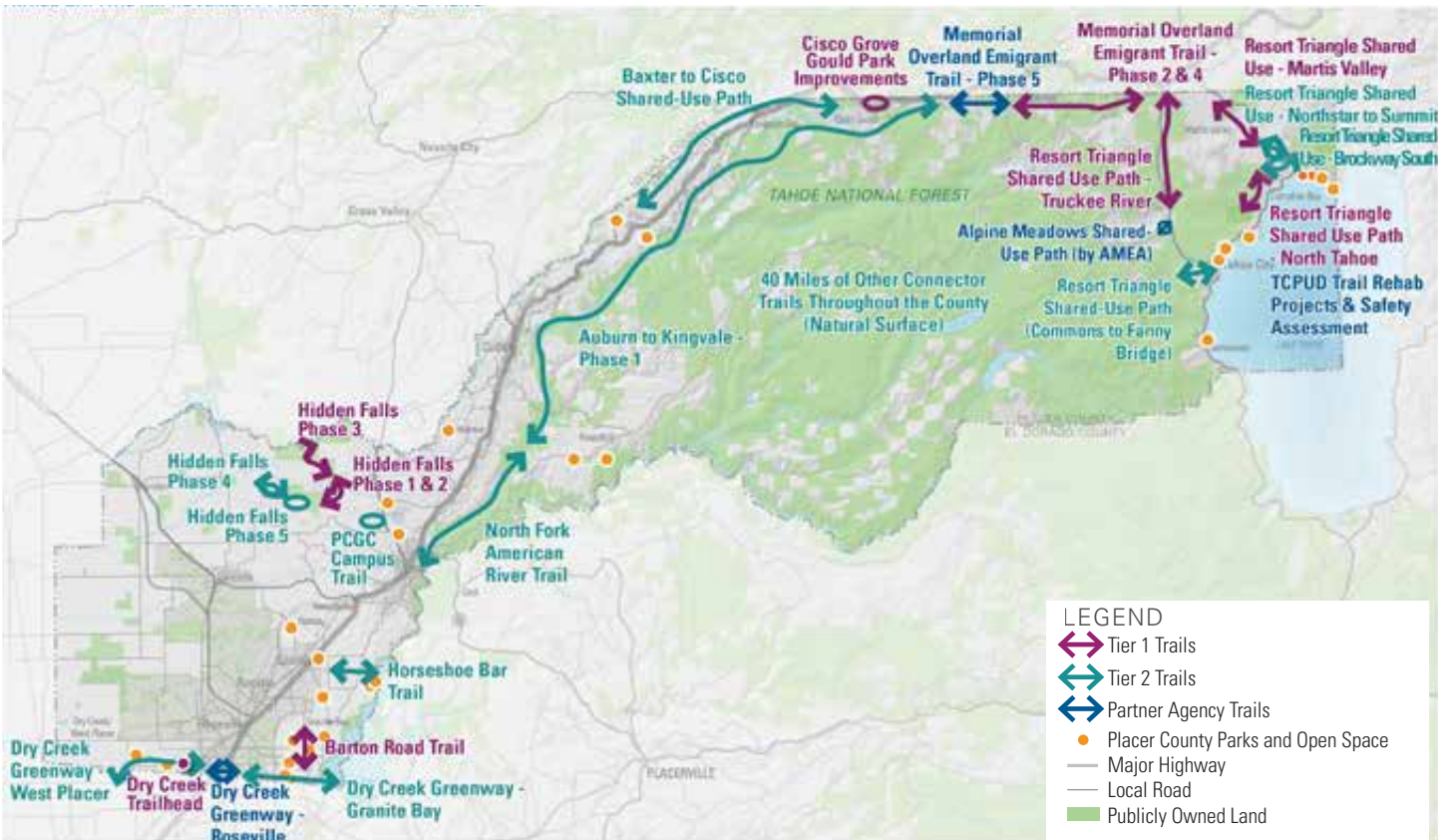
Note: All proposed trail alignments are diagrammatic in nature and do not indicate a proposed or final alignment. Rather, they illustrate the general connections to be evaluated through further planning and design.

INTRODUCTION | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: TIER 1 & TIER 2 PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: TIER 1 & TIER 2 TRAILS



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

The mission, vision, and values for Placer County Parks expresses the fundamental reason for why the department exists, where it is headed, and the core principles that guide the organization and culture of the County and its staff. These statements form the foundation of the strategic plan and inform decision-making. The mission describes the Department's overall purpose and supports the vision. The vision statement is inspirational and identifies what the organization is striving to be. A set of core values identifies the primary principles that guide the Department, its operations, and its culture. Placer County's Department of Parks and Open Space's mission, vision, and values were developed through an inclusive process with County staff and supervisors.

MISSION

WE ENRICH LIVES BY CONNECTING PEOPLE TO OUTDOOR RECREATION AND BY ENHANCING ACCESS TO OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

VISION

TO BE A LEADER IN PROVIDING MEMORABLE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

VALUES

PROACTIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE

A focus on understanding user needs to continually better serve residents and guests.

Staff listen to park users and stay abreast of current trends to make informed decisions. They are responsive, honest, and friendly with guests. Internal and external improvements to operations and park facilities are executed to continually anticipate needs.

QUALITY OFFERINGS

Quality outdoor experiences require more than just providing open space; they demand facilities that are well-maintained and varied to meet the community's particular demographic needs.

Parks, trails, and open spaces are provided to engage people with the County's varied natural resources and to provide opportunities for sport, play, and socialization. Facilities provide high recreational value to the community, while not being extravagant.

CREATIVITY

Always looking for a better way to serve and provide offerings.

Staff continually evolve their thinking about recreation resources in order to take advantage of the benefits of new technology and innovations.

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

A financially stable, resourceful, and cost-effective approach.

The Department delivers a network of quality parks, trails, and open space that is cost-conscious and leverages partnerships and collaboration to maximize the value of public dollars.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles are broad initiatives describing what Placer County aspires to achieve. The following ten principles have evolved out of community input, needs assessment, site reconnaissance, and benchmark analysis. They establish a framework that organizes a series of goals and strategies (Chapter 3).

The ten guiding principles (order does not indicate priority) are:



Allow Flexibility Between Communities on Service Levels and Amenities



Connect People to Nature and Open Space



Support and Improve Recreation Access to Lake Tahoe



Communicate Placer County's Park, Open Space, and Trail Offerings



Recognize and Develop our Partnerships in Delivering Park Amenities



Maintain the Park and Trail Facilities We Have



Maximize Funding by Leveraging Resources



Activate Public Spaces



Measure and Track Performance to Continually Deliver Excellence in Parks and Trails



Create a Connected Trail System

RECOMMENDATIONS

A series of countywide recommendations and strategies create a roadmap for the County to achieve the initiatives described by the guiding principles. The recommendations are a synthesis of community input relating to the primary purpose and benefits of parks, trails, and open space; staff input; community needs; and professional assessment.

An overview of the recommendations aligned with each principle is presented on the following pages. Strategies to accomplish each recommendation are described in Chapter 3. Strategies associated with trail development goals are located in Volume II.



Principle | Allow Flexibility Between Communities on Service Levels and Amenities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Allow for flexibility to respond to different needs for recreational amenities throughout the county. Focus on providing larger, community-scale parks for West Placer while concentrating on development that supports four-season recreation to promote a more robust tourist economy in Tahoe/West Slope areas.*
- » *Address the recreation needs of Placer County's changing demographics by developing facilities to serve the County's population.*
- » *Support long term park use by continuing to reinvest in existing facilities to provide quality amenities and adapting park offerings to appeal to a range of users.*
- » *Meet the needs of sport fields to address shortages, trends, and demands, where needed depending on regional demands.*
- » *Enhance and connect people with park and recreation experiences through the use of mobile applications, augmented reality, and emerging technology.*
- » *Accommodate community needs and growth through the development of new active and local regional parks.*



Principle | Connect People to Nature and Open Space

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Increase access and use of open spaces and natural areas while balancing resource management needs.*
- » *Provide clear, accessible mapping and wayfinding*
- » *Define the function and purpose of passive parks and open space.*
- » *Develop strategically identified creeks and riparian corridors as “complete creeks” or greenways with managed natural vegetation and trails that connect open space systems, trails, and parks to neighborhoods.*
- » *Provide parking/staging areas for winter backcountry access.*



Principle | Support and Improve Recreation Access to Lake Tahoe

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Connect people to Lake Tahoe beaches through improved signage, biking, walking, transit, and parking facilities.*
- » *Provide beach support facilities and use areas that address user needs and enhance the visitor experience.*



Principle | Communicate Placer County’s Park, Open Space, and Trail Offerings

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Increase recognition of Placer County’s parks, open space and trail offerings and the role Placer County has in providing access to the outdoors. Ensure all existing and potential users know how to access and appropriately use the County’s parks, open spaces, and trails.*
- » *Provide easy to find and navigate, relevant, and up-to-date information on park offerings and events.*
- » *Manage increasing visitation by providing clear guidance for park locations, hours of operation, reservations, and rules.*



Principle | Recognize and Develop our Partnerships in Delivering Park Amenities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Enhance and formulate strong and broad partnerships to achieve level of service goals for parks, open space, and trails.*
- » *Provide staff support to the Placer Vineyard Park and Recreation District in initial years of operation.*



Principle: Maintain the Park and Trail Facilities We Have

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Actively address deferred maintenance needs.*
- » *Meet or exceed current maintenance standards for parks, trails, and open spaces.*
- » *Reduce maintenance expenses through the strategic development and utilization of volunteers.*



Principle: Maximize Funding by Leveraging Resources

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Diversify financial strategies to include new methods of funding for projects and maintenance. Develop additional funding sources according to strategic plan recommendations.*
- » *Dedicate funds to maintain current parks, trails, and open space and anticipate funding needed for the expanded system.*
- » *Ensure new development has provided funding for on-going maintenance and capital replacement.*
- » *Ensure sound fiscal principals are used when developing funding strategies, including funding for both one-time expenses and for on-going costs.*



Principle: Activate Public Spaces

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Utilize programming that provides a needed service to activate parks, trails, and open spaces.*
- » *Broaden, enhance, and promote recreation opportunities.*
- » *Complement traditional indoor recreation programs offered by city and district partners by offering outdoor themed alternatives (i.e., nature education, outdoor/power tool safety classes, hikes, biking/equestrian lessons, etc.) through partnerships with recreation program providers.*



Principle: Measure and Track Performance to Continually Deliver Excellence in Parks and Trails

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Make decisions on park, open space and trail renovations and new amenities based on use data.*
- » *Become regionally recognized for excellence in park operations and service.*



Principle: Create a Connected Trail System

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » *Encourage walking and biking by linking parks, open spaces, and community nodes through a system of paved and unpaved trails.*
- » *Prioritize and complete identified trail gaps.*
- » *Create a backbone regional trail system.*
- » *Enhance the existing trail system.*
- » *Improve trailheads and access to open space trail systems and year-round recreation opportunities, including access to winter play in eastern Placer/Tahoe Basin and the West Slope.*
- » *Improve crossings of barriers and roadways to enhance connectivity.*
- » *Provide a trail system to meet the needs of all trail users.*
- » *Facilitate the collaboration of local regional partners for trail development and maintenance.*
- » *Develop digital and print countywide trails mapping that includes partner agencies and organizations.*
- » *Develop natural surface trail design standards.*
- » *Develop policies to address the use of E-bikes and other emerging technologies on trails.*
- » *Engage volunteers and non-profit groups to assist in patrolling and maintaining trails.*
- » *Update the County General Plan and Community Plans with trail plans and service standards and coordinate with other agencies as they update and develop their related planning documents.*

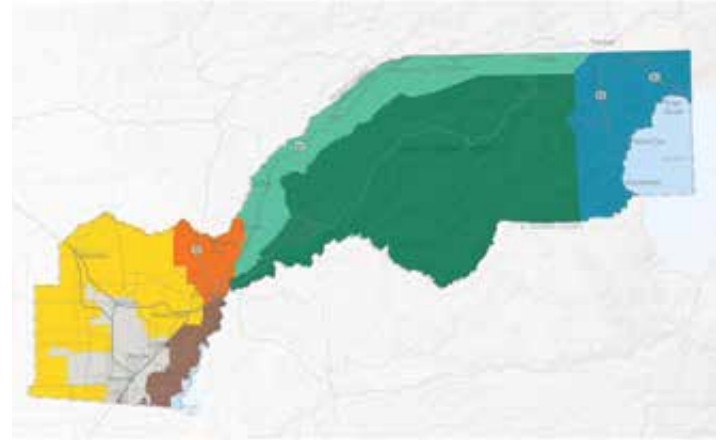
PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Master Plan includes two volumes. Volume I addresses parks, open spaces, beaches, and programming. Volume II addresses trails. The appendices contain enlargements of the maps displayed in Volumes I and II, trail design standards, a trails map atlas, and a summary of the public engagement efforts.

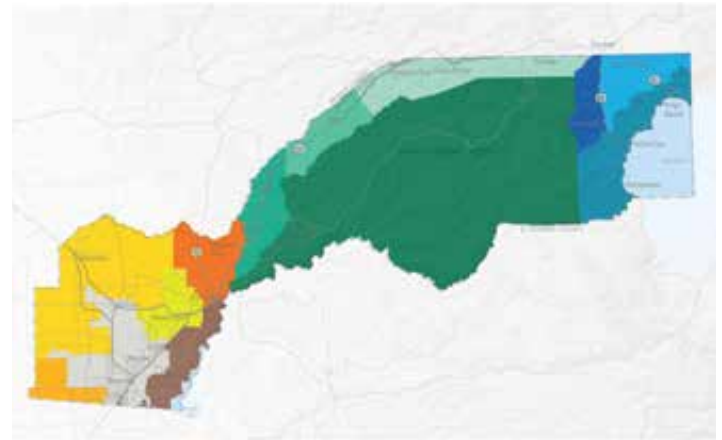
A foundational element of the Master Plan is the ability for the standards to respond to the different community needs throughout the unincorporated portions of Placer County. Therefore, unincorporated communities and surrounding open spaces were organized into six regions and 12 subregions. The subregions allowed for survey responses to be evaluated based on the respondent's primary residence and reflect the County's 16 local plans, as shown in the table below.

The Master Plan first summarizes the countywide inventory, needs, and recommendations. Chapter 5 presents a regional analysis of level of service, needs, and capital improvement projects for the next 20 years.

MASTER PLAN REGIONS



MASTER PLAN SUBREGIONS



Regions	Subregions	Community, Specific & Area Plan
West Placer	Dry Creek/West Placer	Dry Creek West Placer CP
	Rural Lincoln/Sheridan	Sheridan CP
		Sunset Area Plan
	Penryn/Ophir/Newcastle	Ophir CP
Granite Bay/Loomis Basin	Granite Bay/Loomis Basin	Horseshoe Bay/Penryn CP
		Granite Bay CP
		Town of Loomis CP
North Auburn/Meadow Vista	North Auburn/Meadow Vista	Horseshoe Bay/Penryn CP
		Auburn/Bowman CP
West Slope	Weimar/Applegate/Colfax	Meadow Vista CP
		Weimar/Applegate/Clipper Gap CP
	Gold Run/Dutch Flat/Alta	Colfax CP
	Blue Canyon/Soda Springs	-
Foresthill Divide	Foresthill Divide	-
Tahoe	Olympic Valley/Alpine Meadows	Foresthill Divide CP
		Olympic Valley SP
	Northstar/Martis Valley	Alpine Meadows CP
		Northstar/Martis Valley CP
	Tahoe Basin	Tahoe Basin Area Plan

COMMUNITY, SPECIFIC & AREA PLAN AREAS

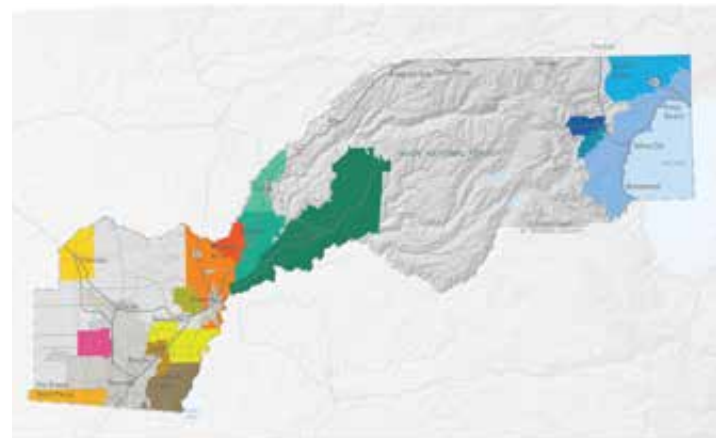


Table 1: Relationship between Master Plan Regions and Community, Specific, and Area Plan Documents
(Note: Colfax and Newcastle/Ophir planning documents are titled "General Plan" but referred to above as Community Plans)

POLICY & APPROVAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Master Plan builds upon previous planning efforts. Within Placer County, parks, open space, and trails policies, goals, and projects can be found in several planning documents. The County General Plan is a legal document that provides an overall framework for development of the County and protection of its natural and cultural resources. General Plan policies for parks and trails provides a guide to local government for the decision-making in the county. Community Plans, Specific Plans, and Area Plans implement General Plan policies and provide community-level policies and goals for parks, open space, trails, and recreation for a defined area of the unincorporated county. Goals and strategies described in this document are the purview of Placer County. Other agencies and organizations may partner or support implementation, but it is recognized that federal and state agencies are not subject to local zoning authorities.

COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The General Plan addresses recreation and cultural resources and natural resources. Policies and goals for trails are covered both in the recreation chapter and the transportation chapter. Overall, the Master Plan builds from and is aligned with County General Plan goals and policies. However, it does recommend future revision to Policy 5.A.1, 5.A.2, and 5.A.3 which provide level of service standards for parks, open space, trails, and park facility amenities (e.g. tennis courts).

Recreation needs in the county vary by community and a one-size-fits-all approach is not a recommended approach for recreation planning. The County should consider modifying their General Plan level of service policy to allow flexibility in providing amenities throughout the county. Additionally, more qualitative standards can be introduced to ensure the quality of facilities provided throughout the county are also appropriate, and not just the acreage or mileage.

COMMUNITY PLANS, SPECIFIC PLANS, AND AREA PLANS

These planning documents are adopted in the same manner as the General Plan. They provide a more detailed focus on specific geographic areas within the unincorporated county. The Master Plan recognizes and builds upon the goals and policies within community plans. Chapter 5 includes a break-down of specific needs and projects associated with each of the county's regions. These findings and recommendations can be used to supplement existing community plans and can be used as a resource to update community plans in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

The Master Plan is a planning study that provides an overall vision and recommendations for Placer County's parks and trails system. It includes a series of projects and recommendations for possible future actions which Placer County has not approved, adopted, or funded. The Master Plan does not have a legally binding effect on later activities.

As such, the statutory exemption pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies is applicable. The exemption states that a project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency has not approved or funded does not require preparation of an Environmental Improvement Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. Consistent with this exemption, the Master Plan provides data and recommendations for future policy decisions but does not commit the County to later activities or any specific project.

Future work to implement projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment will require environmental permitting and compliance with the CEQA. Should funding be pursued and obtained for projects, site specific environmental review would be required to develop detailed designs which would at that time require complete environmental review pursuant to CEQA.

The Master Plan makes recommendations for revisions to policies in the County General Plan. These recommendations are not binding on the County. At the time updates to the County General Plan do occur, those revisions would require environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Plans involving federal lands or federal funding would also require National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review.



1 Parks & Open Space Today

KEY TAKEAWAYS

PHYSICAL SETTING

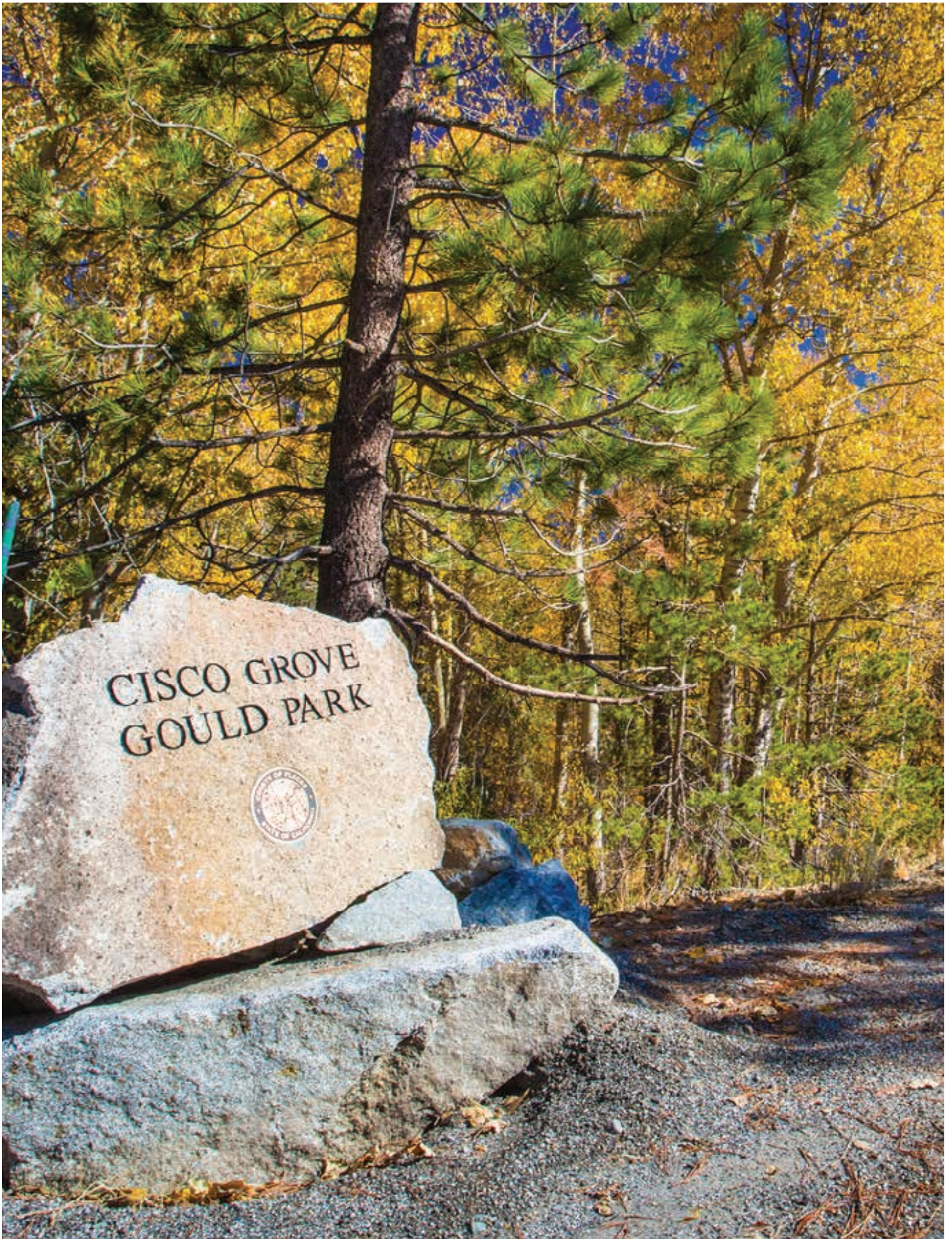
PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

HISTORY AND GROWTH OF PLACER COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY INVENTORY

COUNTY PARTNERS

INVENTORY AND COUNTY LEVEL OF SERVICE





PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

This Chapter summarizes the parks and open space offerings provided in Placer County in 2020. It sets forth a consistent set of terminology and classifications to describe and plan for the parks system. In total, the County owns and manages 21 active park properties, 15 passive parks/open space areas, seven beaches, and 44 miles of off-street trails.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Since 2000, the County has added 17 active and passive/open space parks to the system
- Placer County's parks and open space system works in coordination with its partner agencies to meet community needs. In partnership with schools and special districts, the County's standard level of service of 5 acres of active park per 1,000 people and 5 acres of open space/passive park is exceeded.
- In addition to the facilities provided by the County, schools and special districts; federal and state agencies; and cities also provide parks and open space for residents and visitors.
- The County's parks and open space system added 17 active and passive/open space parks since 2000. It grew from 81 acres to 215 acres of active parks, and from 243 acres to 1,818 acres of open space.
- The addition of Hidden Falls Regional Park (developed in 2006) is the largest park in the system.
- Hidden Falls Regional Park has seen a significant increase in use over the past few years, corresponding with access and trail improvements and shifts in recreation trends. The County has implemented a successful online reservation system to address overcrowding and intends to expand and adapt the system for new parking and access points.
- Facilities range in size from less than two acres to 1,200 acres.
- Parks and open space facilities are fairly well distributed within different unincorporated communities. The Granite Bay/Loomis Basin area has the greatest number of active parks with sports fields and sports court facilities. This is in line with the region's more suburban type development and residents' expectations for their parks system.
- Placer Vineyards Recreation District was formed to own, operate, and maintain parks and open space for the Placer Vineyards future development.
- Parks, open space, and beaches serve both residents and visitors in the Lake Tahoe area. A focus is providing four season access to recreation areas.

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PHYSICAL SETTING

Placer County, including the incorporated cities, contains approximately 1,506 square miles and spans roughly 90 miles, starting from the west in the Sacramento Valley up to Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada in the east. The county is bordered by the greater Sacramento area on the west and Nevada on the east. A defining characteristic of Placer County is the dramatic change in elevation of roughly 9,000 feet, providing the county with a wide range of eco-regions starting in the west with the grasslands that make up the Sacramento Valley and moving east up to the chaparral and woodlands of the foothills, up to the alpine and coniferous forests of the Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe. These eco-regions provide distinct settings that influence the types of recreation offered and the general culture of those who inhabit it.

PUBLIC LANDS

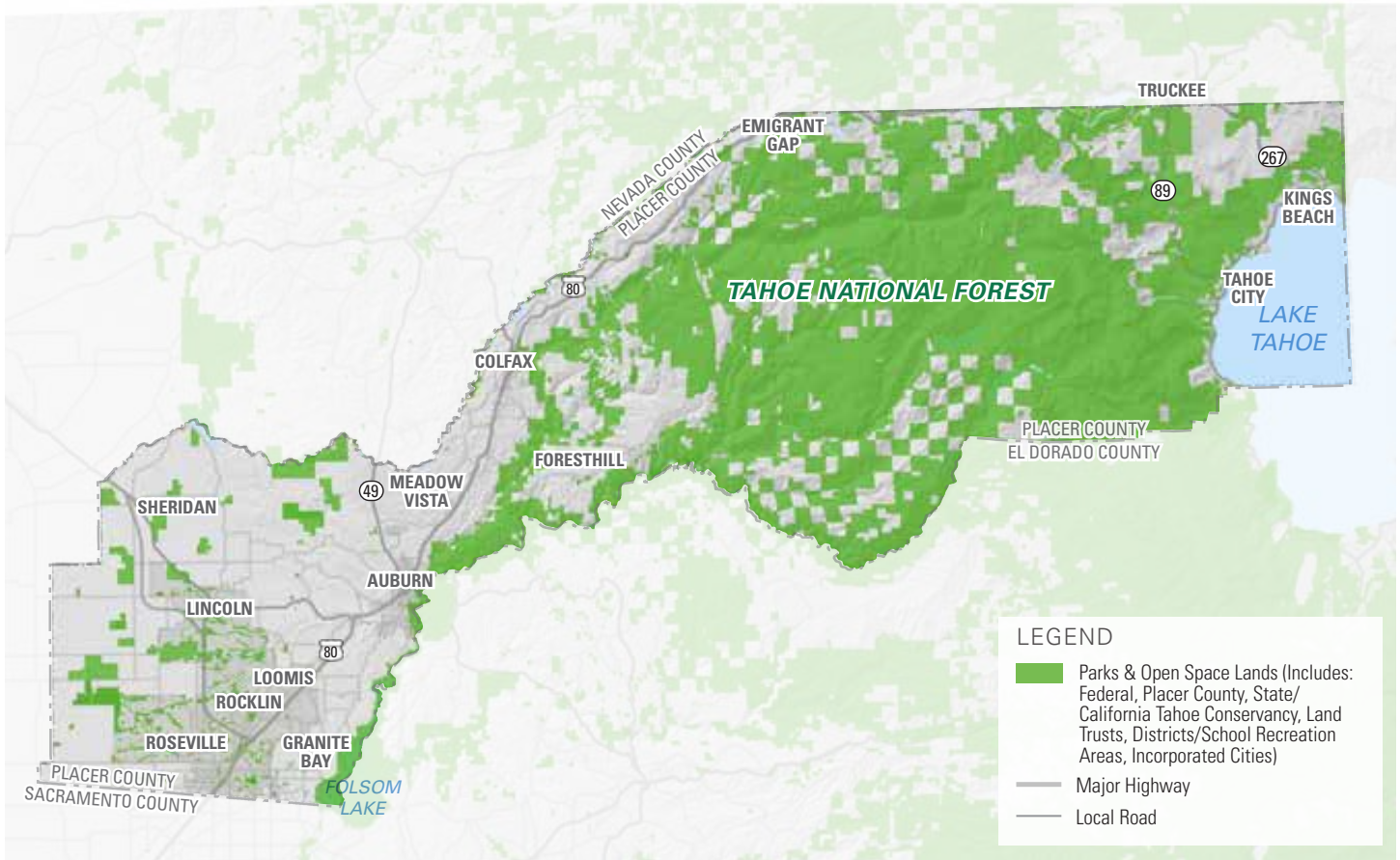
About 43 percent of the county is publicly-owned lands. Federal lands, including the Tahoe National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit are the largest public land holders. State Recreation Areas (SRAs) include Folsom SRA, Auburn, SRA, Kings Beach SRA, and Tahoe SRA. California State Parks also owns and manages Burton Creek State Park, Donner Memorial State Park, Sugar Pine Point State Park, and Ward Creek Park Property. The majority of publicly-owned lands are located between Auburn and the Tahoe basin.

The access to open space in these regions significantly influences the type of recreation that occurs and reduces the demand for more formalized active park type uses which are highly desired in the western portions of the county. However, the Tahoe Area has expressed desire for an indoor recreation facility and the West Slope has expressed desire for active parks where they are missing between Colfax and Truckee. Although many timberlands are privately-owned, many are open to the public for recreation and provide a major resource for public access.

California State Lands Commission is also one of the public land owners in Placer County. Among other lands, it owns the lake bed and seasonal beaches of Lake Tahoe.

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PARKS & OPEN SPACE LANDS



VALLEY



FOOTHILLS



SIERRA/TAHOE



PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

LAND USES

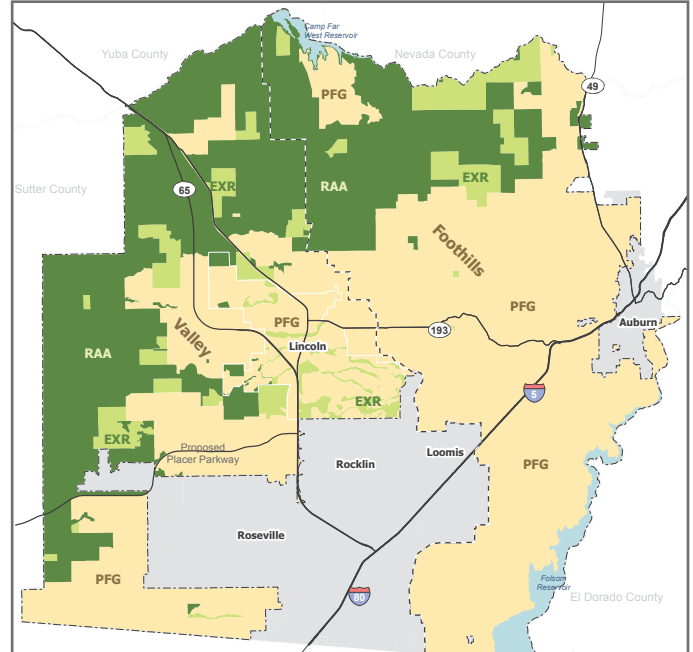
Placer County was established in 1851 during the height of the California Gold Rush. Over the years gold mining transitioned to agriculture, timber, and recreation industries. Auburn is the county seat and Roseville is the county's largest city.

The county includes six incorporated cities and towns and 21 unincorporated communities. Land uses such as residential, commercial, office, and industrial are located in and around the 21 communities. Conservation, recreation, agriculture, timberland, and open space land uses coincide with both publicly-owned lands and with the county's more sensitive and undisturbed parcels.

Over the next 20 years, the majority of growth is anticipated to occur in the Specific Plan Areas of western Placer County, such as Placer Vineyards which additionally has formed its own Park and Recreation District. Each Specific Plan intends to accommodate the County's parks, trails, and open space service standards.

The Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) addresses land conservation for almost 200,000 acres of western Placer County to mitigate anticipated growth. Approximately 15,000 acres of preserves existed in 2013 and the conservation map identified 30,000 to 50,000 additional acres to fulfill conservation acres. This landscape-level conservation approach works in tandem with the Parks and Trails Master Plan to help the County maintain its unique character and quality of life.

Placer County Conservation Plan Conservation Reserve Areas

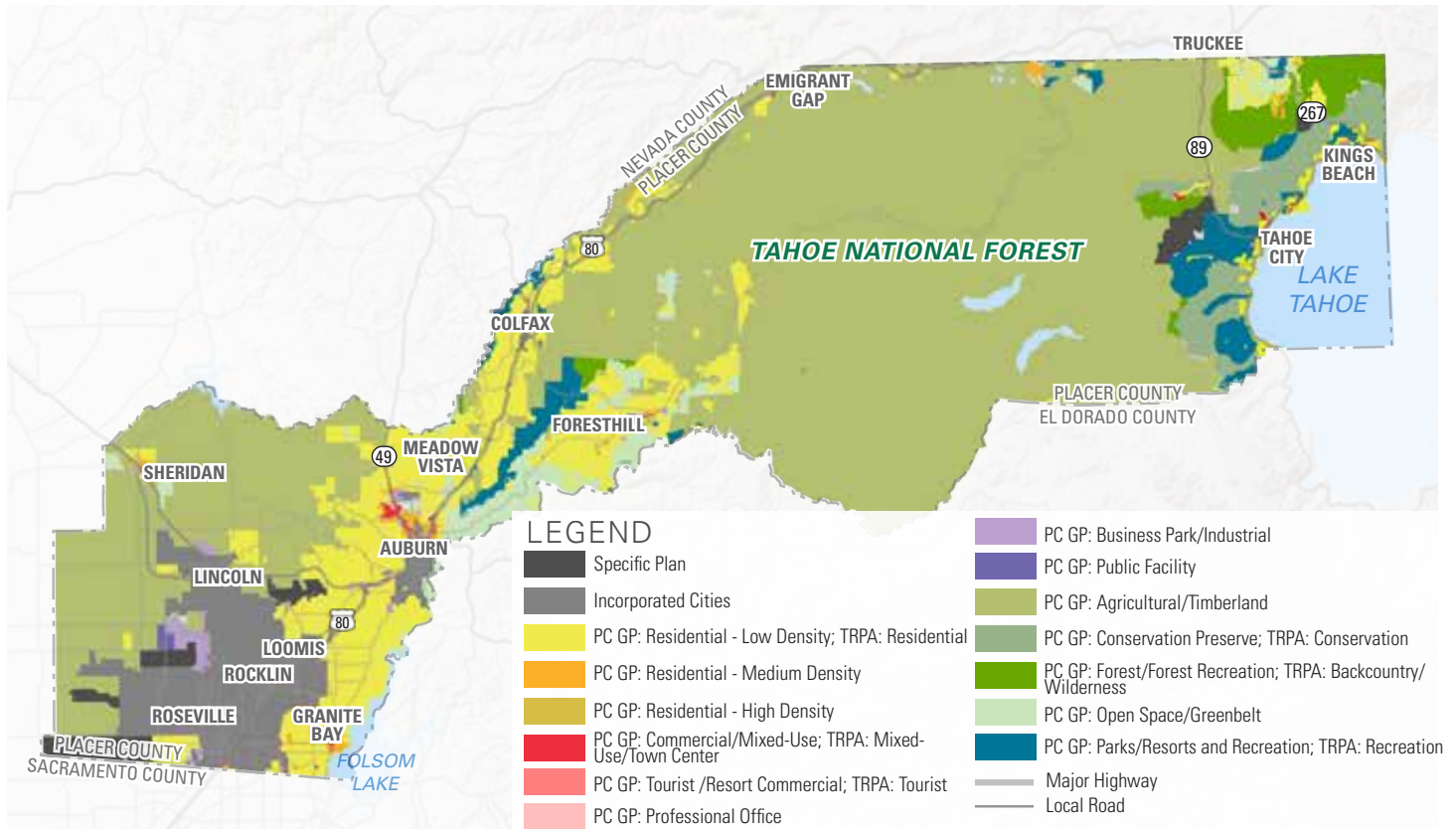


Legend

- Reserve Acquisition Area (RAA)
- Potential Future Growth Area (PFG)
- Existing Protected Area and Other Reserves
- Non-participating City

Note: Map from Placer County Conservation Plan, PFG status does not extend to public lands where county zoning authority does not apply, such as along Folsom Lake and the North Fork American River.

COUNTY LAND USE



PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS & DEFINITIONS

The Parks and Trails Master Plan refines the park classifications identified in Placer County's 1994 *Countywide General Plan Policy Document*, updated in 2013 (County General Plan) and provides definitions and examples of the types of facilities included in each classification. The nomenclature defined in this section is used throughout the Master Plan and updates the terminology from the County General Plan.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Classifying parks into subsets helps to capture the intent or purpose of facilities and allows for a fair comparison of facilities throughout the county. Many counties throughout the nation focus on providing regionally significant parks and open space facilities. Placer County provides a mix of both regional facilities and parks that serve the neighboring residents and more local community. The Master Plan recommends Placer County reorganize the park types described in the County General Plan in order to better define the recreation uses associated with passive parks and open space and to distinguish regional facilities from parks that primarily serve nearby residents. Table 2 lists the recommended classifications and illustrates how they compare with the County General Plan classifications.

Table 2: *Park Classification Comparison to General Plan Park Types*

Recommended Classifications	County General Plan Park Types
Active Parks	Mini-Park (less than 2 acres)
	Neighborhood Park (2 to 15 acres)
	Community Park (more than 15 acres)
Beaches	Not previously identified
Passive Parks/Open Space	Linear Park/Greenways
	Special Use
	Conservancy Areas

Table 3 lists the recommended classifications and the sub-categories for each group. The park types recommended better suit the facilities being offered by the County and align with classification systems used in other California counties and regional districts, such as San Diego County, Los Angeles County, El Dorado County, Sonoma County and East Bay Regional Park District.

Table 3: *Recommended Park Classifications and Sub-Categories*









Recommended Classifications	Recommended Park Types
Active Parks	Local Active Parks
	Regional Active Parks
	Specialty Parks
Beaches	Beaches
Passive Parks/Open Space	Linear Park/Greenways
	Local Passive Park/Open Space
	Regional Passive Park/Open Space
	Campground
	Trailhead

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

ACTIVE PARKS AND BEACHES DEFINITIONS

Active parks are characterized by their level of development and inclusion of facilities such as playfields, playgrounds, courts, skateparks, and splash parks. Active parks are typically require higher levels of infrastructure and maintenance that are associated with sports fields, gathering spaces, and built facilities. Some amenities found in active parks, such as restrooms, pathways, trails, and play equipment, may also be provided in passive parks, but the quantity and intensity of use is typically greater in active parks.





Large, regional active parks may incorporate both active park amenities and large areas of open space and trails. The presence of a significant quantity of active sports courts, playfields, and manicured landscape would indicate how the facility should be classified.

ACTIVE PARKS	LOCAL ACTIVE PARK 	Local Active Parks are typically under 50 acres and contain active amenities such as athletic courts and fields, and playgrounds. Smaller local parks may be located within or near town centers, where they can be used as common recreation and gathering areas by the community. These parks are located throughout the County's neighborhoods, typically serving the residents in and around those local communities.	< 50 acres	Olympic Valley Park 
	REGIONAL ACTIVE PARK 	Regional Active Parks serve County residents and visitors. They are larger parks that include a significant amount of active sports courts, playfields and manicured landscapes, but they may also include open space, naturalized landscapes, and multi-use trails.	> 50 acres	Maidu Regional Park (Roseville) 
	SPECIALTY PARK 	Specialty Parks contain amenities that typically wouldn't be found at a local park and fulfills a specific recreation niche. Golf courses, bike/pump parks, dog parks, plazas and pools would be considered specialty parks.	varies	Dutch Flat Community Pool 
	BEACH 	Beaches include areas of beach access and sites with lake frontage amenities which can include trails, restrooms and picnic areas. Play equipment and other park amenities may be provided, but the lake frontage and beach itself are the main attraction.	varies	Commons Beach 

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PASSIVE PARKS & OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS

Passive recreation areas and open spaces highlight a park's natural landscape and are not highly developed with sports fields or sports courts. Passive parks include facilities such as trails, picnic facilities, parking, and restrooms. Trails and other amenities may allow for "active" uses such as hiking, running, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, cross-country skiing or snow shoeing, but the majority of the park is left in a naturalized state and opportunities for connecting with nature are emphasized.

PASSIVE PARKS & OPEN SPACE	GREENWAYS/ LINEAR PARK 	Greenways are developed for one or more modes of travel, such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, or cross-country skiing. They link elements of the recreation system or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas, and other parks. Refer to Volume II for more information on Trails.	varies	Dry Creek Greenway 
	LOCAL PASSIVE PARK/ OPEN SPACE 	Local Passive Parks/Open Space include areas of environmental significance and beauty that are available to the public for low-intensity, passive recreation opportunities. Minimal infrastructure, such as trails, picnic tables, restrooms, parking, and staging facilities are typically provided. Additional amenities may include interpretive or educational elements.	< 100 acres	Cisco Grove 
	REGIONAL PARKS/OPEN SPACE 	Regional Parks/Open Space serve County residents and visitors and are large parks that generally contain only passive amenities such as visitor/nature centers, trails, picnic shelters, restrooms, parking, and staging facilities. Emphasis is placed on achieving a balance between resource protection and public use. Generally, Regional Open Space draws visitors from a larger geographic range.	> 100 acres	Hidden Falls 
	CAMPGROUND 	Campgrounds provide visitors the opportunity to obtain a more intimate experience with nature by staying overnight in undeveloped environments. Campgrounds offer a different set of amenities for all types of visitors and includes tent camping and RVs, with the possibility of providing cabins in the future.	varies	Bear River Campground 
	TRAILHEAD 	Trailheads or staging areas are access points for a larger network of trails. They may contain restrooms, maps, sign posts and kiosks with informational brochures about the trail and its features. Parking areas for vehicles and trailers as well as equestrian facilities may be provided.	varies	Sterling Pointe 

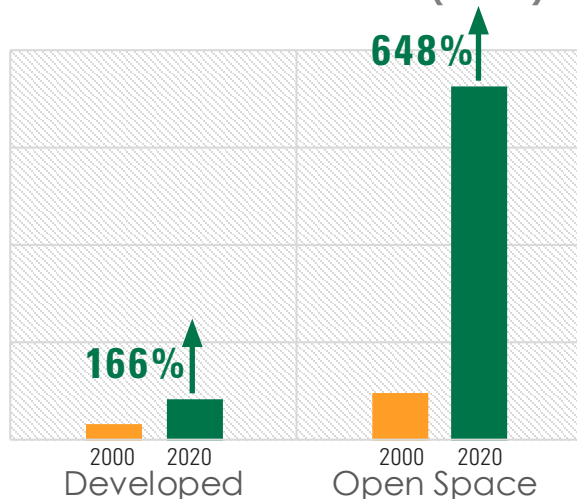
PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

HISTORY AND GROWTH OF PLACER COUNTY PARKS

Placer County was established in 1851 from portions of Sutter and Yuba counties. The County's oldest parks include Loomis Basin Community Park and Foresthill Leroy E. Botts Memorial Park. Since 2000, the developed parks and trails system has grown dramatically. The tables and figures below summarize the inventory growth between 2000 and 2020. In western Placer County, the park growth coincided with residential development and the need for active parks and the desire to maintain and provide access to open space.

Since 2000, the County has added 17 active and passive/open space parks to the system (shown in the map on the subsequent page). This equates to a 166 percent increase in acreage of active parks and 648 percent increase in passive parks/open space. The increase parallels growth in population numbers and the adoption of county park and trail level of service standards with the 1994 County General Plan. The addition of Hidden Falls Regional Park (developed in 2006) is the largest park added in the system. The park has seen a significant increase in use over the past few years, corresponding with access and trail improvements and shifts in recreation trends.

Parks & Beaches (acres)

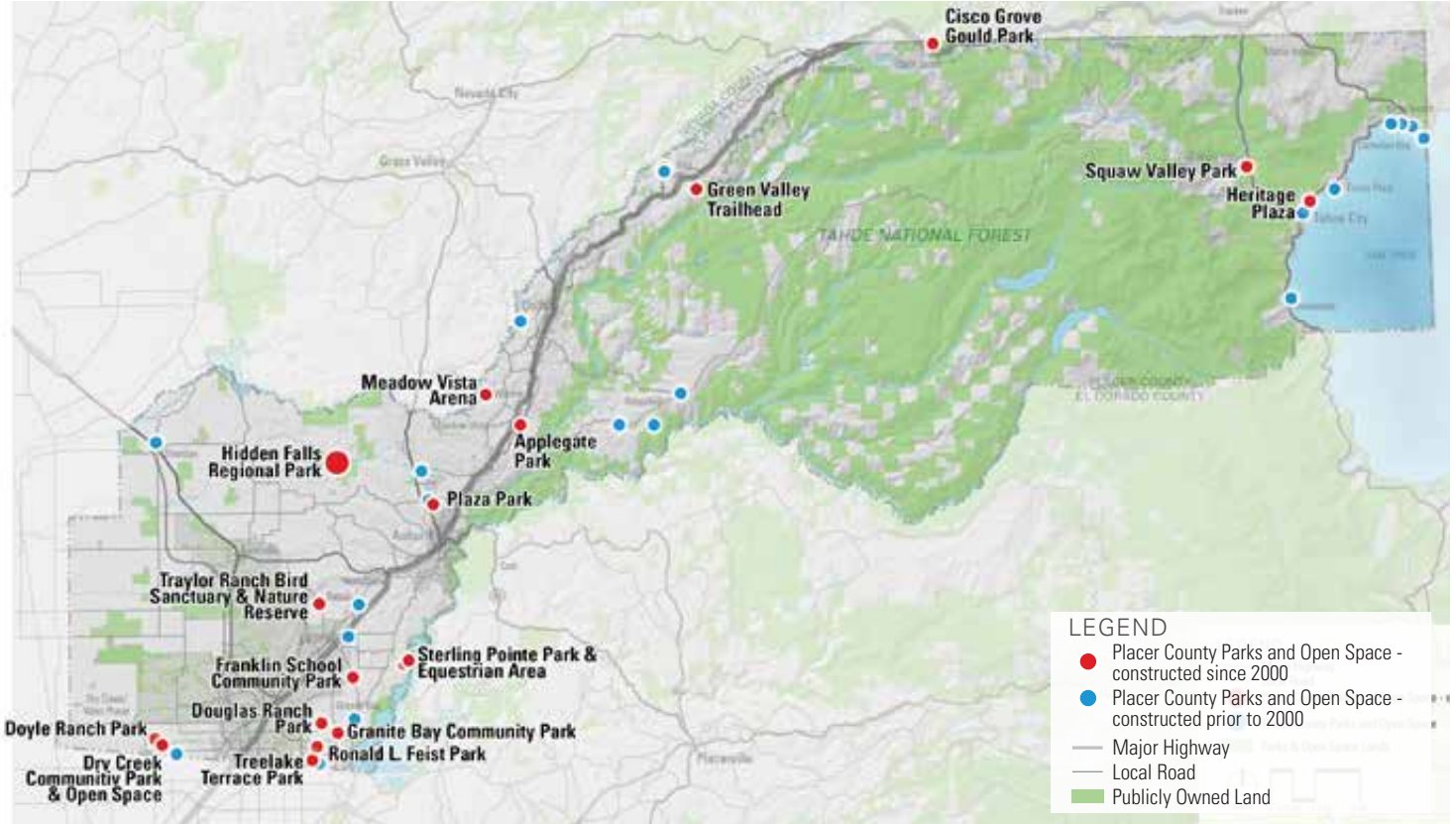


	2000 Acreage	2020 Acreage	Percent Change
Parks & Beaches			
Developed	80.9	215.2	+166%
Open Space	243.1	1,818.20*	+648%

**Only includes open space parks. Does not include other property requiring vegetation management (e.g., former Redevelopment Agency properties)*

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PLACER COUNTY PARKS (2020)



County Parks Constructed Since 2000

Park Name	Year Added
Applegate Park	2000
Sterling Pointe Park & Equestrian Area	2000
Treelake Terrace Park	2000
Douglas Ranch Park	2002
Meadow Vista Arena	2002
Plaza Park	2003
Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve	2003
Granite Bay Community Park	2004
Olympic Valley Park	2004
Doyle Ranch Park	2005
Heritage Plaza	2005
Cisco Grove Gould Park	2006
Green Valley Trailhead	2006
Hidden Falls Regional Park	2006/2013
Ronald L. Feist Park	2006
Franklin School Community Park	2008
Dry Creek Community Park & Open Space	2013

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PLACER COUNTY EXISTING PARK SYSTEM BY PARK TYPE (2020)

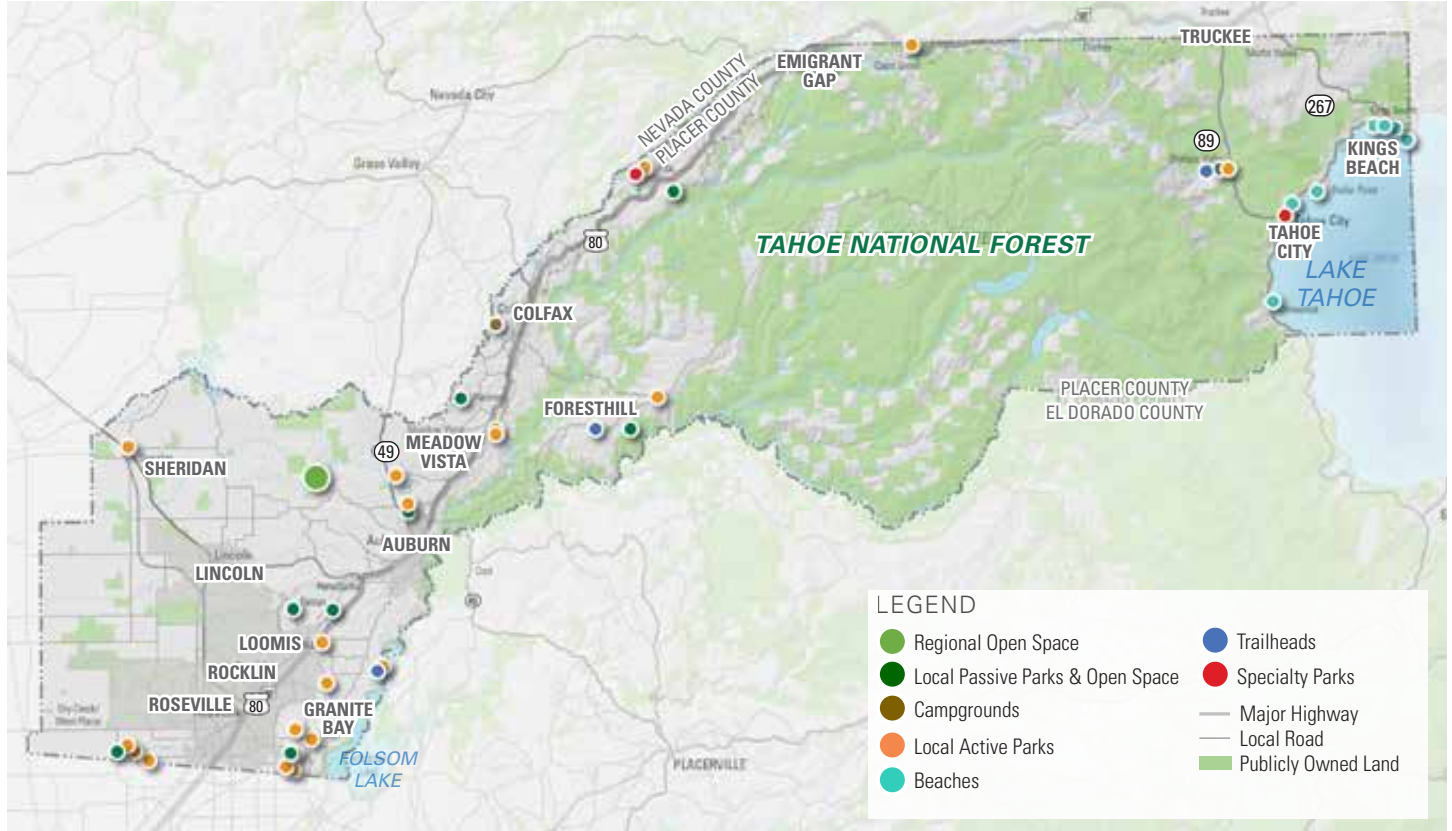
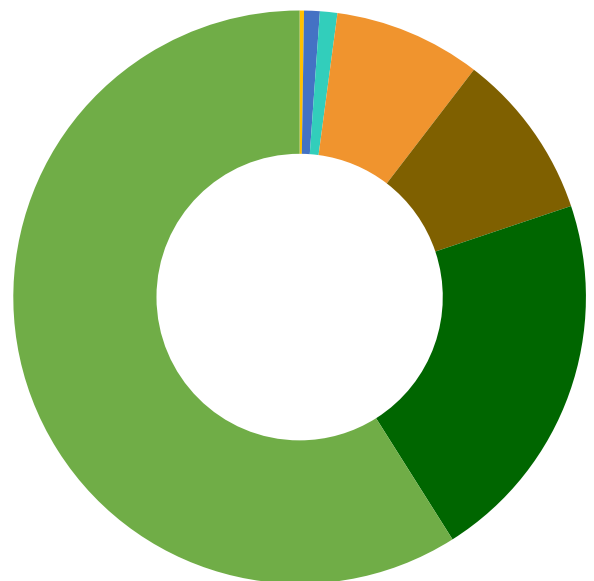


Table 4: Total County-Owned or Operated Facilities & Acreage

Recreation Facility	Total Number	Total Acreage
Active Parks	21	174
Local Parks	19	169
Specialty Parks	2	5
Beaches	7	20
Passive Parks/Open Space	15	1,841
Local Passive Parks/Open Space	10	431
Regional Passive Parks/Open Space	1	1,200
Trailheads	3	18
Campground	1	192
Total	43	2,035

Figure 1: Percentage of County-Owned or Operated Park Acreage by Park Type



59% Regional Open Space
 21% Local Passive Parks & Open Space
 10% Campgrounds
 8% Local Active Parks
 1% Trailheads
 1% Beaches
 0.4% Specialty Parks

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

CURRENT INVENTORY

Today, Placer County has a wide variety of parks, trails, and open spaces. Together, these facilities create a vital, interconnected system that is essential to the quality of life, wellness and experience of Placer County's residents and visitors. In total, the County owns and manages 21 active park properties, 15 passive parks/open space areas, seven beaches, and 44 miles of off-street trails.

ACTIVE PARKS

According to the Master Plan's park classification system, Placer County owns, operates or manages 21 active parks, 19 of which are Local Parks and two of which are Specialty Parks. Local Parks have a direct relationship with nearby town populations. These sites provide communities opportunities for experiencing nature, engaging in physical activity, and picnicking close to home. The two Specialty Parks provide unique amenities not typically found in other active parks and include Heritage Plaza in Tahoe City which has picnic tables, a small plaza and lakeside views; and Dutch Flat Swimming Pool in Dutch Flat which has an outdoor swimming pool and picnic area.

BEACHES

The County operates and maintains seven beaches or beach access areas at Lake Tahoe in the eastern portion of the county. For most beaches off-roadway parking is limited. Roadside parking in neighborhoods for beach access is a constraint access and a source of potential conflict between beach-goers and residents. Temporary restrooms are provided at some of the facilities. Commons Beach in Tahoe City is more developed, has permanent restrooms and play equipment, and hosts summer concerts and community events. Placer County currently contracts with local utility districts and private vendors for the majority of maintenance of its Tahoe Beaches.

PASSIVE PARKS & OPEN SPACE

The County's passive parks and open space system provides a venue for passive recreation and trails while maintaining natural resources, providing wildlife habitat, and celebrating the county's unique visual character. The County manages 15 Passive Park & Open Space facilities which average about 43 acres per park and include facilities such as trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. Hidden Falls Regional Park is the largest County-owned facility and offers approximately 30 miles of trails for hiking, running, biking and horseback riding. Additionally, the County operates and maintains three trailheads and one campground, the Bear River Park and Campground.

The following pages list and quantify the County's active parks, beaches, and passive parks/open space facilities.

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PARK FACILITIES, AMENITIES & FURNISHINGS

The following tables summarizes the different types of amenities offered at each of the county-owned parks and open spaces.

Table 5: Amenities of County-Owned Active Parks by Region

Active Parks		Facility Type	Restroom (Permanent)	Restroom (Temporary)	Parking (off-roadway)	Diamond Field	Soccer Field	Open Lawn/Multi-use Field	Picnic Facilities	Playground	Skatepark	Exercise Course	Dog Facilities	Horseshoe Pits	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Pickleball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Group Area	Outdoor Pool	Walking Loop	Next to a School or Community Facility	Trail Access	Equestrian Facilities
West Placer	Doyle Ranch Park	L	X					X	X	X				X		X					X		X	
	Dry Creek Community Park	L	X		X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X			X		X		X	
	Sabre City Park	L						X	X	X						X			X					
	Sheridan Park	L		X	X	X			X	X						X			X			X		
Granite Bay/Loomis Basin	Treelake Village Park	L	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X							X	
	Treelake Terrace Park	L						X															X	
	Douglas Ranch Park	L	X		X		X		X	X												X		
	Sterling Pointe Park	L	X		X	X			X	X									X					
	Loomis Basin Community Park (North & South)	L	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X			X					X
	Franklin Community School Park	L		X	X	X	X															X		
	Granite Bay Community Park	L	X		X	X	X		X	X									X		X			
	Ronald L. Feist Park	L	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X				X			X		
N. Auburn/Meadow Vista	Spring Meadows Park	L						X	X										X					
	Northpark Park	L						X	X	X						X			X					
West Slope	Applegate Park	L		X	X	X			X					X		X			X		X			
	Applegate Park Tot Lot	L			X					X												X		
	Dutch Flat Community Center Recreation Area	L							X	X					X	X	X					X		
	Dutch Flat Community Pool	S	X		X				X									X	X	X				
Foresthill Divide	Foresthill Leroy E. Botts Memorial Park	L	X		X	X		X	X	X				X	X	X		X	X	X		X		
Tahoe Area	Heritage Park Plaza	S							X										X				X	
	Olympic Valley Park	L	X		X		X		X	X							X		X			X	X	

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

Table 6: Amenities of County-Owned Beaches and Passive Parks & Open Space by Region

Beaches, Passive Parks & Open Space		Facility Type	Permanent Restroom	Temporary Restroom	Parking (off-roadway)	Parking (roadside)	Trailer Parking	Picnic Facilities	Seating	Map or Interp... Signage	Dog Facilities	Access to Water	Access to Trails	Paved, Shared-Use Trails	Natural Surface Trails	Equestrian Facilities	Camping (Tent & Trailer)	Group Camping	Day Use Area	Beach	Play Equipment
West Placer	Dry Creek Open Space	LO			X	X						X	X	X	X	X					
	Hidden Falls Regional Park	RO	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
	Griffith Quarry Park	LO		X	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	X					
	Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve & Bird Sanctuary	LO		X	X		X	X		X					X						
Granite Bay/ Loomis Basin	Miner's Ravine Nature Reserve	LO			X					X					X						
	Ronald L. Feist Park Open Space	LO	X		X					X											
	Sterling Pointee Trail Staging Area	T		X	X		X		X	X			X		X	X					
N. Auburn/ Meadow Vista	Meadow Vista Staging Area	LO		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X					
	Plaza Park	LO							X												
West Slope	Cisco Grove Gould Park	LO	X		X	X		X		X		X			X						
	Green Valley Trail Head	LO			X		X						X		X	X					
	Bear River Park & Campground	C	X		X		X	X		X		X			X	X	X	X	X		
Foresthill Divide	Foresthill Trail Staging Area	T			X		X								X	X					
	Todd Valley Pond Park	LO		X	X			X	X	X		X			X						
Tahoe Area	Commons Beach	B	X		X			X	X	X		X		X						X	X
	Griff Creek Recreation Area	B		X		X		X		X		X			X					X	
	Lake Forest Beach	B		X		X		X		X	X	X			X					X	
	Lakeside Park	B				X						X			X					X	
	Moon Dunes Beach	B		X		X				X		X			X					X	
	Secline Beach	B				X		X				X			X					X	
	Speedboat Beach	B	X			X						X			X					X	
	Olympic Valley Park Open Space	LO	X		X			X					X	X							

FACILITY TYPE LEGEND

L = Active Park | Local Park

S = Active Park | Specialty Park

B = Beach

LO = Passive Park & Open Space | Local Passive Park/Open Space

RO = Passive Park & Open Space | Regional Passive Park/Open Space

T = Passive Park & Open Space | Trailhead

C = Passive Parks & Open Space | Campground

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PARK TYPES AND ACREAGE BY REGION

The table below organizes each of the County's parks and open space facilities according to where they are located and their size. The accompanying map on page 43 shows the level of service for each of the regions using the estimated 2017 population.

Table 7: County-Owned Park Types and Acreage by Region

Regions	Park Type	Park Name	Acres	Total
West Placer	Local Active Park	Dry Creek Community Park	34.0	47.6
		Sabre City Park	5.0	
		Doyle Ranch Park	4.6	
		Sheridan Park	4.0	
	Regional Open Space	Hidden Falls Regional Park	1200.0	1200.0
	Local Passive Park	Dry Creek Open Space	200.3	312.7
		Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve & Bird Sanctuary	88.0	
		Griffith Quarry Park	24.4	
Granite Bay / Loomis Basin	Local Active Park	Loomis Basin Community Park	33.0	88.7
		Granite Bay Community Park	16.3	
		Ronald L. Feist Park	12.1	
		Treelake Village Park	8.0	
		Sterling Pointe Park	8.0	
		Douglas Ranch Park	4.5	
		Franklin School Park	4.5	
		Treelake Terrace Park	2.3	
	Local Passive Park	Miner's Ravine Nature Reserve	24.2	30.6
		Ronald L. Feist Park Open Space	6.4	
	Trailhead	Sterling Pointee Trail Staging	5.9	5.9
N. Auburn / Meadow Vista	Local Active Park	Northpark Park	2.7	3.2
		Spring Meadows Park	0.5	
	Local Passive Park	Plaza Park	0.5	8.5
		Meadow Vista Staging Area	8.0	

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

Regions	Park Type	Park Name	Acres	Total
West Slope	Specialty Park	Dutch Flat Community Pool	4.8	4.8
		Applegate Park	2.5	3.0
		Dutch Flat Community Center Recreation Area	0.3	
		Applegate Park Tot Lot	0.2	
	Campground	Bear River Park & Campground	192.0	192.0
	Local Passive Park	Cisco Grove Gould Park	16.0	26.0
		Green Valley Trailhead	10.0	
Foresthill Divide	Local Active Park	Foresthill Leroy E. Botts Memorial	18.2	18.2
	Local Passive Park	Todd Valley Pond Park	41.1	41.1
	Trailhead	Foresthill Trail Staging Area	2.0	2.0
Tahoe Area	Specialty Park	Heritage Park Plaza	0.8	0.8
	Local Active Park	Olympic Valley Park	8.0	8.0
	Beach	Commons Beach	6.9	19.8
		Secline Beach	4.1	
		Lake Forest Beach	3.0	
		Lakeside Park	2.8	
		Moon Dunes Beach	1.5	
		Speedboat Beach	1.0	
		Griff Creek Recreation Area	0.5	
	Local Passive Park	Olympic Valley Park Open Space	22.0	22.0
COUNTY-WIDE TOTAL				2,034.9

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

COUNTY PARTNERS

A complete understanding of the County's park system requires an understanding and acknowledgment of the facilities and services provided by the County's partners. Recreation districts, utility districts, schools, state agencies, and other public entities provide park and trail facilities and programming. The partnering organizations fall into three general categories – public agencies (state, districts, and schools), non-governmental organizations, and private service providers. The following section summarizes the key features of what each partner provides including any unique offerings and the potential for future collaboration. Working together the partners are able to create a well-integrated regional system of recreation facilities and satisfy the current and future needs of residents and visitors. Acreage of federal lands are not included in the tables but are discussed on page 37.

Table 8: Park Quantity and Acreage of County-Owned and County Partners-Owned Facilities

Recreation Facility	Total Number	Total Acreage
Active Parks	84	645
Local Parks (County)	19	169
Local Park (School District)	36	127
Local Park (Utility/Rec District)	24	141
Specialty Parks (County)	2	5
Specialty Park (Utility/Rec District)	1	45
Regional Park (Utility/Rec District)	2	158
Beaches (Tahoe Area)	21	69
Beaches (County)	7	20
Beaches (Utility/Rec District)	5	12
Beaches (State)	9	37
Passive Parks/Open Space	24	35,859
Local Passive Park/Open Space (County)	10	431
Regional Passive Park/Open Space (County)	1	1,200
Open Space (Utility/Rec District)	1	40
Open Space (State)	6	33,919
Trailheads (County)	3	18
Campground (County)	1	192
Campground (Utility/Rec District)	1	4
Campground (State)	1	55
Total	120	36,573

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PUBLIC AGENCIES

In addition to County-owned parks, public agencies also contribute to Placer County's recreation system. Federal agencies, state agencies, cities, recreation districts, utility districts, and county schools each fill a particular niche to provide access to the outdoors.

FEDERAL

Federal agencies include the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the Army Corps of Engineers. Federal agencies provide the largest amount of open space in the county and provide trailheads, campgrounds, beach access, and other recreation opportunities. Collectively, 91 percent (402,878 acres) of the county's open space is federally-owned. These lands offer activities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, fishing, motorized off-road activities, and cross-country skiing. Note that some activities may be restricted in certain locations per agency regulations.

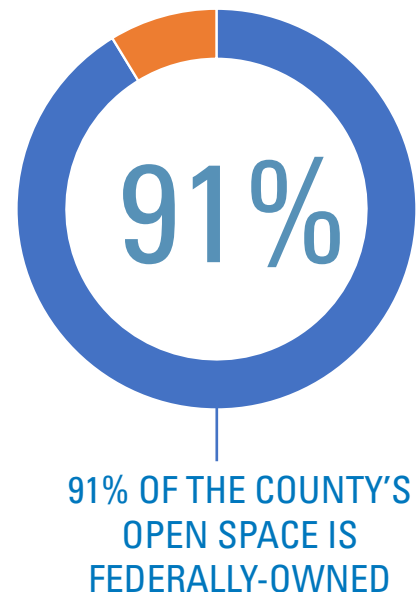


Table 9: Breakdown of Federal Land Ownership and Quantity by Region

Federal Land by Region	Total Acreage	Bureau of Land Management	United States Forest Service	Army Corps of Engineers	Bureau of Reclamation*
West Placer	136	136	0	0	0
Granite Bay/Loomis Basin	6,650	0	0	0	6,650
North Auburn/Meadow Vista	873	0	0	0	873
West Slope	39,429	4,716	29,794	0	4,919
Foresthill Divide	292,001	10,456	265,969	0	15,576
Tahoe Area	63,789	0	62,676	1,113	0
Total	402,878	15,308	358,439	1,113	28,018

* ASRA and FLSRA are owned by the BOR (acreage included in this table) but managed by California State Parks. BOR lands also include those lands under management by Auburn Area Recreation and Park District at Railhead Park, Overlook Park, and near the Community Center along Maidu Drive. BOR also owns and manages lands in the Tahoe area, including at Lake Tahoe Dam, under court decree.

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

STATE

The State of California provides several facilities for residents' recreational enjoyment. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA) and Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) are located near the Granite Bay/Loomis, North Auburn/Meadow Vista, and Foresthill Divide regions. The State Recreation Areas are one of the primary sources for passive recreation for residents and visitors in the area. In the Tahoe region, California State Parks and the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) provide the major state recreation areas. Facilities include beaches, campgrounds, and protected lands. California State Lands Commission owns Lake Tahoe's lake bed and lands below the low water mark.

Major State Recreation Facilities in Placer County

- **Auburn State Recreation Area:** State recreation area with hiking, river access, boating, fishing, camping, mountain biking, gold panning, limited hunting, equestrian/horseback riding trails, and off-highway motorcycle riding. Whitewater recreation is also very popular on both forks of the river, with Class II, III, IV, and V runs. Over 30 private outfitters are licensed to offer whitewater trips in ASRA.
- **Folsom Lake State Recreation Area:** State recreation area with hiking, biking, running, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing, water-skiing and boating.
- **Kings Beach State Recreation Area:** Day-use only beach facility, with picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms, a playground, a half court for basketball, fishing, boat ramp, and water sport activities available.
- **Burton Creek State Park:** Open space with trails and groomed cross country ski trails.
- **Tahoe State Recreation Area and Campground:** Twenty-three campsites with picnic tables, required-use food storage containers, and fire pits. There are showers and restrooms available for registered campers.
- **Donner Memorial State Park:** Visitor center, camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, water-skiing, and hiking. In winter, visitors can cross-country ski and snowshoe on trails.
- **Ward Creek:** Open space with trails.
- **Dollar Property:** Conservancy-owned open space with trails.
- **Carmelian Bay Lake Access:** Picnicking and beach access.
- **Sandy Beach:** Picnicking and beach access.
- **Moon Dune:** Tahoe Vista Beach: Picnicking and beach access.
- **Steamers Beach:** Beach access.
- **North Tahoe Beach Center:** Day use beach with picnicking, sand volleyball courts, horseshoe courts and showers.
- **Secline Beach:** Picnicking and beach access.
- **Skylandia Park and Beach:** Day use only beach and park facility with picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms, walking trails, pier, beach, and swim area.
- **William B Layton State Park:** Museum exhibits and outdoor event space.
- **Star Harbor Park, Beach, and Campground:** California Fish and Wildlife.

Table 10: State Facilities Provided in the County

State Facilities by Region	Total Acreage	Auburn State Recreation Area *	Folsom Lake Recreation Area*	Kings Beach State Recreation Area	Burton Creek State Park	Tahoe State Rec Area & Campground	Donner Memorial State Park	Ward Creek	Dollar Property	Carmelian Bay Lake Access	Sandy Beach	Moon Dune - Tahoe Vista Beach	Steamers Beach	North Tahoe Beach Center	Secline Beach	Kings Beach Lake Access	Skylandia Park and Beach	William B Layton State Park	Star Harbor Park, Beach & Campground
West Placer	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Granite Bay/Loomis Basin	6,650	1,125	5,525	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
North Auburn/Meadow Vista	873	873	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
West Slope	7,781	4,919	-	-	-	-	2,862	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Foresthill Divide	15,576	15,576	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Tahoe Area	3,132	-	-	11	1,890	55	-	180	969	4	3	4	2	7	4	3	24	3	1
Total	34,039	22,493	5,525	11	1,890	55	2,862	180	969	4	3	4	2	7	4	3	24	3	1

* ASRA and FLSRA are owned by the BOR but managed by California State Parks (acreage included in this table).

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

CITIES

For the purposes of this document, the county's six incorporated cities/towns are not included in the recreation inventory and analysis since they are largely self-reliant in terms of funding, resources, and facilities and have their own park system master plans. However, it is important to acknowledge their role. Except for Colfax and Loomis, each city/town has an extensive park system and offer recreation programming. Between the cities/towns, there are a total of 126 parks, 6,818 acres of open space, 124 playgrounds, 4 aquatic facilities, and 83 miles of trails. Programming ranges from summer camps, youth enrichment programs, sport leagues for youth and adults, senior enrichment programs, childcare, and fitness programs as well as several special events that are held yearly.

DISTRICTS

The following districts contribute to the recreation facilities available to Placer County residents: Northstar Community Services District (NCS), Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), Auburn Area Recreation and Park District (AARPD), and North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD). Additionally, the formation of the Placer Vineyards Park and Recreation District will oversee design, construction, and ultimately maintenance of the Placer Vineyard future park system. Combined, the districts own and/or maintain 553 acres of park space, including local parks, specialty parks, regional parks, and a small amount for campgrounds and beaches. Highlights of each district's offerings as they relate to the County's parks and trails system are summarized below:



**553 ACRES
OF PARKS AND
OPEN SPACE OWNED
BY RECREATION AND
UTILITY/SPECIAL
SERVICES DISTRICTS**

- Northstar Community Services District:
 - » Has constructed and maintains over 14.6 miles of multi-use trails (in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Northstar-at-Tahoe).
- Tahoe City Public Utility District:
 - » Provides maintenance and operating services for facilities that are owned by other agencies in addition to their own facilities.
 - » Operates three community centers, one campground, one golf course, one winter sports park, four beaches, six sports fields, and 11 parks, including the Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area.
 - » Programs youth programs and camps, adult programs, sport leagues, and special events.
 - » TCPUD maintains Placer County's Olympic Valley Park, Lake Forest Beach, and Commons Beach.
 - » Maintains 21 miles of multi-use trails.
- Auburn Area Recreation and Park District:
 - » Provides 11 parks including one dog park, one skatepark and a disc golf course.
 - » Owns and operates one community center and two aquatic centers.
 - » Provides youth programs and camps, adult programs, and sports programming.
 - » Hosts a number of events and activities including Party in the Park, the Auburn Community Festival, and Pioneer Days.
- North Tahoe Public Utility District:
 - » Owns and manages three recreation facilities.
 - » Maintains County beaches ("Steamer's" Beach, Moon Dunes Beach, Speedboat Beach, Secline Beach, and Griff Creek Area).
 - » Owns and maintains the Tahoe Vista Recreation Area beach.

Table 11: District Facilities Managed in the County

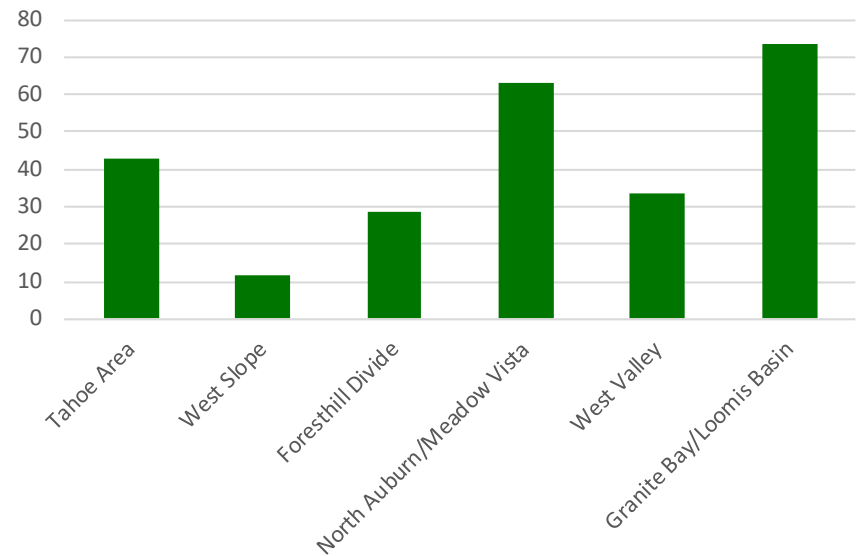
District Facilities	Trails	Campground	Golf Course	Beaches	Local Parks	Open Space/ Parklands	Programming	Dog Park	Skatepark	Winter Sports	Disc Golf	Community Center	Aquatic Center	Playground	Sport Fields	Sport Courts
NCS	14.6															
TCPUD	21	1	1	4	11	1	X	1		1		3		4	6	7
AARPD					13		X	2	1		1	1	2	7	5	13
NTPUD	1.5			1			X	1		1	1			1	5	5
Total	37.1		1	5	24	1	X	4	1	2	2	4	2	12	16	25

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public school district facilities provide sport fields and playgrounds which are an important resource for Placer County communities because of their proximity to local neighborhoods. While these facilities are unavailable for use during school hours, residents and sport leagues use some of the facilities after hours and on weekends. The County recognizes the restricted use and adjusts level of service calculations accordingly. Only 50 percent of a public school's recreation areas are considered into park service level calculations. Countywide this equates to approximately 127 acres of parklands provided by partnerships with public schools.

Figure 2: *Acreage of School-Provided County Park Facilities*



Franklin Community School Park is a County facility located next to Franklin School

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PROVIDERS

Several non-governmental organizations (NGO's) supplement the County's recreation system with a host of amenities for the public to enjoy. The types of NGO's that operate within the county include land trusts, youth/family organizations, educational organizations, and established camps. Land trusts, including the Placer Land Trust, the Truckee Donner Land Trust, and Trust for Public Lands, and American River Conservancy focus on the acquisition or protection of special places while also providing informational and hands-on conservation programs. The Tahoe Cross Country Ski Education Association provides groomed ski trails, lessons and clinics, environmental education camps, and summer trailhead services.

Youth and family organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club and Boy Scouts of America, provide youth and family-based programs including exercise, fitness, and recreational sports. Educational organizations, such as Todd's Valley Miwok-Maidu Culture Center, Watson Cabin Museum, and the Tahoe Fish Hatchery, provide cultural, environmental, and historical facilities for experiential learning. Finally, there are a variety of camp facilities that host retreats and events. These events are primarily provided by faith-based organizations.

PRIVATE PROVIDERS

An array of private businesses provide a variety of recreation services in the county. Table 12 provides an "at-a-glance" look at the types of facilities offered in each of the county's regions. The types of recreation facilities provided highlight the county's diverse outdoor environments, recreational opportunities, and scenic character. The following matrix breaks down the facilities by uses and geographical regions.

Table 12: Park Services in the County Provided by Non-Governmental Organizations, Private Businesses, and Public/Private Partnerships

Services Provided by Private Businesses & NGO's	Marina	Ski Area	Equestrian	HOA Community Park	Aquatic Center (outdoor)	Tennis Center	Golf	Passive Park	Recreation Center	Camp/Retreat Center	Nature Center/Museum	Adventure Activities/Extreme Sports	Hunting/Shooting Range	Fairgrounds	Mini Golf	RV/Campgrounds	Private/Club Pool
West Placer	-	-	1	4	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	-	-
Granite Bay/Loomis Basin	-	-	9	1	-	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
North Auburn/Meadow Vista	-	-	-	1	1	-	5	2	3	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	3
West Slope	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	5	2	1	-	-	-	6	-
Foresthill Divide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tahoe Area	16	6	1	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	4	2	-	-	2	-	2
Total	16	6	11	6	1	2	12	5	9	8	10	4	3	2	2	7	7

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

INVENTORY SUMMARY

Counties, cities, and agencies across the nation use level of service (LOS) standards as a metric to understand the amount and type of park facilities their residents have and to identify gaps. It should be noted, however, that although the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) uses LOS to track metrics they have moved away from promoting it as being the only metric for jurisdictions to use when planning for their parks system. There is a recognition that every community is different and the need for parks and recreation amenities varies based on demographics, resident desires, land planning, geography, and proximity to Federal and State open space. NRPA now recommends using benchmark comparisons and adjusting park system offerings to adapt to changing community needs.

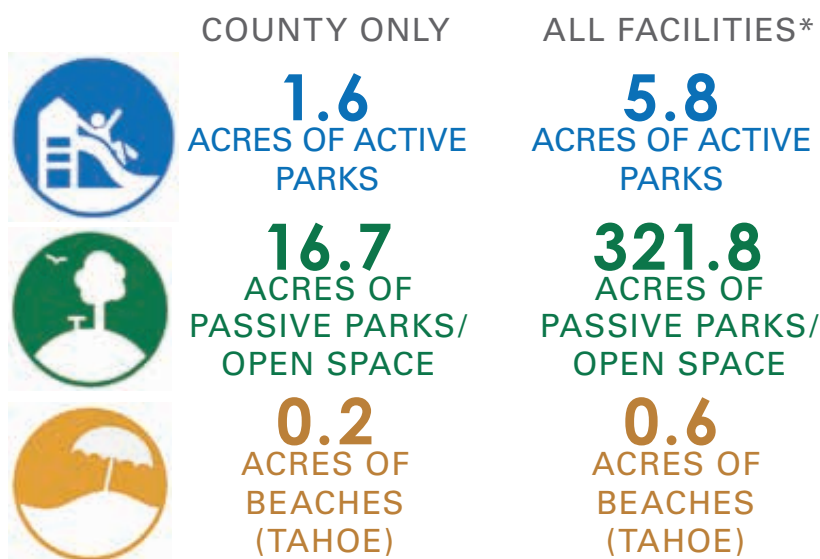
Placer County's General Plan adopted the following level of service for the county:

- Active Parks: 5 acres/1,000 people
- Passive Parks/Open Space: 5 acres/1,000 people
- Recreation Trails: 1 mile/1,000 people

Nine jurisdictions and recreation districts were evaluated in the planning process. Six of the nine entities provided an average of 4.6 acres of active parks per 1,000 residents. The City of Roseville provides almost 8 acres/1,000 residents. The above LOS is comparable with other counties and cities throughout California and the nation. In 2017, NRPA found the median LOS to be 9.6 acres per 1,000 residents (includes both active and passive parks). Placer County's adopted LOS is 10 acres per 1,000 residents when including both active and passive parks. Survey results showed that residents do not feel the County has too many parks. Therefore, the LOS adopted in the General Plan is used throughout the Master Plan recommendations.

The Master Plan recognizes LOS should not be the only metric used to evaluate a park system. It is a helpful planning tool and is needed to determine the amount of parks and open space that should be provided for new residential development. Although, the Master Plan maintains the County's adopted service levels, as part of the recommendations, it also describes other metrics that County can use to make sure the system meets the different needs of each of its regions. Supporting information in Chapter 4's recommendations provide additional guidance on addressing the growing desire for some regions in the county to have more trails through open space systems in lieu of sports fields.

FACILITIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE (2017 POPULATION)

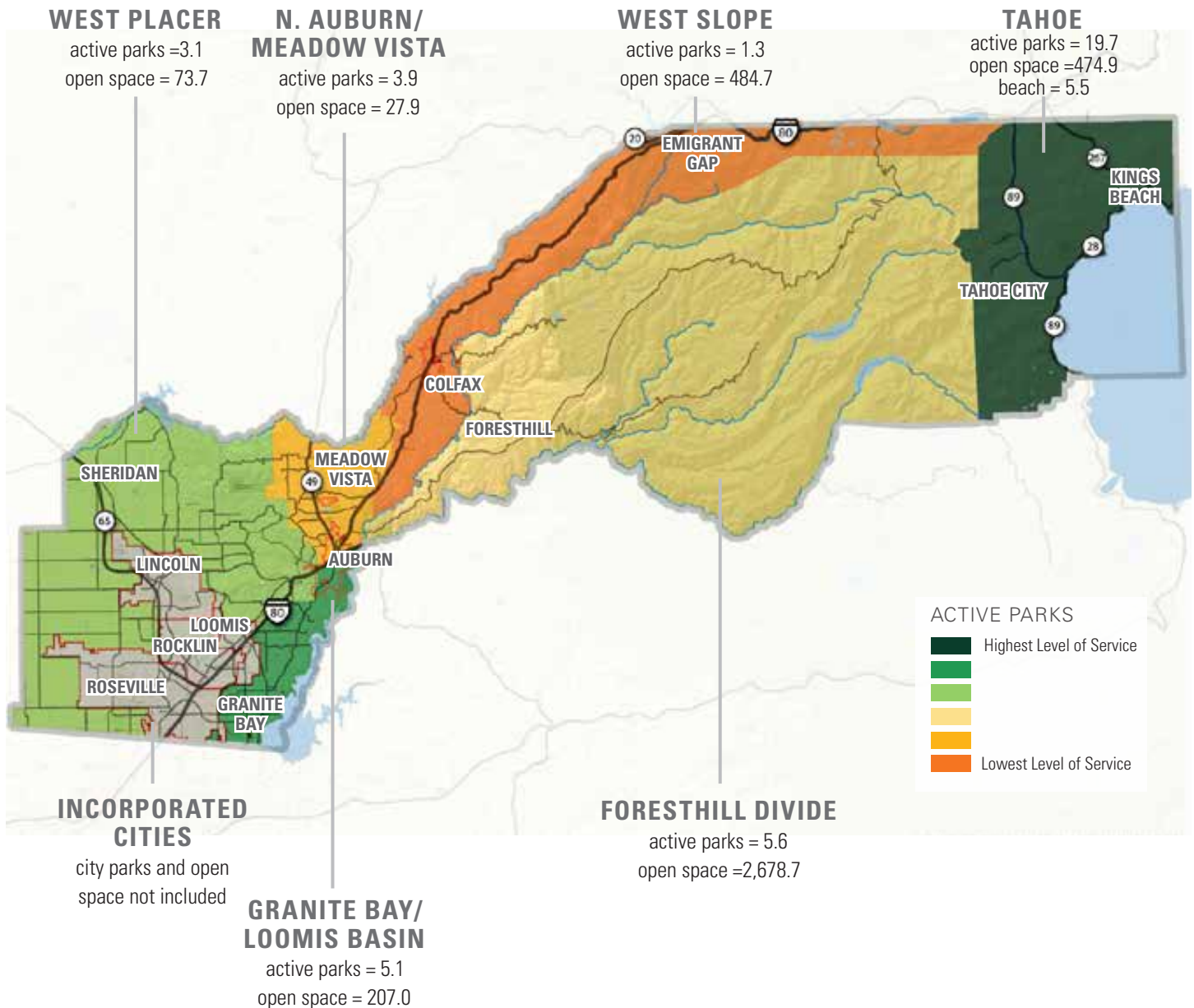


Note: Acreage for passive parks and open space include lands that does not contain recreation amenities such as trails or staging areas, and are primarily provided for resource conservation, water quality, habitat, viewshed protection, or conservation purposes. The high level of service for passive parks and open space is due to large areas of public lands provided by partner agencies such as recreation and utility districts, State Parks, and the California Tahoe Conservancy.

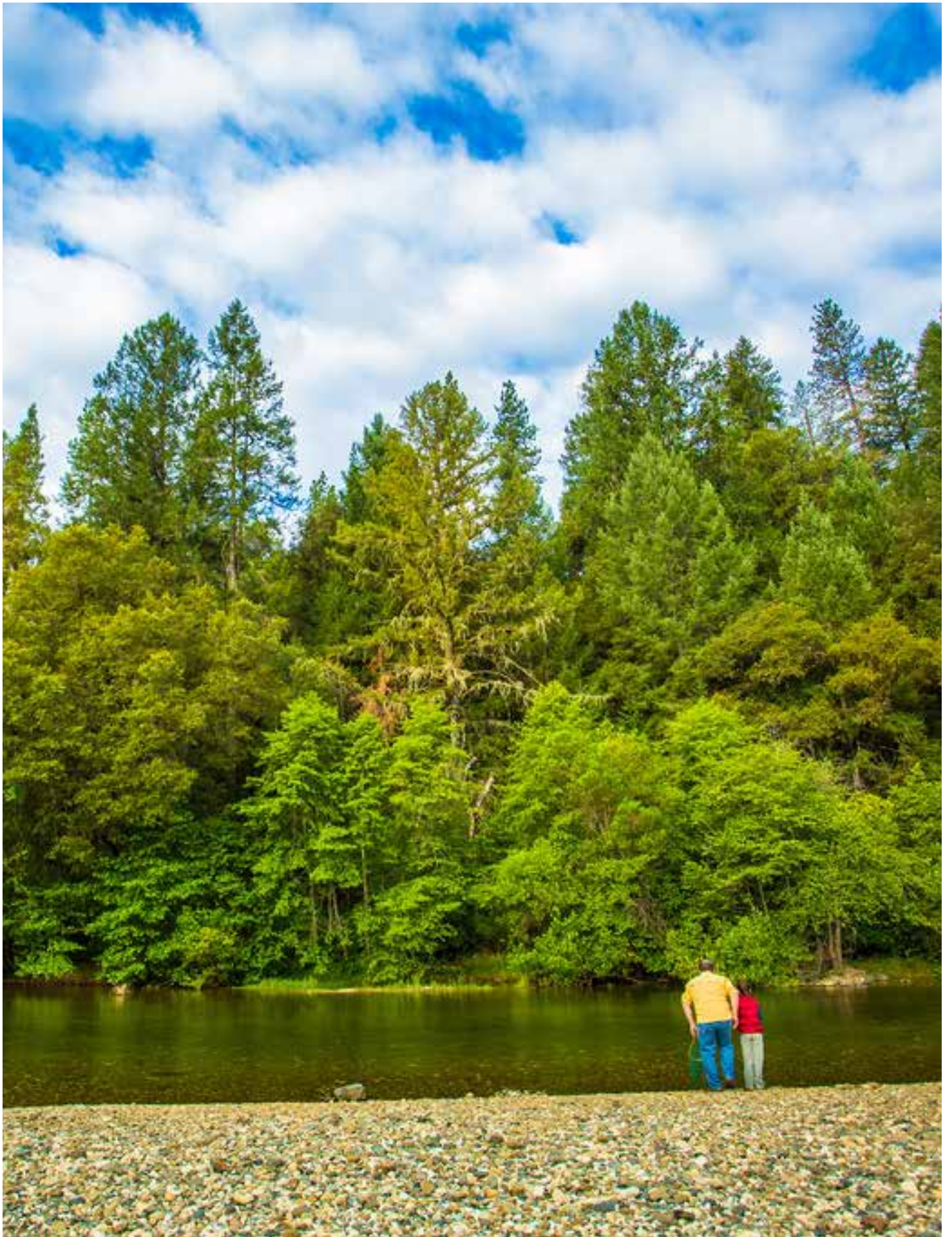
*Includes County, State, NTPUD, TCPUD, NCSD, AARD, & School Districts (at 50%) in unincorporated areas

PLACER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE TODAY

COUNTY CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE BY REGION (ACRES OF PARK PER 1,000 RESIDENTS)
(ALL FACILITIES INCLUDING PARTNER FACILITIES) (USES 2017 POPULATION)



Note: Uses 2017 demographic numbers.



2 PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

DEMOGRAPHICS
COMMUNITY INPUT
NATIONAL & STATE TRENDS



PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

In addition to the county's physical setting and access to the outdoors, the Master Plan must respond to the residents' expectations and needs, identify relevant benchmarks and trends, and provide a professional assessment summary of facility needs. This chapter summarizes those elements at the countywide level. A more in-depth summary of each region's level of service, key takeaways from the needs survey, and capital improvement recommendations are provided in Chapter Five.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- At 2.5 percent annual growth rate, Placer County is one of the fastest growing counties in California, with the majority of growth occurring in the western portion of the county.
- The median age of Placer County's residents is 13 percent higher than the state average. And projections show the population is aging. The County should address needs of an older population while also providing for access to nature for children and adults.
- Demographics, trends, and community input reinforce the need to provide more sports fields in Granite Bay/Loomis Basin.

- The County should continue to partner with schools and special districts to provide active park facilities in Foresthill Divide, West Slope, and Tahoe Area. The communities still need some level of sports fields and sports courts to serve the families with children living within those regions.
- Communities, such as Kings Beach, with higher percentages of people from Hispanic or Latino origins typically desire parks close to home and with larger group facilities in order to spend time with nuclear and extended families.
- East Placer County is especially influenced by the high percentage of seasonally-used homes. Their recreation needs include access to open space, trails, and more dispersed recreation activities.
- Tourism and visitation are economic drivers in the Tahoe Region. The area must meet needs of four season outdoor recreation. The goal is to maintain and develop facilities that support visitor activities and provide them with fun, quality amenities as described in the 2015 North Lake Tahoe Tourism Master Plan.

PRIORITIES FROM SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- Connected trail system
- Additional paved and dirt trails
- Better mapping and wayfinding
- Volunteer Program

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

DEMOGRAPHICS

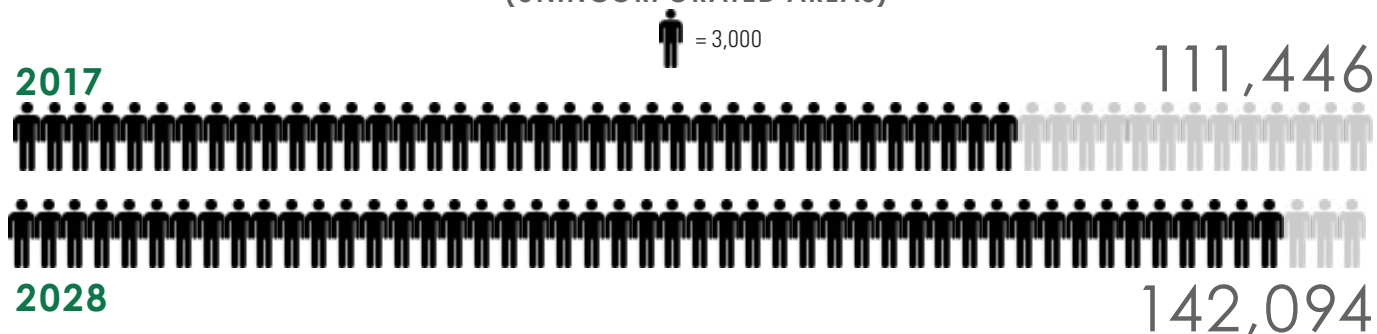
Planning for future parks, trails, and open lands requires understanding the people who use the system today and anticipation of population changes in the future. Factors such as population growth, age distributions, diversity, income levels, and residency status influence the quantity of park facilities required and type of amenities desired by county residents. The graphics in this section illustrate key elements of Placer County's demographic composition.

Placer County is one of the fastest growing counties in California, with the majority of growth occurring in the western portion of the county. In May 2017, the Department of Finance's Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, Placer County had the state's second-fastest growth rate of 1.8 percent. Unincorporated portions of the county saw a 2.5% population increase. Highest annual growth rates are projected for the West Placer region. The Tahoe Basin subregion saw declines in permanent population over the past decade. During 2020 (and COVID-19), trends showed people moving into the Tahoe area as they relocated from cities and took advantage of working remotely. Limitations on housing supply in the Tahoe area will limit the impact of the trend in the long term. Within the cities, the greatest growth was seen in Rocklin, with a 4.5 percent increase. Lincoln and Roseville increased by 1.9 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively.

ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE



PLACER COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH (UNINCORPORATED AREAS)



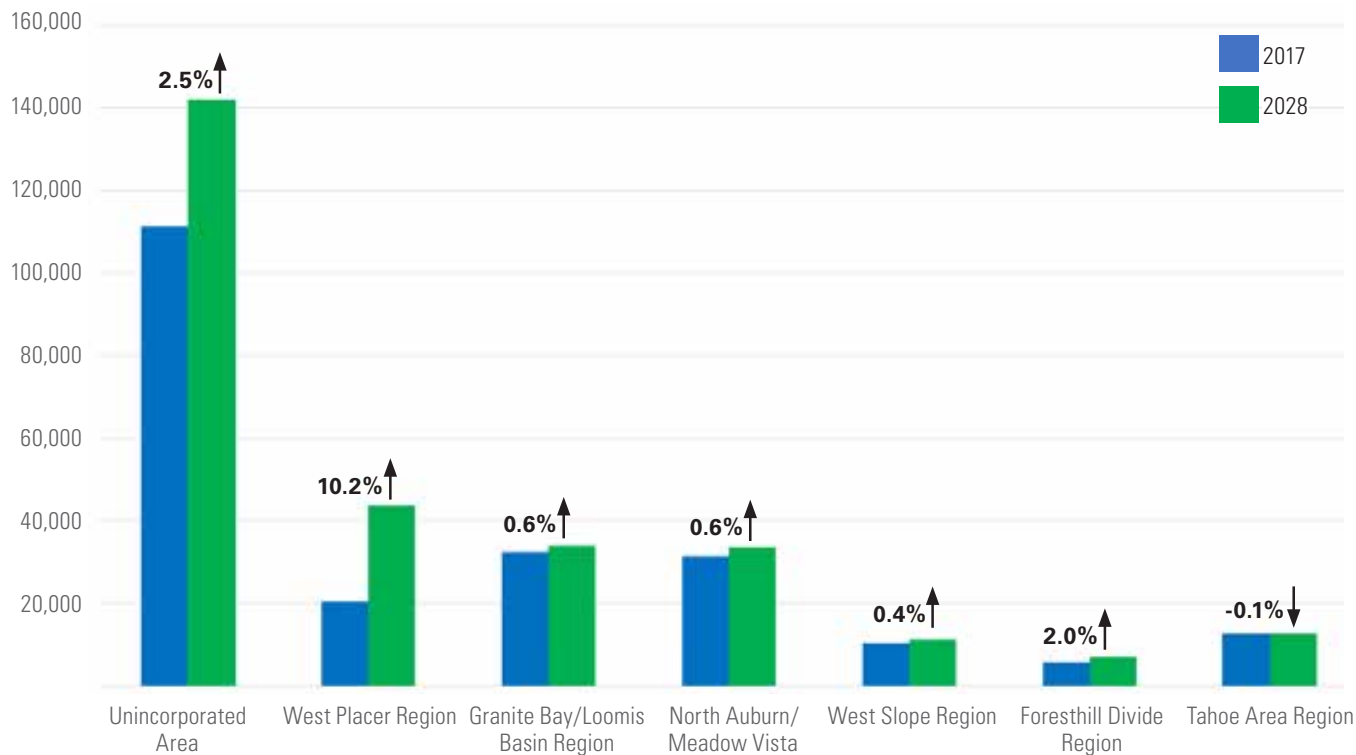
Note:

Annual growth rates are per the Sacramento Area Council of Governments *2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy*. Growth rates were applied to the February 2017 population estimates from the California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit. Regional population numbers were derived from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. ESRI forecasts for 2017 and adjusted to coordinate with Department of Finance population estimate for Placer County's unincorporated population.

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

A GROWING COUNTY

PLACER COUNTY ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH (UNINCORPORATED AREAS)



Note:

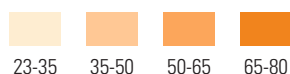
Annual growth rates are per the Sacramento Area Council of Governments *2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy*. Growth rates were applied to the February 2017 population estimates from the California Department of Finance, Demographic Unit. Regional population numbers were derived from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. ESRI forecasts for 2017 and adjusted to coordinate with Department of Finance population estimate for Placer County's unincorporated population.

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

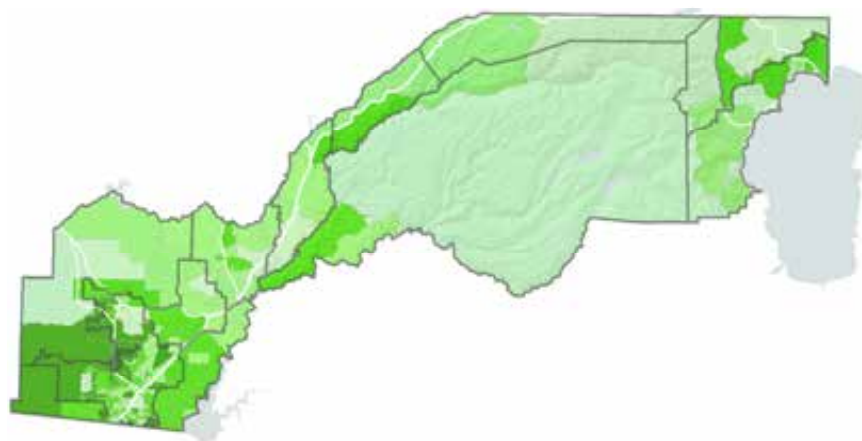
DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

Demographic characteristics vary across Placer County's communities. American Community Survey 2016 (2016 ACS) 5-year estimate census data indicators were analyzed and maps on the following pages illustrate broad trends associated with age distribution, diversity, income, community, and seasonal residency.

MEDIAN AGE



PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18



Source: American Community Survey 2016 (2016 ACS) 1-year estimate

MEDIAN AGE AND HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Placer County's population is mostly older and has fewer families than California as a whole. The median age of county residents is 41.4 compared to 35.2 for statewide. At a glance, median age tends to be lower in the western-most areas of the county and in the cities.

Age distribution throughout the county is correlated with areas that report having households with children under 18. Western Placer, Granite Bay/Loomis Basin and certain census blocks in the Foresthill Divide, West Slope, and Tahoe Area regions indicate having higher percentages of households with children under 18. The presence of families generally indicates a need for more traditional active park facilities. The data reinforces the need for active parks and sports fields in Granite Bay/Loomis Basin. It also indicates a need to continue providing the current level of active park facilities in those areas of the Foresthill Divide, West Slope, and Tahoe area where the need is supported.

The California Department of Finance (DOF) 2017 population and housing estimates show Placer County has a lower number of persons per household than the state average (2.66 versus 2.97). With regard to park planning, the rate typically corresponds with the presence of family members in a household. Higher rates indicate multiple household members (young or old) and can imply a need for park facilities that serve larger groups and families. Parks can provide places of socialization and community gathering. Planning to accommodate such uses is even more important in communities with low persons per household to address isolation and loneliness.

AGING POPULATION

Similar to national trends, Placer County's population is aging. 2017 reports from the DOF's indicate a 104.8 percent increase in seniors over the age of 75 by the year 2030. In contrast, the percent of the county's population 19 and younger is projected to decrease by 3.6 percent. As the County plans for the next 10 years and beyond, they should consider needs of an older population while also providing for access to nature for children and adults.

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

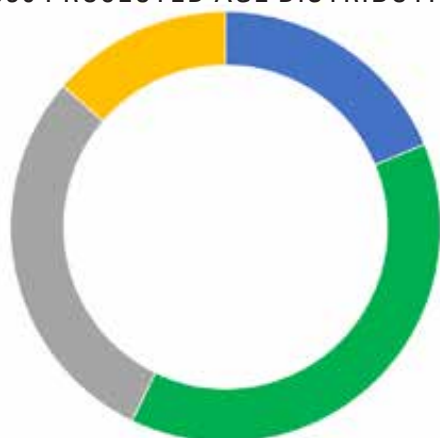
2015 ESTIMATED AGE DISTRIBUTION



AGE RANGE PERCENT OF POPULATION

- children 19 under: 23.8%
- adults 20 to 49: 36.8%
- adults 50 to 74: 31.2%
- seniors 75+: 8.2%

2030 PROJECTED AGE DISTRIBUTION



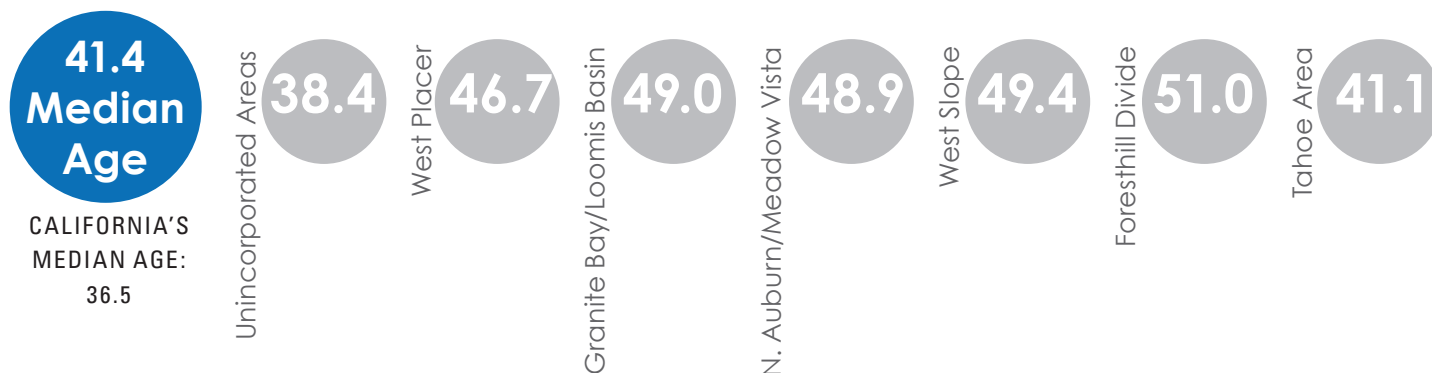
AGE RANGE PERCENT OF POPULATION

- children 19 under: 18.7%
- adults 20 to 49: 38.4%
- adults 50 to 74: 29.2%
- seniors 75+: 13.7%

3.6% Decrease
in population of
children 19 under

104.8% Increase
in population of
seniors 75+

PLACER COUNTY

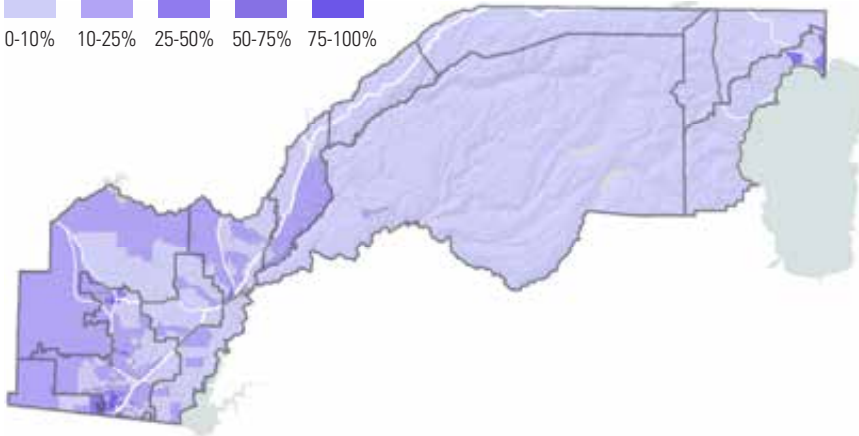
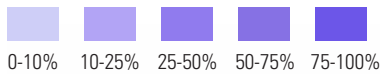


Sources:

Age Distribution: Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance, February 2017
Median Age: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. ESRI forecasts for 2017.

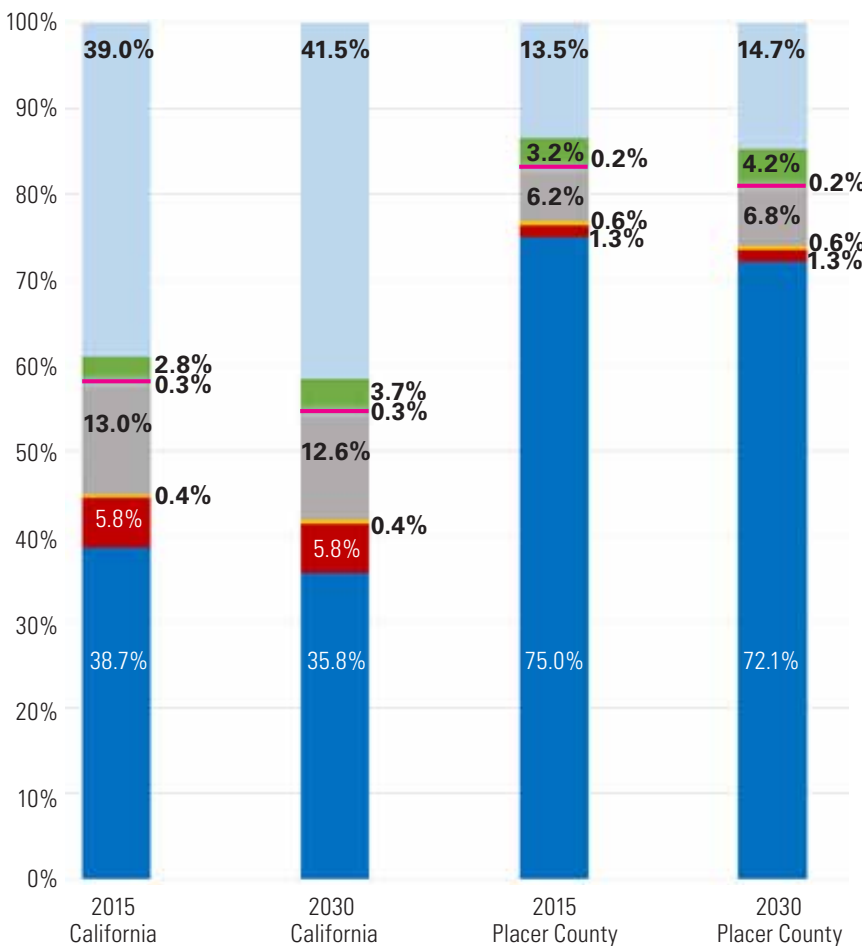
PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

PERCENT HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN



Source: 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimate

2015 AND 2030 CALIFORNIA AND PLACER COUNTY RACE/ETHNICITY



10.7% Increase in percent of population that associates as Asian

30.7% Increase in percent of population that associates as multiracial

9.2% Increase in percent of population that associates as being of Hispanic ethnicity (any race)

Source: Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance, February 2017

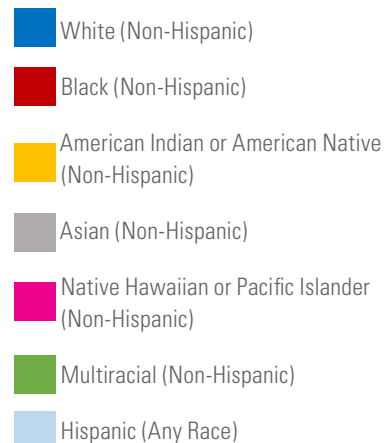
DIVERSITY

Overall, the county is less diverse than the state of California. However, some areas of the county do show higher percentages of people from Hispanic or Latino origin. This is especially true in Kings Beach and in portions of Roseville.

The Department of Finance's projections show a diversification of the county's population over the next 10 years, and the trends mostly parallel the changes anticipated throughout the state. The one area of significant difference is with the population that identifies as Asian. California is projected to have a decrease in the percentage of the population that is Asian, and Placer County is projected to have a 10.7 percent increase.

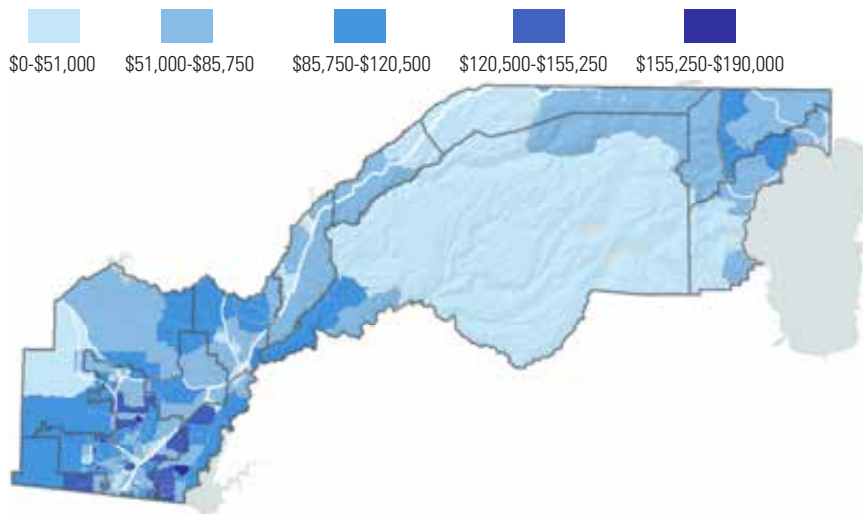
Changes in diversity influence the types of facilities a jurisdiction should provide. In California, park usage among the Hispanic population includes day-use visits to outdoor recreation sites close to home in order to spend time with nuclear and extended families. Average group sizes range from 8-15 people. This indicates a greater need for increased size of picnic areas or the flexibility to group smaller facilities to serve the larger group sizes.

LEGEND

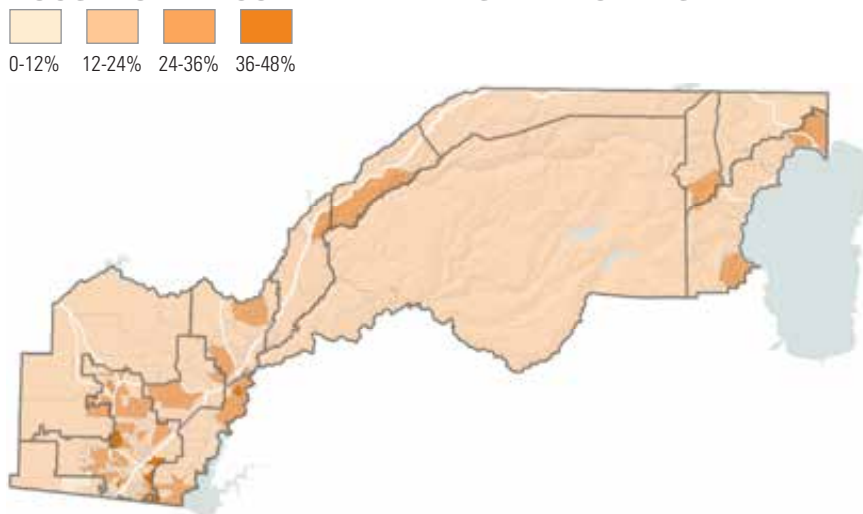


PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

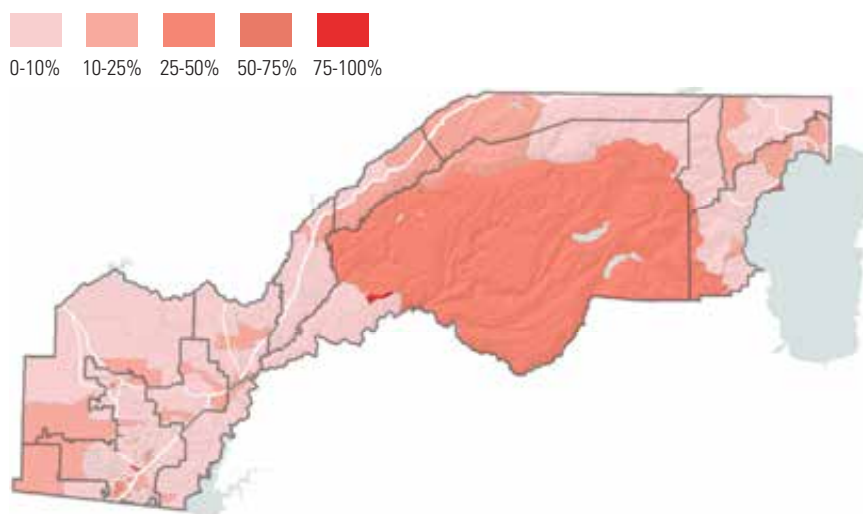
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



MEDIAN MONTHLY OWNER COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS



PERCENT OF POPULATION BELOW POVERTY



Source: 2016 ACS 1-year estimate

INCOME

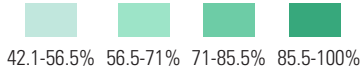
According to the 2016 ACS 1-year estimate, Placer County's median household income was \$85,426, higher than the state average of \$67,739. But median income varies throughout the county. There are census tracts in Granite Bay, Roseville, West Placer, and parts of the Tahoe region which report an annual median income greater than \$120,000. And there are also areas of the county that have much lower median household incomes, such as Kings Beach. The presence of lower income areas in resort areas reflects a service or tourism economy with high levels of second-home owners.

It should be noted that in reviewing the census income-based mapping, areas of low to no population (such as the Tahoe National Forest) are shown as low income and below poverty due to no household income being reported in those locations.

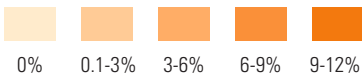
Regardless of income level, all people need the ability to engage in outdoor recreation and have quality offerings. The County should be aware of areas where residents may have lower income levels and therefore may not own a personal vehicle. Removing barriers to parks, open space, and trail access and providing facilities that are within walking distance are important considerations. The County's regional resources, such as Hidden Falls Regional Park, also serves lower income California residents who may not live in the county. The park offers hiking and biking opportunities that can be used by residents of neighboring counties.

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

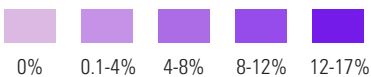
PERCENT TRAVEL TO WORK BY CAR



PERCENT TRAVEL TO WORK BY FOOT



PERCENT TRAVEL TO WORK BY BIKE



MODE OF COMMUTING

The majority of residents in Placer County use a personal vehicle to commute to work. Trends of walking or biking are stronger in the Tahoe region and portions of West Placer. Survey results also indicated most residents were willing to travel more than three miles to recreate at community park facilities. Although this data shows that most people travel by car, the opportunity to shift travel modes will increase as the County and other transportation agencies create a connected biking and walking system.

Within more urban areas of the county, the ability to walk or bike to a park is important. Trail corridors should connect facilities and other community destinations.

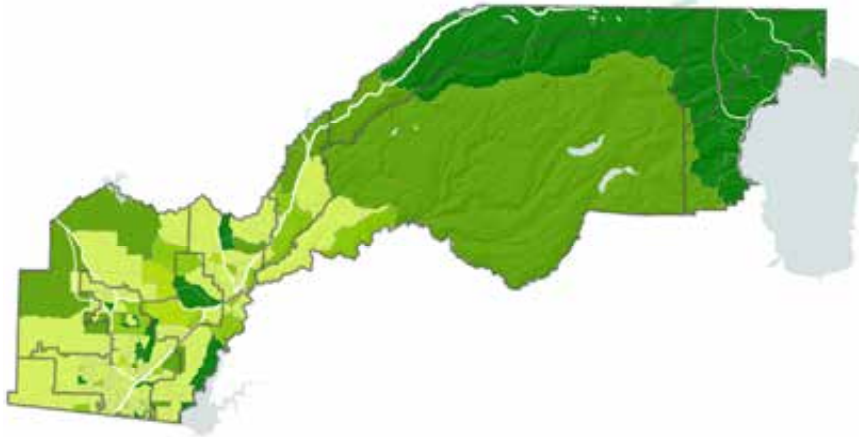
Source: 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimate

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

PERCENT OF VACANT HOUSING



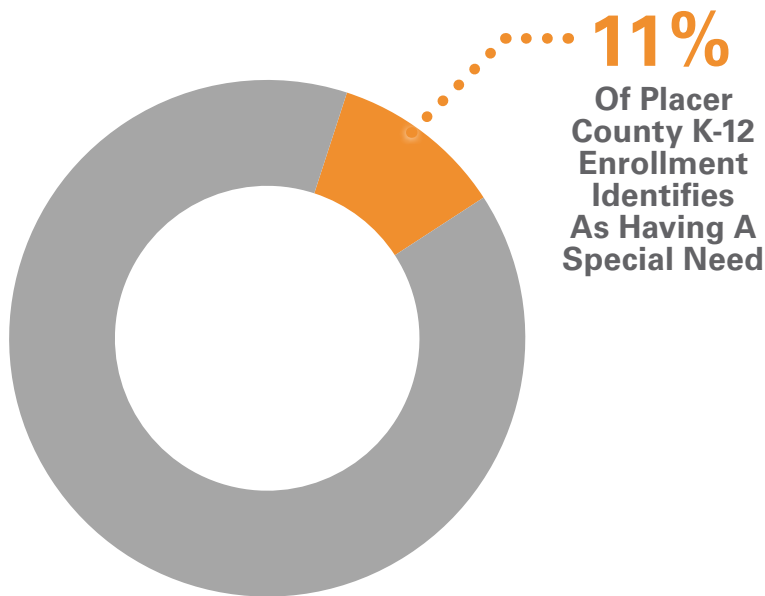
PERCENT OF HOUSING FOR SEASONAL USE



SEASONALITY

Placer County's access to recreation makes it both a great place to live and a great place to visit. East Placer County is especially influenced by the high percentage of homes that are vacant for portions of the year or are only used during certain seasons. DOF 2017 population and housing estimates show Placer County has a vacancy rate of 12.7 percent. The state's rate is 7.5 percent. Second homeowners generally have a lower need for typical neighborhood parks but may have needs for other types of recreation facilities. Access to open space and more dispersed recreation activities is desirable. Additionally, the expectation for trail connectivity is generally high for resort community guests and second-homeowners.

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

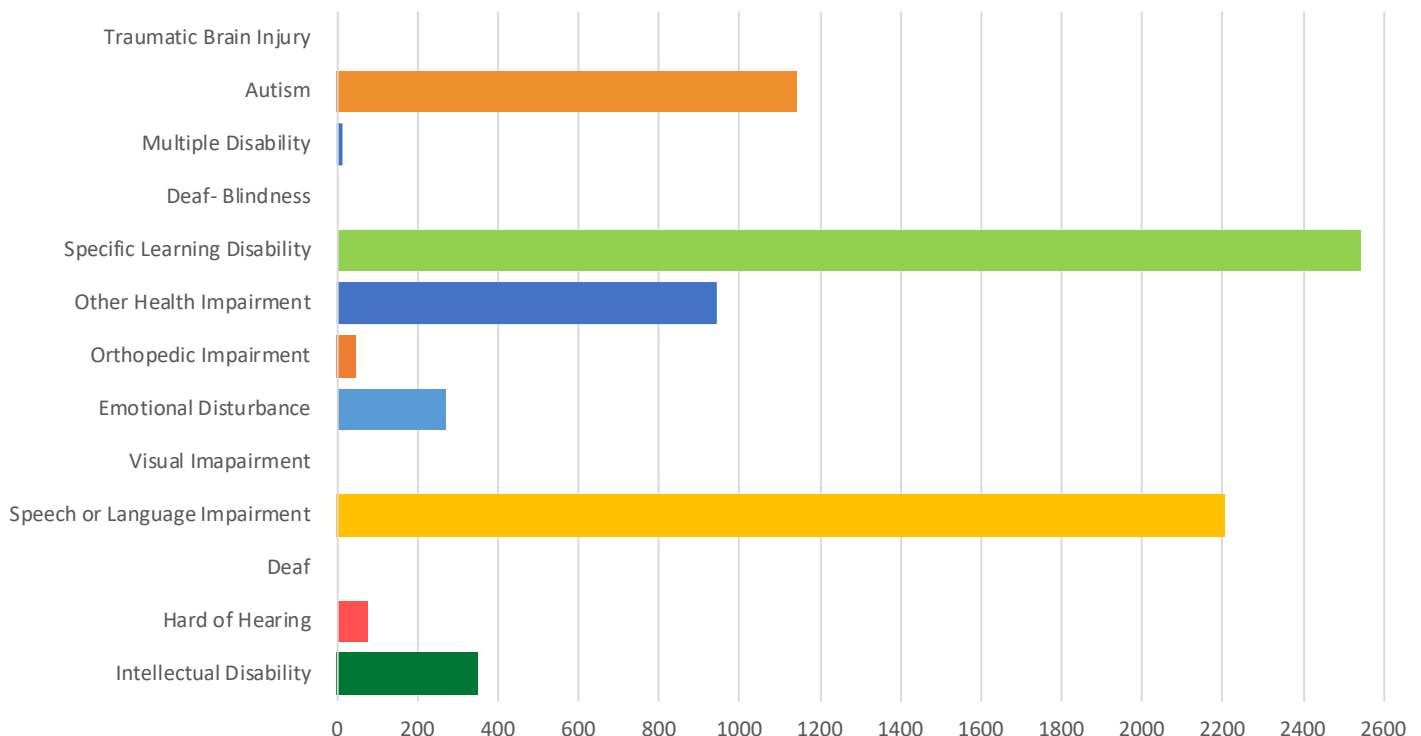


SPECIAL NEEDS

There are four major types of special needs: physical, developmental, behavioral/emotional, and sensory impaired. Both children and adults with special needs have specific challenges that others would not face. It is important to recognize these needs when designing and planning for parks in order to create inclusive and enriching play experiences. The chart below shows the number of special needs children in Placer County and the breakdown of types of disabilities that special need children experience.



PLACER COUNTY 2017-18 SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT BY DISABILITY



Source: California Department of Education, Data Reporting Office

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

IMPACT OF VISITATION AND TOURISM IN THE TAHOE REGION

Tourism is the Tahoe Region's primary economic driver and recreation is central to visitor activities. A Dean Runyon 2015 economic study showed 36 percent of visitors to North Lake Tahoe identify recreation as their primary purpose and recreation accounts for the largest portion of vacation expenses.

Recreation is also a key component of keeping and attracting full-time residents. In 2012, there were 13,037 people employed in North Lake Tahoe. Of those employed, 5,720 jobs and \$166 million in earnings can be directly tied to visitor spending. During the recession, from 2007 and 2012, gains in employment tied to tourism offset the major job losses in construction.

The 2015 North Lake Tahoe Tourism Master (Tourism Master Plan) identifies five primary focus areas and goals to build the tourism economy of North Lake Tahoe. These goals align with the Parks and Trails Master Plan's principles and recommendations for improvement. Within the Tahoe Region, it is important for Placer County to recognize the role of parks and trails for both residents and visitors.

The Tourism Master Plan's focus areas, goals and objectives that have the greatest correlation with the Parks and Trails Master Plan are as follows:

FOCUS AREA: VISITOR ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

- Goal
 - Create, maintain and support great amenities, fun things to do and quality places to stay so target audiences want to come here from around the nation and the world.
- Priorities
 - Complete, expand and maintain all trail systems (i.e., bikes, pedestrians, cross-country ski). Add user amenities to trail systems such as restrooms, water fountains and bike fix-it stations. Incorporate trail signage and link trails to public transportation. Complete the gaps in existing cross-country and mountain bike trail systems.
- Related Objectives
 - Trail systems; arts, culture and historic amenities, including visual and performing arts venues, heritage facilities, interpretive centers and public art; gathering spaces such as plazas in town centers and enhanced parklands and vistas; multi-use, large group venues and gathering spaces near Lake Tahoe; digital connectivity in the Tahoe Basin to enhance visitor experience and meet visitor expectations; and adequate maintenance of existing facilities.

FOCUS AREA: VISITOR INFORMATION

- Goal
 - Enhance the visitor experience by connect-ing guests to North Lake Tahoe's many exceptional places, businesses and adventures.
- Priorities and Related Objectives:
 - Implement highly user-friendly visitor guide technology that is accessible on a variety of devices. This may include: website upgrades, development of mo-bile applications (apps), local business training, integration with social media and increased use of established visitor information tools.

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

COMMUNITY INPUT

Placer County's priority is its residents. It is critical to understand residents' wants and priorities to plan for a parks, open space, and trails system to meet their needs. The Master Plan process included a variety of opportunities for public participation in the different regions and communities throughout the county. Investment in this engagement underlines Placer County's commitment to align with community desires and identify opportunities for improving the parks, open space, and trails system. The outcome and findings from the public engagement process have helped to guide the recommendations and will be continually used to inform priorities.

In an effort to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the existing park and trail system's current use, overall priorities and emerging themes from the user's perspective, several different outreach opportunities were held throughout the county, including focus groups, Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meetings, Board of Supervisor meetings, and an on-line survey.

The survey engaged a broad spectrum of residents and visitors in order to understand community needs and priorities related to parks and trails. Respondents indicated which of the 12 subregions they either live or recreate the most in. Those responses were used in cross-tabulations to identify trends and needs associated with different communities.



Trail focus groups provided input on trail connectivity and access



40 Tahoe Area Agencies and Organizations Engaged



40 Valley Area Agencies and Organizations Engaged

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

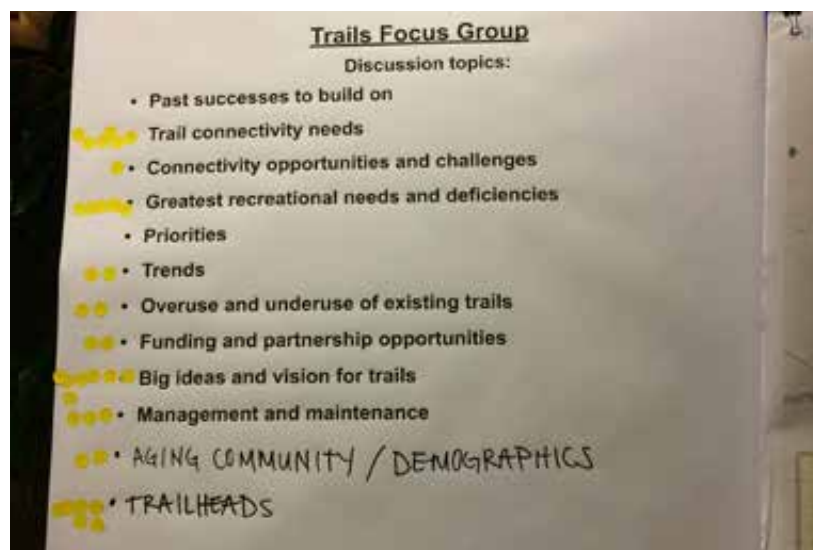
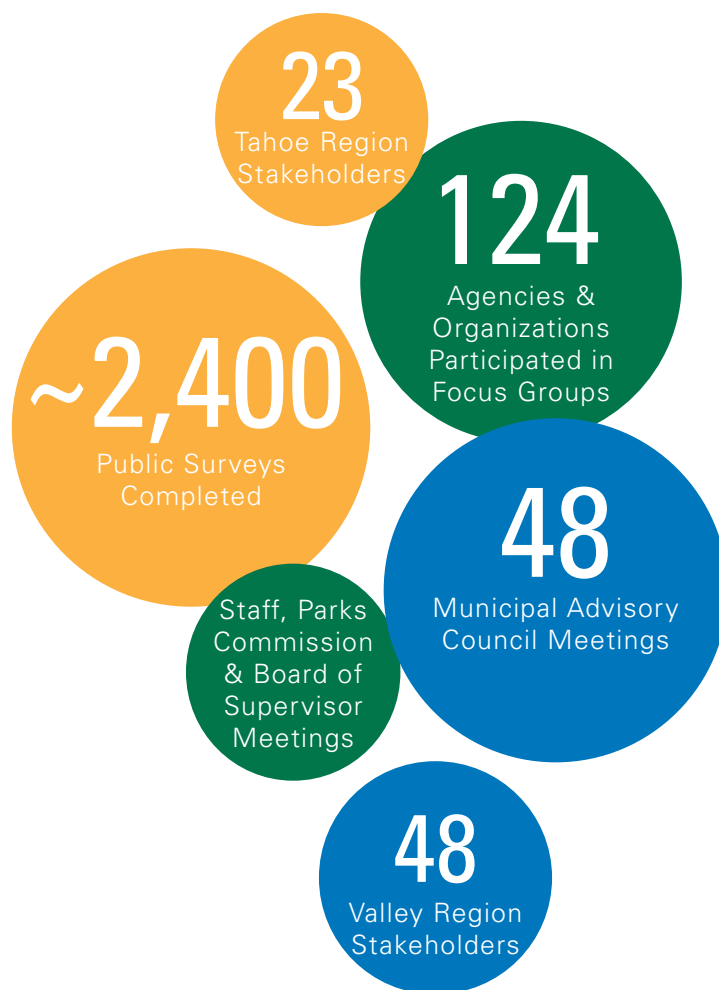
FOCUS GROUPS

Focus Groups were held with key stakeholders and user groups in both the western and eastern portions of the county to open a fluid discussion about the parks and trails system with community members, leaders, and organizers who have deep insight into their communities' facilities and needs. Focus groups were organized into four topics: Partners, Parks, Diverse Communities, and Trails.

Throughout the planning process, stakeholders were reengaged to review trails mapping and give feedback on plan elements. Updates were provided at community levels through MAC meetings and at the county level through Board of Supervisors meetings. Input was gathered and comments were incorporated at each stage of the process. Three rounds of MAC meeting presentations occurred, for a total of 48 individual community meetings.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- There is an opportunity to connect with the health industry to promote parks for mental and physical health benefits.
- Placer County should focus on user experience and provide facilities that appeal to all ages.
- As the population ages, the County should respond with different opportunities to enjoy nature, including walking loops and places to sit and connect with the outdoors.
- Facilities should address human comfort (e.g., shade) and offer a variety of activities.
- Granite Bay/Loomis Basin needs sports fields.
- There is an opportunity to create a connected trail system that links to parks and open spaces, and also connects with trail corridors throughout the region.
- The County should grow and leverage partnerships. Coordinating trail access through PCCP lands is a valuable opportunity.
- Trail design can help address user conflicts.
- Challenges to trail use include lack of parking and designated access points.
- Parks and trails mapping should be improved.
- There is an opportunity for the County to provide regional leadership in trail mapping, identifying authorized trails, planning, and implementation.
- Parks, open space and trails play a critical role in a four-season visitor and tourism economy in the Lake Tahoe area.
- Access to snow play (parking) in the Tahoe Area creates challenges and should be addressed.
- In the Tahoe Area there is a desire for an indoor recreation facility and for community-scaled parks (versus mini-parks).



Focus groups discuss topics such at trails, active parks, and trends

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

COUNTYWIDE SURVEY

The on-line survey was available from April 14th through May 19th, 2017, during which time approximately 2,400 surveys were completed. The survey was provided in English and Spanish, and hard copy forms were available.

The following section summarizes key takeaways from the survey. A separate survey report has a full summary of the results. Additional region-level responses are presented in Chapter 5, which summarizes the needs, recommendations, and priorities for each region.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Top priorities are trails, including better mapping and wayfinding.
- Support for trail improvements to both paved and natural surface trails received the strongest support (e.g., connectivity, walking loops, and regional connections).
- Countywide, respondents felt there could be more paved and natural surface trails.
- Trail connectivity, lack of parking, and crowding are the top elements that prevent more use of parks and trail facilities.
- In general, greater support for more traditional park facilities and sports fields was received from respondents from the Granite Bay/Loomis Basin region. Granite Bay/Loomis Basin area respondents indicated a need for sports fields.
- Respondents from the Tahoe region showed strong support for trails, snow removal of trails in the winter, a mountain bike course, and beach improvements.
- There is support for developing a volunteer program (87%) and increasing maintenance (78%).



TOP ACTIVITIES OF PARTICIPATION

Over 50 percent of survey respondents indicated participating in these activities in the last 12 months:

- Walking
- Hiking
- Just enjoying nature
- Visiting a beach
- Swimming
- Accessing backcountry trails
- Biking/mountain biking
- Dog walking

The majority of responses show activities requiring trails and walking paths and low-impact recreation activities. Responses also support providing access to, and facilities in, open lands to support desired recreation activities.



PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

QUALITY OF FACILITIES

- The majority of facilities were rated as excellent or good.
- Beaches were shown as having less favorable quality. This is partially a result of more “don’t know” responses to the question because Placer County-owned beaches are located in the Tahoe region where not all respondents recreate.

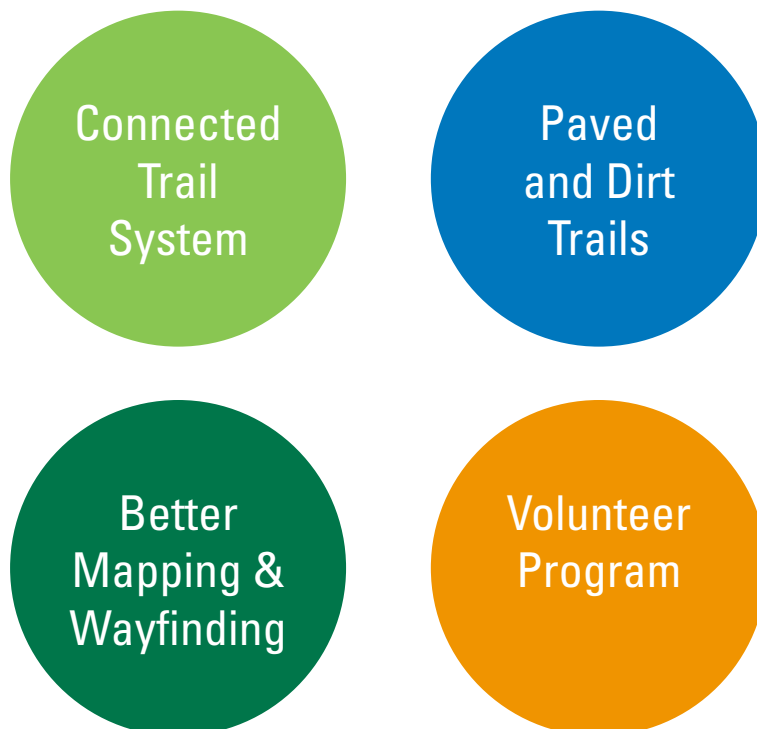


PRIORITIES

Of the 2,000+ write-in responses, the top six priorities listed by respondents, include the following:

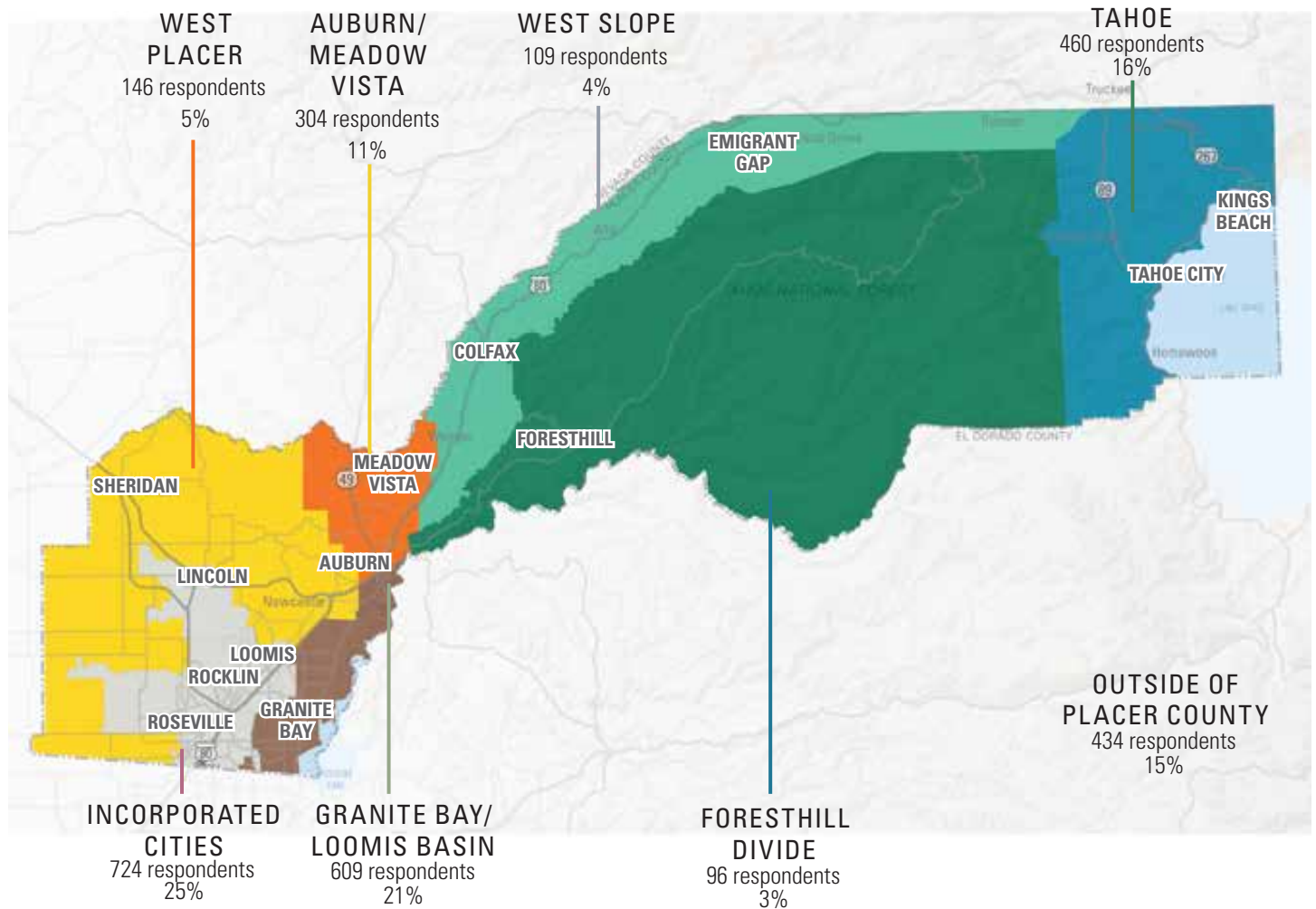
- Multi-use trails (13% of the write-in responses)
- Maintenance improvements (10% of the write-in responses)
- Acquire open space (8% of the write-in responses)
- Paved paths (6% of the write-in responses)
- Sports fields (4% of the write-in responses)
- Dirt bike trails (4% of the write-in responses)

COUNTYWIDE PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS

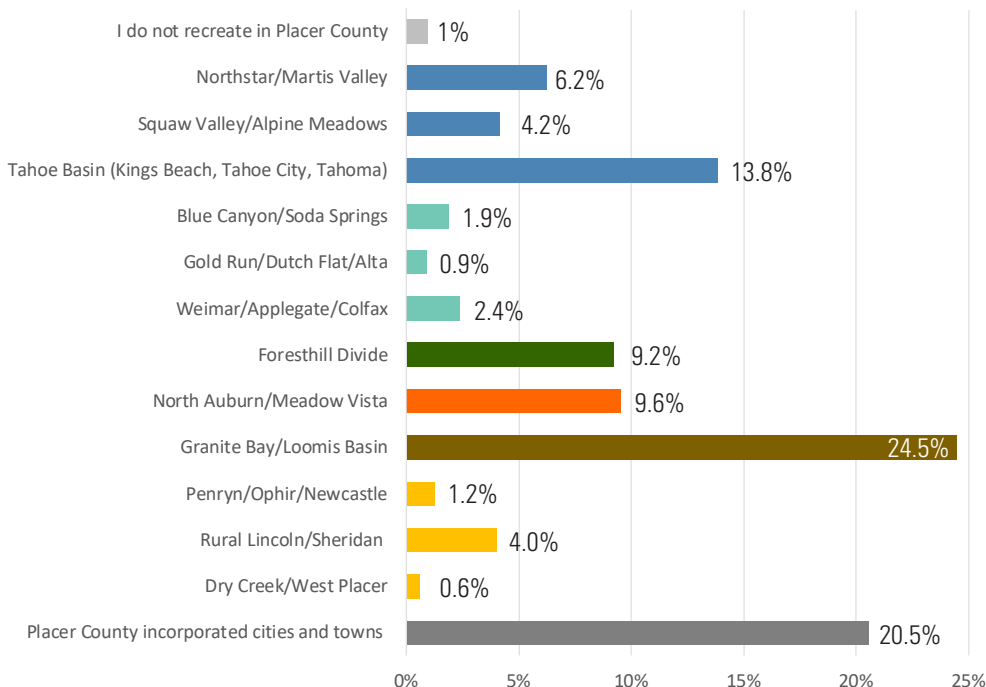


PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

WHERE SURVEY RESPONDENTS LIVE



WHERE SURVEY RESPONDENTS RECREATE



Respondents primarily recreate where they live. More respondents indicated they recreate in Tahoe Basin, Northstar, Rural Lincoln, and Foresthill Divide regions than the number of respondents indicating they live in those regions. This suggests these locations are used as destinations for regional and statewide recreation due to the presence of state parks, federal lands, Lake Tahoe, and Hidden Falls Regional Park.

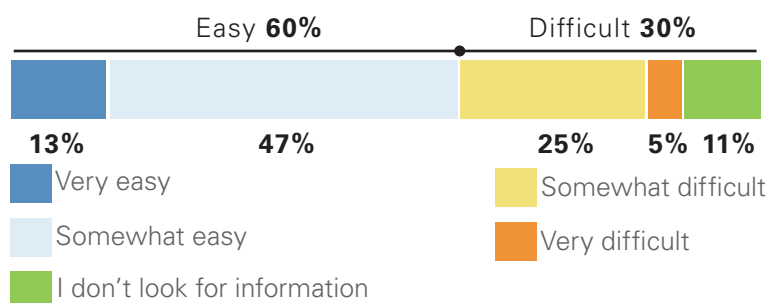
PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

COMMUNICATIONS

Overall, respondents indicated being able to find information and locate park facilities with relative ease. There is area for improvement, however, and the use of social media, web, and mobile applications to distribute information are areas of opportunity. In particular, trail mapping could be improved since 37 percent of respondents were neither satisfied or dissatisfied and 17 percent of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

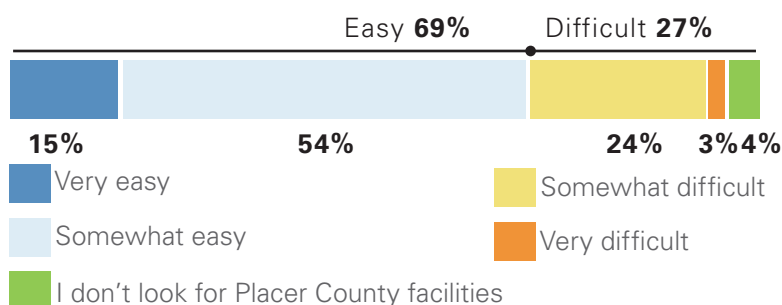
Ability to Find Information

How easy or difficult is it to find information on Placer County's parks, trails, beaches and open space?



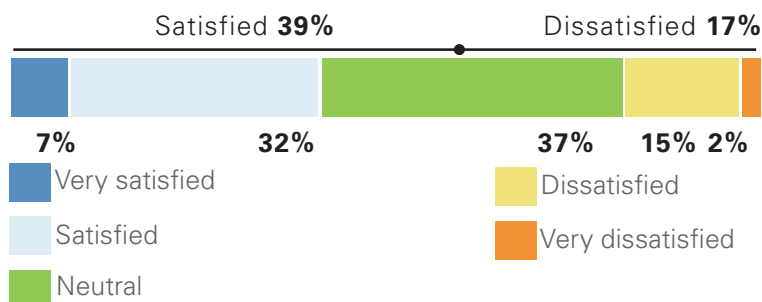
Ability to Find or Locate Parks

How easy or difficult is it to find Placer County's parks, trails, beaches, and open spaces?

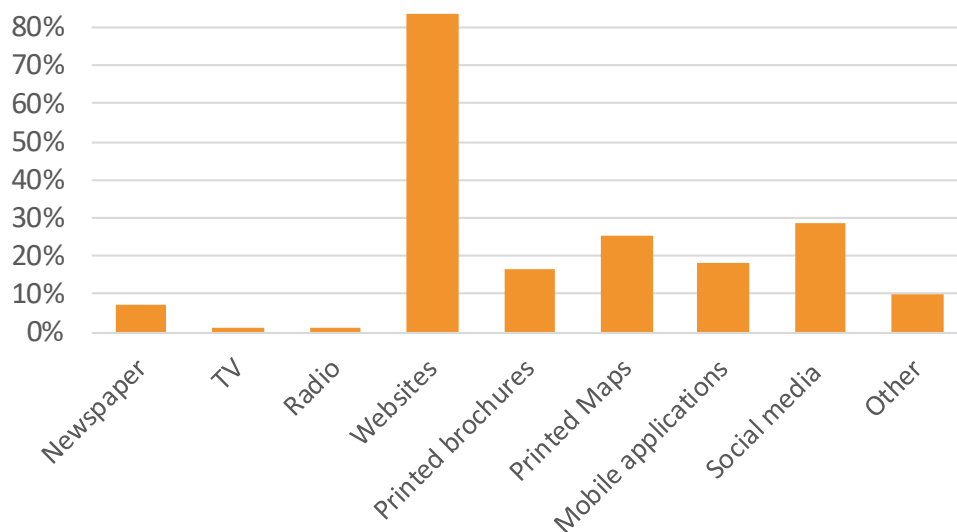


Quality of Trail Mapping

Satisfaction with overall quality of trail mapping and directional signage.



Most Used Ways of Getting Information



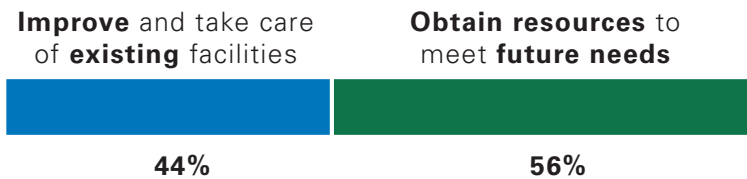
PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Respondents were asked if the Department's budget for parks, trails, beaches, and open space should be used to focus on improving the capacity and condition of existing facilities or in investing and acquiring new lands and developing new facilities. Responses were somewhat balanced, with a desire to look to the future while maintaining the existing system.

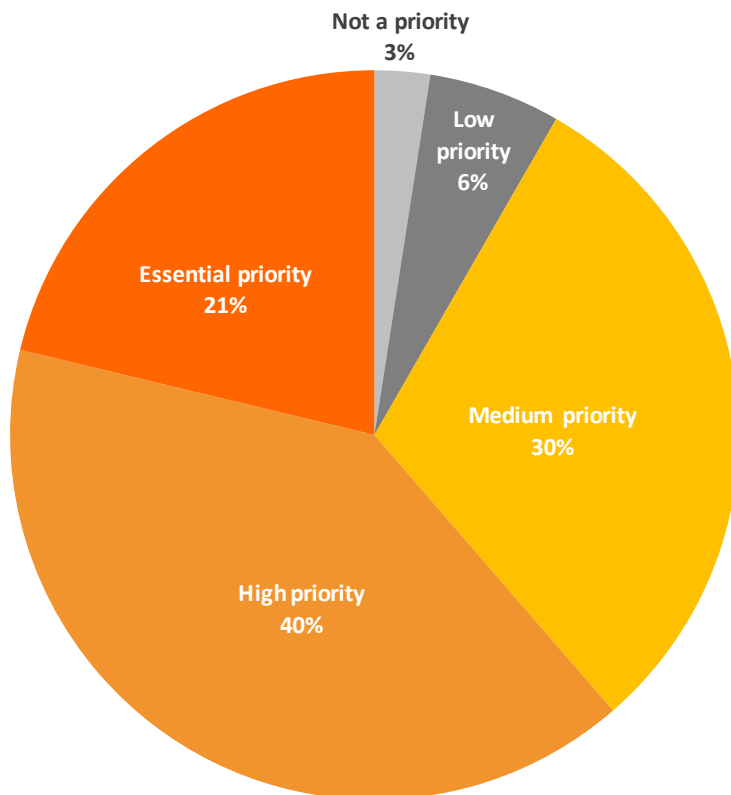
In relationship to other County departments and funding responsibilities, over 60 percent respondents felt allocating funding was Essential or High Priority. The level of support for funding parks, trails, and open space reflects the significance they hold for county residents.

Priority of Park's Budget



Priority of Park Funding

What level of priority do you personally place on allocating funding for park, trail, beaches and open space services relative to other governmental services?



PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

RECREATION TRENDS

Evaluating recreation trends and the parks, open space, and trails system of comparable communities allows Placer County to assess its offerings and be aware of potential influences and future needs. The developed and natural areas of Placer County provide opportunities for traditional recreation activities and sports and the opportunity for outdoor recreation activities such as camping, hiking, biking, and horseback riding as well as new recreation activities and “human-powered” sports. Anticipating the future recreation demands of citizens and visitors requires an understanding of both the most popular activities and emerging interests.

NATIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Almost 50 percent of Americans participated in an outdoor recreation activity in 2017 and, similar to Placer County, running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity.¹ Walking for fitness was found to be the most popular crossover activity and the biggest motivator for outdoor recreation is getting exercise.¹

At the national level, the Physical Activity Council’s (PAC) 2018 Participation Report confirmed the findings that the activity levels of Americans in 2017 was similar to their activity levels in 2016, but the level of activity is trending toward less frequency. The report stated that the largest focus of activities continues to be toward fitness sports (e.g., running/jogging, swimming, rowing, cycling). Participation in fitness activities in the outdoors continues to grow. Concurrently, interest in solo activities is declining as people are wanting to experience the outdoors with a friend. Fitness sports and activities have the highest participation rates and outdoor activities have the second highest participation rate. Increased participation was seen in hiking and backpacking, but decreases were seen in canoeing and adventure racing.

Some water sports saw significant increases in participation such as whitewater kayaking. River water sports are an important recreation component in the County, with access provided to the American River and Truckee River. However, they are largely managed by State Parks.

Placer County’s inventory of open space and diversity of landscapes increases the likelihood of residents wanting to access natural lands for outdoor activities. The popularity of Hidden Falls Regional Park, with almost 30 miles of multi-use trails, speaks to county residents’ and visitors’ preference to run, hike, and horseback ride in the outdoors. It also aligns with the county’s demographics. The PAC 2018 Participation Report noted that people between the ages of 54 and 73 prefer low impact activities such as cycling and walking.

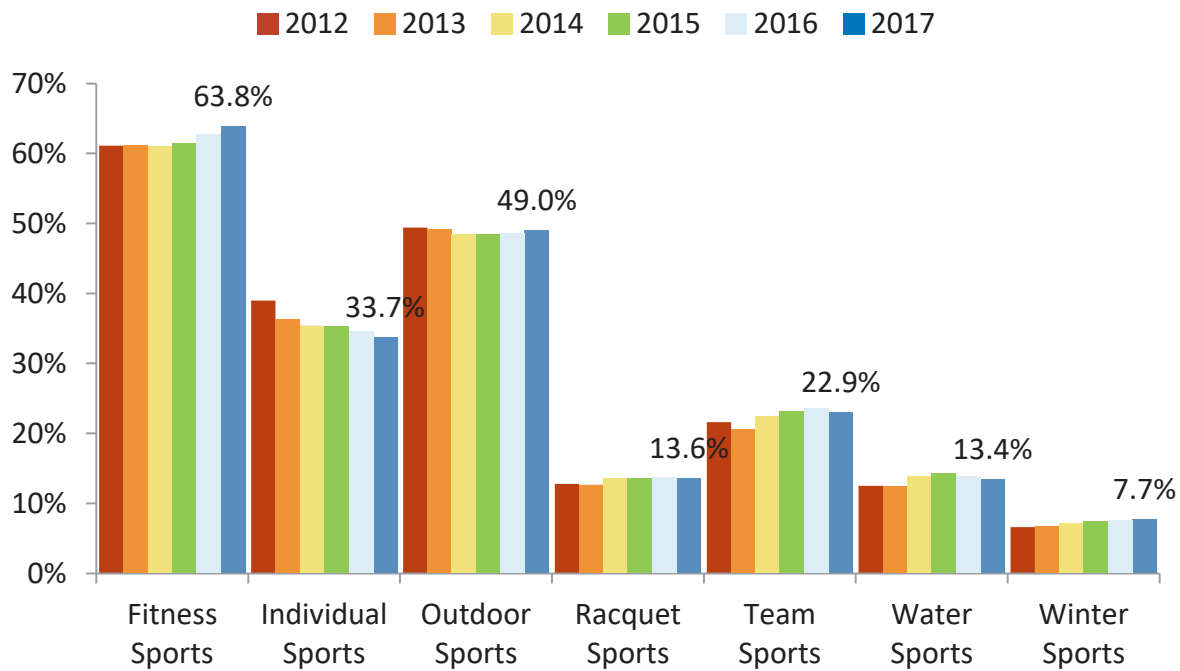
Figure 3: Participation of Americans Ages 6+ in Sports and Activities

Sports and Activities		
Activities	Percent of the US Population Who Participated in 2017 ¹	Percent Change in Participation from 2014 ¹
Baseball	5.2%	15.6%
Basketball	7.8%	-1.3%
Field Hockey	0.5%	0%
Football (Flag)	2.2%	15.8%
Football (Tackle)	1.8%	-10.0%
Football (Touch)	1.9%	-17.4%
Lacrosse	0.7%	0%
Rugby	0.5%	25.0%
Soccer (Outdoor)	1.8%	-7.0%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	4.0%	0%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	0.8%	0%
Track & Field	1.4%	0%
Volleyball (Sand)	1.7%	6.3%
Volleyball (Court)	2.1%	-4.5%
Volleyball (Grass)	1.2%	-7.7%

¹ Source: Outdoor Foundation: “Outdoor Participation Report 2018”.

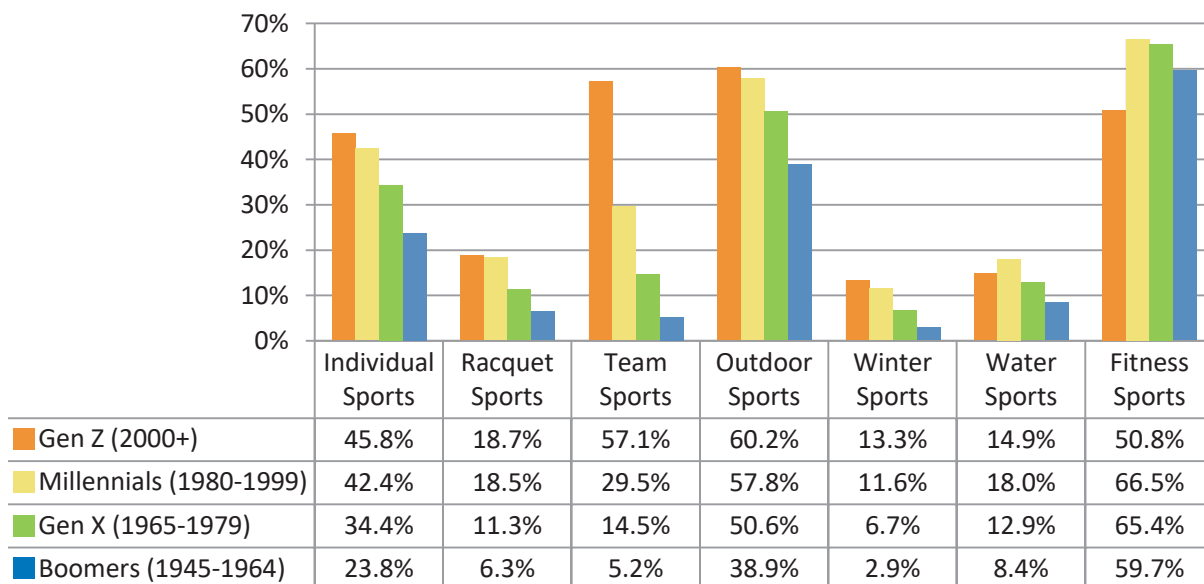
PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

Figure 4: Total Participation Rate by Activity Category - National Trends



Source: Physical Activity Council: "Participation Report 2018".

Figure 5: Types of Participation by Generation - National Trends



Source: Physical Activity Council: "Participation Report 2018".

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

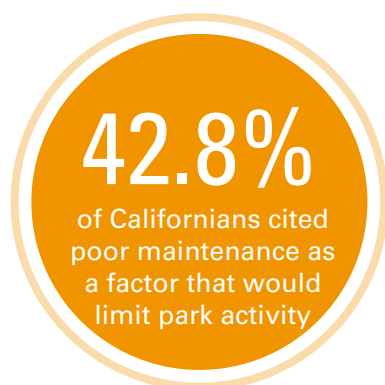
STATE AND REGIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

The Sacramento Focus Group of the 2016 California Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Advisory Council discussed regional trends as part of the 2020 SCORP update. Discussion topics included funding and capturing recreation experiences to support agency park metrics. The 2015 California SCORP included a survey of park directors throughout California. The unmet needs they identified as being most important included:

- Improving existing parks: 55 percent responded that rehabilitation of existing parks was needed to address the backlog of deferred maintenance.
- Adding new parks or new facilities: 19 percent stated they need a new park in a park deficient area and 17% said they need new facilities in existing parks.

The actions the 2015 SCORP identified to address California's park and recreation needs include the following:

- Enhance data collection and sharing of information to both identify needs and to increase park use.
- Increase park access and encourage walkable and bikeable corridors that connect to parks.
- Improve the use, safety, and condition of existing parks.
- Share and distribute success stories to assist park directors in the development of innovative solutions.



MOST
IMPORTANT
OUTDOOR
FACILITIES
FOR
CALIFORNIANS

- 01 Wilderness Type Areas
- 02 Children Play Areas
- 03 Environmental Education
- 04 Large Group Picnic Areas
- 05 Access To Lakes/Rivers
- 06 Single-Track Trails

PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

FUNDING CONSTRAINTS

Across California and the nation, local funding for parks and recreation facilities was significantly impacted by the Great Recession (2007-2009). Agencies and organizations were forced to redirect local funds to basic services, such as police and fire, and parks funding was reduced. A similar story was experienced in Placer County, with reduced budgets and staff resources responsible for maintaining service levels and an increasing inventory of parks. This has led to deferred maintenance for much of the County's facilities including:

- **Tree Health:** Pruning, mulching, staking, and pretreatment for insects are necessary to ensure a tree's health. As trees age and become more susceptible to disease and pests, these practices become more important and more costly.
- **Turf Care:** Without proper core aeration, fertilization, pest control maintenance, high-use turf fields can quickly deteriorate.
- **Building and Structure Care:** Painting and preservatives help to increase the longevity and overall aesthetic of structures.
- **Capital Replacement Program:** Many facilities have designated lifespans that require replacement every few years.

As the economy has recovered, funding for parks has been slow to rebuild, even though parks have been documented to bring economic value to communities and are a significant factor in developing the quality life for an area. Moving forward, additional constraints are likely to be placed on general fund dollars. Funding constraints are likely for local California governments as they absorb fast-rising pension costs. These costs will reduce the funds available for community services, such as parks. As Placer County moves forward, other revenue sources should be evaluated in order to help offset potential budget shortfalls.

3 COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

**RECOMMENDATIONS | A SYNTHESIS OF
COLLABORATION AND BEST PRACTICES**

BENCHMARKS

PRINCIPALS



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Countywide Parks and Trail Master Plan recommendations provide direction for Placer County to guide decision-making and investments for the next 20 years. Recommendations set the foundation to achieve the vision for parks and trails in Placer County. However, the County should continue to adapt to changes in communities and seek to capture opportunities as they arise. This is especially true if growth or demographic changes occur faster or slower than current projections. The recommendations represent a potential future based on the vision. Realization of the vision will be influenced by funding and partnership opportunities as well as community support.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

The Master Plan has ten guiding principles (in no particular order):

- Allow Flexibility Between Communities on Service Levels and Amenities
- Connect People to Nature and Open Space
- Support and Improve Recreation Access to Lake Tahoe
- Recognize and Develop our Partnerships in Delivering Park Amenities
- Communicate Placer County's Park, Open Space, and Trail Offerings
- Maximize Funding by Leveraging Resources
- Maintain the Park and Trail Facilities We Have
- Activate Public Spaces
- Measure and Track Performance to Continually Deliver Excellence in Parks and Trails

Guiding principles organize the Master Plan recommendations. Each principle's content is explored using the following framework:

- Why is This Important?
- Community Desires
- Opportunities for Improvement and Potential Steps

Chapter 4 describes project priorities at the county level and Chapter Five summarizes the recommended projects by region.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS | A SYNTHESIS OF COLLABORATION & BEST PRACTICES

Parks, trails, and open space needs vary between communities. A combination of public surveys, meetings, and system assessments and analyses were implemented to evaluate what Placer County residents need most. Findings from recreation best practices were tested and confirmed with residents, and stakeholders identified areas of additional research and critical questions for the plan to address.

Once all of these methods were completed, the results were tallied. The matrix below shows how different program, facility, and operations needs stacked up. Along the side of the table are the parks and recreation needs in Placer County and across the top are the six different assessment methods. Every time that a method identified a specific need, it was noted with a dot in this matrix. The more a specific need is identified through the different assessment methods, the more confirmation there is that it is a high priority need.

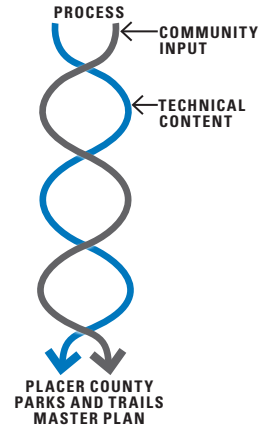


Figure 6: Needs Matrix (Order Does Not Indicate Priority)

Recommendations	Needs Assessment Techniques					Bench- marks
	Focus Groups	County- wide Survey	MAC Meet- ings & Stake- holder Input	Rec. Trends	Site Assess- ments & Best Practices	
Flexibility in Park Standards	X	X	X	X	X	
Provide facilities to serve aging community	X	X	X	X	X	
Provide facilities with cross-generational appeal	X	X	X	X	X	
Provide additional sports fields according to regional demands	X	X	X	X	X	X
Provide inclusive play amenities for special needs children	X		X	X	X	
Enhance branding, wayfinding, and mapping of parks, trails and open space offerings	X	X		X	X	
Utilize technology to connect people to the outdoors	X			X	X	
Refocus County offerings on larger, community- and regional scale offerings while serving local needs and encouraging HOA's to provide and maintain smaller mini-parks and local-serving trails	X	X		X	X	X
Increase trail access and use of open spaces and natural areas while balancing resource management needs	X	X	X	X	X	X
Define the purpose of passive open space	X			X	X	X
Develop strategically identified creeks as greenways	X			X	X	
Provide enhanced connections and access to Lake Tahoe through signage, multi-modal, transit, and parking facilities	X	X			X	
Provide beach support facilities and use areas that address user needs and enhance the visitor experience	X	X		X	X	
Utilize and grow partnerships	X	X	X	X	X	X
Diversify financial strategies			X	X	X	X
Actively address deferred maintenance	X	X	X	X	X	X
Develop a volunteer program	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activate Placer County's public spaces	X			X	X	X
Monitor performance to inform decision-making				X	X	X
Create a connected trail system within Placer County and regionally to connect to neighboring trail system	X	X	X	X	X	X

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

BENCHMARKS

Throughout this Chapter, comparisons to other communities provide a sense of where Placer County is moving ahead or falling behind jurisdictions and agencies with similar park inventories and cities that have been previously identified as a comparison city. Benchmarking is a useful tool to understand areas that need improvement to create and maintain a high quality and competitive parks and trails system to attract and retain residents. It is important to note that each jurisdiction has different assets and meets community desires in a way that is most appropriate for them.

Benchmark cities, counties, and recreation districts were selected based on criteria such as size, demographics, regional location, and comparable park systems. Tables with benchmark information are organized in descending order according to the key data point of comparison.

Figure 8: Locations of Benchmark Agencies



Figure 7: Benchmark Agencies

Agency	State	Jurisdiction Type	Jurisdiction Size (Sq. Mi.) (unincorporated)	Population (unincorporated)	Population per Sq. Mi.
Tracy Parks and Recreation	CA	City	22.28	89,274	4,007
Cosumnes Community Services District	CA	District	48.80	171,059	3,505
Rancho Cordova Recreation and Park District	CA	District	35.22	130,000	3,407
Roseville Parks and Recreation District	CA	City	43.05	135,868	3,156
Folsom Parks and Recreation	CA	City	31.00	72,131	2,327
East Bay Regional Park District	CA	District	1,625.00	2,751,194	1,693
Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation	CA	Town	24.87	8,234	331
Sonoma County Regional Parks District	CA	County	1,688.55	151,371	90
Placer County Parks and Trails	CA	County	1,407.80	111,446	79
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District	CA	County	6,454.78	373,755	58

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE 1| ALLOW FLEXIBILITY BETWEEN COMMUNITIES ON SERVICE LEVELS AND AMENITIES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A one-size fits all approach is no longer a recommended standard promoted by parks and recreation professionals. The acres of park per 1,000 residents metric (also known as level of service (LOS)) was first introduced in the 1930's by the National Recreation Association. At that time, there was also acknowledgment that the standard may vary based on location and factors such as culture, demographics, density, and development patterns.

Today, a national standard for level of service does not exist. The last set of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines, published in 1996, encouraged communities to develop their own LOS standards. Today the organization recommends the use of benchmarking and needs assessment to guide service levels and type of amenities provided by jurisdictions and special districts.

The American Planning Association's Planning Advisory Services published a memo in May/June of 2016 which also recommends alternative ways to determine LOS for parks. The author discusses the need for communities to consider access, quality, operating expenditures per acre and capita, and percentage of use in the planning and evaluation of park systems.

These alternative methods are important considerations for Placer County. From east to west, individual communities in the county have varied needs due to the differing geographic, demographic, cultural, and recreation preferences. Therefore, the County can identify a goal for LOS while allowing for flexibility between communities. When coordinating with new development and when retrofitting and planning for new parks; access, capital and operating expense LOS; and potential number of users can be added to the County's standards for discussion and consideration.

THE BIG IDEAS | ACTIVE PARKS

The following list summarizes the big ideas for Placer County's active parks system over the next 10 to 20 years.

- Flexibility in service levels to respond to local community needs
- Providing facilities for an aging and diversifying demographic
- Providing sports fields and courts for those regions in the county where they are lacking
- Adapting park facilities to appeal to a range of users, including special needs children
- Evaluating the opportunity to accommodate recreation trends such as pickleball and bocce in existing parks
- Continuing to work with developers to acquire parkland and provide a level of service of 5 acres of active parks per 1,000 residents (see other sections of this chapter for information on levels of service for open space and see Volume II for recommendations on level of service for trails)
- Integrating technology into parks



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTIVE PARK NEEDS

Placer County's active local parks range in size from a quarter acre to over 18 acres. The average size of active parks is almost 9 acres. Park sizes and locations mostly serve surrounding neighborhoods throughout the county. Smaller, neighborhood-serving parks are more traditionally provided by cities and special districts.

A few parks, such as Loomis Basin Community Park(s), Foresthill Leroy E. Botts Memorial Park, Granite Bay Community Park, Ronald L. Feist, and Dry Creek Community Park are larger and more typical for the size of facilities a county might provide.

The County currently provides 19.76 acres of active and open space parks per 1,000 residents. This is greater than the General Plan policy metric of 10 acres of active and open space parks per 1,000 residents. However, the General Plan sets forth an even 50/50 split as the desired ratio of active parks and open space (five acres per 1,000 residents of active parks and five acres per 1,000 residents of open space.)

The County meets the standard of five acres of active park per 1,000 residents when the contributions of active park facilities provided by partnerships are included.

Survey results and mapping assessments showed that except for a need for sports fields in Granite Bay/Loomis Basin, the existing ratio of Placer County's active park acres to number of residents served is adequate. Therefore, the County should continue to use the 5 acres of active parks as a goal.

Aligned with the County's role of primarily providing community and regional-serving facilities, the County should continue to plan and design for active parks that are large enough to accommodate a variety of uses. In the case of smaller parks, such as mini-parks, that serve a single neighborhood or small number of users, private ownership with maintenance provided by a special district or homeowner's association should be encouraged as an alternative to public ownership. Placer Vineyards is a good example of a special district being formed to serve development where smaller parks are appropriate.

Figure 9: Benchmark Agencies: Park Acreages Per 1,000 Residents

Agency	Population (unincorporated)	Total Number of Parks	Residents per Park	Total Acres Owned or Managed	Developed Acres/Open Space Acres	Total Acres per 1,000 Residents
Tracy Parks and Recreation	89,274	72	1,240	236	100%/0%	2.95
Rancho Cordova Rec. and Park District	120,000	38	3,158	616	80%/20%	5.13
Cosumnes Community Services District	171,059	96	1,782	1,052	72%/28%	6.15
Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation	8,234	6	1,372	75	47%/53%	9.10
Folsom Parks and Recreation	72,131	46	1,568	939	47%/53%	13.02
Placer County Parks and Trails*	111,446	33	3,377	2,202	8%/92%	19.76
East Bay Regional Parks District	2,751,194	66	41,685	120,931	10%/90%	43.96
Roseville Parks and Recreation District	135,868	72	1,887	7,163	15%/85%	52.72
Sonoma County Regional Parks District	151,371	52	2,911	10,400	6%/94%	68.71
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District**	373,755	65	5,750	73,462	0%/100%	196.55

*Placer County has an additional 34,499 park acres from partnerships

**Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District has an additional 26,871 park acres in partnerships

NRPA Median 9.6 Acres per 1,000 Residents

NRPA Lower Quartile 4.6 Acres per 1,000 Residents

NRPA Upper Quartile 16.6 Acres per 1,000 Residents

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

DIVERSIFICATION AMENITIES

The County's active parks provide a range of facilities, but most uses tend to be related to sports and traditional park elements. Opportunities to diversify uses, respond to trends and demographic changes could help activate some of the facilities. Roseville, for example, tries to give each park a signature identity to garner interest and create a sense of place.

Placer County should adapt active and passive parks to respond to changing demographics and community desires. Walking loops and places to sit and rest can be developed in both active and passive parks to address the needs of seniors and others who walk or run for fitness. Allowing for flexibility in standards and the design of parks allows the County to adjust to changing needs while providing high quality facilities.

As the County incorporates facilities such as inclusive play equipment and pickleball courts, they should continue to work with local sports leagues and monitor use of sports fields and courts. These facilities remain an important part of the County's park system and should be provided in communities with families and active adult sports leagues.

RELEVANT PARK FACILITY TRENDS

Active Adult Use of Parks: With an aging population, it is important to provide park amenities for both families and seniors. An observational study of parks in Chicago, Tampa, and Honolulu showed the median percentage of older adults was only 5 percent in parks with only sports courts, fields, and playgrounds. Parks with level, smooth surface walking trails, fitness equipment, exercise pavilions, natural water features, and places to sit, enjoy nature, and socialize can increase park use for adults and seniors.

League Sports Participation: The growth of core team sports participation has implications for the provision of sports fields. Increased participation, a trend towards specialized use, increased league play, and the demand for year-round access and practice times for multiple days a week has caused many communities to experience a shortage of sports fields. There is an increased demand for high-quality, competition-ready fields to accommodate users.

Bocce Ball: Bocce is a social sport that is growing in the US, especially among active adults. Southern Nevada and other areas in the region have seen demands for multiple courts to be designed to allow for competitions. Courts are typically associated with both public and private venues that offer a club-like atmosphere.

Pickleball: The number of pickleball facilities has doubled nationwide since 2010. The sport is easy to learn and provides a social aspect which makes it highly desirable by many users.

Dog Parks: The number of dog parks in the U.S. has increased by almost 90% since 2007. Almost 40% of US households own a dog and providing a place to recreate off-leash is increasingly important. Cities and towns are addressing the need by developing dedicated, single-use off-leash dog parks; and allowing for some off-leash use in larger regional parks and along trails where user conflicts are less likely, and allowing for on-leash use in other areas.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT DO THE COMMUNITIES DESIRE?



73%

Rated the quality of parks as excellent or good



94%

Felt that health & fitness were the primary purpose of Placer County parks



81%

Strongly or somewhat supported adding park shelters and group gathering spaces

DESIRED AMENITIES

The following list of park amenities were identified through community surveys, MAC meetings, and stakeholder groups as needs within Placer County. Refer to Chapter 5, Regional Recommendations, for a list of proposed facilities appropriate to each region.

- Rectangular sports fields (i.e., soccer, lacrosse, rugby)
- Off-leash dog areas
- Shade
- Group picnic facilities
- Recreation/aquatic center
- Walking loops
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Places to relax and enjoy nature
- Pickleball
- Bocce courts
- Water activities
- Lighting of fields

Source: 2016 Parks and Trails Survey and Focus Group Meetings

Note: Percentages of support are taken from the 2017 Countywide Parks and Trails survey. The percent of respondents who "Strongly Support" and "Support" different actions or initiatives was calculated by summing the total number of respondents who answered "Strongly Support" or "Support" for a question and dividing it by the total number of respondents (minus the number of respondents who answered "Don't Know") for the question.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Opportunity

1.1

Allow for flexibility to respond to different needs for recreational amenities throughout the county. Focus on providing larger, community-scale parks for West Placer while concentrating on development that supports four-season recreation to promote a more robust tourist economy in Tahoe/West Slope areas.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Consider revising the level of service approach for recreation facilities. Re-evaluate the types of facilities needed by different regions in the county as new parks are developed. The level of service standards established in the County General Plan for park facilities such as tot lots, sports fields, and sports courts should be eliminated. Provision of these types of facilities should be determined based on community needs and recreation guidelines. An emphasis should be placed on developing a variety of facilities that provide high quality recreation. Level of service standards can be used to determine equitable guidelines for fair share dedications during subdivision development, but actual quantities should be adapted to the region's needs.
- Consider updating the County General Plan and the Code of Ordinances to reflect new guidelines for level of service ratios and park classifications.
- Use equitable, but flexible service level standards to adapt to community needs (i.e. larger acreage of passive open space or smaller acreage of active parks with higher intensity of amenities).
 - » While each development is unique in character, the 2014 approved Placer Vineyards Amended Specific Plan and associated Finance Plan should be viewed as a template for park and trail service levels of large developments in West Placer.
- Emphasize the County's role in providing larger parks for West Placer that support an increased number of users, have a community-wide focus (versus smaller mini parks), and are more efficient to maintain.
- Encourage fewer, larger neighborhood parks over a greater number of smaller mini parks to increase usability and efficiency of maintenance.
- Leave ownership and maintenance of smaller parks (two acres or less) to the responsibility of developers, homeowners' associations, or special districts rather than the County, where appropriate; to allow the County to focus on parks that serve a larger number of people.
- Create special districts, where appropriate, for the maintenance and programming of park and recreation systems in specific plan areas of West Placer where urban level improvements and services have been planned for. The district that is planned to operate and maintain Placer Vineyards' system is one such example.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

The figure below summarizes the recommended revisions to policies in the 2013 Countywide General Plan to allow for greater flexibility in the application of level of service standards. Standards should be considered as a guide to be used in conjunction with other assessment tools to match facilities with community needs.

Figure 10: 2013 Countywide General Plan Update Recommendation Matrix

	2013 Countywide General Plan Update Policies	Parks and Trails Master Plan Recommended Modification
Policy 5.A.1 and 5.A.3	"... strive to achieve and maintain... 5 acres of improved active parkland per 1,000 population"	Revise to include language that allows for flexibility to achieve the level of service. Depending on individual community needs, service levels may be adjusted so long as the resulting parks system provides an equivalent service level. (See note below.)
Policy 5.A.1 and 5.A.3	"... strive to achieve and maintain... 5 acres of passive recreation or open space per 1,000 population"	Revise to include language that allows for flexibility to achieve the level of service. Depending on individual community needs, service levels may be adjusted so long as the resulting parks system provides an equivalent service level. (See note below.)
Policy 5.A.2	<p>"...strive to achieve the following...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 tot lot per 1,000 residents 1 playground per 3,000 residents 1 tennis court per 6,000 residents 1 basketball court per 6,000 residents 1 hardball diamond per 3,000 residents 1 softball/little league diamond per 3,000 residents 1 youth soccer field per 2,000 residents 1 adult field per 2,000 residents 1 golf course per 50,000 residents" 	Revise to include language that describes the standards should be used as a guide and evaluated in consideration of individual community needs, benchmarks, and recommendations from the Parks and Trails Master Plan
Policy 5.A.2	1 mile of recreation trail per 1,000 residents	Revise to include language that describes the standard should be used as a guide and may vary between communities depending on need and access. The primary goal of the trail system is for a connected, comfortable, and convenient paved and unpaved multi-use trail system as described in Goal 5.C.
Policy 5.A.16	Except as otherwise provided in an approved Specific Plan, the County should not become involved in the operation of organized, activity-oriented recreation programs, especially where a local park or recreation district has been established.	Revise to allow for flexibility for the County to offer some level of park programming that is not duplicative of other recreation districts and that is in character with the services and facilities offered by Placer County.

NOTE: The application of service levels throughout different communities in the county will vary depending on local needs. Previously quantity has been the only metric used to guide the development of park facilities. It is recommended that quantity become one of several metrics used as part of system planning. The County should further evaluate the application of Park Acreage Service Equivalents (PASE). Under this system, acreage and mileage should in conjunction with quality, access, and diversity to evaluate the type of facility provided. For example, a 10-acre park with a diversity of well-maintained facilities such as walking loops, playgrounds, sports courts, restrooms, group areas, and splash play amenities that is located within walking distance of a densely developed neighborhood provides a higher level of service than a 10-acre park with open lawn areas, benches, and limited play equipment. Additionally, the system should be used in consideration of community needs and wants. A rural, sparsely developed community may desire one central active park and then put more focus on walking, biking, and equestrian access to trails and open space rather than additional sports fields. Or a community may desire an indoor recreation center in lieu of additional active parkland if the current system of active parks meets existing and projected needs.

The following formula, based on capital expenditure costs, provides a starting point from which to further evaluate the equivalence between park acreage. Quality and other factors should be added in future iterations as the County refines the different standard equivalents.

PASE | Park Acreage Service Equivalents
County standard | 6 PASE's/1,000 residents

- 1 PASE = 1 Active Park Acre
- 1 PASE = 15 Passive Park Acres
- 1 PASE = 750 square feet of indoor recreation center or aquatic center

TME | Trail Mile Equivalents
County standard | 1 TME's/1,000 residents

- 1 TME = 15 mile of native surface trail
- 1 TME = 1 mile of paved Class 1 path; note Class 1 paved path standards should primarily seek to develop a connected and convenient network

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The figure below illustrates the recommended revisions to the County's park classifications. The Master Plan recommends Placer County reorganize the park types described in the County General Plan in order to better define the recreation uses associated with passive parks and open space and to distinguish regional facilities from parks that primarily serve nearby residents. The park types recommended better suit the facilities being offered by the County and align with classification systems used in other California counties and regional districts, such as San Diego County, Los Angeles County, El Dorado County, Sonoma County and East Bay Regional Park District.

Figure 11: 2013 Countywide General Plan Update Park Classification and Master Plan Classification Comparisons

2013 Countywide General Plan Update Park Classifications	Recommended Parks and Trails Master Plan Park Classifications	Recommended Parks and Trails Master Plan Park Types
Mini-Park (less than 2 acres)	Active Parks	Local Active Parks
Neighborhood Park (2 to 15 acres)		Regional Active Parks
Community Park (more than 15 acres)		Specialty Parks
N/A	Beaches	Beaches
Linear Park/Greenways	Passive Parks/Open Space	Linear Park/Greenways
Special Use		Local Passive Park/Open Space
Conservancy Areas		Regional Passive Park/Open Space
		Campground
		Trailhead

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

1.2

Address the recreation needs of Placer County's changing demographics by developing facilities to serve the County's population.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Provide parks with cross-generational appeal that incorporate both active and passive recreation opportunities. Activate parks by concentrating program activities and amenities to ensure intergenerational appeal for children, teens, adults and seniors to support multiple interests and encourage families to enjoy park amenities together.
- Accommodate the physical activity needs of seniors by addressing the comfort, safety and accessibility of walking surfaces. Consider multi-generational play facilities and outdoor fitness equipment park amenities to address senior recreation needs. Consider seniors when planning for spacing of benches along walking trails.
- Provide facilities that serve an older adult population, such as outdoor gyms or fitness playgrounds, ADA accessible walking paths, pickleball, off-leash dog parks, and more passive recreation opportunities such as wildlife viewing. Adding fitness equipment to parks or along trails can increase park and trail use, increase physical activity, and encourage social interactions in the outdoors. Facilities should be located to take advantage of the greatest number of senior residents.
- Ensure that ADA access requirements and special needs of both old and young are accommodated. As parks are renovated and new parks are developed, special emphasis should be placed on facilities that meet the requirements of people with special needs including physical, developmental, behavioral, and sensory impaired. As the County pursues maintenance and renovation projects, ADA compliance may require upgrades of non-accessible facilities.
- Consider incorporating amenities such as disk golf courses and fishing ponds in park or open space areas of Western Placer County to meet the needs of a county residents of all ages.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Opportunity

1.3

Support long term park use by continuing to reinvest in existing facilities to provide quality amenities and adapting park offerings to appeal to a range of users.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Enhance or create site amenities such as shade, seating, lighting, Wi-Fi, and walking loops that can increase park use.
- Develop inclusive amenities in parks that recognize and engage special needs children.
- Seek opportunities to incorporate places for group gatherings and the enjoyment of nature into existing parks.
- Reorganize uses to maximize efficiencies, where appropriate.
- Upgrade equipment and venues to support facilities that can increase participation and park use.
- Develop multi-purpose facilities where practical to accommodate changes in facility needs over time. Evaluate if multi-purpose facilities can meet the specific needs of different regions and allow for greater flexibility over time. For example, sports fields should be planned to be able to accommodate multiple sports such as soccer and lacrosse and sports courts may be able to serve both tennis and pickleball.
- Strategically invest in providing amenities at key parks and trailheads. Examples include amenities at trailheads (i.e. more parking, transit opportunities, restrooms, drinking fountains, benches, bicycle tuning stations, maps and signage), and at active parks (upgrade playgrounds, shelters, restrooms and multi-purpose fields).



OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Opportunity

1.4

Meet the needs of sport fields to address shortages, trends, and demands, where needed depending on regional demands.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue to ensure that recreation facilities for traditional individual and team sports facilities with historically maintained levels of service keep pace with population growth are provided. As population numbers continue to grow, the need to meet demand for neighborhood/community parks and sports facilities also increases.
- Evaluate improving existing fields and providing practice fields before building new fields.
- Extend playing time of sports fields. Evaluate where sports field turf can be replaced with synthetic fields or water efficient hybrid turf and where lighting could be added.
- Evaluate the need for traditional sport facilities during individual park master planning process. Identified needs that should be addressed in the near term include sports fields, court sports (pickleball versus tennis), and lighting for some facilities.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

1.5

Enhance and connect people with park and recreation experiences through the use of mobile applications, augmented reality, and emerging technology.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Create “smart” parks that strike a balance between using technology as a tool that keeps visitors engaged and connected while still maintaining the parks and recreation core values. Examples of ways to facilitate this could be through the use of on-site Wi-Fi, solar-powered charging stations and electronic kiosks that advertise different park related apps or virtual reality programs.
- Utilize virtual technologies that can be accessed by a range of technologies, including mobile devices, tablets, and personal computers.
- Examples of park-friendly apps and virtual reality programs include:
 - » App-based games that are used in conjunction with playground equipment to allow children to play age-appropriate, interactive games.
 - » Apps designed for specific parks that educated visitors on history and ecology in an engaging way.
 - » GPS-based apps that can facilitate exploration of parks through information or activities like treasure hunts.
 - » Fitness apps that provide video or textual instruction on exercises at each station that allow users to select from a variety of workout types.
 - » Crowdsourced data that is collected from apps or virtual reality programs in order to gain a better understanding of how the community is using the parks and open space. This information can be valuable for future planning and development.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

1.6

Accommodate community needs and growth through the development of new active and local regional parks.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue to work with developers to acquire parkland and increase park acreage to achieve the recommended level of service for active parks, passive parks/open space, and trails. Implement Specific Plans through design standards and finance plans.
- Consider accessibility and service areas in locating parks. Increase the percentage of residents located within two miles of a community park or open space and trails connections. Ensure that open space and park areas are located proportionate to the population density.
- Strategically locate new parks according to factors discussed in this document including individual community wants and needs, population projections, demographics, future development and accessibility.
 - » Implement Specific Plans by planning for parks in areas of the county experiencing new subdivision growth, higher density and multi-family development.
 - » Co-locate parks with school sites where practical, to support shared use and improve accessibility.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLE 2| CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE AND OPEN SPACE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Of the communities and districts reviewed, Placer County has the fifth highest percentage of open space/undeveloped park acres and ratio of open space per 1,000 residents. Facilities like Hidden Falls Regional Park, Bear River Park and Campground, and Traylor Ranch Bird Sanctuary and Nature Reserve offer residents and visitors the opportunity to connect with the outdoors in ways particular to each location. With an increase in open space inventory, Placer County takes on the role of a major open space and trail provider, similar to Sonoma County Regional Parks or East Bay Regional Parks District.

As the County develops or expands facilities such as Hidden Falls Regional Park, they can become recognized for filling the region's need to experience nature in a variety of ways. The County's current inventory includes open space with trails and passive recreation, trailheads, and campgrounds. Both western and eastern portions of the county have a deficit in camping opportunities. Looking forward, the County can enhance current camping facilities and look for opportunities to support partners in the development of additional campgrounds through land use guidance, partnerships, and funding where available.

THE BIG IDEA | CONNECTING WITH NATURE

Placer County has the opportunity to design open space areas to encourage residents to experience nature and spend time outdoors in the scenic spaces. Users can enjoy nature, recreate, bicycle, hike, and horseback ride on pathways and open spaces surrounded by natural landscapes, rivers and water bodies filled with birds and wildlife.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

There is a growing concern that humans are becoming less connected to nature as people spend more time indoors and green space becomes more urbanized. The Children's Nature Network states that today's average youth spends just four to seven minutes in unstructured outdoor play each day and much more time in front of screens, leading to increases in health impacts like myopia, diabetes and obesity.¹ In contrast, the benefits of recreating in nature are positive. The Children's Nature Network cites studies that show "living in areas with green space has a long term positive impact on children's weight and, thus, health."¹ Studies have also shown that active adults who exercise outside spend up to 30 minutes more per week exercising than those who recreate indoors.² Enhancing access to open space and natural landscapes fosters stewardship and ecological management of conserved open spaces, as well providing diverse outdoor experiences.

¹ Children's Nature Deficit: What We Know – and Don't Know, September 2009 by Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., and Richard Louv, Children's Nature Network.

² "Outdoor physical activity and self-rated health in older adults living in two regions of the U.S." Kerr J, Sallis JF, Saelens BE, Cain KL, Conway TL, Frank LD, King AC. International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity. 2012 Jul 30;9:89.

Figure 12: Benchmark Agencies: Open Space/Undeveloped Park Acreages Per 1,000 Residents

Agency	Population (unincorporated)	Total Acres Owned or Managed	Percent of Open Space/ Undeveloped Acres	Total Open Space/ Undeveloped Acres per 1,000 Residents
Tracy Parks and Recreation	89,274	236	0%	0
Rancho Cordova Rec. and Park District	120,000	616	20%	1.03
Cosumnes Community Services District	171,059	1,052	28%	1.75
Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation	8,234	75	53%	4.79
Folsom Parks and Recreation	72,131	939	53%	6.93
Placer County Parks and Trails*	111,446	2,202	92%	18.20
East Bay Regional Parks District	2,751,194	120,931	90%	39.56
Roseville Parks and Recreation District	135,868	7,163	85%	44.89
Sonoma County Regional Parks District	151,371	10,400	94%	64.43
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District**	373,755	73,462	100%	196.20

*Placer County has an additional 34,499 park acres from partnerships

**Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District has an additional 26,871 park acres in partnerships

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT DO THE COMMUNITIES DESIRE?



65%

Willing to travel more than 11 miles to access open space and backcountry experiences. 21% willing to travel over 50 miles.



91%

Strongly or somewhat support providing more trails and recreation access in open space.



90%

Strongly or somewhat support acquiring more natural areas/open space.

Note: Percentages of support are taken from the 2017 Countywide Parks and Trails survey. The percent of respondents who "Strongly Support" and "Support" different actions or initiatives was calculated by summing the total number of respondents who answered "Strongly Support" or "Support" for a question and dividing it by the total number of respondents (minus the number of respondents who answered "Don't Know") for the question.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

2.1

Increase access and use of open spaces and natural areas while balancing resource management needs. Provide parking/staging areas for winter backcountry access. Provide clear, accessible mapping and wayfinding.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Complete access development of Hidden Falls Regional Park.
- Support public access to Placer County Conservation Plan lands. Provide trails for walking, hiking, biking, and nature observation and education where compatible with open space lands. Providing access to these places in a manner that does not degrade the natural environment is an essential way to carry forth an ethic of conservation and a true appreciation for the natural environment.
- Continue open space conservation in advance of development. Continue to partner with Placer Legacy and other agencies and organizations to identify appropriate uses within open space and conservation areas. Upon adoption of the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP), work with the PCCP to develop appropriate level of public access and trails through their lands.
- Increase the quantity of trails, picnic, and day use facilities in open spaces. Provide facilities that can accommodate a variety of group sizes.
- Explore opportunities to exceed ADA minimum standards to provide exceptional destinations for outdoor accessibility experiences for a wide cross-section of special needs/abilities.
- Offer outdoor recreation facilities that support the broadest cross-section of the population and have high participation levels (hiking, biking, and horseback riding).
- Enhance, expand, and diversify camping options to meet demands and provide a range of experiences through partnerships and funding.
- Explore opportunities for nature play within open space to connect children with the outdoors.
- Ensure sufficient parking and staging for public to access open space.
- Support the expansion of cell phone coverage to enable open space and trail users to obtain emergency notifications while recreating and to access digital mapping while recreating.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

2.2

Define the function and purpose of passive parks and open space.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Allow for and position Placer County's regional open spaces as a destination for recreation activities through better communication, mapping, and volunteer support.
- Utilize classifications to address different recreation uses and management needs for the spectrum of open spaces throughout the county. Update the County General plan and other planning documents for consistency in terminology. Recognize the recreational value that passive parks and open space provide to the County's system of trails and places to connect with and enjoy nature. Open space must be meaningful and enhance riparian areas, vegetation and tree protection, wildlife habitat and corridors, scenic view protection, and provide natural areas for residents and visitors to explore.
- Develop management plans for all open space properties which address appropriate access and connectivity with neighboring properties, resource sensitivity, existing resources and opportunities for resource enhancement and restoration. Plans should be created and updated for properties or groups of properties within a contiguous area with progress tracked over time.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

2.3

Develop strategically identified creeks and riparian corridors as “complete creeks” or greenways with managed natural vegetation and trails that connect open space systems, trails, and parks to neighborhoods.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Encourage and support the acquisition of connected open space through the Department’s role in planning and land development. Actual acquisition will be led by Placer Conservation Authority, Land Trusts, etc. The County may continue to acquire strategic connectors and property for parking and ancillary use for public access, but they will not lead the acquisition of large land holdings. Placer County will take a lead role in trail connectivity on lands controlled by Placer County and its partners.
- Connect regional open spaces through trails, greenways, wildlife corridors, and open space connections. Landscape buffers that follow creeks and drainages can be used to link the system.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS



 **CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE**

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

OPEN SPACES/PASSIVE PARKS & NATURAL AREAS CLASSIFICATIONS

Figure 13: *Benchmark Agencies: Cost Recovery of Agencies That Reported Programming Revenue*

Open Space Classifications	
Classification	Purpose and Function
Greenways/Linear Park	Greenways are developed for one or more modes of travel, such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, or cross-country skiing. They link elements of the recreation system or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas, and other parks. Paved and unpaved trails are provided. Where appropriate, temporary or permanent restrooms, bike racks, benches, and lighting may be provided. Refer to Volume II for more information on Trails.
Local Passive Park/Open Space	Local Passive Parks/Open Space include areas of environmental significance and beauty that are available to the public for low-intensity, passive recreation opportunities. Minimal infrastructure, such as trails, parking, picnic tables and restroom facilities are typically provided. Additional amenities may include interpretive or educational elements. (< 100 acres)
Regional Open Space	Regional Open Space serve County residents and visitors and are large parks that generally contain only passive amenities such as visitor centers, trails, picnic shelters, or restrooms. Emphasis is placed on achieving a balance between resource protection and public use. Generally, Regional Open Space draws visitors from a larger geographic range. (> 100 acres)
Campground	Campgrounds provide visitors the opportunity to obtain a more intimate experience with nature by staying overnight in undeveloped environments. Campgrounds offer a different set of amenities for all types of visitors and includes tent camping, RVs, and cabins.
Trailhead	Trailheads or staging areas are access points for a larger network of trails. They may contain restrooms, maps, sign posts and kiosks with informational brochures about the trail and its features. Parking areas for vehicles and trailers as well as equestrian facilities may be provided.
Preservation	Preservation areas are typically landscapes with fragile environmental and ecological conditions, landscapes with irreplaceable wildlife habitats, and landscapes which are subject to flood hazards. Opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation may be limited to protect the resource. These areas generally correspond to corridors along rivers and drainages, oak woodlands, and other sensitive resource areas. Continuity and connectivity of lands should be emphasized. Public access varies based on sensitivity of the resource. Typically, recreation uses occur on publicly owned land or easements only. Where appropriate, uses may include: nature study and observation, picnicking, hiking, fishing. Facilities may include parking, nature centers, multi-purpose trails, restrooms/port-a-lets, bike stations and bike racks. Unlike preservations, reservations are areas reserved for future development and typically allow for greater public access.
Resource Conservation (Community Separators)	Resource Conservation areas separate developing portions of the county. They may also be in agricultural production. These areas are strategically located, contributing to the open space feeling of the area, including important viewsheds. Where possible, these lands should continue to be working lands serving as economic assets. They will likely remain in private ownership and be conserved through agricultural or conservation easements. Public access may be prohibited or allowed through trail easements.
Functional Landscape Areas	Functional Landscape Areas are places of enhanced landscape character along rights of ways or in places of community importance, such as a library, cemetery, or County office complex.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

OPEN SPACES/PASSIVE PARKS & NATURAL AREAS EXAMPLES



Greenways/Linear Park



Trailhead



Local Passive Park/Open Space



Preservation



Regional Open Space



Resource Conservation



Campground



Functional Landscape Area

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLE 3|

SUPPORT AND IMPROVE RECREATION ACCESS TO LAKE TAHOE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In partnership with TCPUD, NTPUD, California State Parks, and the California Tahoe Conservancy, Placer County works to provide access to Lake Tahoe. Together, the agencies provide 69 acres of publicly accessible beach for residents and visitors in Lake Tahoe. It should be noted that the USFS-LTBMU also has lakefront facilities, but for consistency with the rest of the document federal lands are not included in the list of partners because of their tendency to skew the ratios of comparisons with other communities.

Placer County has seven beach access facilities at Lake Tahoe. Commons Beach is the largest site and has the most developed supporting amenities (restrooms, play structure, picnic, etc.). Parking for the majority of the beaches is along neighborhood roads or along the highway. Restrooms are provided in most locations. Placer County should continue to work with stakeholders and residents to find parking solutions and provide trail connectivity and transit to beaches to reduce the amount of roadside parking. Amenities can also be upgraded as appropriate for more developed beach sites.

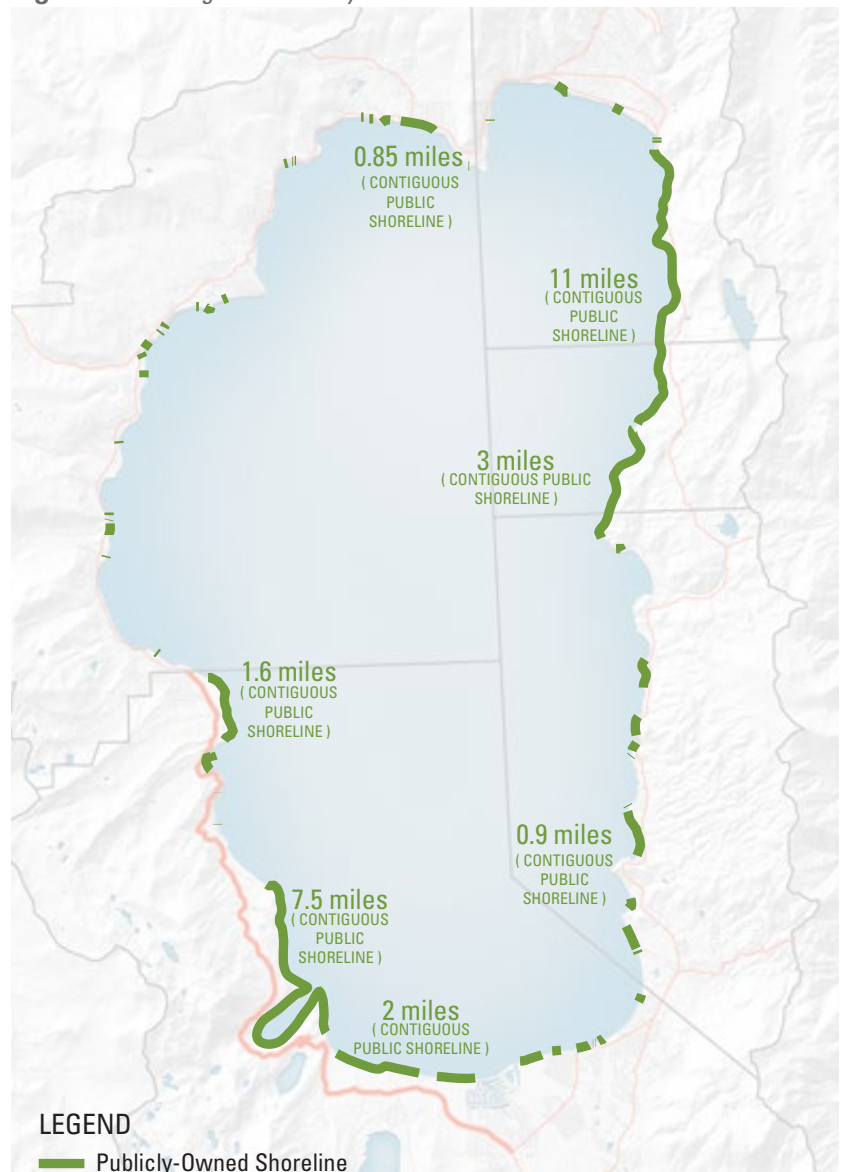
Figure 14: Beach Facilities by Partners in Lake Tahoe

Agency	Number	Total Acreage
Placer County	7	20
TCPUD & NTPUD	5	12
California State Parks and California Tahoe Conservancy	9	37
Total	21	69

PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS IN PLACER COUNTY

The demand for access to Lake Tahoe continues to grow. Five counties are located in the Lake Tahoe Basin and provide beaches and access points. The largest sections of contiguous public shoreline are located in Washoe County/Carson City County along the east shore and El Dorado County along the west shore. Placer County's beach access is fairly dispersed. The longest publicly-owned length of shoreline is the Kings Beach State Recreation Area and connecting County beaches. As opportunities arise, the County can evaluate the benefit to work with its partners to increase the length of contiguous public shoreline in Lake Tahoe.

Figure 15: Contiguous Publicly-Owned Shoreline at Lake Tahoe



Note: Diagram illustrates publicly-owned and "locally-owned" lands per TRPA on-line mapping. Some public easements may not be shown.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT DO THE COMMUNITIES DESIRE?



86%

Strongly or somewhat supported providing transit and trail connectivity to beaches



88%

Strongly or somewhat supported providing more designated parking for beaches



85%

Strongly or somewhat supported acquiring more beach areas

Note: Percentages of support are taken from the 2017 Countywide Parks and Trails survey. The percent of respondents who "Strongly Support" and "Support" different actions or initiatives was calculated by summing the total number of respondents who answered "Strongly Support" or "Support" for a question and dividing it by the total number of respondents (minus the number of respondents who answered "Don't Know") for the question.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

3.1

Connect people to Lake Tahoe beaches through improved signage, biking, walking, transit, and parking facilities.

- Support the development of Class I, II, and IV bike connections to Lake Tahoe beaches to facilitate and encourage walking and biking to the beaches.
- Support transit improvements to allow people to have a fun and easy way to visit the beaches without using a personal vehicle. Transit vehicles should accommodate recreation gear such as coolers and umbrellas, as feasible.
- Address parking needs to Placer County beaches by providing off-highway parking, where appropriate. Enhance signage and enforce no parking zones in neighborhoods and along local roads impacted by beach access needs.
- Coordinate access to Lake Tahoe with regional corridor plans and corridor planning processes. Support efforts to provide trail and transit connectivity to beaches.
- Support appropriate opportunities to increase public access to Lake Tahoe's shoreline. Partner with California State Parks, State Lands Commission, California Tahoe Conservancy, the Tahoe Fund, Tahoe City Public Utility District, North Tahoe Public Utility District, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to increase the inventory of publicly accessible beaches.
- Consider opportunities for paid parking as a funding source for maintenance, trail connectivity, and transit to facilitate improved beach access.
- Implement the North Lake Tahoe Community Wayfinding Design Standards Manual to inform visitors and residents about beach access locations. Utilize mobile apps, web-based resources, and directional signage. Coordinate wayfinding with other programs and facilities, such as transit, trails, and parking and corridor management programs.
- Support the Lake Tahoe Water Trail signage program.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

3.2

Provide beach support facilities and use areas that address user needs and enhance the visitor experience.

- Evaluate user needs at beaches and consider providing appropriate support facilities, such as permanent restrooms, picnic facilities, benches, and trash receptacles. Improvements and added facilities should be of such quality and style as to complement Lake Tahoe architecture and recognize the area as a world-class destination.
- Evaluate off-leash dog policies and consider formalizing use areas for off-leash dogs at certain beaches or at certain times of the year.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLE 4| COMMUNICATE PLACER COUNTY'S PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAIL OFFERINGS

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A number of partner agencies work together to provide parks, trails, and open spaces in Placer County. These partnerships serve to increase opportunities for recreation access, but it makes it more challenging for residents to know where to find information and to recognize what facilities are provided and maintained by the County. The Department's mission is to enrich lives by connecting people to outdoor recreation and by enhancing access to our natural resources. To achieve that mission, they need to better communicate with residents and visitors about the variety and location of recreation offerings.

Although almost 60 percent of survey respondents indicated they can find information about Placer County's offerings, 30 percent indicated it as being difficult. The number of park users in the county would increase significantly through better communication with those who cannot find information.

83 percent of survey respondents use websites to get information on Placer County's parks, trails, and open space. 28 percent use social media and 18 percent use mobile applications. 25 percent use printed maps. This data reflects a need for the County to use a variety of methods to communicate information. Websites and apps should be developed, but they need to be used in concert with printed materials.

A comprehensive trail signage system not only makes a trail system stand out but also increases the usability and safety of the network. It can inform users about intended trail uses, difficulty, locations, distances and connections, as well as seasonal trail closures and trail etiquette.

THE BIG IDEA

The following list summarizes the big ideas for parks, trails, and open space branding, mapping, and wayfinding over the next 10 to 20 years.

- Increase recognition of Placer County's role in delivering quality parks, trails, and open space to residents and visitors
- Improve the ability for people to easily find the County's parks, trails, and open space offerings via the web, mobile apps, and printed maps
- Become a leader in communicating the County's trails offerings, including partnering with other land managers to provide one central database that addresses all user needs
- Provide up-to-date, relevant information



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT DO THE COMMUNITIES DESIRE?



94%

Provide improved digital trail maps



84%

Provide improved printed trail maps



30%

Find it somewhat or very difficult to find information on Placer County's parks, trails, and open space; demonstrating a lack of awareness of the County's role in providing facilities.

Note: Percentages of support are taken from the 2017 Countywide Parks and Trails survey. The percent of respondents who "Strongly Support" and "Support" different actions or initiatives was calculated by summing the total number of respondents who answered "Strongly Support" or "Support" for a question and dividing it by the total number of respondents (minus the number of respondents who answered "Don't Know") for the question.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

4.1

Increase recognition of Placer County's parks, open space and trail offerings and the role Placer County has in providing access to the outdoors. Ensure all existing and potential users know how to access and appropriately use the County's parks, open spaces, and trails.

- Develop a parks and trails brand and consistently use the brand in all signage and promotional materials.
- Update the County's signage and wayfinding program.
 - » Utilize the North Tahoe Wayfinding Standards to establish a set of design guidelines for directional signage for the Tahoe region to reinforce branding. A subset of the guidelines can be adapted to suit other areas of the county.
 - » Signage should be consistent, controlled and durable. Consistency among sign content and sign types not only helps to create a unified brand and identity, but it also allows for a common level of clarity within the County's sign program.
 - » A common parks system language for clear communication of necessary information to users should be established.
 - » The design of signs should also take material durability and longevity into consideration. Sign materials should have the ability to withstand the elements of Placer County's climate conditions, along with the wear and tear of daily user contact, interactions with wildlife, and potential vandalism.
- Utilize interpretive signage to educate visitors about the site's history, impact and importance; inspire a feeling of stewardship; and create a sense of community pride in local heritage.
- Clearly indicate rules, regulations, and use expectations through park signage to maintain the quality of facilities and prevent harmful behaviors that would negatively impact the natural or built features of parks, trails, and open space. Consolidate the regulatory signage on a single, appropriately-sized sign visible to all park users. Signage should:
 - » Provide law enforcement code sections necessary for citations
 - » Engage visitors with a positive messaging (include "do this" statements versus "don't do that" statements)
 - » Utilize recognizable icons for legibility
- Utilize map kiosks to orient trail users and use regular and consistent signage along trails to identify connections and help users navigate the trail system and to facilitate emergency response.



An example of how to effectively communicate rules and regulations at Speedboat Beach

COMMUNICATE OFFERINGS



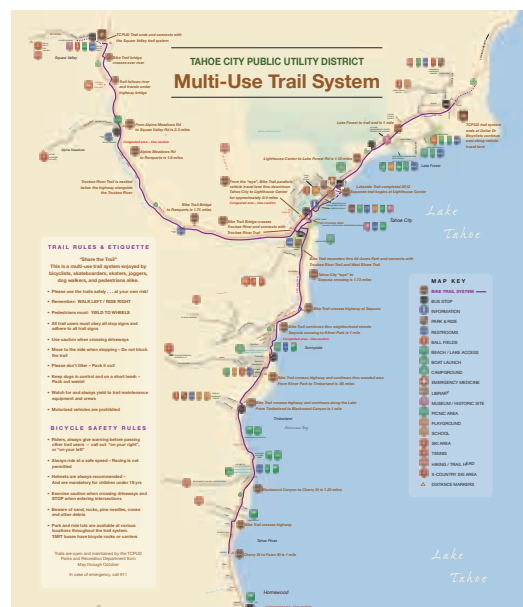
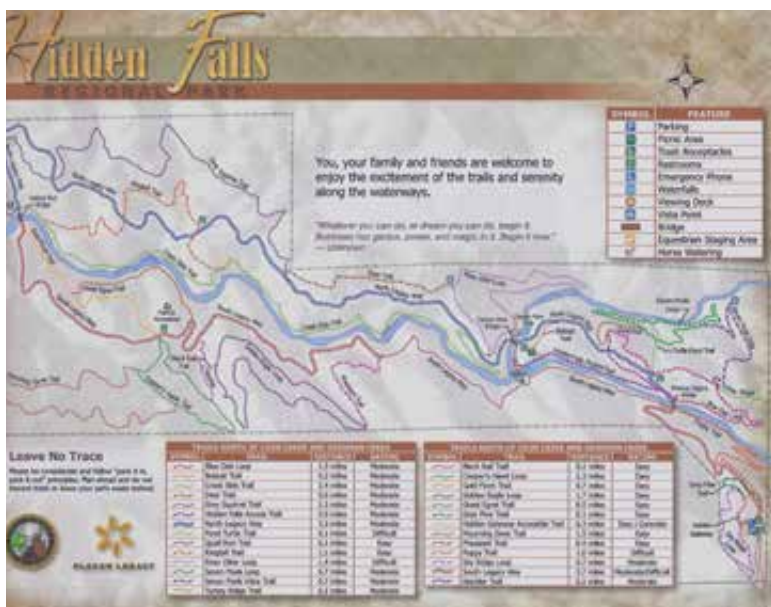
COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

4.2

Provide easy to find and navigate, relevant, and up-to-date information on park offerings and events. Manage increasing visitation by providing clear guidance for park locations, hours of operation, reservations, and rules.

- Update the County parks and trails website to allow residents and visitors to quickly and easily find park, trail and open space opportunities throughout the county.
- Evaluate the opportunities to use a third-party platform to map and share the County's parks and open space facilities.
- Consolidate partner agency trail information into a single database and make it available to the County's partners. Evaluate the opportunities to use a third-party platform to update mapping and share trail information to the public in an engaging way, according to agency guidelines.
- Use trail signage information on the website and app to communicate warnings, skill level, best use, etc.
- Incorporate transit and travel information into website and app to encourage the use of transit or biking to trailheads.
- Develop a program to update and refresh kiosk content and interpretive signage in parks on a regular, ongoing basis.



Examples of maps shown at map kiosks for Hidden Falls Regional Park and TCPUD trails.

COMMUNICATE OFFERINGS



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLE 5| RECOGNIZE AND DEVELOP OUR PARTNERSHIP IN DELIVERING PARK AMENITIES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

As described in Chapter 2, federal, state, regional, and local partners all work together to provide outdoor recreation opportunities in Placer County. In particular, schools and special districts help the County meet its active park LOS goals. Limited funding and specialized recreation needs reinforce the need for the County to partner with other agencies to provide the highest quality and value to residents and visitors. Moving forward, the County should continue to look for opportunities to leverage partnerships to maximize funding dollars. In the Lake Tahoe Region, this model is being exemplified in the corridor planning processes. Agencies are committing to work together across jurisdictional boundaries to address shared needs. Placer County has the opportunity to not only participate in similar partnerships but to be a leader in bringing organizations together to provide for recreation in the county.

WHAT DO COMMUNITIES DESIRE?

Although a partnership question was not asked on the countywide survey, 89 percent of respondents indicated a desire for increased maintenance levels in parks. To achieve the increase, the County needs to continue existing partnerships and continue to foster new ones. Additionally, some of the improvements desired by respondents are best served by partner agencies. For example, the in Tahoe the USFS is responsible for planning, implementing, and maintaining trail systems on their lands and the California Tahoe Conservancy would be the most likely leader of land acquisition in Lake Tahoe to increase beach access. In the valley, Placer Land Trust may work with property owners to purchase lands or acquire easements for public recreation access.

THE BIG IDEA

The following list summarizes the big ideas for parks, trails, and open space partnerships over the next 10 to 20 years.

- Expand and enhance partnerships to maximize the County's dollars in meeting resident and visitor recreation needs
- Provide leadership to bring partners together

Commitment

To jointly address shared issues, the TTD and its 12 partners have created a remarkable implementation mechanism: the SR 26 Corridor Management Plan. We thank the public for thoughtful comments and for supporting our commitment to protect the lake, improve safety, enhance recreation with transportation choices and benefit local/regional economies.


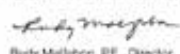
We, the undersigned, look forward to continued collaboration with the community as well as with each other:

 Tahoe Transportation District

Carl Henry, District Manager

 Federal Highway Administration

Sue Kleck, Division Administrator

 Nevada Department of Transportation

Rudy Mallabon, P.E., Director

 Nevada Highway Patrol

Sergeant Randy Jackson
Incline Village/Lake Tahoe

 Carson City Regional Transportation Commission

John McKenna, Chair

 County of Washoe

John Berkich, Interim County Manager

 Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Daniel Cruz, Washoe Cultural Resource
Department-Director, Tribal Historic
Preservation Officer

 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Joanne Marchetta, Executive Director




Tim Carlson, Presidential Appointee


 U.S. Forest Service

Nancy J. Gibson, Forest Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

 Nevada Division of State Parks

Dave Morrow, Administrator

 State of Nevada, Division of State Lands

James R. Lawrence, Administrator and
State Land Registrar

 County of Douglas

Steve Mokrosky, County Manager

 Incline Village General Improvement District

William E. Horn, General Manager

13 agencies, one effort

| ix

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

5.1

Enhance and formulate strong and broad partnerships to achieve level of service goals for parks, open space, and trails. Provide staff support to the Placer Vineyard Park and Recreation District in initial years of operation.

- Continue to look for opportunities for non-profit or school partnerships. These non-profit or education organizations may be able to provide funding or land to address park facility improvement desires. Evaluate opportunities for schools to help meet the demands for sports fields.
- Document school partnerships with joint-use agreements. Work with the school to plan for better connections between school children and parks and open spaces, and create nature educational opportunities.
- Lead partner agencies and organizations in pooling resources and leveraging the strengths and capacities of other agencies to reduce duplication of efforts. For example, Sierra Nevada Conservancy has a dedicated employee that finds relevant grants for other organizations.
- Strengthen and build relationships with parks, open space and trails managers from the cities, special districts, state and federal agencies, and non-profit groups through regularly scheduled meetings and forums to improve integrated information, mapping, volunteer coordination, etc.
- Support parks, open space and trail planning efforts of local municipalities and special districts to meet community and regional goals.
- Co-locate new assets with new or existing facilities, including schools, libraries, and areas of concentrated employment to share construction and maintenance costs, provide efficient delivery of services and create multi-purpose destinations.
- Work to expand and enhance the number of partnerships with other providers for facilities and programs. It is nearly impossible for most parks agencies to meet all the recreation needs of a community by themselves. As a result, forming key partnerships with other organizations and agencies, to expand both facility and program opportunities, is now the norm. An example would be to identify parkland or facilities that could be managed and maintained by another entity (e.g., HOA, schools).
- Support the Placer Vineyard Parks and Recreation Department in its initial years until the new agency is able to hold elections and be self-supporting. In initial years, PVPRD will require close coordination with the County regarding land use entitlements, property acquisition, administration of fee and specialty programs, and construction oversight.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLE 6| MAINTAIN THE PARK AND TRAIL FACILITIES WE HAVE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

During the Great Recession Placer County was forced to redirect general fund dollars from park funding to other basic services. As the economy has recovered, funding has been slow to rebuild, but park facilities have continued to age. This has led to deferred maintenance for much of the County's facilities including:

- **Tree Health:** Pruning, mulching, staking, and pretreatment for insects are necessary to ensure a tree's health. As trees age and become more susceptible to disease and pests, these practices become more important and more costly.
- **Turf Care:** Without proper core aeration, fertilization, pest control maintenance, high-use turf fields can quickly deteriorate.
- **Building and Structure Care:** Painting and preservatives help to increase the longevity and overall aesthetic of structures.
- **Capital Replacement Program:** Many facilities have designated lifespans that require replacement every few years.

Moving forward, the County needs to address deferred maintenance needs and actively plan for future needs. Opportunities to reduce costs by transitioning high-water turf areas that are not used for sports or informal lawn uses to a more low-water use landscape type or drought-tolerant lawn species can be considered along with other methods to reduce maintenance costs and to increase overall service levels to meet community needs.

THE BIG IDEA

The following list summarizes the big ideas for parks, trails, and maintenance over the next 10 to 20 years.

- Address deferred maintenance
- Develop a volunteer program
- Utilize a total asset management approach as part of a Capital Replacement Program to plan for maintenance and consider life-cycle and operations as part of maintenance planning



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT DO THE COMMUNITIES DESIRE?



94%

Strongly or somewhat supported improving the maintenance and care of trails, bikeways, and walking paths



94%

Strongly or somewhat supported improving energy and water use efficiency



89%

Strongly or somewhat supported improving the maintenance service level of existing parks

Note: Percentages of support are taken from the 2017 Countywide Parks and Trails survey. The percent of respondents who "Strongly Support" and "Support" different actions or initiatives was calculated by summing the total number of respondents who answered "Strongly Support" or "Support" for a question and dividing it by the total number of respondents (minus the number of respondents who answered "Don't Know") for the question.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

6.1

Actively address deferred maintenance needs.

- Develop a Capital Replacement Program based on total asset management.
 - » Develop a detailed list of assets at each park site and annually evaluate their condition.
 - » Rate the condition of each asset based on a simple scale and track over time.
 - » Utilize the data to evaluate and update maintenance frequencies.
 - » Develop asset replacement schedules and continue to prioritize deferred maintenance projects.
- Develop an equitable funding strategy to address preventative maintenance and capital replacement. Consider multiple revenue sources including the general fund, special assessments/taxes, user fees, etc.
- Designate budget line items to fund annual preventative maintenance and reinvestment in facilities to maintain their functionality and prolong their life. Funding levels for asset management are typically based on the total replacement value of the assets.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

6.2

Meet or exceed current maintenance standards for parks, trails, and open spaces.

- Adjust staffing levels, including the ratio of in-house to outsourced work, and establish maintenance classifications according to the Strategic Plan recommendations.
 - Increase staffing to achieve desired service levels.
 - Contract or obtain part time staff to help with enhanced marketing and storytelling to help grow the brand identity of the County.
 - Build a culture of Customer Service Excellence to help realize the Core Value of Proactive Customer Service
 - Create an internal onboarding program for all new staff and focus it on values and mission/vision.
 - Conduct ongoing training for all existing staff, and volunteers and partners who represent the County as well.
 - Develop a specialized parks maintenance team for natural areas, consisting of trails managers supplemented with trained volunteers.
- Consider capital, maintenance, and replacement costs in the design and renovation of parks and open space facilities.
 - » Determine what level of funding needs to be set aside to replace facilities at the end of their life cycle.
 - » Evaluate alternatives for facilities and amenities (such as recreation and aquatic centers or artificial turf and sports field lighting) based on appropriate locations, synergies with other park activities, potential partnerships, and cost effectiveness. Operations and maintenance costs of some park facilities can be high and County leaders should understand both capital improvement and long-term maintenance and replacement costs before committing to the development of such facilities.
- Adopt and implement updated park and trail design guidelines.
 - » Design for flexibility and multiple uses in all facilities.
 - » Expand the use of low-water and low-maintenance landscapes.
- Adopt and implement guidelines for maintenance of natural lands and trails.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

6.2

Continued from previous page

- » Comprehensively address the management and care needs of the natural environment and open space lands such as erosion control, invasive species, forest management, and wildfire.
- » Work to eliminate noxious weeds on park and open space properties as part of ongoing maintenance. Continue to partner with the Nevada-Placer Weed Management Area (NPWMA) to develop, document, implement, and update a coordinated plan to detect, map, and control harmful non-native invasive weed infestations in the NPWMA region using methods of integrated weed management. Consider opportunities to utilize volunteers to implement weed management as a priority.
- » Consider strategies, such as the goat grazing in Traylor Ranch, to reduce brush and minimize wildfire risks. Coordinate other open space management strategies with resiliency and wildfire planning to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- » Comprehensively address natural resource management and urban forestry through the creation of annual maintenance tasks as part of a long-term natural resource management approach.
- » Continue current levels of trail maintenance and address and decommission user created or unauthorized social trails as appropriate.
- » Develop a healthy tree program for status trees throughout their life-cycle.
- Continue to support water conservation and sustainability goals. Replace turf with lower water use species such as durable Bermuda grass in lower use park areas and in field renovations where appropriate. Incorporate native vegetation, natural grasslands, and low water landscapes in the planting design of parks and functional landscape areas. Replace non-native invasive plants with drought-tolerant, low maintenance native and adapted native where appropriate.

MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

6.3

Reduce maintenance expenses through the strategic development and utilization of volunteers.

- Provide organizational and motivational support for volunteers and donors.
 - » Provide staffing and oversight to engage and train volunteers.
 - » Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of creating a staff position dedicated to overseeing and developing a volunteer program.
 - » Where feasible, combine volunteer training and certification to be recognized across multiple jurisdictions (i.e. consider adoption of USFS chainsaw safety certification program).
 - » Support non-profit organizations or create a countywide volunteer program for trail construction and maintenance. The specialized parks maintenance team for natural areas and trails can provide training to volunteers, tools and direct a crew to target specific trails for improvement annually.
 - » Coordinate with the County's risk management and counsel to ensure appropriate insurance and liability forms are developed and used.
- Create a robust volunteer program.
 - » Track volunteer hours and projects completed to gauge effectiveness, plan for future opportunities, and leverage grant funds. Utilize the data as part of a recognition, motivation, and retention program.
 - » Engage volunteers and non-profit groups to assist in maintaining parks, trails, and open space resources.
 - » Create opportunities for volunteers to help construct and maintain park, trail, and open space amenities, as appropriate.
 - » Develop opportunities for volunteers to serve as "Park Ambassadors" or guides to enhance the park visitor experience and educate park and trail users about rules and regulations. Park Ambassadors should function as sources of information for users, reinforce appropriate park use, and focus on improving the quality of the visitor's experience. They should not become directly involved in park security issues, but they can report incidents. Providing Ambassadors uniforms elevates their visual presence. Training and oversight should be provided.
 - » Consider opportunities for volunteers to participate in trail mapping and assessment efforts to update and track maintenance needs of trails. Utilize technology, such as 360° cameras, where appropriate to digitally record the trails and trailheads.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLE 7| MAXIMIZE FUNDING BY LEVERAGING RESOURCES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In comparison to benchmark communities and the national median, Placer County Parks and Trails has the lowest operating expense per resident and is in the lower quartile for operating expenses per acre. Since 2000, the Department (a division of Public Works prior to 2021) has seen a steep increase in the amount of park acreage it is maintaining thanks to the adoption of the Placer Legacy Program, the Granite Bay's Landscape and Lighting funding and the development of West Roseville, but the corresponding budget has not seen the same increases. Like many agencies, during

the recession the Department saw budget reductions that were not re-established during the recovery. Now those parks are beginning to age and are in need of a Capital Replacement Program. The Department has deferred maintenance costs and has been asked to do more with less resources such as maintaining tree health, long-term turf care, and building/structure preservation. Additionally, the Department has been tasked with an increased role in fuel reduction on many non-park properties.

Figure 16: Benchmark Agencies: Operating Expense Per Capital

Agency	Population	Total Operating Expense	Operating Expense Per Resident
Placer County Parks and Trails	111,446	\$6,514,863	58.46
East Bay Regional Parks District	2,751,194	\$203,391,690	73.93
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District	373,755	\$32,413,003	86.72
Sonoma County Regional Parks District	151,371	\$17,172,987	113.45
Roseville Parks and Recreation District	135,868	\$21,289,788	156.69
Folsom Parks and Recreation	72,131	\$11,732,398	162.65
Cosumnes Community Services District	171,059	\$31,000,000	181.22
Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation	8,234	\$1,600,000	197.32
Rancho Cordova Recreation and Park District	120,000	\$25,621,696	213.51

Figure 17: Benchmark Agencies: Operating Expense Per Acre of Park

Agency	Total Acres	Total Operating Expense	Operating Expense Per Acre	Total Active Acres	Total Undeveloped & Open Space Acres
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District	73,462	\$32,413,006	\$441	132	73,330
Sonoma County Regional Parks District	10,400	\$17,172,987	\$1,651	648	9,751
East Bay Regional Parks District	120,931	\$203,391,690	\$1,682	12,093	108,838
Roseville Parks and Recreation District	7,163	\$21,289,877	\$2,972	1,065	6,098
Placer County Parks and Trails	2,202	\$6,514,868	\$2,959	174	2,035
Folsom Parks and Recreation	939,263	\$11,732,398	\$12,495	439	500
Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation	75	\$1,600,000	\$21,362	36	39
Cosumnes Community Services District	1,052	\$31,000,000	\$29,468	753	299
Rancho Cordova Recreation and Park District	616	\$25,621,696	\$41,594	493	123

¹NRPA Median \$6,561 Operating Expense per Acre, NRPA Lower Quartile \$2,988 Operating Expense per Acre, NRPA Upper Quartile \$15,709 Operating Expense per Acre

Note: Numbers shown in Figures 16-18 represent data gathered in 2018 & 2019.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT DO THE COMMUNITIES DESIRE?



61%

Placed funding for parks as an essential or high priority relative to other governmental services



56%

Prioritized developing new facilities and obtaining resources now to meet future needs (vs. focusing solely on maintenance)



66%

Strongly or somewhat supported adding rentable venues (picnic shelters and facilities).

Figure 18: Benchmark Agencies: Full Time Equivalent Staff Per 10,000 Residents

Agency	In-House FTEs	Contracted FTEs	In-House/ Contracted Staff Ratio	Total FTEs (in-house + contracted)	FTEs Per 10,000 Residents
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District	28	See Notes	-	See Notes	See Notes
East Bay Regional Parks District	230	0	1:0	230	0.84
Folsom Parks and Recreation	14	See Notes	-	See Notes	See Notes
Sonoma County Regional Parks District	29	See Notes	-	See Notes	See Notes
Rancho Cordova Recreation and Park District	26	See Notes	-	See Notes	See Notes
Placer County Parks and Trails	14	15	1:1	29	2.6
Tracy Parks and Recreation District	29	11	1:0.4	40	4.48
Cosumnes Community Services District	39	60	1:0.7	99	5.79
Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation	6	See Notes	-	See Notes	See Notes

In-House FTEs consist of Operations Staff only including superintendents, supervisors, staff and seasonal staff. Administrative/planning staff are not included.

NRPA Median 7.3 FTEs per 10,000 Residents

NRPA Lower Quartile 3.7 FTEs per 10,000 Residents

NRPA Upper Quartile 14.9 FTEs per 10,000 Residents

Note: Several agencies contract out special labor and special projects but were not able to convert their contract labor to FTE. Folsom uses prison labor as contract labor. Since Contracted FTEs cannot be calculated for these agencies, Total FTEs and in turn FTEs Per 10,000 Residents cannot be calculated.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

7.1

Diversify financial strategies to include new methods of funding for Placer County projects and maintenance. Develop additional funding sources according to strategic plan recommendations.

- Develop other earned income sources to complement tax support through concessions (e.g. Horse Boarding), sponsorships, naming rights etc.
 - » Create a business development staff position focused on building partnerships and bringing in sponsorships and earned income.
 - » Develop an earned income and sponsor policy for the County Board of Supervisors to address
 - » Conduct a sponsorship valuation study to identify the potential sponsorable value of all Placer County's assets and visitation numbers. Evaluate potential public-private partnerships for the development of trail systems.
 - » In five years, generate 10 percent of park funding sources from earned income (increased from the current rate of one percent).
 - » Focus on growing user fee-based programming around outdoor adventure and connecting youth to nature.
 - » Evaluate earned income opportunities according to the following criteria:
 - » Meet a demonstrated and desired service,
 - » Be thematically consistent with the County's parks and trails, and
 - » Does not compete with other agencies.
- Develop new funding sources to implement projects contained in the Master Plan.
 - » Consider dedicating a portion of transient occupancy tax (TOT) to parks, trails, and open spaces.
 - » Create a voluntary fee for tourism activities.
 - » Evaluate the potential for parking fees or a "recreation fee" for some facilities that receive high visitor/tourism use.
 - » Pursue opportunities for joint funding of projects with city, county, district, state and/or federal agencies as appropriate.
 - » Develop a policy regarding for concessions, food trucks, and sidewalk vendors in active parks.
- Create a business plan for revenue-generating opportunities that are event or program-based. Explore the potential for revenue generation from fee-based programs. General programming can be free and be delivered to a larger audience. Programs or services that target specific user groups can be fee-based because users elect to participate in the programs.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

7.1

Continued from previous page

- Establish cost recovery policies and expectations for County programs and activities. Create a distinction between the programs for which it is not realistic to expect fees to cover the cost of providing the program and those that should be covered by user fees. Undertake stakeholder discussions to determine the appropriate role of the County and other recreation clubs or providers.
- Continue to pursue grant opportunities. Some of the projects, programs or other improvements recommended in this Master Plan are appropriate for competitive grants applications. Strategically consider the value of grants against administrative responsibility.
 - » Consider the potential for leveraging grant funds from the Great America Outdoor Act for physical improvements.
- Evaluate the potential for developing a regional parks and trails foundation.
 - » Consider opportunities for a foundation to function as a public/private partnership with a board of directors appointed by both the public and private sectors. The foundation can support fundraising, park and open space planning, construction, management, maintenance, special events management, programming, and mapping. The foundation can also work on new sources of revenue and assist with volunteer training and fundraising.
- Use technology to create efficiencies, obtain feedback, and generate revenues.
 - » Obtain customer feedback in real-time using the County's feedback program.
 - » Consider the use of tablets in parks to promote programs, rentals, etc.
- Create or amend County policies to allow for new funding sources and programming.

LEVERAGE RESOURCES



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

7.2

Dedicate funds to maintain current parks, trails, and open space and anticipate funding needed for the expanded system.

- Balance funding allocations from the County's General Fund with reliable levels of park services, including maintenance levels.
- Build community support aimed at permanently extending financing for operations and maintenance to ensure sufficient resources are available to support a high-quality parks and recreation system.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

7.3

Ensure new development has provided funding for on-going maintenance and capital replacement.

- Update parks, open space, and trail fee dedications and fee rates.
- Ensure sound fiscal principals are used when developing funding strategies, including funding for both one-time expenses and for on-going costs.

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Park and recreation systems across the U.S. have learned to develop a clear understanding of how to manage revenue options to support parks and recreation services based on the limited availability of tax dollars. Park and recreation systems no longer rely on taxes as their sole revenue option. They have developed new sources of revenue options to help support capital and operational needs.

A growing number of agencies have developed policies on partnership agreements for programs and facilities through the newly found relationships provided to the community that are fair and equitable in the delivery of services. Placer County has already seen success with existing joint-use agreements.

Outlined below are several options for Placer County's Department of Parks and Open Space based on discussions with the County leadership. Some, if not all, of these sources should be considered as an option to support the capital and operational needs of the Department.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

- Corporate Sponsorships - Corporations can also underwrite a portion or all of the cost of an event, program, or activity based on their name being associated with the service. Typically, sponsorships are title sponsors, presenting sponsors, associate sponsors, product sponsors, or in-kind sponsors. Many agencies seek corporate support for these types of activities and these can be viable especially for signature parks.
- Advertising sales on sports complexes, scoreboards, gym floors, trash cans, playgrounds, in locker rooms, at dog parks, along trails, flower pots, and as part of special events held in Placer County parks/facilities to help support operational costs have been an acceptable practice in parks and recreation systems for a long time and should be considered to support operational costs.
 - Example: Charleston County Parks and Recreation (<http://www.ccprc.com/index.aspx?NID=5>) has well established frameworks for sustained sponsorship opportunities by providing packaged choices of offerings
 - City of Santa Barbara (http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/depts/parksrec/recreation/sponsor_opportunities.asp).
- Naming Rights - Many cities and counties have turned to selling the naming rights for new buildings or renovation of existing buildings and parks for the development cost associated with the improvement.
 - Example: Many cities and counties have turned to selling the naming rights for new constructions of facilities or parks to pay for the development and, occasionally, costs associated with the project. A great example of this was in Lewisville, Texas, where the city signed a 10-year naming rights deal with a local Toyota dealership for their signature community park that opened in 2009. The park includes multiple sports fields, a dog park, skate park, walking and jogging trails, three lakes for irrigation, etc. (<http://www.cityoflewisville.com/index.aspx?page=538>).

LEVERAGE RESOURCES
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COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

LEVERAGE RESOURCES

- Advertising Sales - This revenue source is for the sale of tasteful and appropriate advertising on park and recreation related promotional materials such as in the city's program guide, on scoreboards, dasher boards and other visible products or services that are consumable or permanent that exposes the product or service to many people.
- Partnerships - Partnerships are joint development funding sources or operational funding sources between two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a city department, or a private business and a city agency. Two partners jointly develop revenue producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities and asset management, based on the strengths and weaknesses of each partner.
 - Example: A relevant example includes the Muskingum Recreation Center that is being developed in Zanesville, Ohio. This is a partnership between the Muskingum County Community Foundation (MCCF), the Muskingum Family Y (MFY), Genesis HealthCare System, and Ohio University Zanesville (OUZ) (<http://www.muskingumrecreationcenter.org/>).
- Foundations/Gifts - These dollars are raised from tax-exempt, non-profit organizations established with private donations in promotion of specific causes, activities, or issues. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects, including capital campaigns, gifts catalogs, fundraisers, endowments, sales of items, etc.
- Private Donations - Private donations may also be received in the form of funds, land, facilities, recreation equipment, art or in-kind services. Donations from local and regional businesses such as sponsors for events or facilities should be pursued.
- Friends Groups - These groups are formed to raise money typically for a single focus purpose that could include a park facility or program that will better the community and their special interest.
- Irrevocable Remainder Trusts - These trusts are set up with individuals who typically have more than a million dollars in wealth. They will leave a portion of their wealth to the city in a trust fund that allows the fund to grow over time and then is available for the city to use a portion of the interest to support specific park and recreation facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.
- Volunteerism - The revenue source is an indirect revenue source as persons donate time to assist the Department in providing a product or service on an hourly basis. This reduces the city's cost in providing the service plus it builds advocacy into the system.
 - Example: The City of San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services has leveraged a very unique volunteer relationship by utilizing graduates from The Harvard Business School to identify potential sponsorship value of its inventory and craft a compelling message for potential sponsors – all on a pro-bono basis (http://www.hbsanc.org/cp_home.html?aid=1142). There could be potential opportunities of this sort with any of the educational institutions, including Mira Costa College, Palomar Community College, or University of California San Diego.
- Special Fundraisers - Many park and recreation agencies have special fundraisers on an annual basis to help cover specific programs and capital projects.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

USER FEES

- **Parking Fee:** Many parks that do not charge an admission fee may charge a parking fee. Parking fees are generally used only for the management of overcrowding. For example, the parking rate at Hidden Falls Regional Park is currently \$8 a day.
- **Recreation Service Fees** - This is a dedicated user fee, which can be established by a local ordinance or other government procedures for recreation programs. The fee can apply to all organized activities, which require a reservation, as defined by the local government. Examples of such activities include sports activities or programs, nature and outdoor adventure or other special interest classes in Placer County. The fee allows participants an opportunity to contribute toward the upkeep of the parks or facilities being used.
- **Fees/Charges** - The Department must position fees and charges to be market-driven and derived based on both public and private facilities. The potential outcome of revenue generation should be consistent with national trends relating to public park and recreation agencies, which generate an average 35% to 50% of the cost of operations. In general, broader uses of facilities should be free while exclusive uses should have fees applied.
- **Ticket Sales/Admissions** - This revenue source is assessed at facilities where self-directed activities take place such as pools, ice skating rinks, ballparks and entertainment facilities. These user fees help offset operational costs.
- **Permits (Special Use Permits)** - These special permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The County either receives a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service that is being provided.
- **Reservations** - This revenue source comes from the right to reserve specific public property for a set amount of time. The reservation rates are usually set and apply to group picnic shelters, meeting rooms for weddings, reunions and outings or other types of facilities for special activities.
- **Equipment Rental** - The revenue source is available on the rental of equipment such as tables, chairs, tents, stages, bicycles, roller blades, boogie boards, etc. that are used for recreation purposes.

GRANTS

- Includes a range of grant sources. The viability of a grant should be weighed in consideration of the administrative work to acquire and report on goals and metrics. Proposition 68 in California is a recently passed initiative which could be used for significant park improvements in Placer County. Enhancements to Hidden Falls Regional Park is one potential use of Prop. 68 grant funds.

TAX SUPPORT

- **Community Facilities District or Special Improvement District/Benefit District** - Taxing districts established to provide funds for certain types of improvements that benefit a specific group of affected properties. Improvements may include landscaping, the erection of fountains, and acquisition of art, and supplemental services for improvement and promotion, including recreation and cultural enhancements.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

FRANCHISES AND LICENSES

All of the funding sources below should be considered in relationship to how they fit within Placer County's park system. The list is for reference only and to guide future conversations. Funding opportunities should be aligned with the character of Placer County's parks. The Placer County brand is of primary importance and private funding should be subsidiary. An example is the National Park System where private dollars are used to fund some operations, but the display of private logos or recognition of the private dollars is secondary and in line with the National Park brand.

- Catering Permits and Services - This is a license to allow caterers to work in the park system on a permit basis with a set fee or a percentage of food sales returning to the city. Also, many cities have their own catering service and receive a percentage of dollars from the sale of their food.
- Concession Management - Concession management is from retail sales or rentals of soft goods, hard goods, or consumable items. The city either contracts for the service or receives a set amount of the gross percentage or the full revenue dollars that incorporates a profit after expenses.
 - Example: There are many examples of this nationwide, be it for a single agency such as Chicago Park District (<http://www.parkconcessions.com/>) or for multi-park vendors such as Xanterra (<http://www.xanterra.com>) that specializes in operating hotels, restaurants, and stores in several state parks and national parks within the US. The key to success with private concession managers is to build in facility repair and maintenance responsibilities as a part of the concessionaire's overall role in managing the facility.
- Private Concession Management - Contract with a private business to provide and operate desirable recreation activities financed, constructed, and operated by the private sector, with additional compensation paid to the city.
- Greenway Utility - Greenway utilities are used to finance acquisition of greenways and development of the greenways by selling the development rights underground for the fiber optic businesses, for example.
- Private Developers - These developers lease space from city-owned land through a subordinate lease that pays a set dollar amount plus a percentage of gross dollars for recreation enhancements. These could include a golf course, marina, restaurants, driving ranges, sports complexes, equestrian facilities, recreation centers, and ice arenas.
- Easements - This revenue source is available when the city allows utility companies, businesses or individuals to develop some type of an improvement above ground or below ground on their property for an established period and dollar value to be received by the city on an annual basis.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Interlocal Agreements - Contractual relationships entered between two or more local units of government and/or between a local unit of government and a non-profit organization for the joint usage/development of sports fields, regional parks, or other facilities.
 - Example: A relevant example includes the Muskingum Recreation Center that is being developed in Zanesville, Ohio. This is a partnership between the Muskingum County Community Foundation (MCCF), the Muskingum Family Y (MFY), Genesis HealthCare System, and Ohio University Zanesville (OUZ) (<http://www.muskingumrecreationcenter.org/>).
- Foundations/Gifts - These dollars are raised from tax-exempt, non-profit organizations established with private donations in promotion of specific causes, activities, or issues. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects, including capital campaigns, gifts catalogs, fundraisers, endowments, sales of items, etc.
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- Friends Groups - These groups are formed to raise money typically for a single focus purpose that could include a park facility or program that will better the community and their special interest.
- Irrevocable Remainder Trusts - These trusts are set up with individuals who typically have more than a million dollars in wealth. They will leave a portion of their wealth to the city in a trust fund that allows the fund to grow over time and then is available for the city to use a portion of the interest to support specific park and recreation facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.
- Volunteerism - The revenue source is an indirect revenue source as persons donate time to assist the Department in providing a product or service on an hourly basis. This reduces the city's cost in providing the service plus it builds advocacy into the system.
 - Example: The City of San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services has leveraged a very unique volunteer relationship by utilizing graduates from The Harvard Business School to identify potential sponsorship value of its inventory and craft a compelling message for potential sponsors – all on a pro-bono basis (http://www.hbsanc.org/cp_home.html?aid=1142). There could be potential opportunities of this sort with any of the educational institutions, including Mira Costa College, Palomar Community College, or University of California San Diego.
- Special Fundraisers - Many park and recreation agencies have special fundraisers on an annual basis to help cover specific programs and capital projects.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLE 8| ACTIVATE PUBLIC SPACES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Placer County has not historically provided programming or hosted events. If provided, these programs could fill a niche not otherwise offered in the county. As staff develop a business plan for programs and events, they would work to minimize duplication with other recreation providers or partner with other providers to bring outside services into the parks.

In comparison to other parks and recreation providers, Placer County's cost recovery has minimal cost recovery for the services provided and many people do not recognize the County's role in providing parks, trails, and open space facilities. The use of recreation programming is one element that could be used to increase cost recovery and recognition. The County should also use the fee continuum when developing programming and fee rate structures. The continuum is a best practice for recreation providers. Programs that have the lowest cost recovery are those that serve the most people and specialized activities that server fewer numbers of people require greater cost recovery. The intent of the continuum is to offer equity in access and offerings. Programs, events, and offerings that are most important to the community's well-being (access to facilities) have the lowest cost recovery, and those that require special expertise and instruction and benefit just a few (such as specialty classes) require the highest level of cost recovery.

TYPES OF PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PLACER COUNTY

Categories and potential types of programming and events could include the following:

- Chainsaw safety classes
- Trail construction and maintenance classes
- Trail etiquette and safety classes
- Senior saunters (trail walks along accessible trails)
- Nature photography expeditions
- Family hikes
- Guided hikes, bike rides, and equestrian tours
- Junior ranger programs
- Fly fishing
- Regional community celebrations/events in active parks
- Nature education
- Volunteer programs

Figure 20: Fee Continuum for Cost Recovery

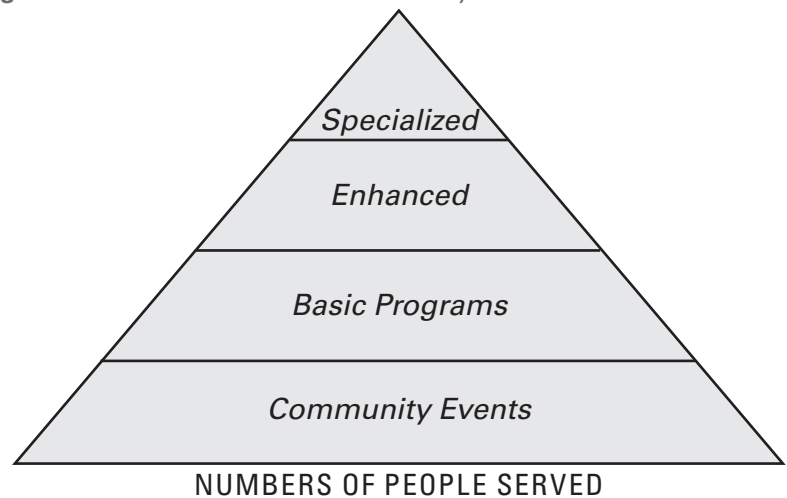


Figure 19: Benchmark Agencies: Cost Recovery of Agencies That Reported Programming Revenue

Agency	Total Non-Tax Revenue	Total Operating Expense	Operational Cost Recovery
Placer County Parks and Trails	\$0	\$6,514,863	0%
East Bay Regional Parks District	\$14,924,058	\$203,391,690	7%
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District	\$15,169,362	\$32,413,003	47%
Sonoma County Regional Parks District	\$8,393,568	\$17,172,987	49%
Roseville Parks and Recreation District	\$12,700,000	\$21,289,788	60%

Note: Numbers shown represent data gathered in 2018 & 2019.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT DO THE COMMUNITIES DESIRE?



91%

Strongly or somewhat supported identified encouraging youth to spend time outdoors as the primary purpose of parks.



Example of a concert marketing with sponsors

Note: Percentages of support are taken from the 2017 Countywide Parks and Trails survey. The percent of respondents who “Strongly Support” and “Support” different actions or initiatives was calculated by summing the total number of respondents who answered “Strongly Support” or “Support” for a question and dividing it by the total number of respondents (minus the number of respondents who answered “Don’t Know”) for the question.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

8.1

Utilize programming that provides a needed service to activate Placer County's parks, trails, and open spaces.

- Consider the use of programming and events to increase residents' knowledge of Placer County parks, trails, and open spaces and, more importantly, to provide valuable services to residents and guests. Identify, enhance, and promote sites that are suitable for hosting recreation events. Bringing events to the parks that may not typically take place at a recreation site can attract new groups to the County's parks system. Many of Placer County's parks, trails, and open space sites would be excellent choices for hosting national, regional and local events. Identifying and promoting these sites, trails, and parks as specific to certain kinds of activities helps not only to attract events but supports the marketing and potential branding of Placer County.
- Activation can range from:
 - » Partnerships with other recreation providers to seek out programming opportunities,
 - » Nature education in open space areas through partnerships with educational providers,
 - » Art and cultural events in active and passive parks,
 - » Races on Placer County's trails,
 - » Hosting environmental education events,
 - » Collaboration with Placer Land Trust to connect underserved youth and their families to the outdoors,
 - » Community events that build recognition and create personal experiences and connection to Placer County parks and open spaces, and
 - » Practical training of volunteers on tools safety, and techniques in the outdoors (including multi-agent volunteer certification where applicable).
- Consider developing a policy that allows for programmed events/activities within open space lands such as nature education, power tool operation and safety classes (to enable volunteer certification across multiple jurisdictions where applicable), classes on hiking, mountain biking, and horsemanship. Programming that complements rather than duplicates or competes with local cities' and districts' programming is important.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

8.2

Broaden, enhance, and promote recreation opportunities. Complement traditional indoor recreation programs offered by city and district partners by offering outdoor themed alternatives (i.e., nature education, outdoor/ power tool safety classes, hikes, biking/equestrian lessons, etc.) through partnerships with recreation program providers.

- Consider providing outdoor/nature education and programming and include partners such as schools and nature organizations.
- Engage younger generations in outdoor programs. Look for ways to integrate technology with traditional recreation and nature.
- Partner with schools and education providers to create a Park/Nature Appreciation Day in local grade schools and high schools for youth to participate in different elements of the park system that are age appropriate.
- Develop programs that are suitable for families to participate in together, these might be environmental/outdoor focused or natural history/heritage programs within the County's parks and open spaces.
- Develop programs that meet a niche related to the County's inventory of parks and open spaces. For example, chainsaw safety classes or trail maintenance.
- Create a signature event for Placer County Parks and Trails. A signature event will anchor smaller events and can help bring a new identity to the county that attracts more visitors that can come back every year. This event can involve art, food, music, and even outdoor sporting activities. Examples of events include seasonal events. Examples include East Bay Regional Park District's Fall Foliage Festival or the July 4th Celebration, events that celebrate local heritage such as Sonoma County Park District's Gravenstein Apple Fair and the Russian River Festival, or other events like Truckee Donner Recreation Park Districts' Little Big Bike Festival, Truckee Carnival, or the Running Festival.
- Collaborate across County departments to manage a Parks Calendar of Events. A well-managed event calendar balances parks events with non-event days to maintain the intended use of the system and allow for grounds as well as staff recuperation after events. It is also important to continue to host and produce events in the "shoulder seasons." This will help generate additional revenue throughout the year, maintain interest in parks, and build publicity and momentum for park events in all seasons.
- Create volunteer opportunities, such as TDRPD's Truckee Clean-Up Day, to foster a sense of ownership amongst community members while leveraging the support to maintain parks.
- Electronic kiosks with up-to-date information, displaying notices, events and rotating media highlights will continue to keep the community engaged.
- Consider revising the County General Plan to encourage the County to enter into partnerships for programming of public recreation areas that offer topics and venues not otherwise provided by cities and special districts.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

PRINCIPLE 9| MEASURE AND TRACK PERFORMANCE TO CONTINUALLY DELIVER EXCELLENCE IN PARKS AND TRAILS

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In order to best serve community members, the County needs to understand who is using parks, trails, and open space and what facilities are most used and where gaps in amenities may exist. Direct observations are one method of gathering information and the review of social media and other technologies is another opportunity. As the County is able to identify needs and gaps they will be able to more easily adapt to changing needs.

Agency accreditation through NRPA brings external recognition for the Department's work. The benefits to the communities include:

- Assurance and validation of services that are aligned with best practices
- Potential funding support
- Improved quality of services.

Benefits to Placer County include:

- Public and political recognition
- Evidence of accountability
- Enhanced staff teamwork and pride
- Written documentation of policies and procedures.

WHAT DO THE COMMUNITIES DESIRE?

Throughout the Master Plan process, community members expressed a desire for facilities to respond to user needs and to address current trends. Tracking benchmarks and continually evaluating the performance of the parks, trails, and open space system will help the County better meet residents' needs. Additionally, accreditation helps validate the quality of services the County is providing and addresses their desire to have a balanced park system which both improves the condition of existing facilities while being forward looking to obtain resources for future needs.

THE BIG IDEA

The following list summarizes the big ideas for parks, trails, and performance measurement over the next 10 to 20 years.

- Utilize data and community need information to inform decision-making
- Become recognized for excellence in park operations and service



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

9.1

Make decisions on park, open space and trail renovations and new amenities based on use data.

- Evaluate actual park use of amenities through direct observations. Consider the System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC) method as a guide to identify high use areas and opportunities for improvement.
- Enhance digital park system participation to track park use. Smart phones and laptops give park system users the technology to digitally find parks, share photos through social media sites like Instagram, and track bike, running routes and other fitness data. In appropriate areas, add Wi-Fi to existing and new parks.
- Coordinate the public's use of fitness apps and watches to create a user-map of Placer County's parks, trails, and open spaces.
- Feature user's Instagram photos and other social media apps on Placer County's parks, trails, and open space website as a continuous feed link.
- Invest in park amenities with complementary digital apps to track use.
- Encourage park system users to track outdoor recreation activities.



COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunity

9.2

Become regionally recognized for excellence in park operations and service.

- Utilize national and regional benchmark resources.
 - » Input Placer County's benchmark data in the NRPA Park Metric database.
 - » Update information annually to assess the County's system in relationship to other agencies.
 - » Share benchmark information with the California Parks and Recreation Society and comparable communities to track and coordinate resource information.
- Seek national accreditation for quality assurance and quality improvement through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).
 - » Conduct a self-assessment to evaluate compliance.
- Actively participate in California Parks & Recreation Society.
- Submit for agency awards and/or recognition in local, regional, and national organization.

TRACK PERFORMANCE



4 PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

PRIORITIZATION
CAPITAL PROJECTS



PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

PRIORITIZATION

During the course of the master plan process, the planning team and staff outlined criteria to guide the organization and prioritization of potential projects and improvements for funding and implementation.

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

- Provides the greatest impact to address community needs and preferences. The project receives community and stakeholder support.
- Has a funding source or a funding source can be identified.
- Fills a gap in the current system. The project completes a trail system or provides parks and open space in an area that is needed.
- Has moderate to low impact on maintenance and operations expenses.
- Improves facilities that have reached end-of-life usability.
- Aligns with municipal and county partners' planning efforts. Placer County will work with partners to prioritize future projects that overlap and align with regional planning efforts.
- Offers a high return on investment or maximizes public resources.
- Addresses needs associated with growth and increased demand.

- Provides multiple benefit for both parks and recreation and other community and environmental needs.

Capital improvement projects were organized in the following Tier 1, Tier 2, and aspirational categories:

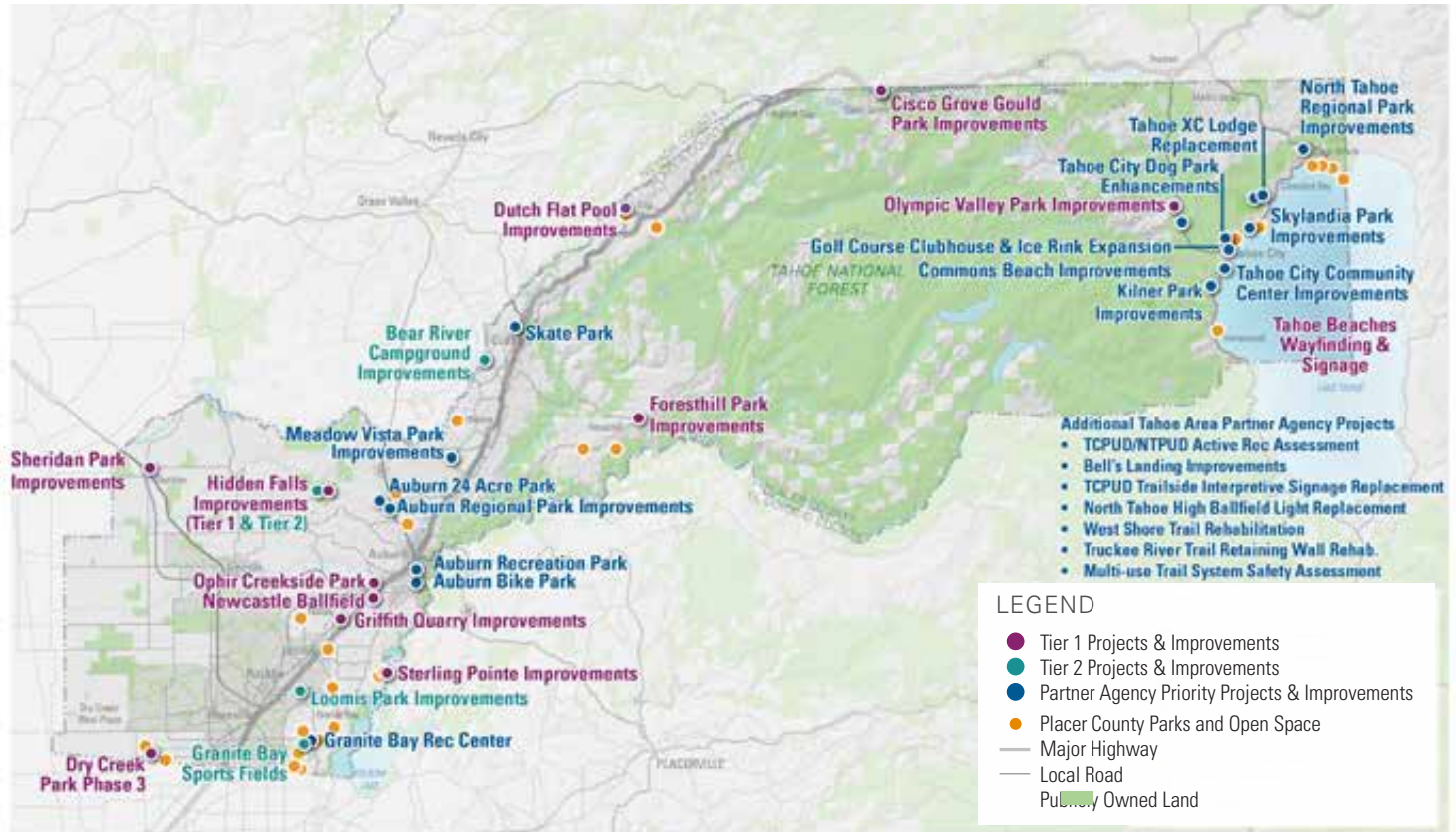
- **Tier 1 Projects:** Are already in some stage of planning/design, may be partially or fully funded and are generally closest to being constructed.
- **Tier 2 Projects:** Are projects with high potential for partnerships and leveraged funding but are behind Tier 1 projects in planning and design.
- **Partner Agency Projects:** Include priority projects identified from partnering recreation/utility districts. These projects, although not led by the County, may pursue County funding and have been identified as a recreation need.
- **Aspirational Projects:** Lack a funding source for capital and long-term maintenance costs, but may rank high to medium in the priority criteria.

Tier 1, Tier 2, Partner Agency projects, and aspirational projects are listed on the following pages. The summary also includes a list and map of parks, trails, and open space improvements associated with new development and a list of initiatives, capital replacement and major maintenance required for the county park system.

PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

PARK & OPEN SPACE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: TIER 1 & TIER 2 PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS



CIP Program	Park/Landscape	Open Space
Tier 1 Projects	12 Acres	2442 Acres
Tier 2 Projects	8 Acres	40 Acres
Partner Agency Projects	24.5 Acres	N/A
Total	42.5 Acres	2,762.1 Acres

Table 13: Master List of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Park Capital Projects Countywide

Placer County Parks and Trail CIP List						
Project		Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
TIER 1	Dry Creek Park Phase 3	10.0				Final phase of Dry Creek Park construction- includes public input for update to master plan
	Sheridan Park Improvements					Improvements to play fields, Stewart Hall, & park
	Hidden Falls Phase 1 - Twilight Ride		531.0		8.0	Parking for Taylor Ranch
	Hidden Falls Phase 2 - Connectivity		23.1		3.0	Hidden Falls/Taylor Connectivity - 2 bridges
	Hidden Falls Ph3 - Bear River Backcountry Trail System		2,166.0		17.0	Trail System - Harvego trail & Curtola trailhead
	Hidden Falls Existing Parking Area Improvements					Gate and kiosk - new well - overflow parking
	Hidden Falls Ranch House Renovation					Ranch House renovation, camping, & nature education
	Griffith Quarry Improvements					New interpretive program, safety fencing, tables, benches, fountains, parking improvements
	Sterling Pointe Staging Area Improvements					Restroom, signage, and parking improvements

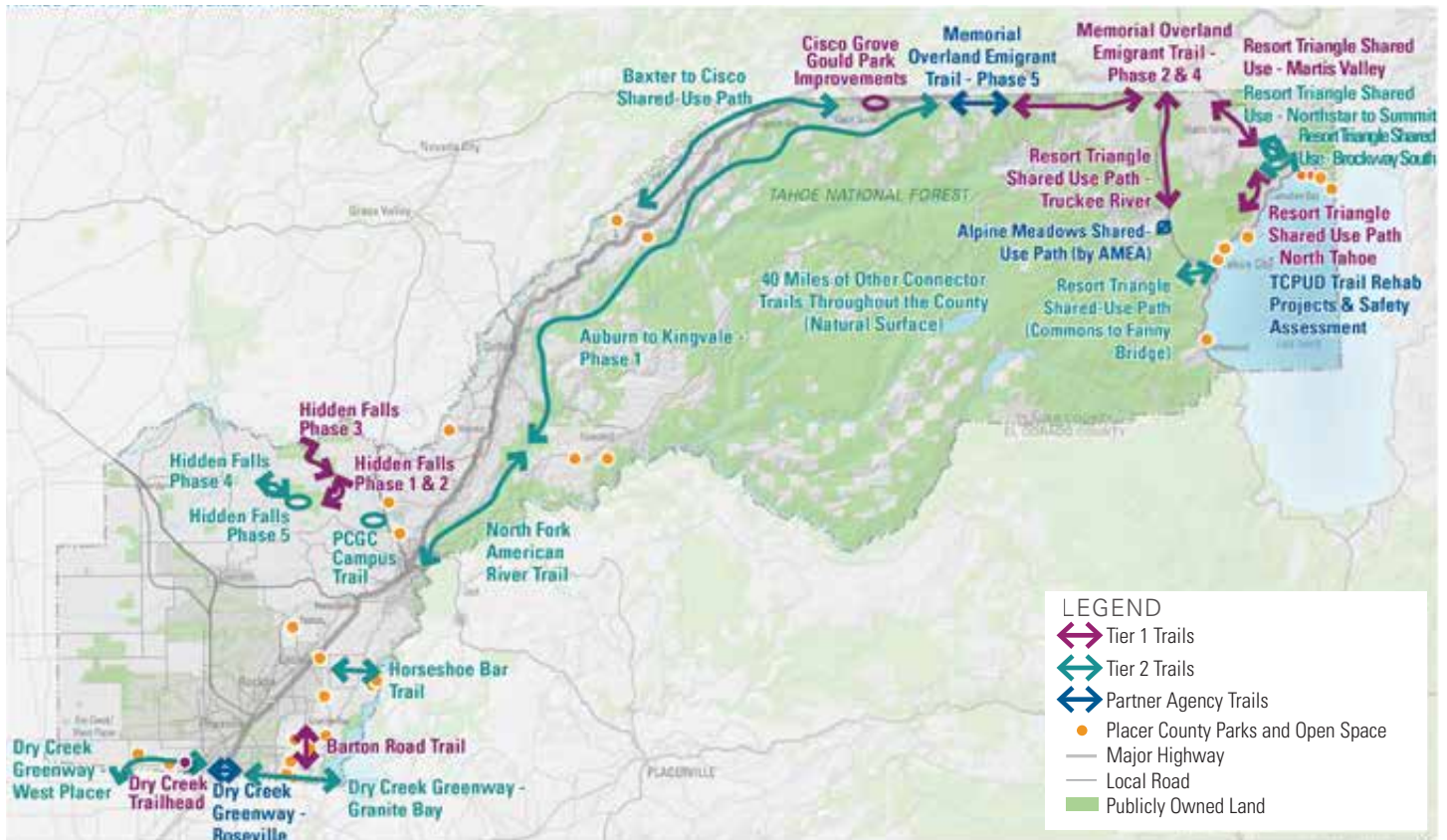
PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

Placer County Parks and Trail CIP List

	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
	Ophir Creekside Park		2.0			Creekside picnic area & trail near Lozanos bridge
	Newcastle Ball Field	2.0				Field
	Foresthill Park Improvements					Picnic pavilion, vendor accommodations for events, hard court rehabilitation, bleachers
	Dutch Flat Pool Improvements					Restroom, pool liner, new deck, amenity updates
	Cisco Grove Park Improvements					Park updates
	Olympic Valley Park Improvements					Playground relocation, final amenities, winter opening, funding by others
	Tahoe Beaches Wayfinding & Signage Consistency					
TIER 2	Hidden Falls Phase 4 - Garden Bar Entrance		40.0		1.0	Parking at Garden Bar - Phases 1A & 1C in SEIR
	Loomis Park Improvements					Synthetic turf conversion and lighting
	Granite Bay Sports Fields - Eureka School	8.0				Partnership with Eureka Union School District for development of 4 fields at Eureka School
	Bear River Campground Improvements					Upgraded amenities, camp host facilities, ongoing cost of campground host
PARTNER AGENCY PROJECTS (PRIORITY PER AGENCY)	Granite Bay Recreation Center - Eureka School					Partnership with Eureka Union School District - Eureka School multi-purpose room
	ARD - Auburn 24 Acre Park	24.0				Development of 24 acre parcel adjacent to Regional Park in North Auburn
	ARD - Auburn Bike Park					
	ARD - Auburn Recreation Park Upgrades					Rec field infield renovation, outfield, wheelchair swing, tennis court path of travel
	ARD - Auburn Regional Park Improvements					Replace splash pool
	ARD - Meadow Vista Park Improvements					Restroom/ADA improvements, pond pump/filter
	Skate Park - City of Colfax	0.5				To be owned and operated by the City of Colfax
	TCPUD/NTPUD Active Recreation Assessment					Assess community needs for active recreation
	TCPUD - Tahoe City Community Center Improvements	11				ADA/compliance improvements for public indoor recreation use and meeting/event space
	TCPUD - Golf Course Clubhouse & Ice Rink Expansion	46.5				Replace clubhouse and expand public ice rink
	TCPUD - Commons Beach Improvements	4.2				Replace parking lot, playground, and BBQ area
	TCPUD - X-Country Lodge Replacement		46			Replace and expand existing year-round lodge
	TCPUD - Skylandia Park Lodge & Gazebo		27.5			Replace and expand existing summer camp lodge. Add public gazebo for events and weddings.
	TCPUD - Tahoe City Dog Park Enhancements	0.2				Upgrade turf, fencing and dog park equipment
	TCPUD - Kilner Park Improvements					Replace bathrooms and playground
	TCPUD - Bells Landing Public River Access Park and Truckee River Trail Retaining Wall Repair Project					Rehabilitation of retaining wall that supports access to park and trail
	TCPUD - Trailside Interpretive Signage Replacement					Replace outdated trailside interpretive signage
	TCPUD - TTUSD North Tahoe High School Upper Ballfield Light Replacement Project					Replace outdated lighting
	NTPUD - North Tahoe Regional Park Improvements					Park improvements

PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

TRAILS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: TIER 1 & TIER 2



CIP Program	Paved Trails	Dirt Trails
Tier 1 & Partner Agency Trails	20.5 Miles	41.5 Miles
Tier 2 Trails	15.2 Miles	81.2 Miles
Total	35.7 Miles	122.7 Miles

Table 14: Master List of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trail Capital Projects Countywide

Placer Parks and Trail CIP List						
Project		Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
TIER 1 & PARTNER	Hidden Falls Phase 1 - Twilight Ride				8.0	Parking access to Taylor Ranch
	Hidden Falls Phase 2 - Connectivity				3.0	Hidden Falls / Taylor Connectivity
	Hidden Falls Phase 3 - Bear River Backcountry Trail System				15.0	Trail System - Harvego Connectivity & Curtola Trailhead
	Barton Road Trail				1.0	Dirt trail along Barton Road to connect Olive Ranch Road to Roseville Parkway
	Cisco Grove Gould Park Improvements				1.0	Trail and interpretive program - nominal increase to existing maintenance
	Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail - Phase 2				4.5	Dirt trail through Sugar Bowl & USFS Property to Donner Memorial State Park

PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

TIER 1 & PARTNER AGENCY PROJECTS (PRIORITY BY AGENCY)	City of Roseville Dry Creek Greenway Area 2					Segment of Dry Creek Greenway
	Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail - Phase 3				5.0	Segment through Donner Memorial State Park - Const, Maint, & Operation by State Parks
	Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail - Phase 4				4.0	Dirt trail through Van Norden Meadows to Soda Springs Road
	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - North Tahoe			6.0		Separated paved trail to connect Dollar Creek Trail to North Tahoe Regional Park
	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Martis Valley Trail - Truckee to Northstar			6.5		Martis Valley Trail from Truckee to Northstar
	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Truckee River Access Trail			8.0		Separated paved trail to connect Olympic Valley to Truckee along Hwy 89
	West Shore Multi-Use Trail Rehabilitation Project - TCPUD			9		Replace Class 1 paved trail that connects 64 Acres to Sugar Pine State Park
	Truckee River Multi-Use Trail Retaining Wall Rehabilitation Project - TCPUD			0.15		Rehabilitate failing wall on Truckee River Trail
	Truckee River Multi-Use Trail Safety Improvement Project near River Ranch - TCPUD			0.15		Safety improvements to Truckee River Trail at transition at River Ranch parking lot
	Multi-Use Trail System Safety Assessment - TCPUD			21		Identify issues and concerns on 21 miles of multi-use trail
TIER 2	Dry Creek Greenway Trail - West			3.0		Paved trail to connect Cook Riolo Road to Roseville
	Dry Creek Greenway Trail - East			2.5		Paved trail to connect Roseville to Folsom SRA
	Hidden Falls Phase 4 - Garden Bar Entrance	40.0		1.0		Parking at Garden Bar - Described as Phases 1A and 1B in SEIR
	Hidden Falls Phase 5 - Accessible Nature Network			2.0		ADA parking at creek level - Bridge #2, 2 mile accessible trail loop
	Horseshoe Bar Trail			2.0		Dirt trail to connect Placer School to Folsom Lake State Rec Area along Horseshoe Bar Rd.
	PCGC Campus Trail					Loop Trail system around Placer County Government Center Campus
	North Fork American River Trail			14.2		Dirt Trail
	Auburn to Kingvale Trail - Dirt - Phase 1			15.0		Alternative to Western States Trail along I-80 corridor
	Auburn to Kingvale Trail - Dirt - Planning & Design					Alternative to Western States Trail along I-80 corridor
	Baxter to Cisco Trail - Paved - Planning & Design					With Hwy 40 Class 2 bike lanes, would provide paved bikeway from Rocklin to Tahoe
	Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail - Phase 5			7.0		Dirt Trail from west end of Royal Gorge Property to Kingvale
	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Northstar to Summit			3.7		Paved trail from Northstar to the Summit
	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Brockway South			6.0		Paved Trail from Brockway Summit to North Tahoe Regional Park
	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Commons to Outlet					Paved Trail to fill gap between Commons Beach and Tahoe outlet
	Connecting Trails - Dirt			40.0		Misc. connector trails not included in other projects

PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: ASPIRATIONAL PROJECTS



PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

Table 15: Master List of Aspirational Capital Projects Countywide

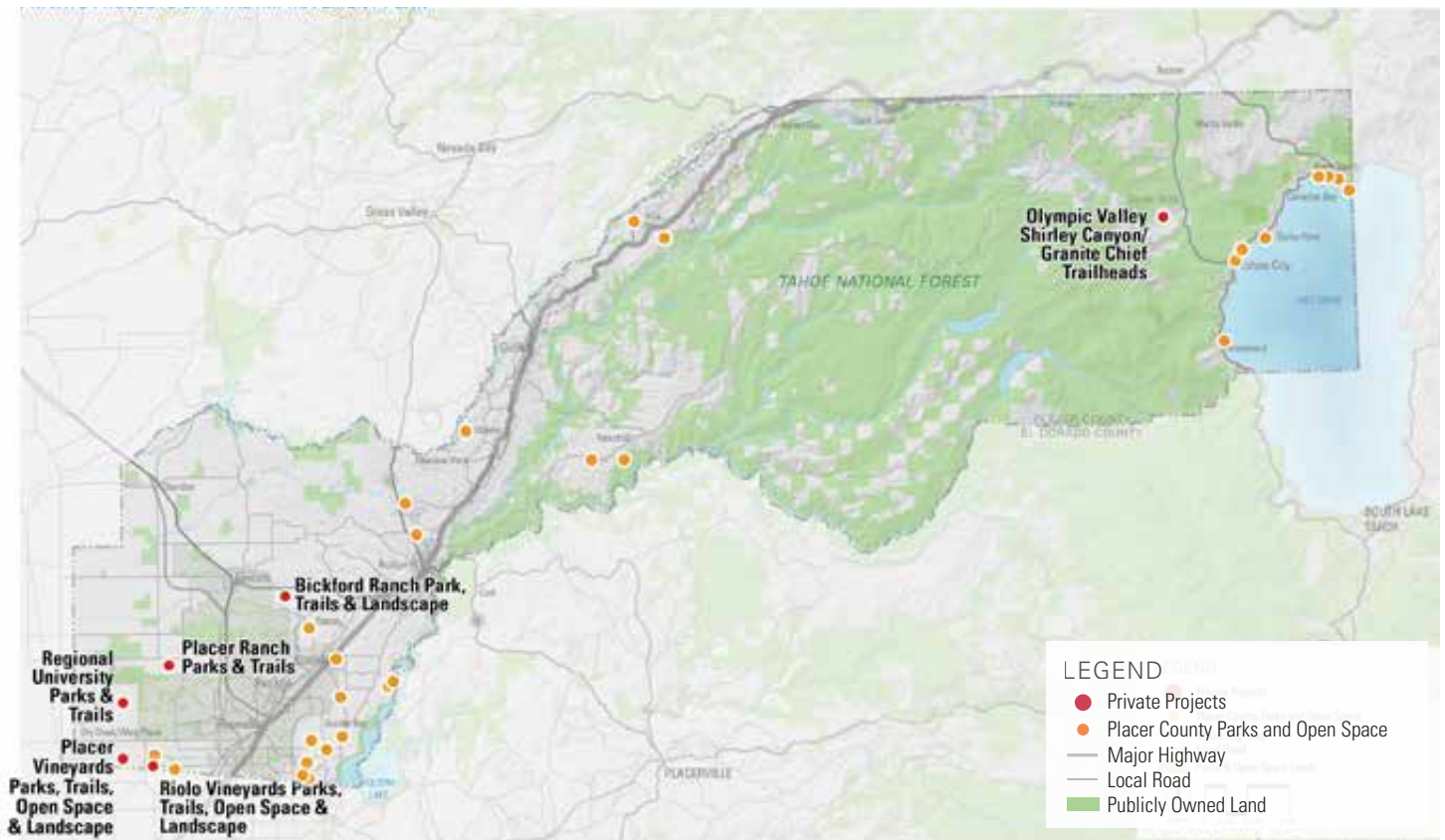
Placer County Parks and Trail CIP List						
Project		Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
ASPIRATIONAL	Hidden Falls Nature Education / Group Camp Center					Nature education center at west end of Hidden Falls near existing ranch house
	PCCP Trails - Dirt				20.0	Approx. 20 miles for build out of PCCP over 50 years
	PCCP Trails - Paved			5.0		Approx. 5 miles for build out of PCCP over 50 years
	Water Efficiency - Domes Landscape Renovation	3.0				Replace portions of turf along Fulweiler & Nevada Street frontages w/ low H2O landscape
	Lighted Fields - Granite Bay/Loomis					Lighting at TBD sports field(s) in Granite Bay / Loomis area
	Dog Park - Granite Bay	1.0				New dog park in the Granite Bay area
	Douglas Blvd / Auburn Folsom Landscape Renovation	6.2				Replace aging landscape in Douglas median and north side
	Foresthill Pool - Renovation / Relocation					Renovation/Relocation of pool at Foresthill Park
	Foresthill Trail Staging Facilities		1.0			New Staging areas advocated by Tevis Association & Foresthill Trails Alliance
	Applegate park Improvements					Transition from well/septic to water/sewer, permanent restrooms
	Auburn to Kingvale Trail - Dirt - Future Phases				55.0	I-80 corridor alternative to the Western States Trail - dirt trail
	Baxter to Cisco Trail - Paved Connector			18.0		18 mile connection would allow paved bikeway access from Auburn to Tahoe
	Water Efficiency - PCGC Landscape Retrofit					Implemented in conjunction with PCGC Master Plan development
	Neighborhood Parks/Trailheads - West Slope/Donner	7.5				Playgrounds, recreation features incorporated into trailheads

Tahoe Area aspirational projects are part of a current assessment and feasibility study of active recreation facility needs assessment. The following amenities and facilities are being reviewed, but the list is not intended to be prescriptive or restrictive. Outcomes of the study will supersede this list.

- Recreation Center
- Aquatic Center
- Covered Sports Pavilion
- Bicycle Skills Cours
- Dog Park
- Skate Park
- Pump Track
- Pickleball Courts

PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: PRIVATE PROJECTS



CIP Program	Park/Landscape Areas	Open Space	Paved Trails	Dirt Trails
Private Projects	416.4 Acres	841.0 Acres	27.7 Miles	76.5 Miles

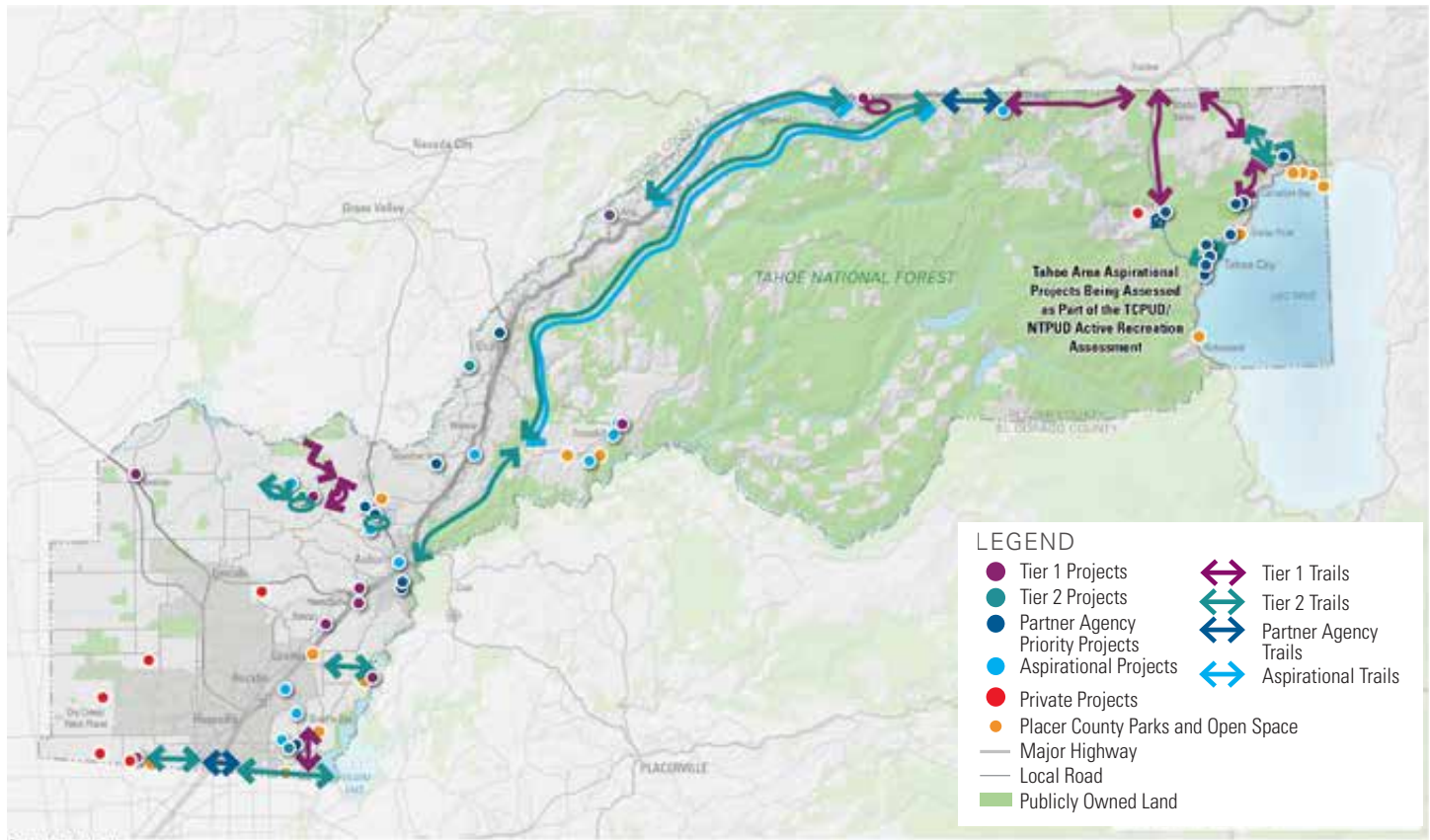
PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

Table 16: Master List of Private Capital Projects Countywide

Placer County Parks and Trail CIP List (Shown at 100% total mileage and 50% acreage)						
Project		Quantity				Description
		Park/Landscape Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
PRIVATE	Placer Ranch Parks & Trails	68.4		21.6		Estimated Quantities - Pending approval of Project
	Placer Vineyards Landscape Corridors	110.0				Construction by developer - maintenance through Services CFD
	Placer Vineyards Open Space & Trails		800.0	35.1	7.2	Open space and trails phased with Placer Vineyards development
	Placer Vineyards Parks	159.0				Neighborhood and community parks phased with Placer Vineyards development
	Regional University Parks & Trails	27.3		6.3		Estimated Quantities - Pending approval of Project
	Riolo Vineyards Landscape Corridors					Construction by developer - maintenance through Services CFD
	Riolo Vineyards Open Space & Trails		41.0	5.3	1.8	Open space and trails phased with Riolo Vineyards development
	Riolo Vineyards Parks	15.8				Neighborhood parks phased with Riolo Vineyards development
	Bickford Ranch Trailhead	4.2				Dirt trails and trailhead near Sierra College Blvd - Phased with Bickford Ranch Development
	Bickford Ranch Park	23.4				Community park constructed in phases at pace of Bickford Ranch build out
	Bickford Ranch Trails			7.2	13.7	Class 1 paths phased with Bickford Ranch backbone roads
	Bickford Ranch Median Landscaping	2.5				Construction by developer - maintenance through Services CFD
	Bickford Ranch Public Facilities Corp Yard	5.2				Construction by developer - maintenance through Services CFD
	Shirley Canyon / Granite Chief Trailheads			1.0	5.0	To be constructed by Palisades Tahoe

PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: ALL PROJECTS



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: INITIATIVES

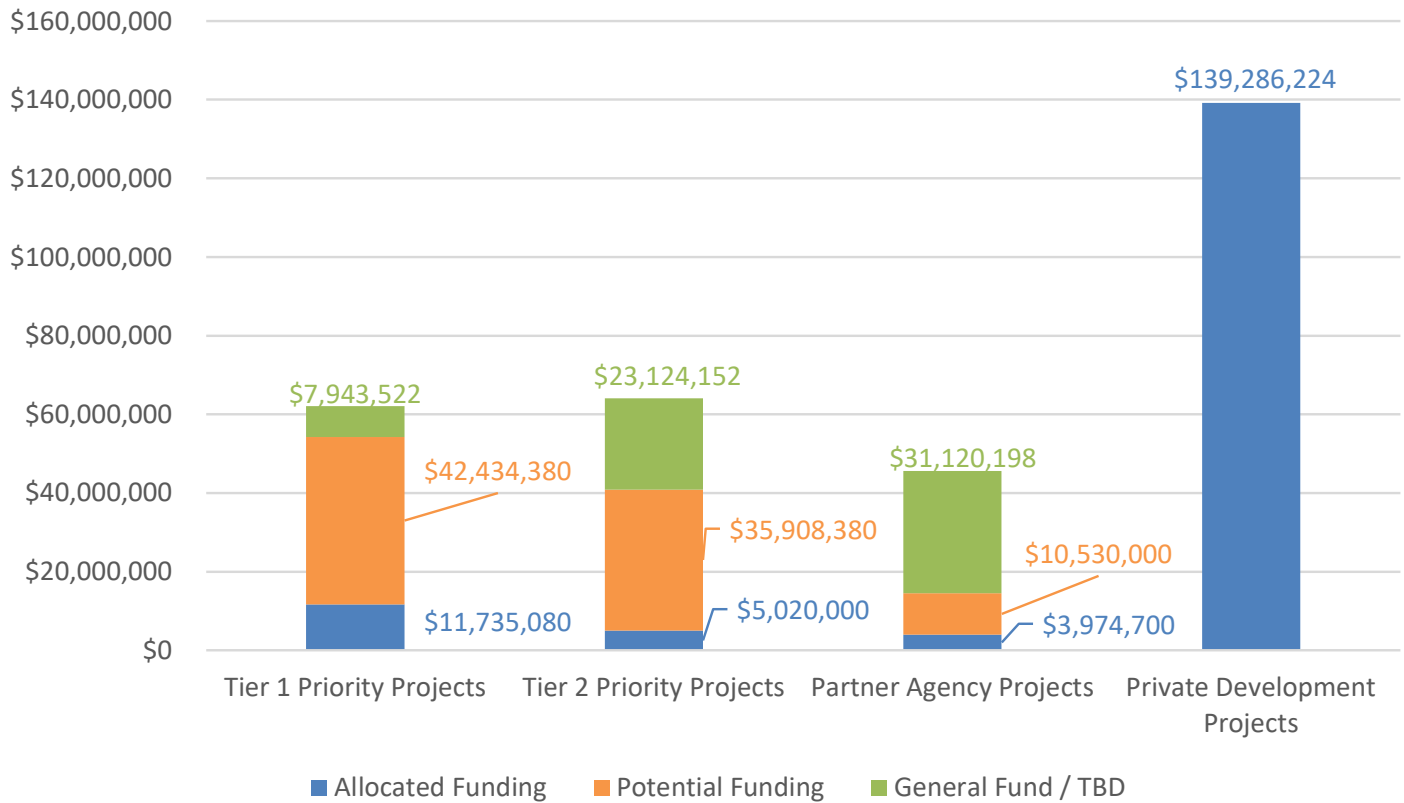
Table 17: Master List of Countywide Initiatives

Placer County Parks and Trail Initiatives		
Project		Description
INITIATIVES	Art in Public Recreation Areas	Facilitation of art in public places through private partnerships
	Countywide Fuel Load Reduction	Vegetation management for fire risk reduction (currently allocating \$250k)
	Countywide Trail Mapping & Wayfinding Project	Quality mapping, signage, and geodatabase program for public guidance and inventory
	H2O Efficiency Retrofit - PCGC & Domes	10 year plan to retrofit high water use landscaping at County government centers
	Volunteer Coordination	Labor saving potential from investment in volunteer organization

PRIORITIZATION & CAPITAL PROJECTS

EXISTING & POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Figure 21: Countywide Project Costs and Funding Sources





5 Regional Recommendations

**WEST PLACER
GRANITE BAY/LOOMIS BASIN
NORTH AUBURN/MEADOW VISTA
WEST SLOPE
FORESTHILL DIVIDE
TAHOE**



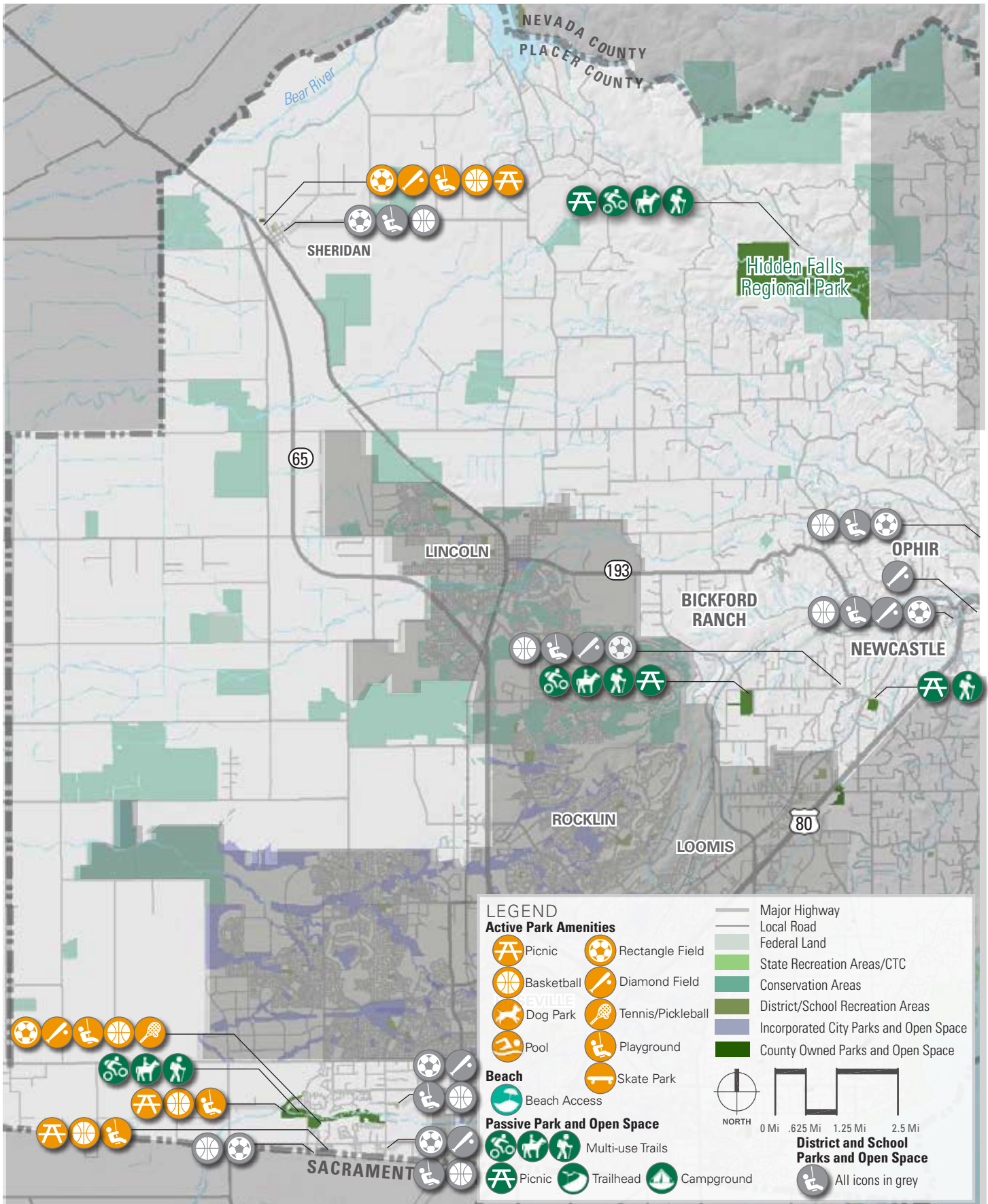
REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

A CLOSER LOOK

The previous chapter discussed parks and trails capital projects at a countywide level. In order to fully understand the system, it is important to zoom in to each specific region's offerings, needs, and community requests. In this chapter we exam how each region of Placer County plans to evolve in the next 20 years based on current needs, public input, and trends. This chapter is designed to be utilized and referenced by individual communities and the County to identify specific project recommendations for each area. The chapter can be coordinated with Community Plans and Area Plans throughout the County for plan consistency.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST PLACER EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST PLACER

The West Placer region is anticipated to experience the fastest and highest level of growth in the county. Parks, trails, and open space systems have been planned for as part of the region's Specific Plans. In particular, a parks and recreation district has been established as part of the Placer Vineyards Specific Plan to serve those neighborhoods.

Implementation of the parks and trails system for the Specific Plan areas, expansion of Hidden Falls Regional Park facilities, completion of the Dry Creek Greenway, and regional multi-use trail connectivity are top priorities for this region.

TOTAL REGION AREA = 187 SQ. MI.



MEDIAN AGE



POPULATION DENSITY



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



RESIDENT STATUS



Region	2017 Population	Projected 2028 Population	Population Increase	% Population Increase
West Placer	20,522	43,633	23,111	113%

Existing Recreation Facilities	Number	Acreage
Active Parks	12	64
Local Parks (County)	4	48
Local Park (School District)	8	16
Local Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Specialty Parks (County)	-	-
Specialty Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Regional Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Passive Parks & Open Space	4	1,513
Passive Park/Open Space (County)	3	313
Regional Open Space (County)	1	1,200
Open Space (State Park)	-	-
Trailheads (County)	-	-
Campground (County)	-	-
Campground (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Campground (State Park)	-	-
Trails	48 Miles	
Paved	2 miles	
Paved (Partner Agency)	6 miles	
Dirt	39 miles	
Dirt (Partner Agency)	1 miles	

LEVEL OF SERVICE FACILITIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE

COUNTY ONLY

2.3
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

73.7
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

2.0
MILES OF TRAILS

ALL FACILITIES*

3.1
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

73.7
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

2.3
MILES OF TRAILS

*Includes County, State, NTPUD, TCPUD, NCSD, AARD, & School Districts (at 50%) in unincorporated areas for parks and open space. Includes County and Districts only for trails.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST PLACER REGION SURVEY FEEDBACK

The West Placer region includes lands identified for major new residential development. Specific Plans; such as Bickford Ranch, Placer Ranch, Regional University, Placer Vineyards, and Riolo Vineyards; include a system of parks, trails, and open space that will meet demands of the new residents. The majority of growth anticipated for the county will occur in West Placer.

As illustrated in the figures below, respondents from the West Placer region were less supportive of facility improvements in parks than respondents from other regions. However, most of the region is currently undeveloped and survey responses may not be a true indication of the types of facilities future residents desire. Development of the parks, trails, and open space system for the specific plan areas are guided by standards, trends, and comparable communities.

Respondents from the West Placer region expressed a desire for larger, multi-purpose parks over smaller neighborhood-based parks. Hidden Falls Regional Park is located in West Placer, and survey responses indicate a support for similar types of facilities for the region.

Figure 22: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Adding Larger Multi-Purpose Parks that Serve Different Regions

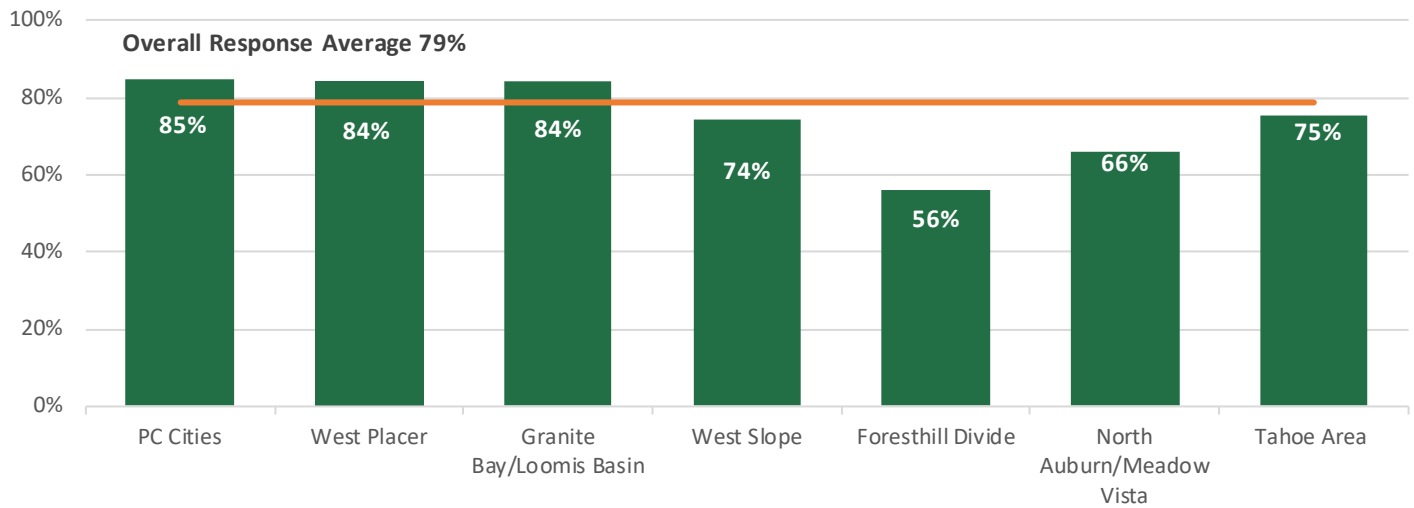
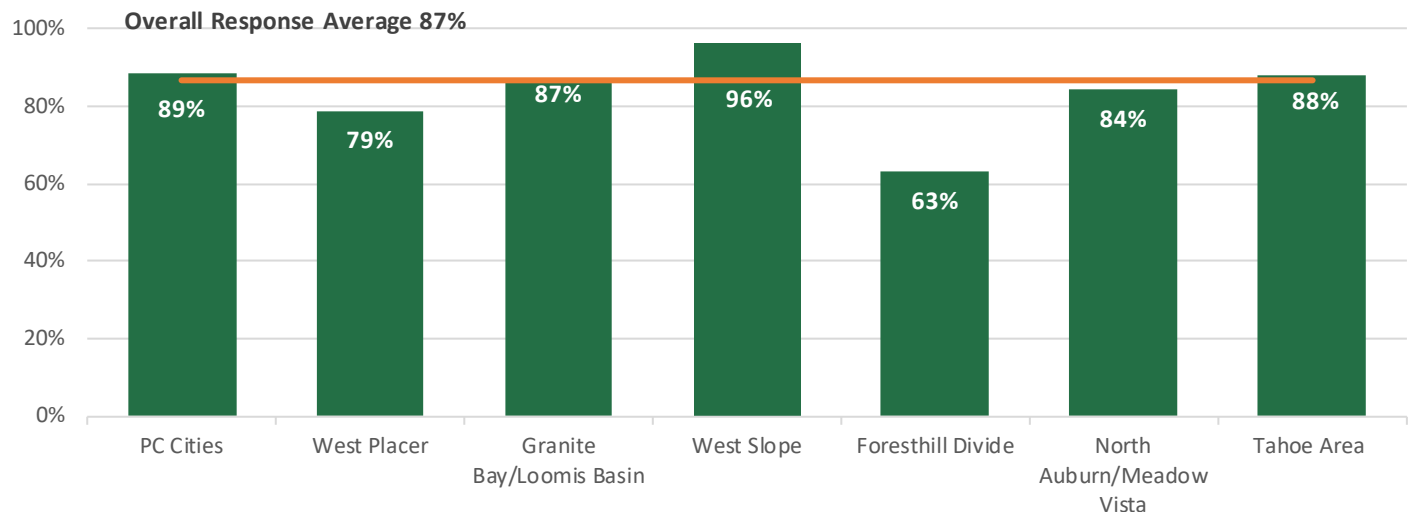


Figure 23: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Adding Smaller Neighborhood-based Parks



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST PLACER REGION PRIORITY PROJECTS

The below items have been identified as priority projects for West Placer.

- Expand Hidden Falls
Regional Park Facilities
- Complete the Dry Creek
Regional Trail and Connect to
the American River Bikeway
- Complete Phase 2 of
Dry Creek Park
- Implement Parks, Trails, and Open
Space with New Residential
Development

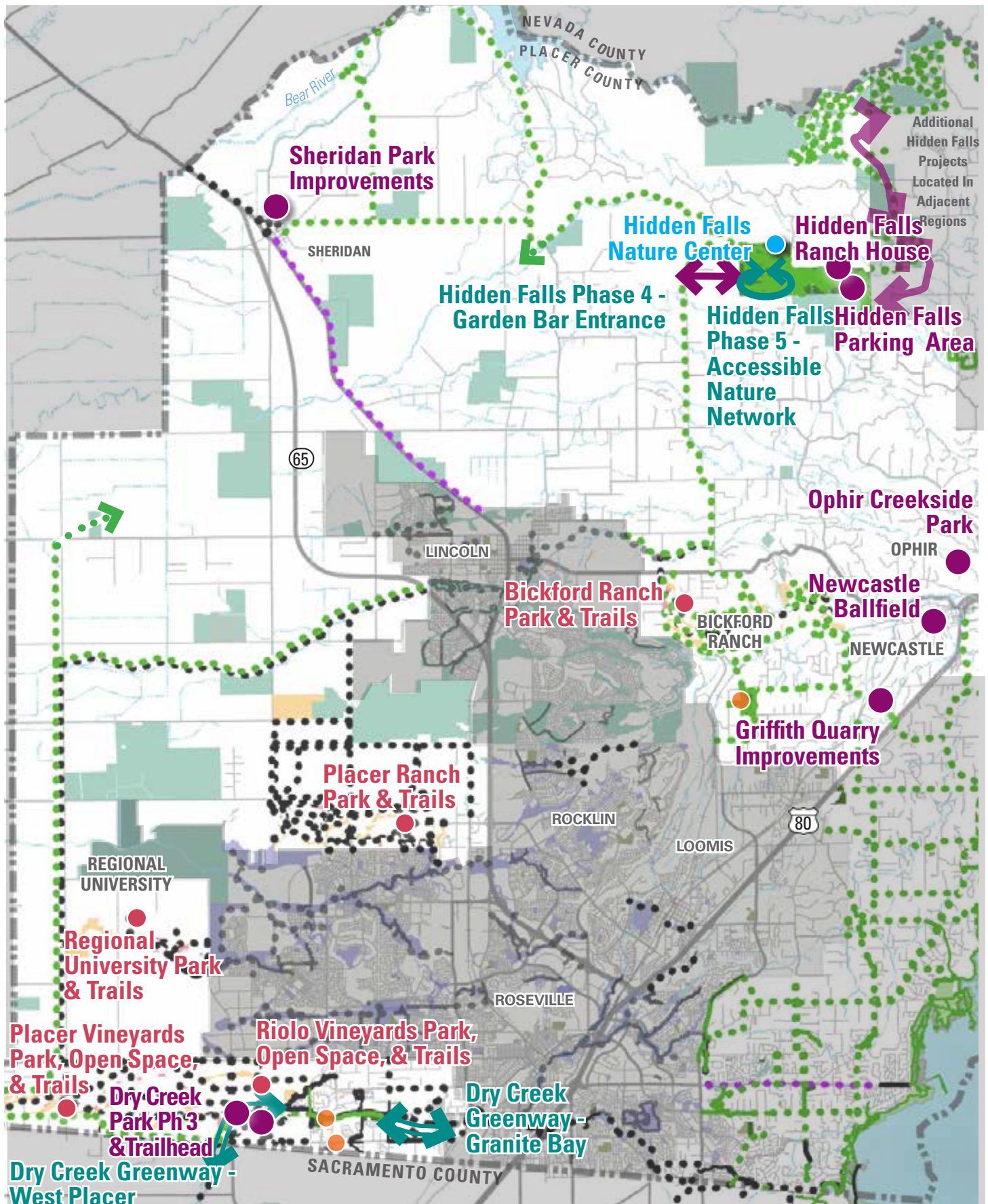
WEST PLACER REGION PRIORITY PROJECTS

MAJOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN WEST PLACER
ARE PLANNED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

282	Acres of Parks
75	Miles of Paved Trails
18	Miles of Dirt Trails
2,362	Acres of Open Space

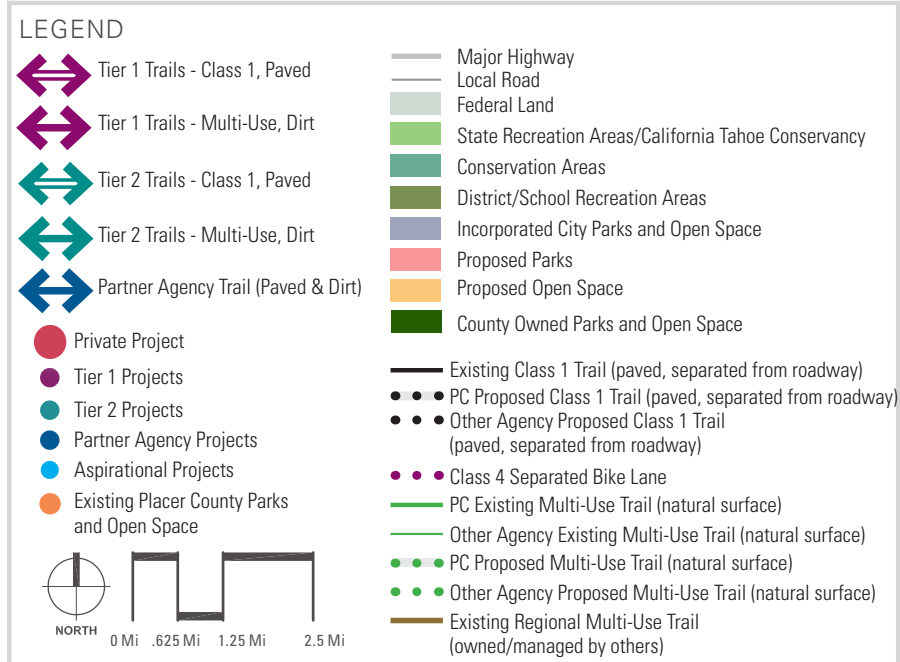
REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST PLACER CIP DISTRIBUTION

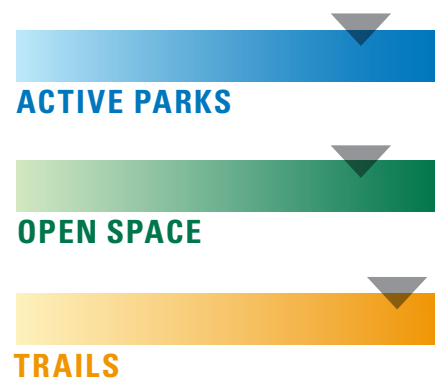


REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST PLACER PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & TRAILS PROJECTS



WEST PLACER DESIRED AMENITIES



SEE PAGE 150 FOR LIST OF PROJECTS

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

West Placer Parks and Trail CIP List

Priority	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
Tier 1	Dry Creek Park Phase 3	10.0				Final phase of Dry Creek Park construction- includes public input for update to master plan
Tier 1	Dry Creek Greenway Trailhead - Cook Riolo Road					Trailhead
Tier 1	Sheridan Park Improvements					Restoration of play fields, facelift to Stewart Hall & surrounding park area
Tier 1	Hidden Falls Phases 1, 2 & 3		2,440.1		26.0	Parking access to Taylor Ranch, Harvego connectivity & Curtola trailhead
Tier 1	Hidden Falls Existing Parking Area Improvements					Gate and Kiosk for reservations - new well - overflow parking
Tier 1	Hidden Falls Ranch House Renovation					Ranch House renovation for caretaker, camping, & nature education uses
Tier 1	Griffith Quarry Improvements					New interpretive program, safety fencing, tables, benches, fountains, parking improvements
Tier 1	Newcastle Ballfield	2.0				Ballfield
Tier 1	Ophir Creekside Park		2.0			Creekside picnic area & trail near Lozanos bridge
Tier 2	Dry Creek Greenway Trail - West Placer		40.0	1.5		Paved trail to connect Cook Riolo Road to Roseville
Tier 2	Hidden Falls Phase 4 - Garden Bar Entrance				1.0	Parking at Garden Bar, camping / nature center / ADA parking / Bridge #2
Tier 2	Hidden Falls Phase 5 - Accessible Nature Network				2.0	ADA parking at creek level - Bridge #2, 2 mile accessible trail loop
Aspirational	Hidden Falls Nature Education / Group Camp Center					Nature education center at west end of Hidden Falls near existing ranch house

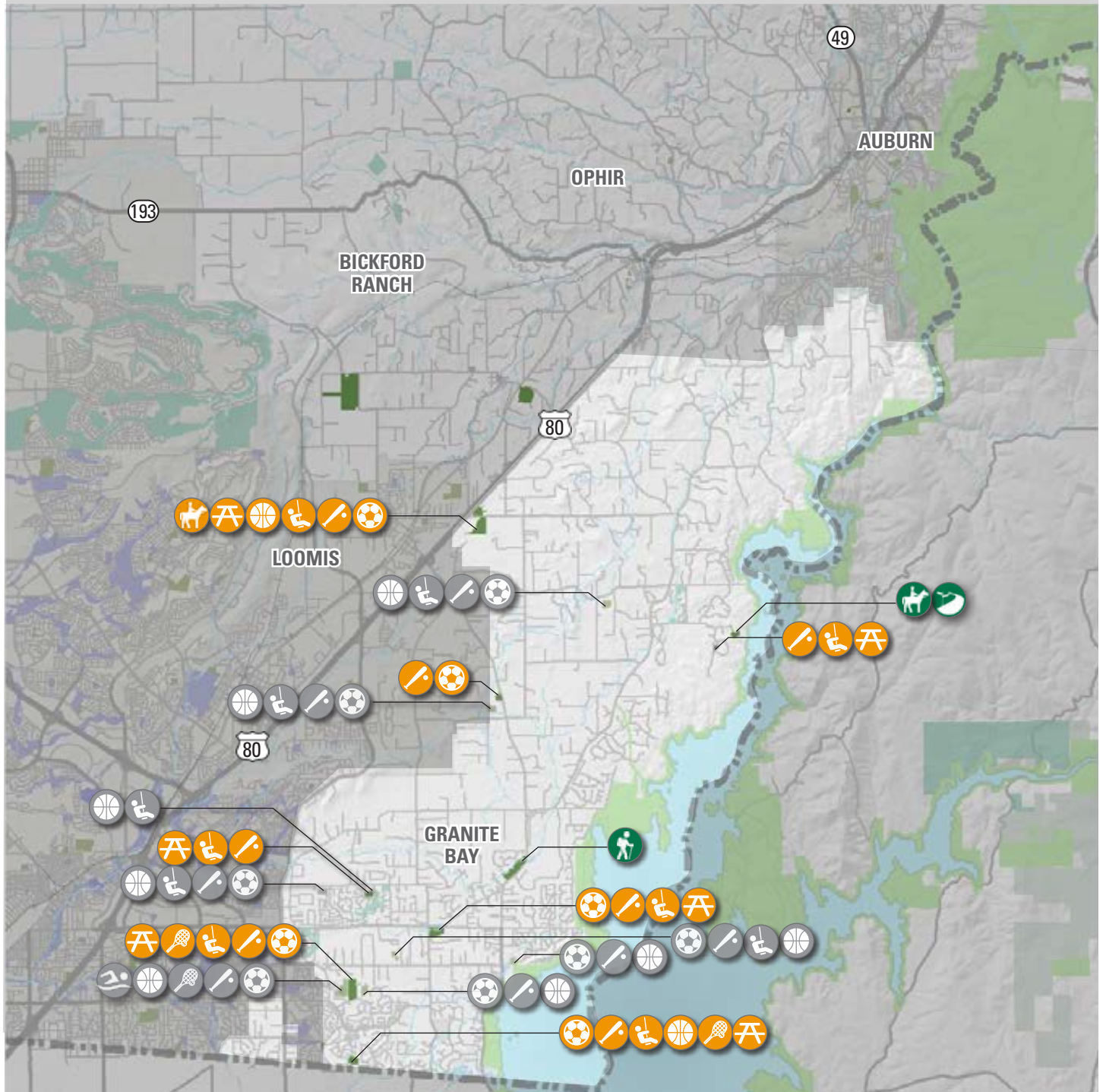
REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

West Placer Parks and Trail CIP List

Priority	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
Aspirational	PCCP Trails - Dirt				20.0	Approx. 20 miles for build out of PCCP over 50 years
Aspirational	PCCP Trails - Paved			5.0		Approx. 5 miles for build out of PCCP over 50 years
Private	Placer Ranch Parks & Trails	68.4		21.6		Estimated Quantities - Pending approval of Project
Private	Placer Vineyards Landscape Corridors	110.0				Construction by developer - maintenance through Services CFD
Private	Placer Vineyards Open Space & Trails		800.0	35.1	7.2	Open space and trails phased with Placer Vineyards development
Private	Placer Vineyards Parks	159.0				Neighborhood and community parks phased with Placer Vineyards development
Private	Regional University Parks & Trails	27.3		6.3		Estimated Quantities - Pending approval of Project
Private	Riolo Vineyards Landscape Corridors					Construction by developer - maintenance through Services CFD
Private	Riolo Vineyards Open Space & Trails		41.0	5.3	1.8	Open space and trails phased with Riolo Vineyards development
Private	Riolo Vineyards Parks	15.8				Neighborhood parks phased with Riolo Vineyards development
Private	Bickford Ranch Trailhead	4.2				Dirt trails and trailhead near Sierra College Blvd - Phased with Bickford Ranch Development
Private	Bickford Ranch Park	23.4				Community park constructed in phases at pace of Bickford Ranch build out
Private	Bickford Ranch Trails			7.2	13.7	Class 1 paths phased with Bickford Ranch backbone roads
Private	Bickford Ranch Median Landscaping	2.5				Construction by developer - maintenance through Services CFD
Private	Bickford Ranch Public Facilities Corp Yard	5.2				Construction by developer - maintenance through Services CFD

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

GRANITE BAY/LOOMIS BASIN EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION



LEGEND

Active Park Amenities

- Picnic
- Basketball
- Dog Park
- Pool
- Rectangle Field
- Diamond Field
- Tennis/Pickleball
- Playground
- Skate Park

Beach

- Beach Access

Passive Park and Open Space

- Multi-use Trails
- Picnic
- Trailhead
- Campground

District and School Parks and Open Space

- All icons in grey
- Major Highway
- Local Road
- Federal Land
- State Recreation Areas/CTC
- Conservation Areas
- District/School Recreation Areas
- Incorporated City Parks and Open Space
- County Owned Parks and Open Space



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

GRANITE BAY/LOOMIS BASIN

The Granite Bay/Loomis Basin region has a high proportion of families with children and full-time residents, in comparison with the rest of the county. The region contains a mix of suburban and rural-residential neighborhoods with limited commercial land use districts. The region has premier access to Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and other open space and trail systems. It is home to several active parks, including Loomis Basin Community Park.

Top priorities for this region include building more sports fields, extending play time on sports fields through lighting and synthetic turf, completing the Dry Creek Regional Trail, building a dog park, and developing a recreation center.

TOTAL REGION AREA = 46 SQ. MI.



MEDIAN AGE



POPULATION DENSITY



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



RESIDENT STATUS



Region	2017 Population	Projected 2028 Population	Population Increase	% Population Increase
Granite Bay/Loomis Basin	32,306	33,869	1,564	0.4%

Existing Recreation Facilities	Number	Acreage
Active Parks	23	164
Local Parks (County)	8	89
Local Park (School District)	10	37
Local Park (Utility/Rec District)	5	38
Specialty Parks (County)	-	-
Specialty Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Regional Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Passive Parks & Open Space	5	6,686.7
Passive Park/Open Space (County)	2	31
Regional Open Space (County)	-	-
Open Space (State Park)	2	6,650
Trailheads (County)	1	6
Campground (County)	-	-
Campground (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Campground (State Park)	-	-
Trails	27 Miles	
Paved	3 Miles	
Paved (Partner Agency)	-	
Dirt	24	
Dirt (Partner Agency)	-	

LEVEL OF SERVICE FACILITIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE

COUNTY ONLY

2.7
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

1.1
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

0.8
MILES OF TRAILS

ALL FACILITIES*

5.1
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

207.0
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

.8
MILES OF TRAILS

*Includes County, State, NTPUD, TCPUD, NCSD, AARD, & School Districts (at 50%) in unincorporated areas for parks and open space. Includes County and Districts only for trails.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

GRANITE BAY/LOOMIS BASIN REGION SURVEY FEEDBACK

Survey respondents from the Granite Bay/Loomis Basin region indicated greater interest in active parks and facilities such as sports fields and sports courts. Responses align with the types of facilities desired by the region's demographics (younger and living in households with children). Similar to other regions the desire for trail connectivity was high and a over 90% of respondents indicated walking as an activity they participated in within the last 12 months. Participation in activities such as youth soccer and visiting/playing on a playground was significantly higher than participation from other regions.

Figure 24: *Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Adding Lighting to Existing Fields*

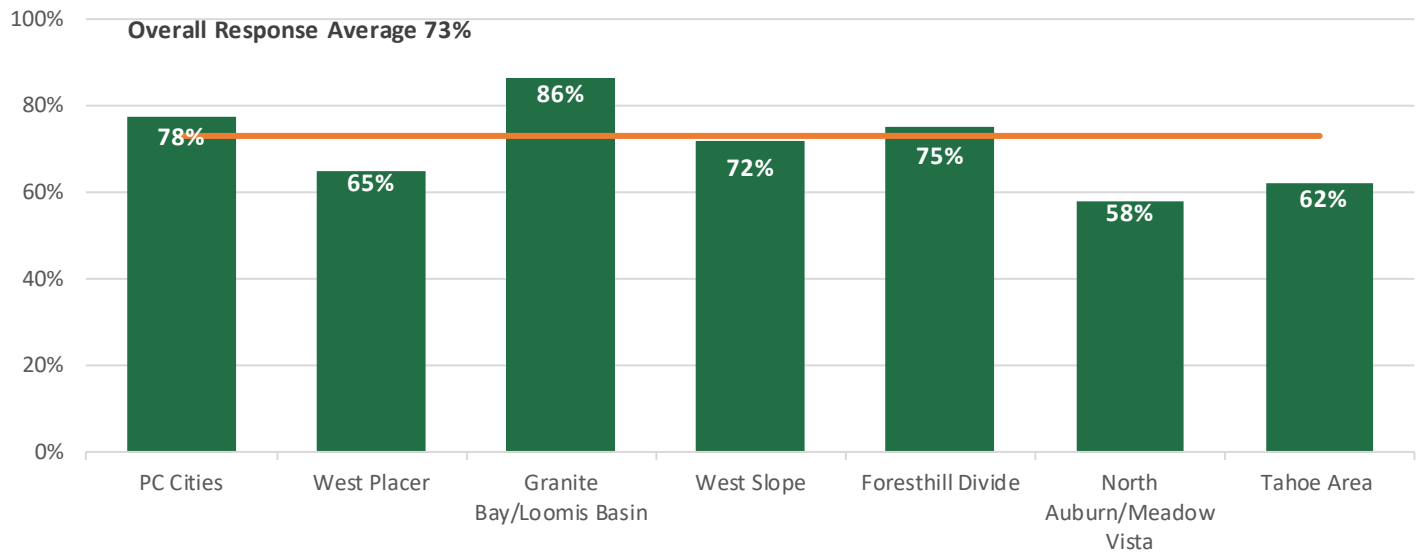
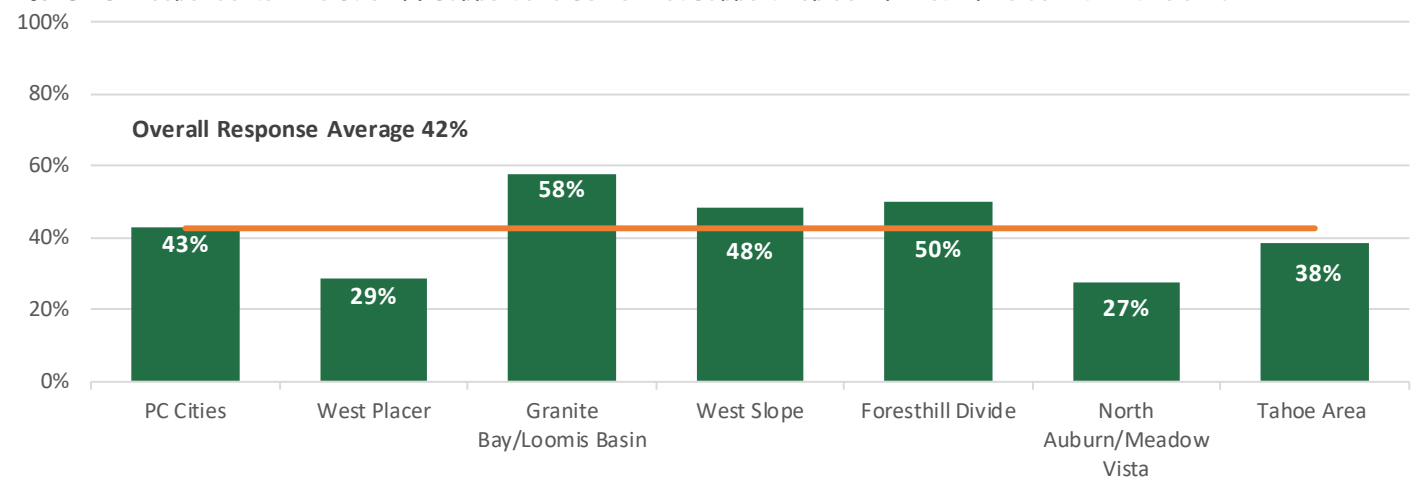


Figure 25: *Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Replacing Existing Fields with Artificial Turf*



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

GRANITE BAY/LOOMIS BASIN REGION RESPONDENT PRIORITIES

The below items have been identified as priorities by Granite Bay/Loomis Basin region respondents.



Figure 26: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Building Baseball/Softball Fields

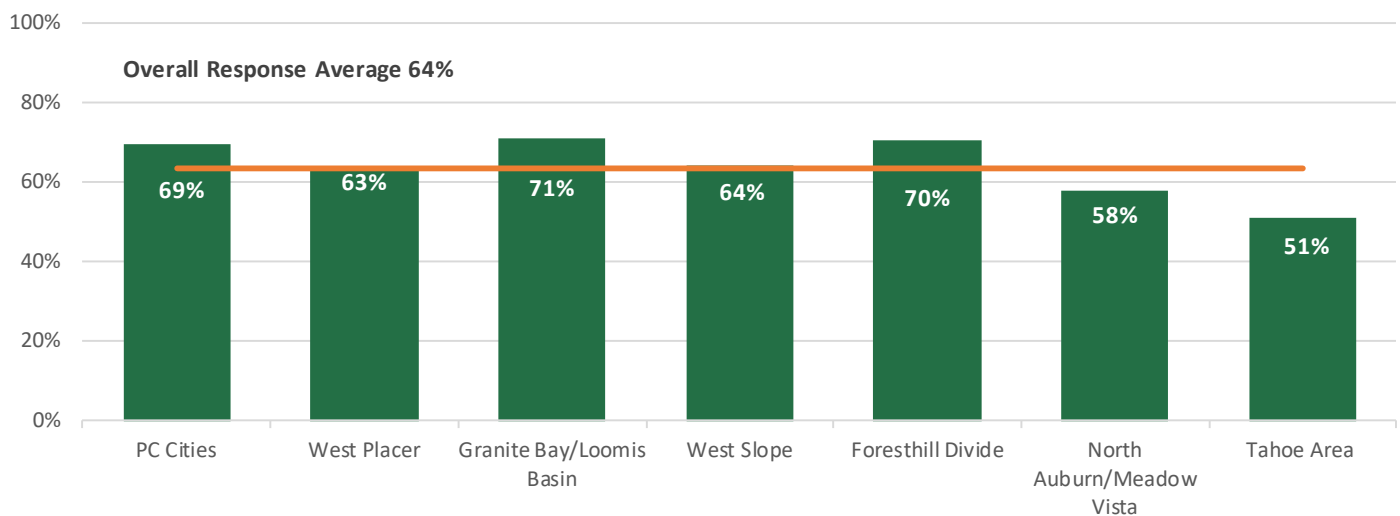
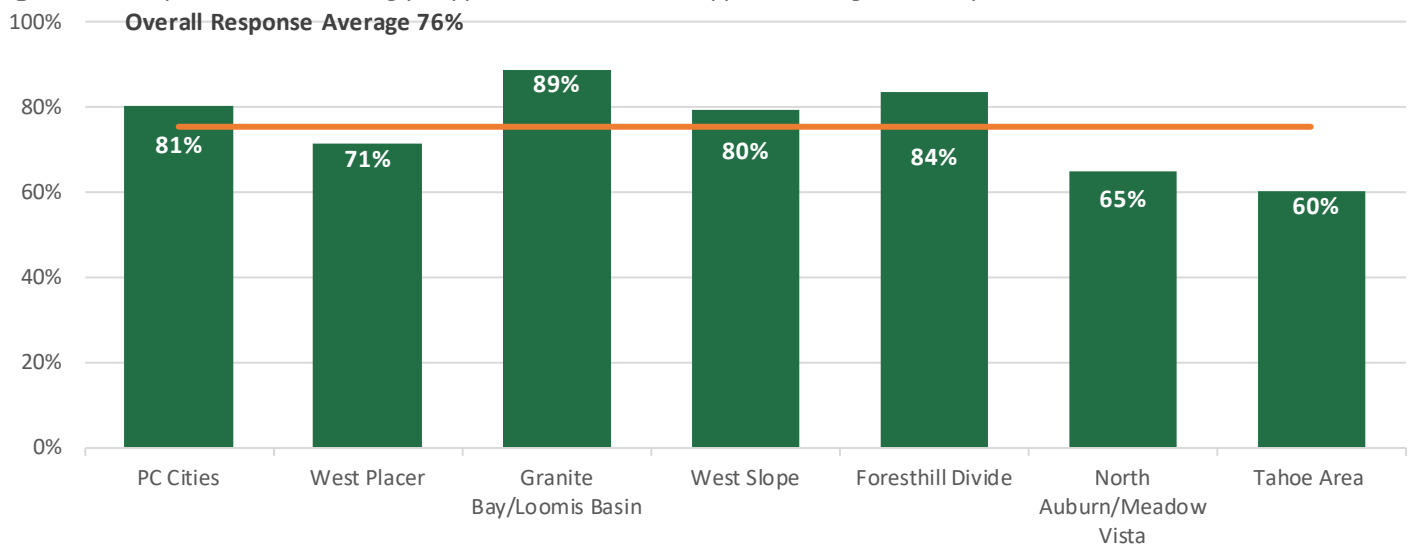
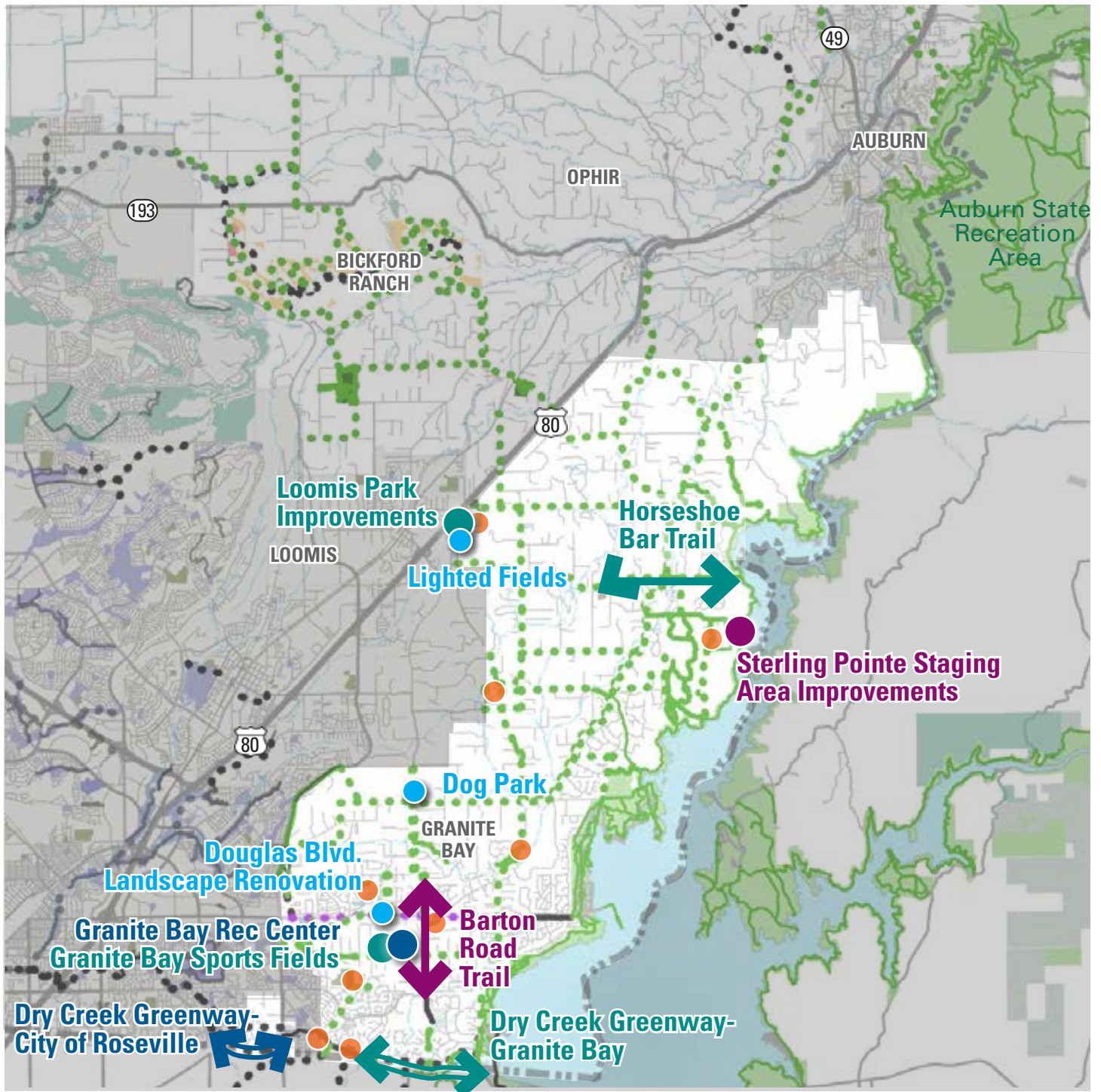


Figure 27: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Building Multi-Purpose Fields



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

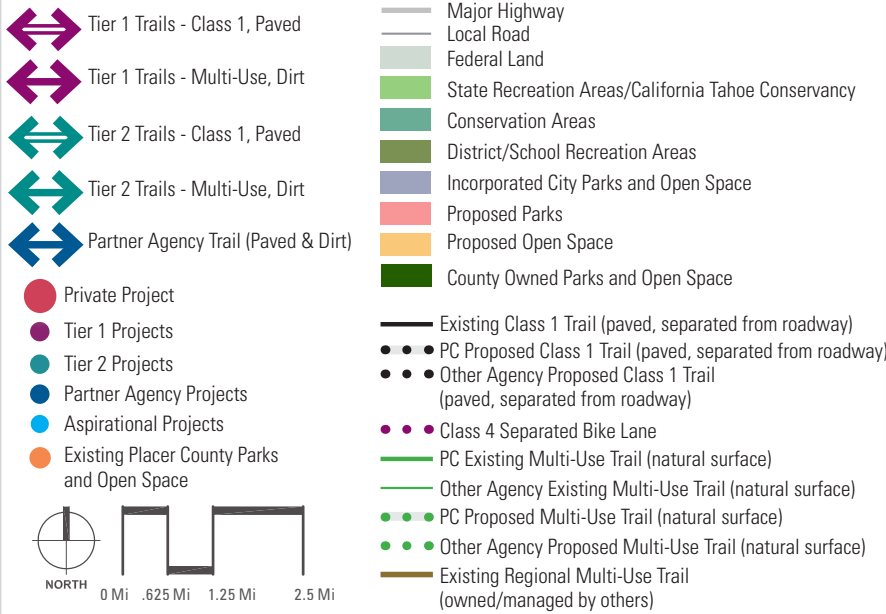
GRANITE BAY/LOOMIS BASIN CIP DISTRIBUTION



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

GRANITE BAY/LOOMIS BASIN PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & TRAILS PROJECTS

LEGEND



GRANITE BAY DESIRED AMENITIES

ACTIVE PARKS

OPEN SPACE

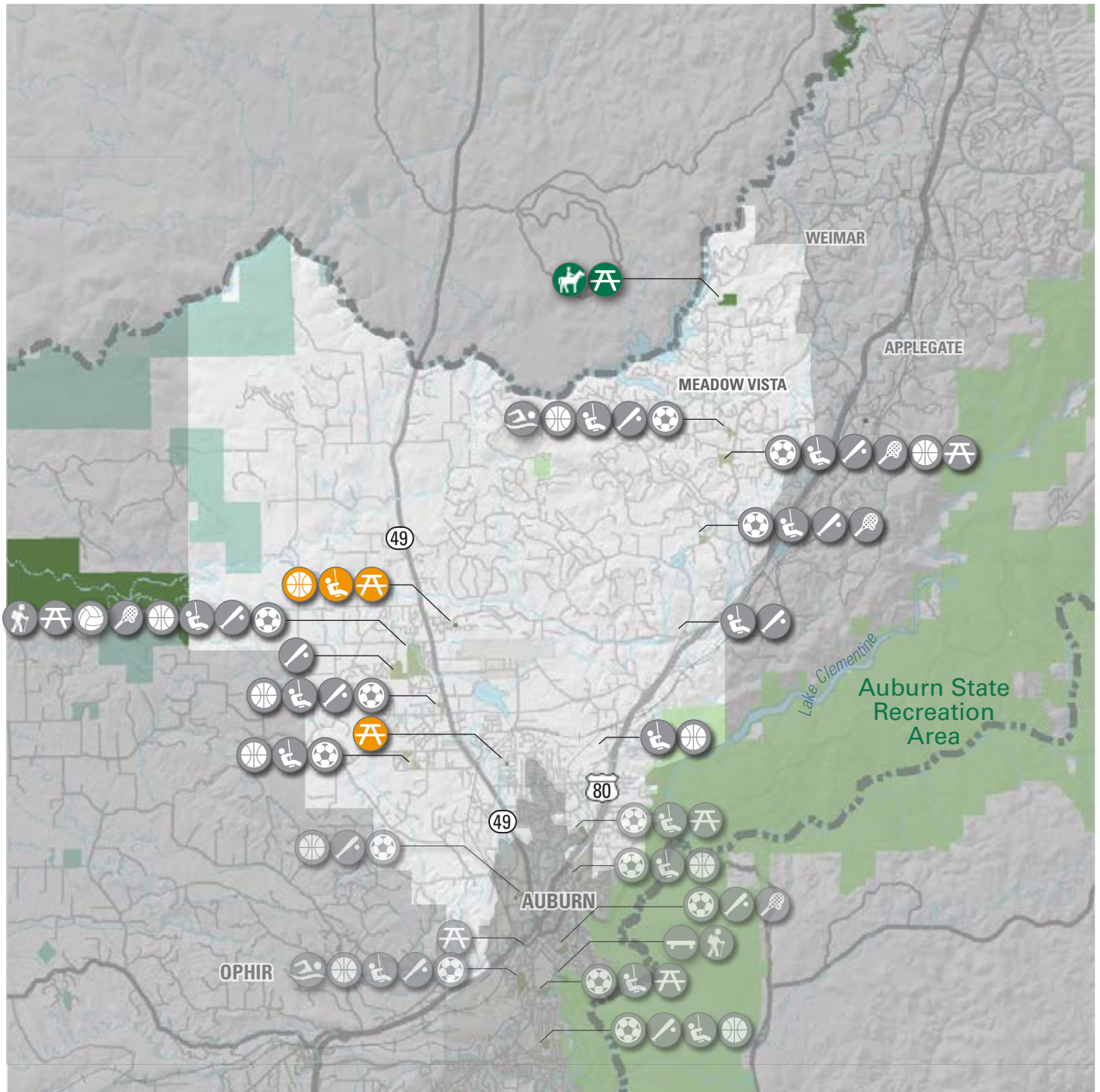
TRAILS

Granite Bay/Loomis Basin Parks and Trail CIP List

Priority	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
Tier 1	Granite Bay Sports Fields - Eureka School	8.0				Partnership with Eureka Union School District for development of 4 fields at Eureka School
Tier 1	Barton Road Trail				1.0	Dirt trail along Barton Road to connect Olive Ranch Road to Roseville Parkway
Tier 1	Sterling Pointe Staging Area Improvements					Restroom, signage, and parking improvements
Tier 2	Horseshoe Bar Trail				2.0	Dirt trail to connect Placer School to Folsom Lake State Rec Area along Horseshoe Bar Rd.
Tier 2	Loomis Park Improvements					Hybrid Turf upgrades & lighting - ongoing costs for lighting
Tier 2	Dry Creek Greenway Trail - Granite Bay			3.0		Paved Trail to connect Roseville to Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
Tier 2	Granite Bay Recreation Center - Eureka School					Partnership with Eureka Union School District - Eureka School multi-purpose room
Partner Ag.	City of Roseville - Dry Creek Greenway Trail Area 2					Segment of Dry Creek Greenway
Partner Ag.	Granite Bay Sports Fields - Eureka School	8.0				Partnership with Eureka Union School District for development of 4 fields at Eureka School
Aspirational	Lighted Fields - Granite Bay/Loomis					Lighted fields at Loomis Park and/or suitable location in Granite Bay
Aspirational	Dog Park - Granite Bay	1.0				
Aspirational	Douglas Blvd Landscape Renovation	6.2				Replace aging landscape in Douglas median and north side

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

NORTH AUBURN/MEADOW VISTA EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION



LEGEND

Active Park Amenities

- Picnic
- Basketball
- Dog Park
- Pool
- Rectangle Field
- Diamond Field
- Tennis/Pickleball
- Playground
- Skate Park

Beach

- Beach Access

Passive Park and Open Space

- Multi-use Trails
- Picnic
- Trailhead
- Campground

District and School Parks and Open Space

- All icons in grey
- Major Highway
- Local Road
- Federal Land
- State Recreation Areas/CTC
- Conservation Areas
- District/School Recreation Areas
- Incorporated City Parks and Open Space
- County Owned Parks and Open Space



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

NORTH AUBURN/MEADOW VISTA

The North Auburn/Meadow Vista region is located in the foothills of Placer County. The Auburn/Bowman area includes the commercial developments along Highway 49 and surrounding rural residential areas. Meadow Vista is characterized by a rural community surrounded by forested ridges and bisected with streams and waterways. Trails and open space access play a significant role in meeting recreation needs for residents. Partnerships with schools and special districts help meet active park needs.

Reinvesting in and improving maintenance of existing park facilities were top priorities for the region. Survey respondents were also supportive of volunteer programs. Focus group input also showed support for trail access and improved mapping.

TOTAL REGION AREA = 56 SQ. MI.



MEDIAN AGE

49

POPULATION DENSITY

666.2

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$62,111

93%
Full-Time Residents

RESIDENT STATUS

7%
Part-Time Residents

Region	2017 Population	Projected 2028 Population	Population Increase	% Population Increase
North Auburn/Meadow Vista	31,576	33,660	2,084	0.6%

Existing Recreation Facilities	Number	Acreage
Active Parks	17	123.5
Local Parks (County)	2	3
Local Park (School District)	9	31.5
Local Park (Utility/Rec District)	5	33
Specialty Parks (County)	-	-
Specialty Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Regional Park (Utility/Rec District)	1	56
Passive Parks & Open Space	3	882
Passive Park/Open Space (County)	2	9
Regional Open Space (County)	-	-
Open Space (State Park)	1	873
Trailheads (County)	-	-
Campground (County)	-	-
Campground (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Campground (State Park)	-	-
Trails	17.5 Miles	
Paved	-	
Paved (Partner Agency)	.5	
Dirt	14 miles	
Dirt (Partner Agency)	3 miles	

LEVEL OF SERVICE FACILITIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE

COUNTY ONLY

0.1
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

0.3
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

0.45
MILES OF TRAILS

ALL FACILITIES*

3.9
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

27.9
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

0.54
MILES OF TRAILS

*Includes County, State, NTPUD, TCPUD, NCSD, AARD, & School Districts (at 50%) in unincorporated areas for parks and open space. Includes County and Districts only for trails.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

NORTH AUBURN/MEADOW VISTA REGION FEEDBACK

Survey respondents from the North Auburn/Meadow Vista region showed less support overall for facility enhancements, but over 60% of respondents supported or strongly supported most park enhancements. Respondents showed the most support for park and operational improvements associated with redeveloping existing parks, increasing maintenance of existing parks, and developing volunteer/stewardship programs.

Figure 28: *Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Redeveloping Existing Parks*

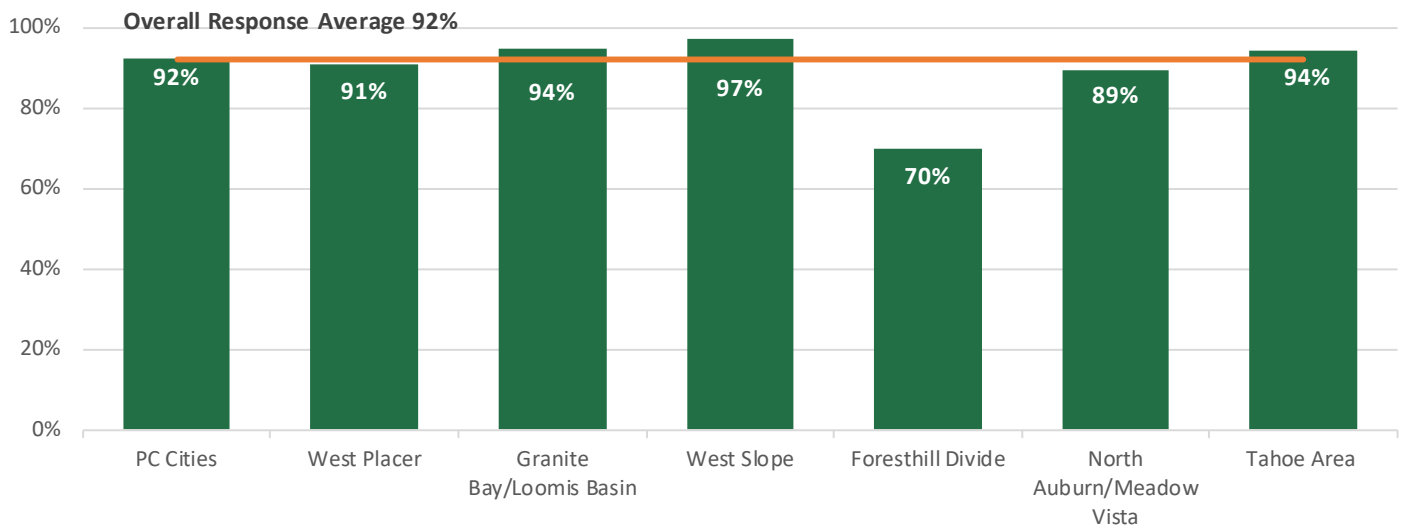
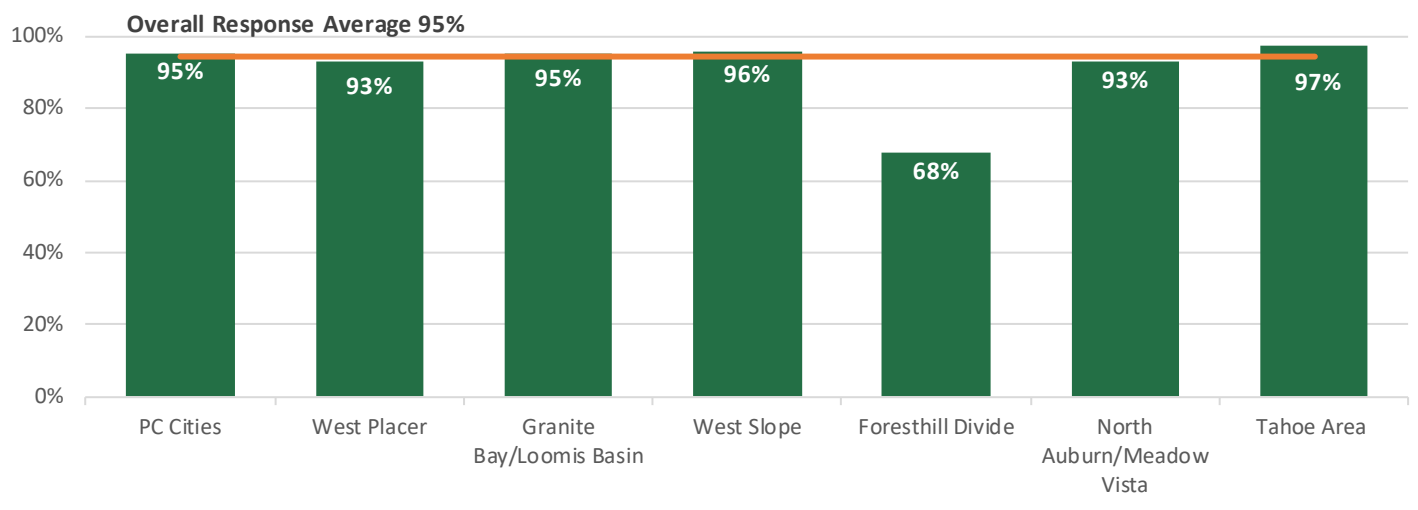


Figure 29: *Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Developing Volunteer/Stewardship Programs*



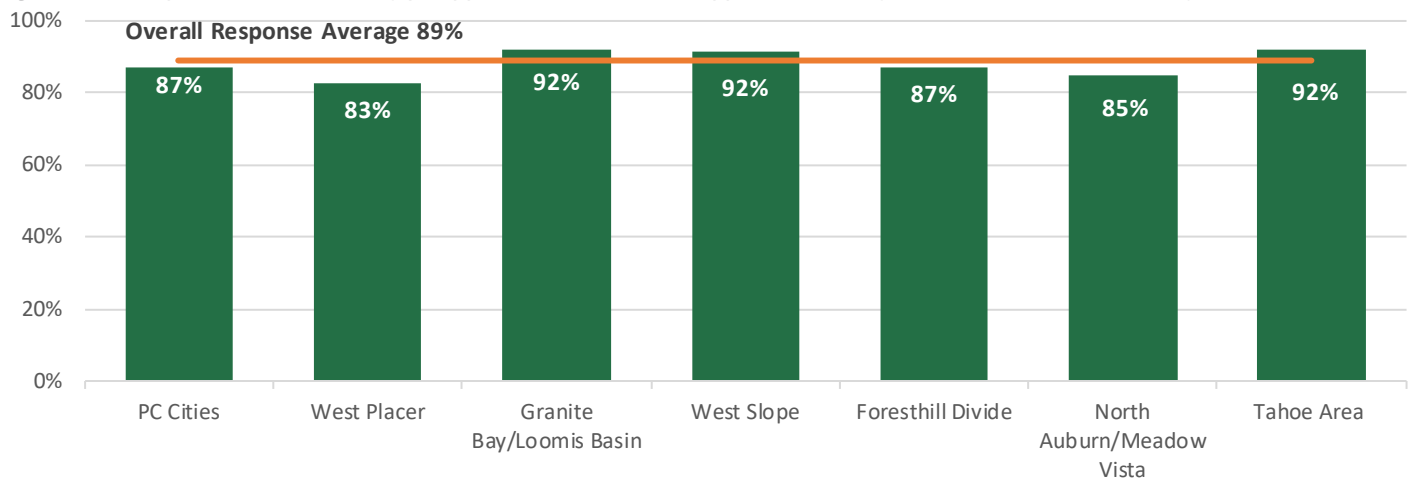
REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

NORTH AUBURN/MEADOW VISTA REGION RESPONDENT PRIORITIES

The below items have been identified as priorities respondents by North Auburn/Meadow Vista region respondents.

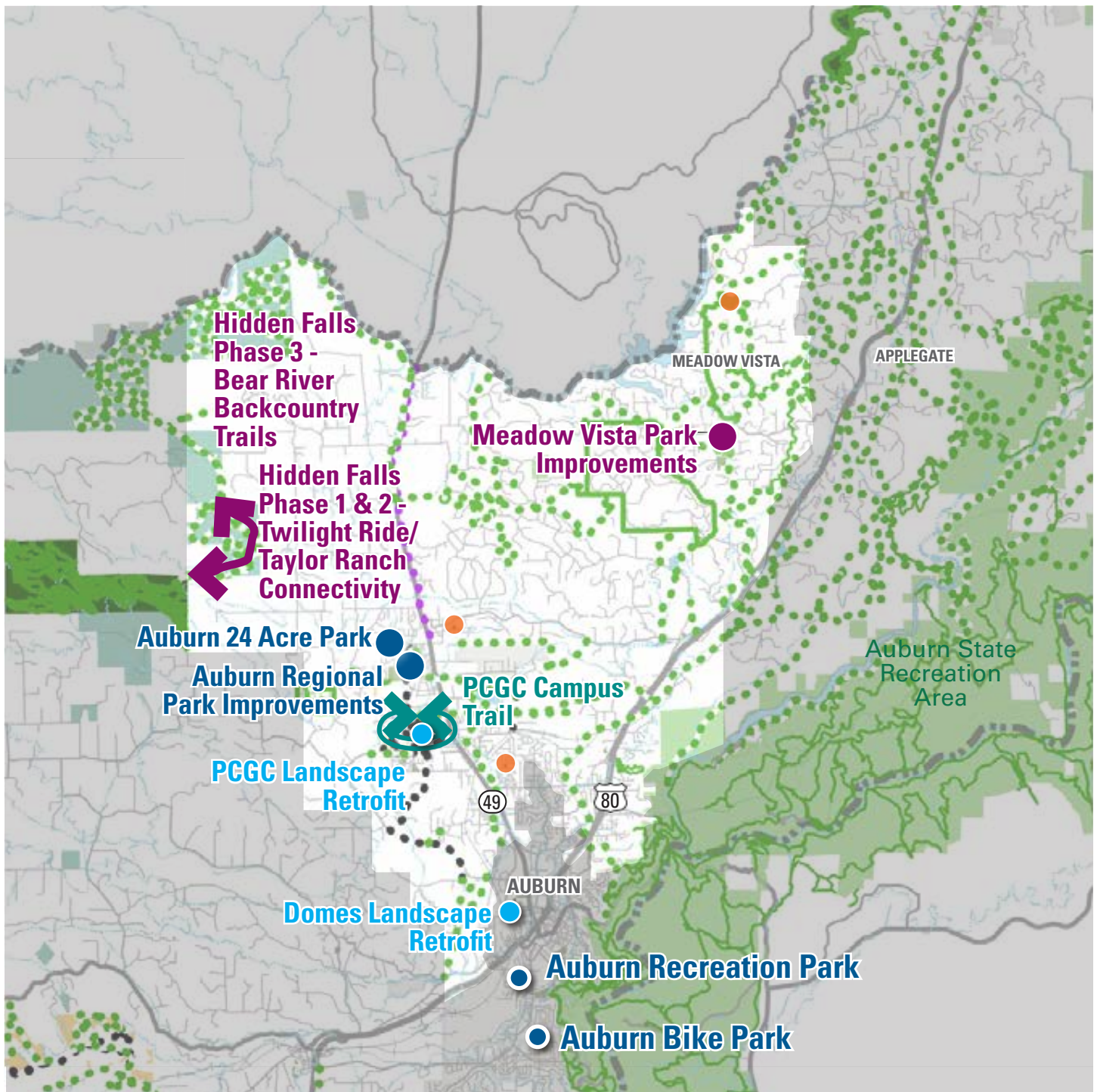


Figure 30: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Increasing the Maintenance of Existing Parks



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

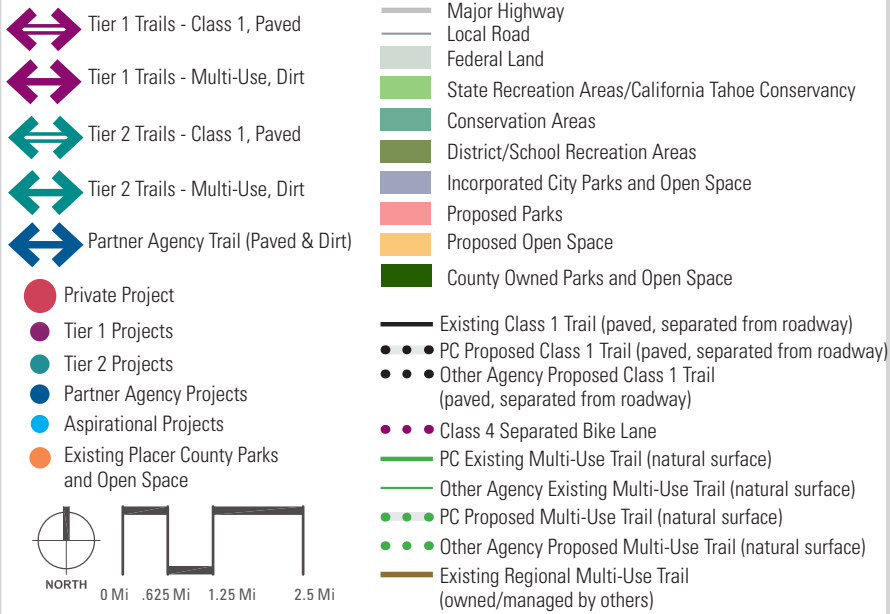
NORTH AUBURN/MEADOW VISTA CIP DISTRIBUTION



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

NORTH AUBURN/MEADOW VISTA PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & TRAILS PROJECTS

LEGEND



NORTH AUBURN/MEADOW VISTA DESIRED AMENITIES

ACTIVE PARKS

OPEN SPACE

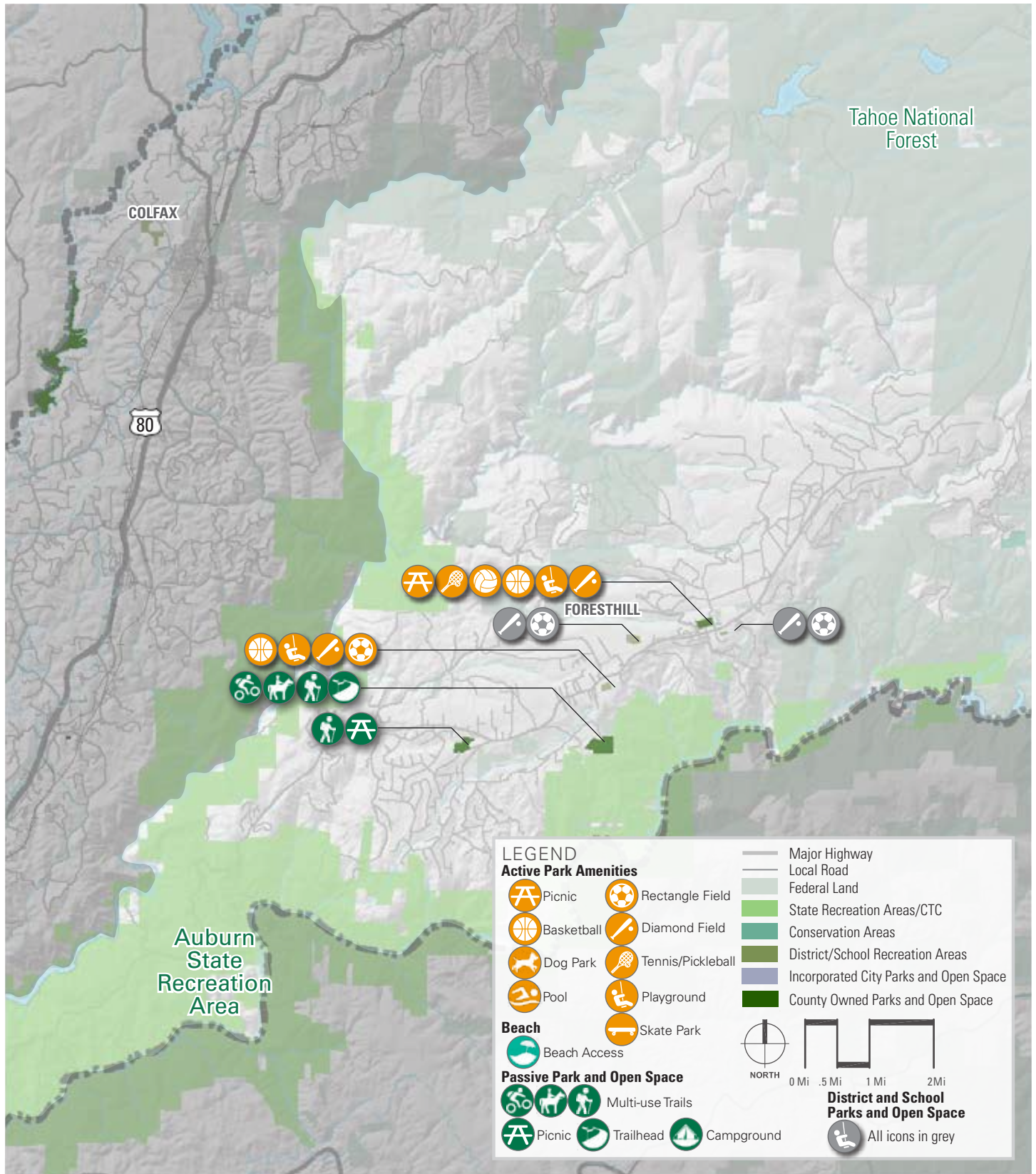
TRAILS

North Auburn/Meadow Vista Parks and Trail CIP List

Priority	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
Tier 1	Hidden Falls Phase 1 - Twilight Ride		531.0		8.0	Parking access to Taylor Ranch
Tier 1	Hidden Falls Phase 2 - Connectivity		23.1		3.0	Hidden Falls / Taylor Connectivity
Tier 1	Hidden Falls Phase 3 - Bear River Backcountry		1,886.0		15.0	Harvego Connectivity & Curtola Trailhead
Tier 1	Meadow Vista Park Improvements - ARD					Restroom/ADA improvements, pond pump/filter
Tier 2	PCGC Campus Trail					Loop Trail system around Placer County Government Center Campus
Partner Ag.	Auburn 24 Acre Park - ARD	24.0				Development of 24 acre parcel adjacent to Regional Park in North Auburn
Partner Ag.	Auburn Recreation Park Upgrades - ARD					Rec field infield renovation, outfield, wheelchair swing, tennis court path of travel
Partner Ag.	Auburn Regional Park Improvements - ARD					Replace splash pool
Partner Ag.	Meadow Vista Park Improvements - ARD					Restroom/ADA improvements, pond pump/filter
Aspirational	H2O Efficiency - Domes Landscape Renovation	3.0				Replace portions of turf along Fulweiler & Nevada Street frontages w/ low H2O landscape
Aspirational	H2O Efficiency - PCGC Landscape Retrofit	10.0				Implemented in conjunction with PCGC Master Plan development

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FORESTHILL DIVIDE EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FORESTHILL DIVIDE

The Foresthill Divide region includes Auburn State Recreation Area, the community of Foresthill, and a significant portion of the Tahoe National Forest. As such, the area has a high percentage of public lands and access to federal and state trail systems. The rural community includes County trailheads and the Foresthill Leroy E. Botts Memorial Park with sports fields and other active park amenities. A community pool is located in proximity to the community park.

Some of the top priorities include improvements to the Memorial Park and providing enhanced trail access to surrounding open space and trail system. Park improvements should consider renovating the pool site, repurposing sports courts to pickle ball, improving parking, and providing bocce ball.

TOTAL REGION AREA = 624 SQ. MI.



MEDIAN AGE



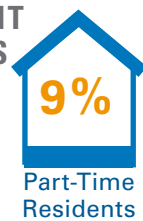
POPULATION DENSITY



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



RESIDENT STATUS



Region	2017 Population	Projected 2028 Population	Population Increase	% Population Increase
Foresthill Divide	5,833	7,123	1,290	2.0%

Existing Recreation Facilities	Number	Acreage
Active Parks	4	33
Local Parks (County)	1	18
Local Park (School District)	3	14
Local Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Specialty Parks (County)	-	-
Specialty Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Regional Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Passive Parks & Open Space	3	15,619
Passive Park/Open Space (County)	1	41
Regional Open Space (County)	-	-
Open Space (State Park)	1	15,576
Trailheads (County)	1	2
Campground (County)	-	-
Campground (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Campground (State Park)	-	-
Trails	15	
Paved	-	
Paved (Partner Agency)	-	
Dirt	5	
Dirt (Partner Agency)	10	

LEVEL OF SERVICE FACILITIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE

COUNTY ONLY

3.1
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

7.4
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

0.8
MILES OF TRAILS

ALL FACILITIES*

5.6
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

2,677.7
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

2.5
MILES OF TRAILS

*Includes County, State, NTPUD, TCPUD, NCSD, AARD, & School Districts (at 50%) in unincorporated areas for parks and open space. Includes County and Districts only for trails.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FORESTHILL DIVIDE REGION FEEDBACK

Similar to Granite Bay/Loomis Basin respondents, Foresthill Divide survey respondents showed support for sports fields, sport courts, and other types of active park facility improvements. In comparison to the rest of the county, Foresthill Divide respondents showed more support for developing bocce ball or horseshoe pits and more disc golf courses.

Figure 31: *Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Building Bocce Ball*

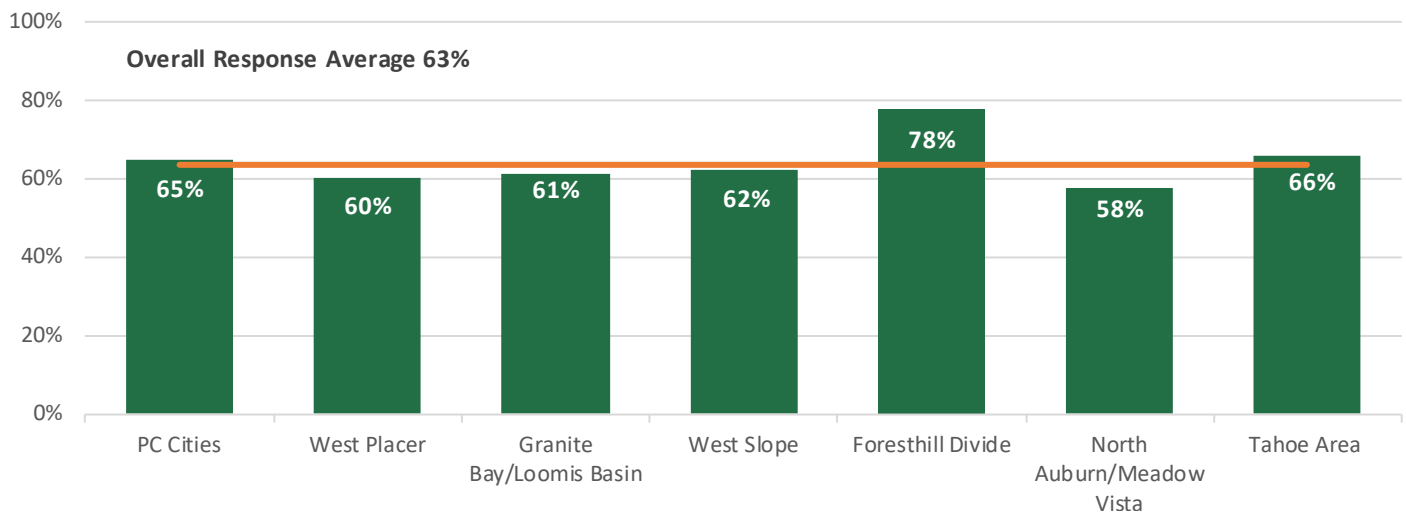
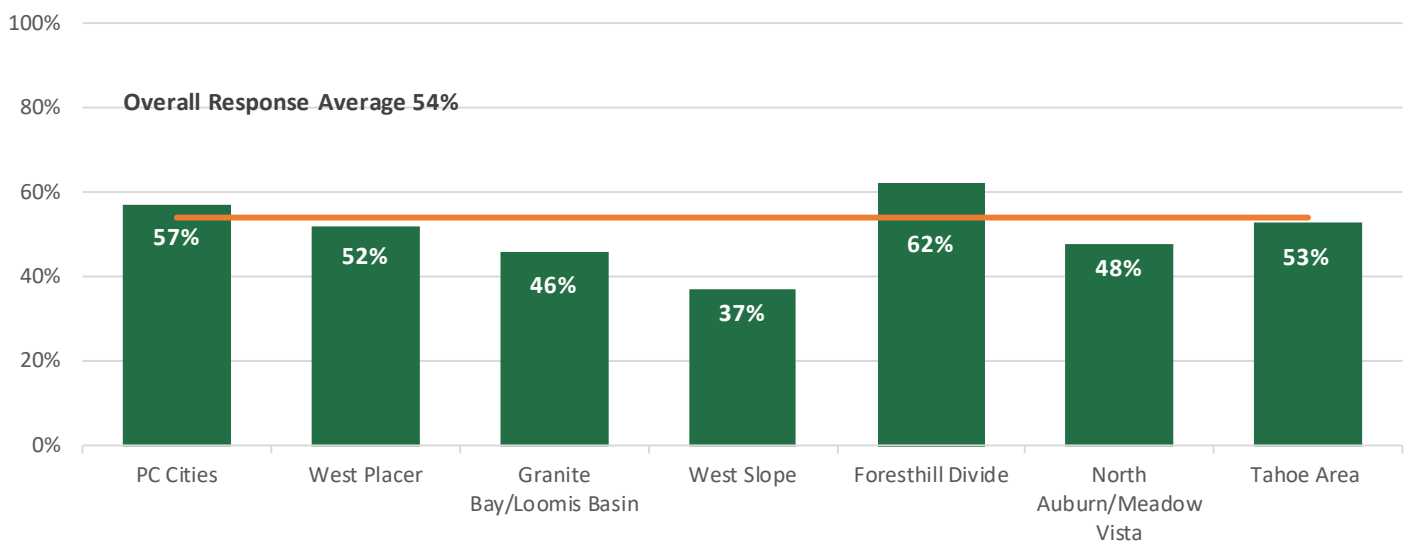


Figure 32: *Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Building Disc Golf Courses*



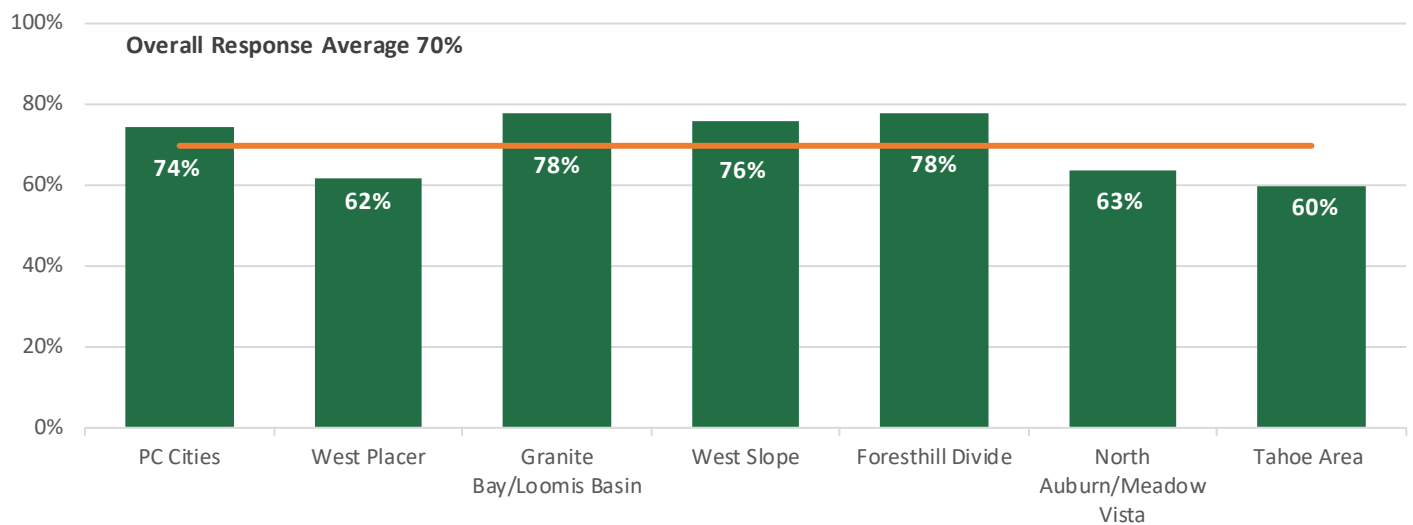
REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FORESTHILL DIVIDE REGION RESPONDENT PRIORITIES

The below items have been identified as priorities respondents by Foresthill Divide region respondents.

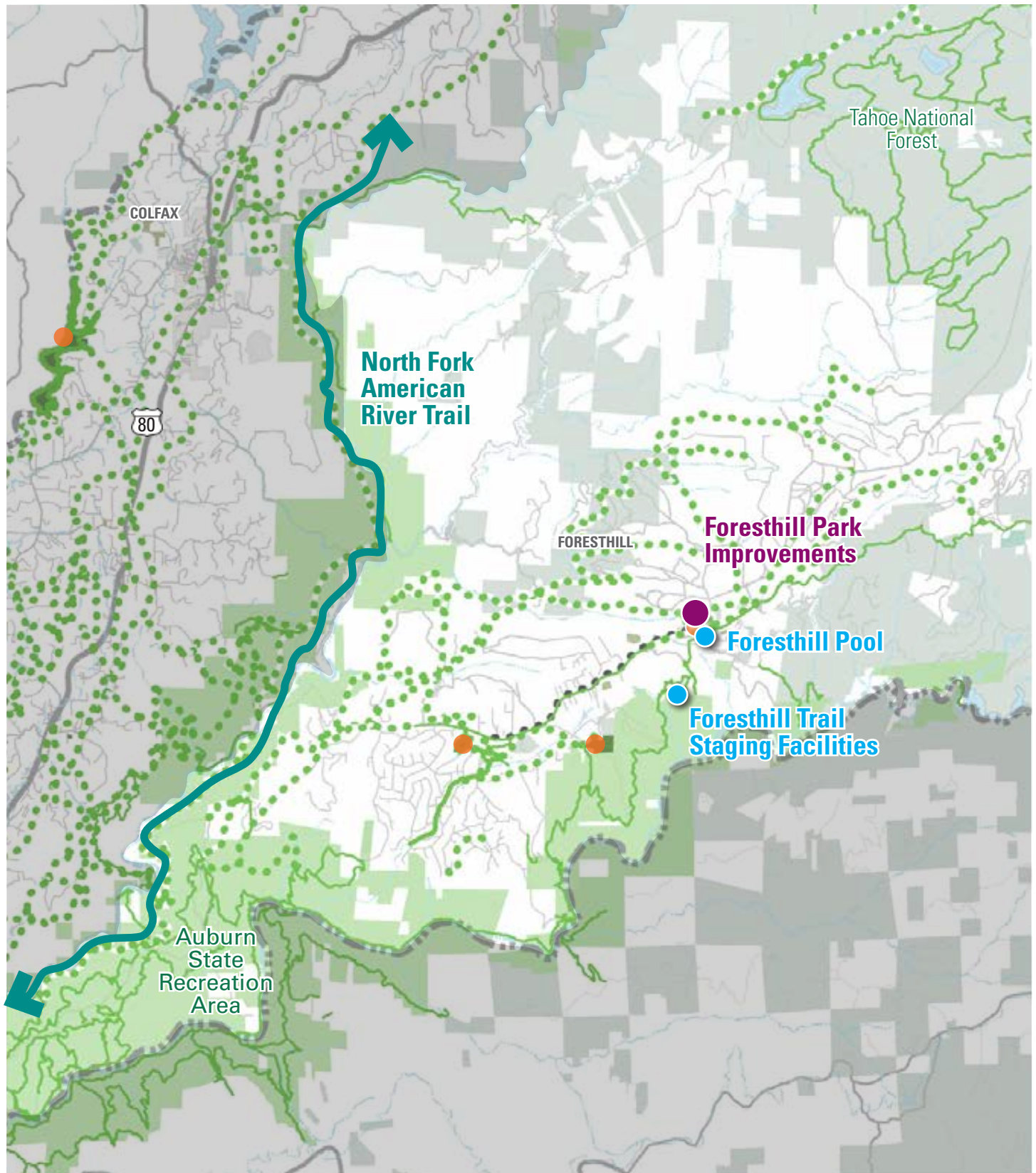


Figure 33: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Building More Sports Courts



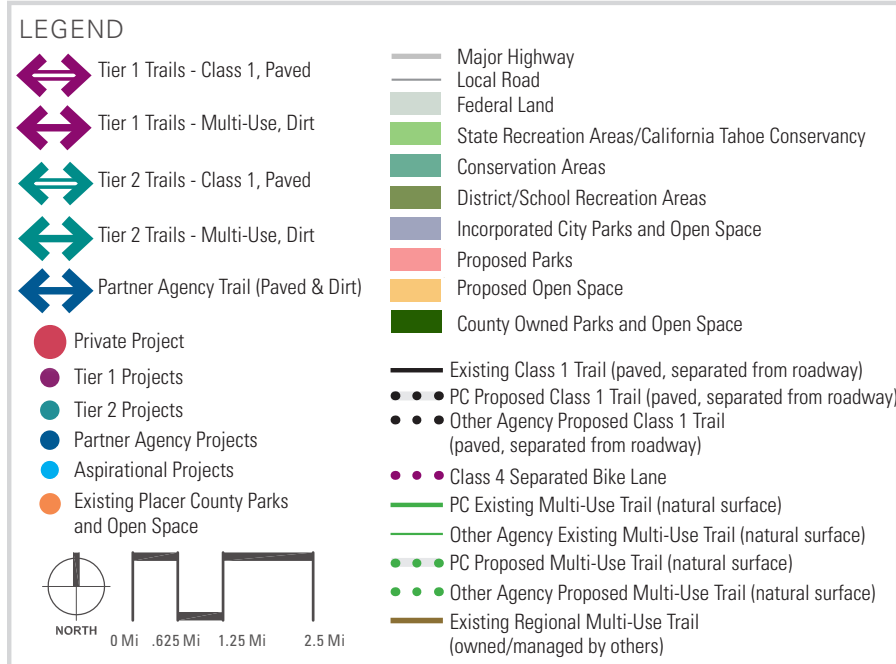
REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FORESTHILL DIVIDE CIP DISTRIBUTION



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FORESTHILL DIVIDE PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & TRAILS PROJECTS



FORESTHILL DIVIDE DESIRED AMENITIES

ACTIVE PARKS

OPEN SPACE

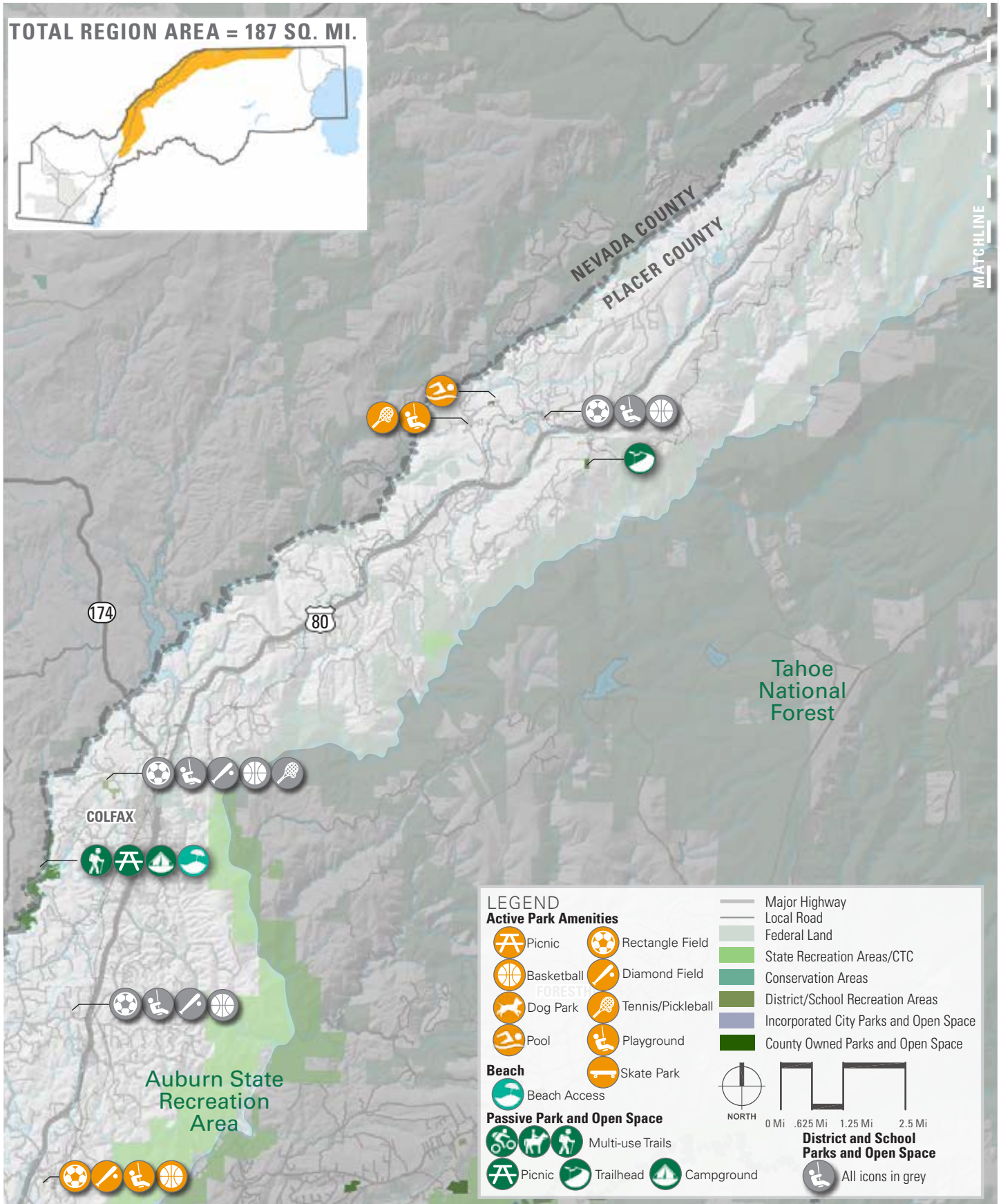
TRAILS

Foresthill Parks and Trail CIP List

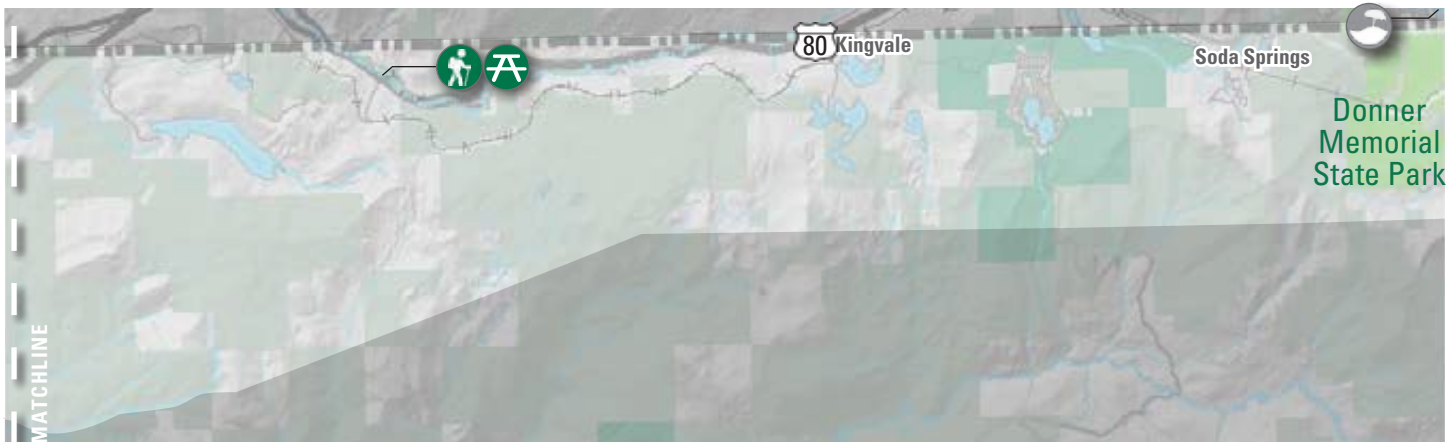
Priority	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
Tier 1	Foresthill Park Improvements					Picnic Pavilion, vendor accommodations for events, hard court rehab, bleachers, parking, lighting
Tier 2	North Fork American River Trail				14.2	Dirt Trail
Aspirational	Foresthill Pool - Renovation / Relocation					Renovation/Relocation of pool at Foresthill Park
Aspirational	Foresthill Trail Staging Facilities		1.0			New staging areas advocated by Tevis Association & Foresthill Trails Alliance

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST SLOPE EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION BY SUB-REGION & COMMUNITY PLANS



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



MEDIAN AGE

49.0

POPULATION DENSITY

78.6

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$66,498

RESIDENT STATUS

86%
Full-Time Residents

14%
Part-Time Residents

Region	2017 Population	Proj. 2028 Pop.	Population Increase	% Population Increase
West Slope	10,599	11,252	653	6.2%

WEST SLOPE

The West Slope extends from the northern lands of Auburn State Recreation Area along the Interstate 80 corridor to Donner Memorial State Park. The region is typified by rural communities interspersed in the Tahoe National Forest. High priority is placed on access to open space and improvements to existing facilities. Renovations to the Dutch Flat community pool and development of a regional trail connection through the region are significant projects. The unpaved trail would extend from Kingvale to Auburn.

Existing Recreation Facilities	Number	Acreage
Active Parks	6	13
Local Parks (County)	3	3
Local Park (School District)	2	5
Local Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Specialty Parks (County)	1	5
Specialty Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Regional Park (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Passive Parks & Open Space	4	5,137
Passive Park/Open Space (County)	1	16
Regional Open Space (County)	-	-
Open Space (State Park)	1	4919
Trailheads (County)	1	10
Campground (County)	1	192
Campground (Utility/Rec District)	-	-
Campground (State Park)	-	-
Trails	37 Miles	
Paved	-	
Paved (Partner Agency)	-	
Dirt	7	
Dirt (Partner Agency)	30	

LEVEL OF SERVICE

FACILITIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE

COUNTY ONLY

0.7
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

20.6
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

0.7
MILES OF TRAILS

ALL FACILITIES*

1.3
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

484.7
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

3.5
MILES OF TRAILS

*Includes County, State, NTPUD, TCPUD, NCSD, AARD, & School Districts (at 50%) in unincorporated areas for parks and open space. Includes County and Districts only for trails.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST SLOPE REGION FEEDBACK

Survey respondents from the West Slope region showed a support for a variety of facilities. Nature-based recreation elements tended to receive support, as did more traditional park uses such as sports fields and sports courts. Respondents supported the addition of neighborhood-based parks over regional parks and showed support for skate parks and fitness equipment.

Figure 34: *Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Redeveloping Existing Parks*

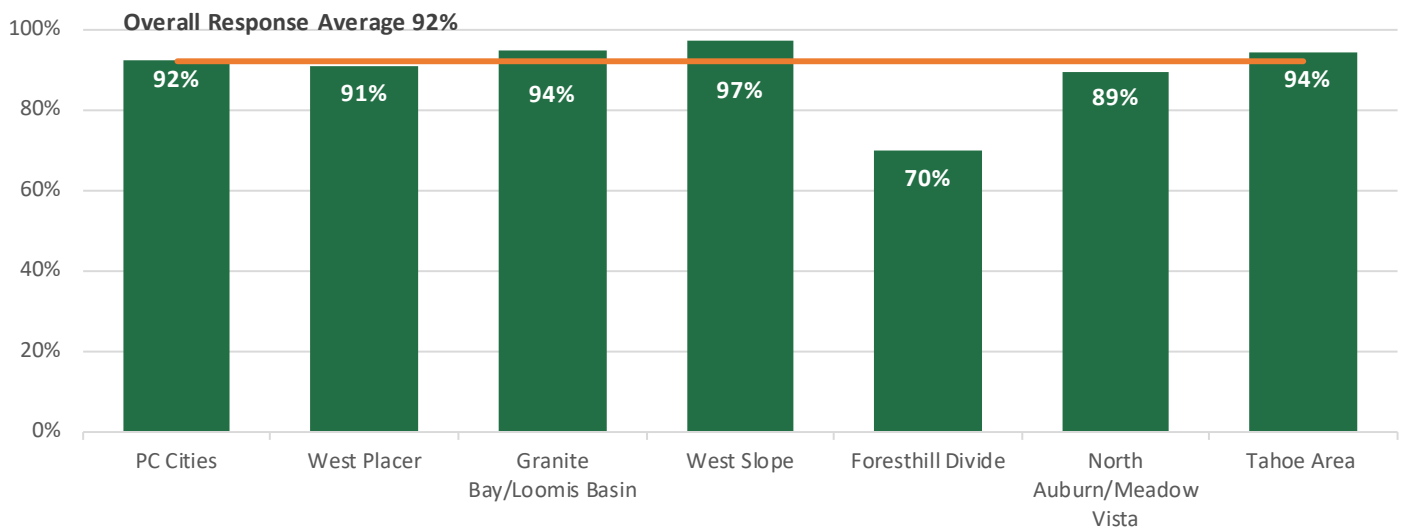
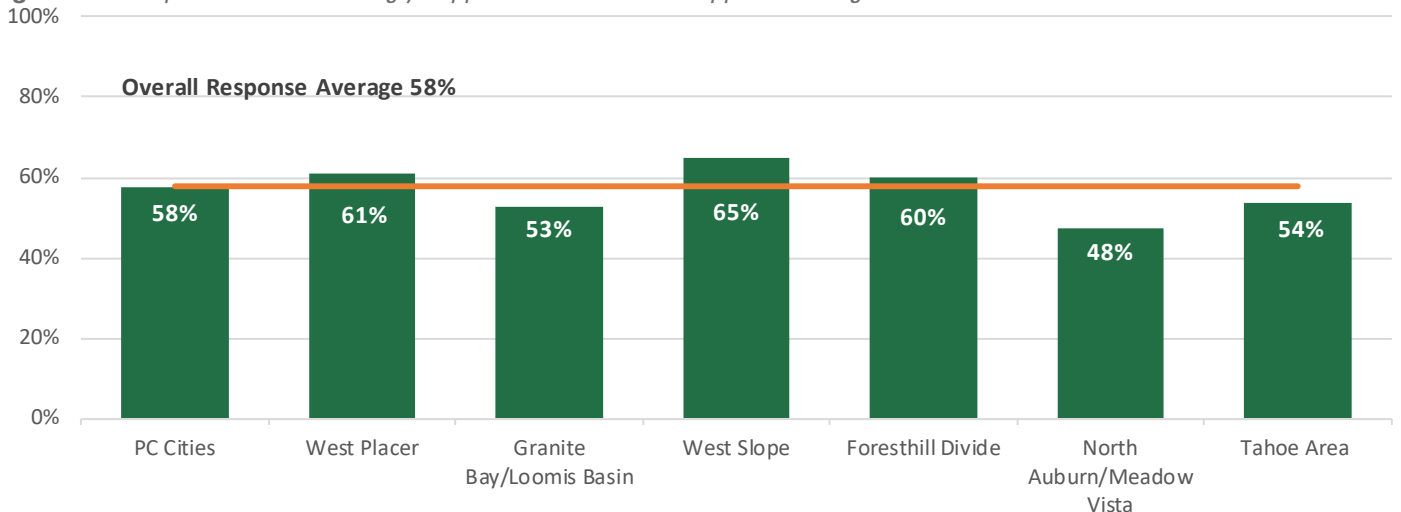


Figure 35: *Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Building Skate Parks*



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST SLOPE REGION RESPONDENT PRIORITIES

The below items have been identified as priorities respondents by West Slope region respondents.

- Add Neighborhood Parks
- Improve Existing Parks
- Build a Nature Center
- Provide sports courts and fitness equipment
- Build a Skate Park

WEST SLOPE REGION RESPONDENT PRIORITIES

Figure 37: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Building More Nature Centers

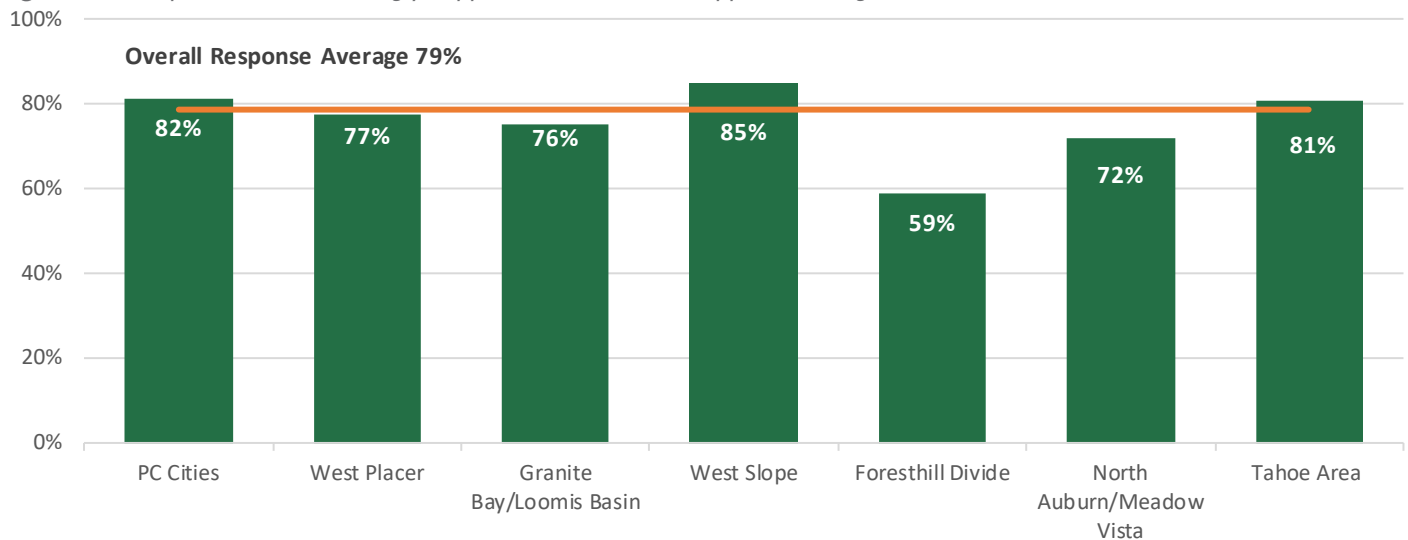
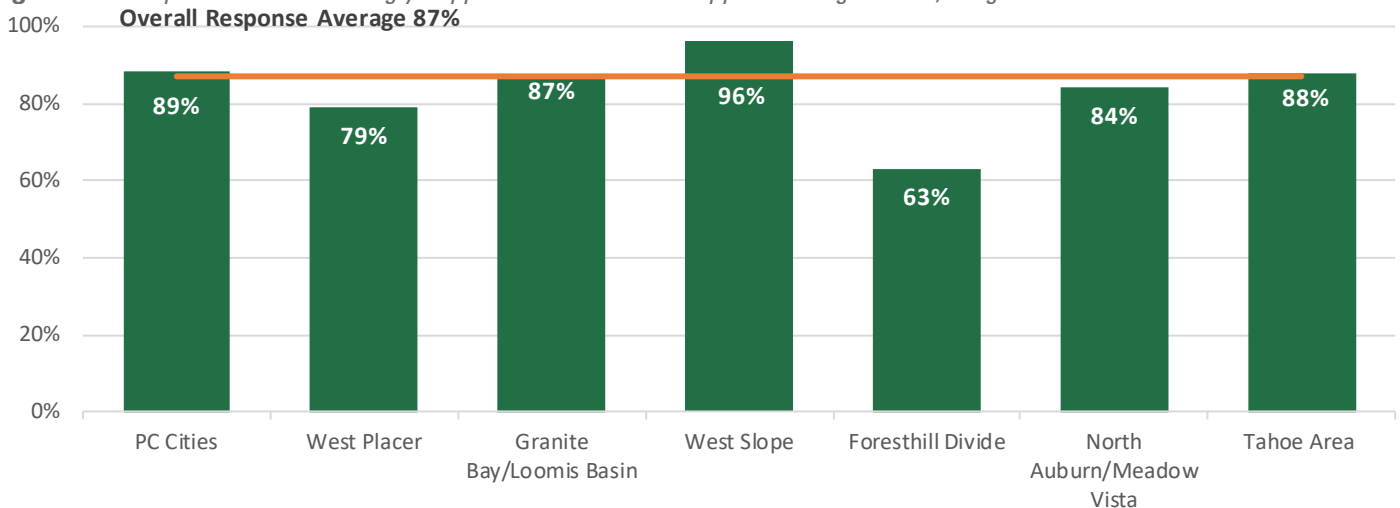
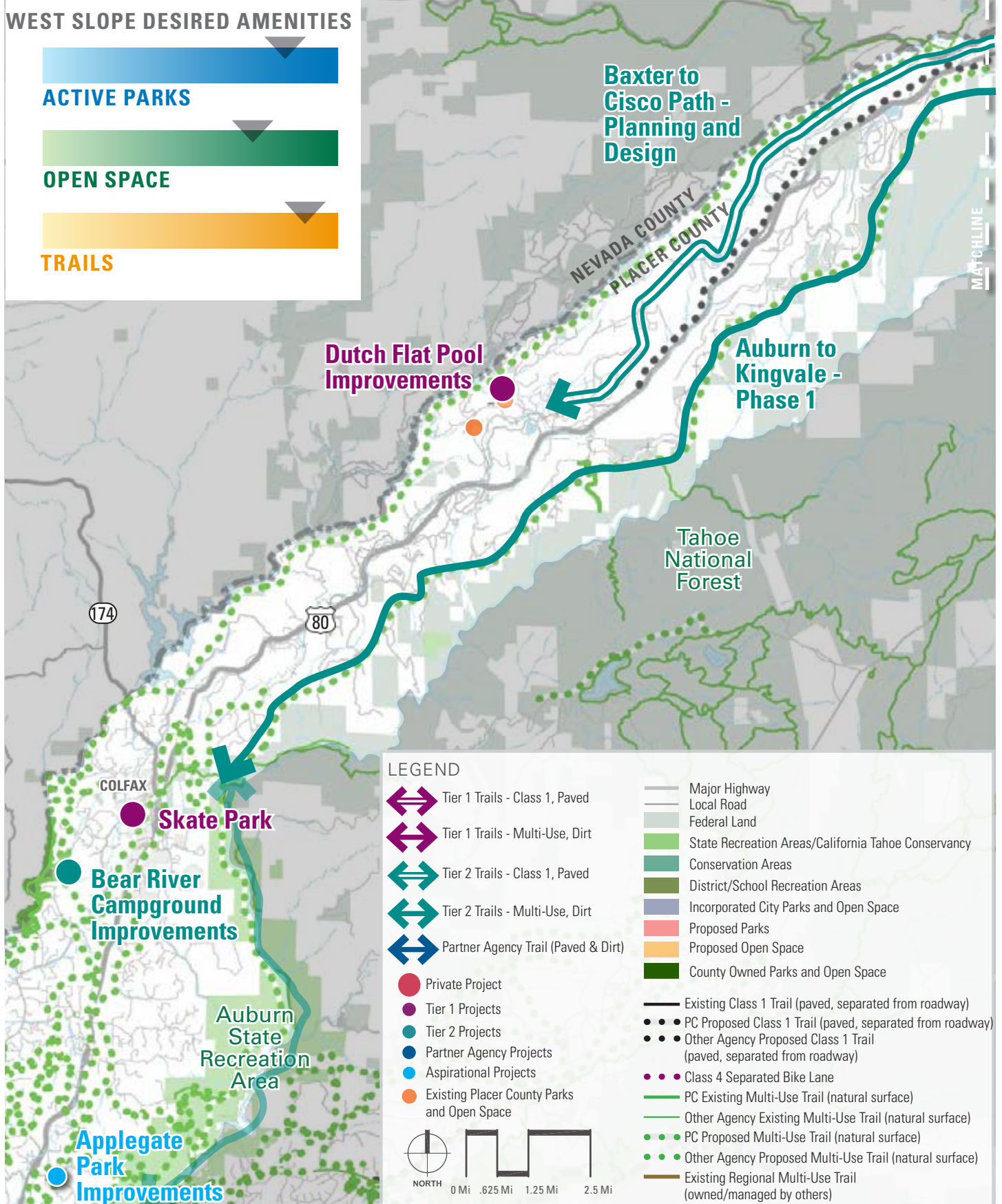


Figure 36: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Adding Smaller, Neighborhood-based Parks

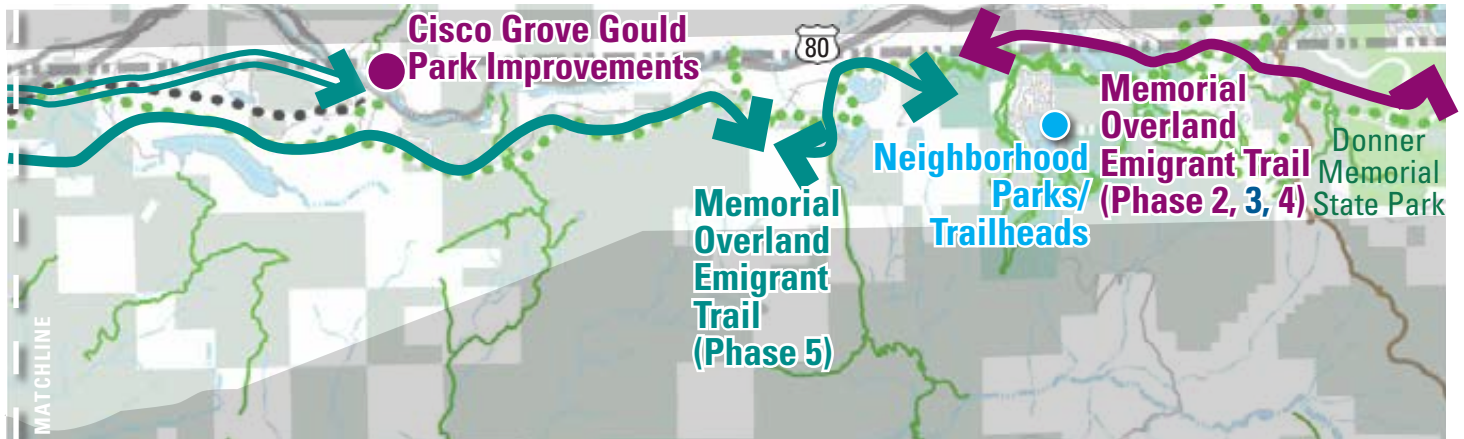


REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST SLOPE CIP DISTRIBUTION BY SUB-REGION & COMMUNITY PLANS



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

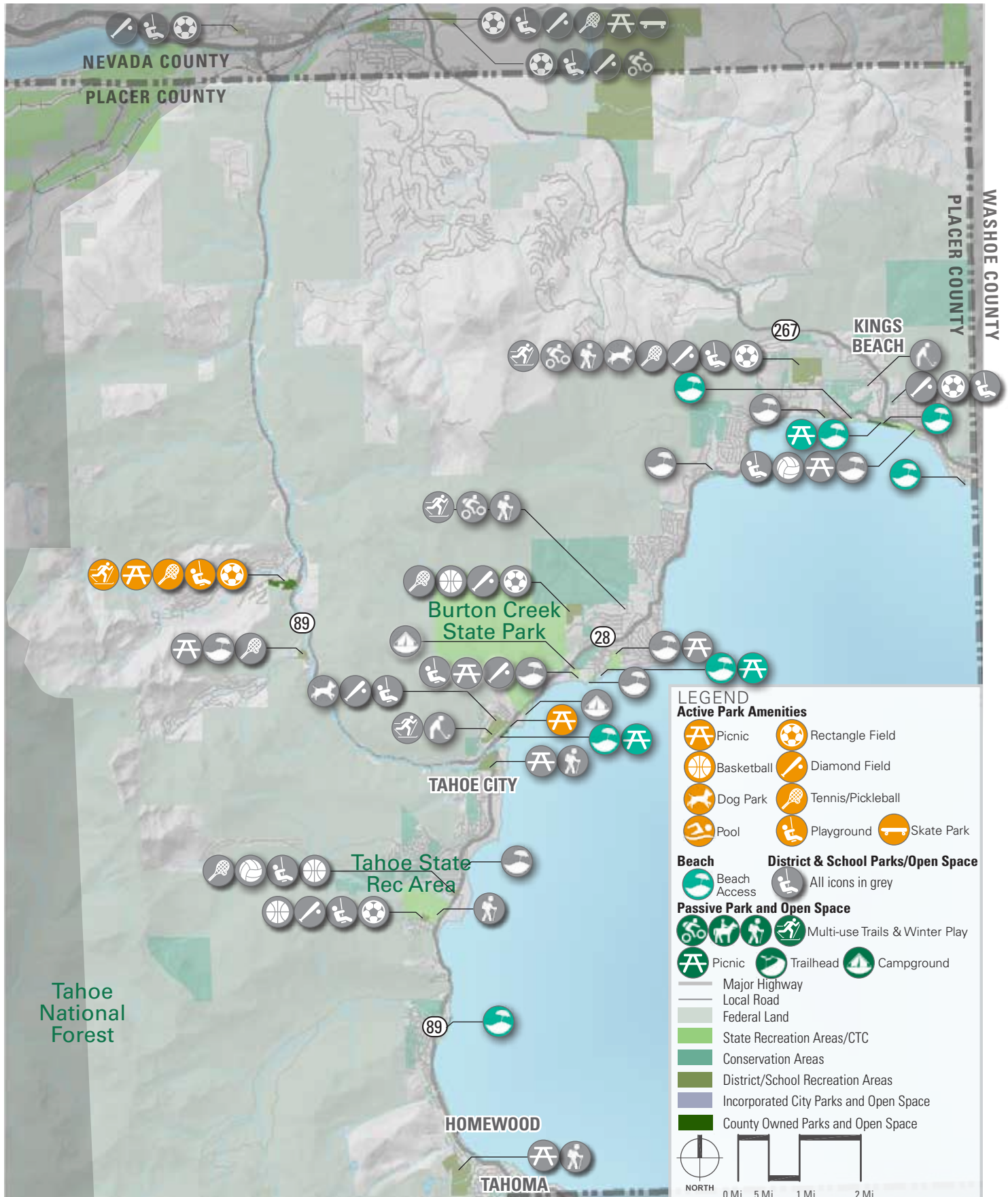


WEST SLOPE PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & TRAILS PROJECTS

West Slope Parks and Trail CIP List						
Priority	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
Tier 1	Dutch Flat Pool Improvements					Restroom, pool liner, new deck, amenity updates
Tier 1	Cisco Grove Gould Park Improvements				1.0	Trail and interpretive program - nominal increase to existing maintenance
Tier 1	Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail - Phase 2				4.5	Dirt trail through Sugar Bowl & USFS Property to Donner Memorial State Park
Tier 1	Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail - Phase 4				4.0	Dirt trail through Van Norden Meadows
Tier 2	Bear River Campground Improvements					Upgraded amenities, camp host facilities, ongoing cost of camp host.
Tier 2	Auburn to Kingvale Trail - Dirt - Phase 1				15.0	Alternative to Western States Trail along I-80 corridor
Tier 2	Auburn to Kingvale Trail - Dirt - Planning & Design					Alternative to Western States Trail along I-80 corridor
Tier 2	Baxter to Cisco Trail - Paved - Planning & Design					With Hwy 40 Class 2 bike lanes, would provide paved bikeway from Rocklin to Tahoe
Tier 2	Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail - Phase 5				7.0	Dirt Trail from west end of Royal Gorge Property to Kingvale
Partner Ag.	Skate Park - City of Colfax	0.5				To be owned and operated by the City of Colfax
Partner Ag.	Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail - Phase 3				6.5	Segment through Donner Memorial State Park - Const, Maint, & Operation by State Parks
Aspirational	Applegate park Improvements					Transition from well/septic to water/sewer, permanent restrooms
Aspirational	Auburn to Kingvale Trail - Dirt - Future Phases				55.0	I-80 corridor alternative to the Western States Trail - dirt trail
Aspirational	Baxter to Cisco Trail - Paved Connector			18.0		18 mile connection would allow paved bikeway access from Auburn to Tahoe
Aspirational	Neighborhood Parks/Trailheads - West Slope/Donner	7.5				Playgrounds, recreation features incorporated into trailheads

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

TAHOE AREA EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

TAHOE AREA

The Tahoe region includes the communities within the Tahoe Basin north to Truckee, including areas such as Olympic Valley, Northstar, and Martis Valley. Tourism and second home ownership has significant impacts to the area, but the recreation system also needs to address the needs of local families. Partnerships with special districts play an important role in meeting the needs for active park facilities and providing access to Lake Tahoe. The County plays a significant role in supporting the development of facilities and has a leadership role in the planning and implementation of the Resort Triangle Class 1 bike path. Priorities include completion of a regionally connected Class 1 bike path, snow removal of paved trails, construction of a recreation center, improved beach access, and provision of off-leash dog areas.

MEDIAN AGE

41

POPULATION DENSITY

90.7

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$70,393

RESIDENT STATUS

34%

Full-Time Residents

66%

Part-Time Residents

Region	2017 Population	Projected 2028 Population	Population Increase	% Population Increase
Tahoe	12,681	12,557	-124	-1.0%

LEVEL OF SERVICE FACILITIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE

COUNTY ONLY

0.7
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

1.7
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

1.1
MILES OF TRAILS

ALL FACILITIES*

19.5
ACRES OF
ACTIVE PARKS

471.8
ACRES OF
PASSIVE PARKS/
OPEN SPACE

5.5
MILES OF TRAILS

*Includes County, State, NTPUD, TCPUD, NCSD, AARD, & School Districts (at 50%) in unincorporated areas
TOTAL REGION AREA = 173 SQ. MI.



Existing Recreation Facilities	Number	Acreage
Active Parks	13	247
Local Parks (County)	1	8
Local Park (School District)	4	22
Local Park (Utility/Rec District)	5	70
Specialty Parks (County)	1	1
Specialty Park (Utility/Rec District)	1	44
Regional Park (Utility/Rec District)	1	102
Passive Parks & Open Space	8	6,092
Passive Park/Open Space (County)	2	62
Regional Open Space (County)	-	-
Open Space (State Park)	4	5901
Trailheads (County)	-	-
Campground (County)	-	-
Campground (Utility/Rec District)	1	5
Campground (State Park)	1	55
Beach (County)	7	20
Beach (State Park)	9	12
Beach (Utility/Rec District)	5	37
Trails	71 Miles	
Paved	6 miles	
Paved (Partner Agency)	19 miles	
Dirt	11 miles	
Dirt (Partner Agency)	35 miles	

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

TAHOE AREA FEEDBACK

Tahoe region survey respondents indicated the greatest support for paved trail connectivity, beach access, and removing snow from paved trails. Respondents showed the strongest support for new trails and recreation access in open space areas and for transit and trail connectivity to beaches. Comparable to other locations around Lake Tahoe, there is support for off-leash dog parks and for a recreation center.

Figure 38: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Building Bocce Ball or Horseshoe Pits

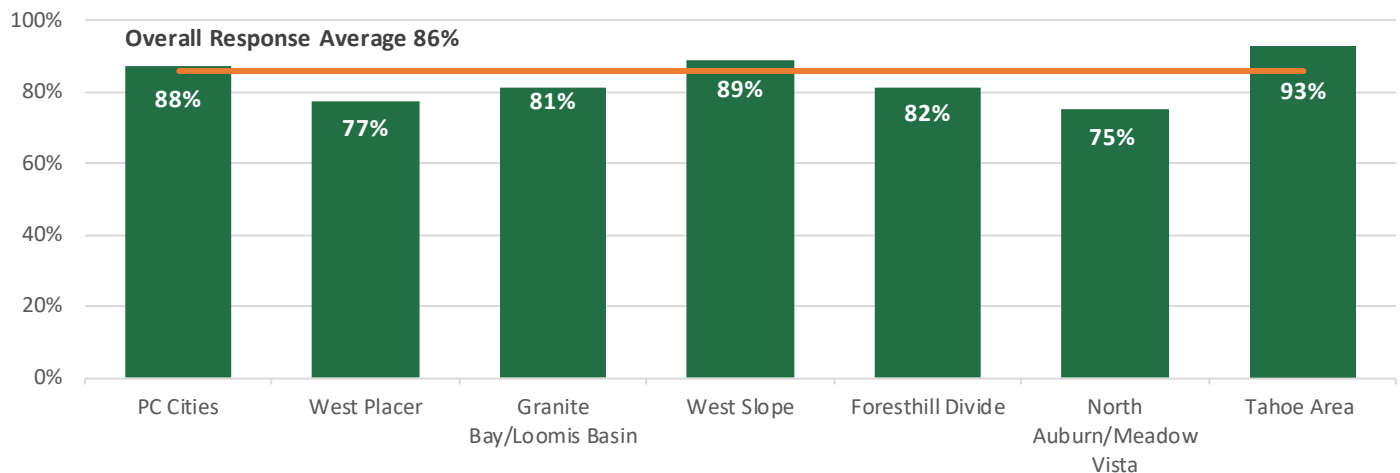
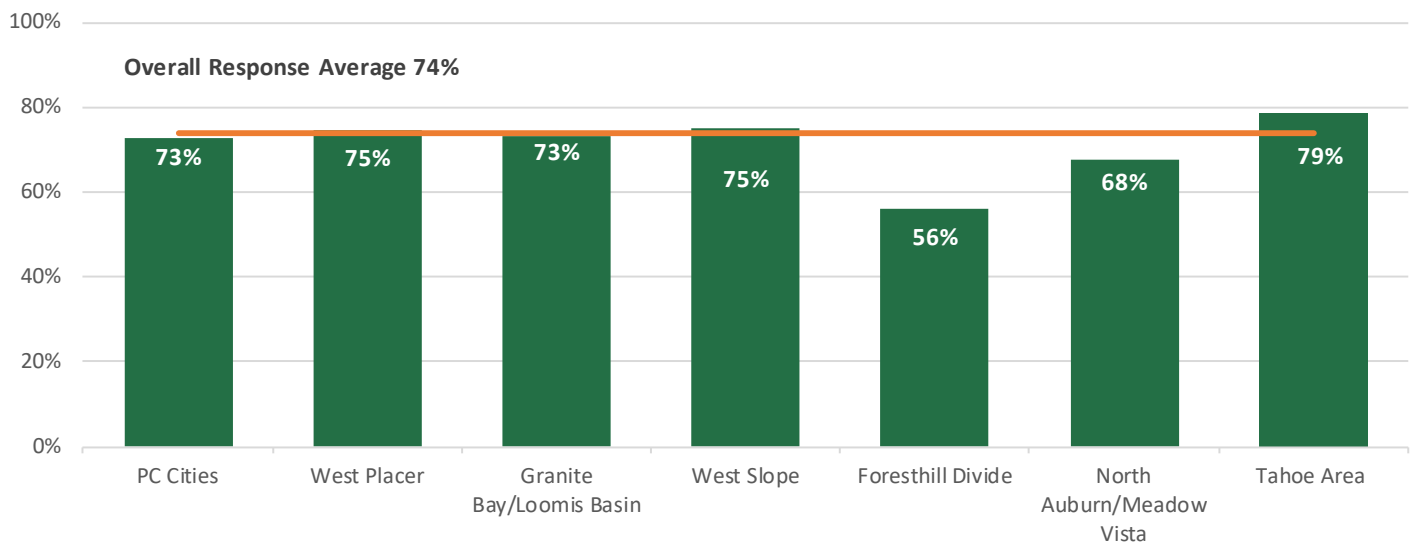


Figure 39: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support for Providing Off-Leash Dog Parks



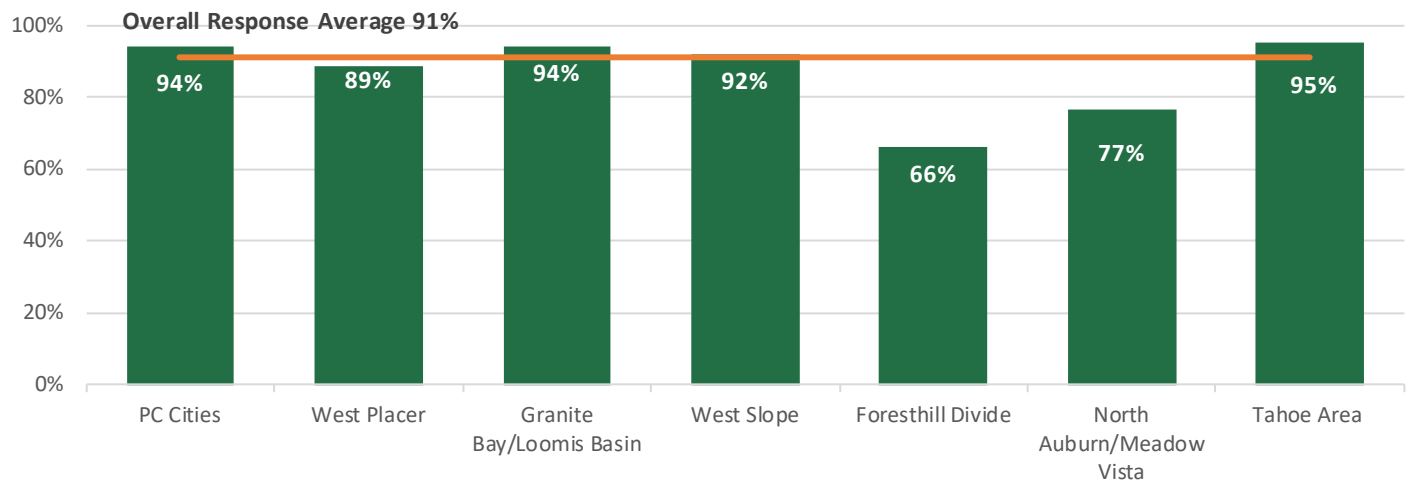
REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

TAHOE AREA RESPONDENT PRIORITIES

The below items have been identified as priorities respondents by Tahoe region respondents.

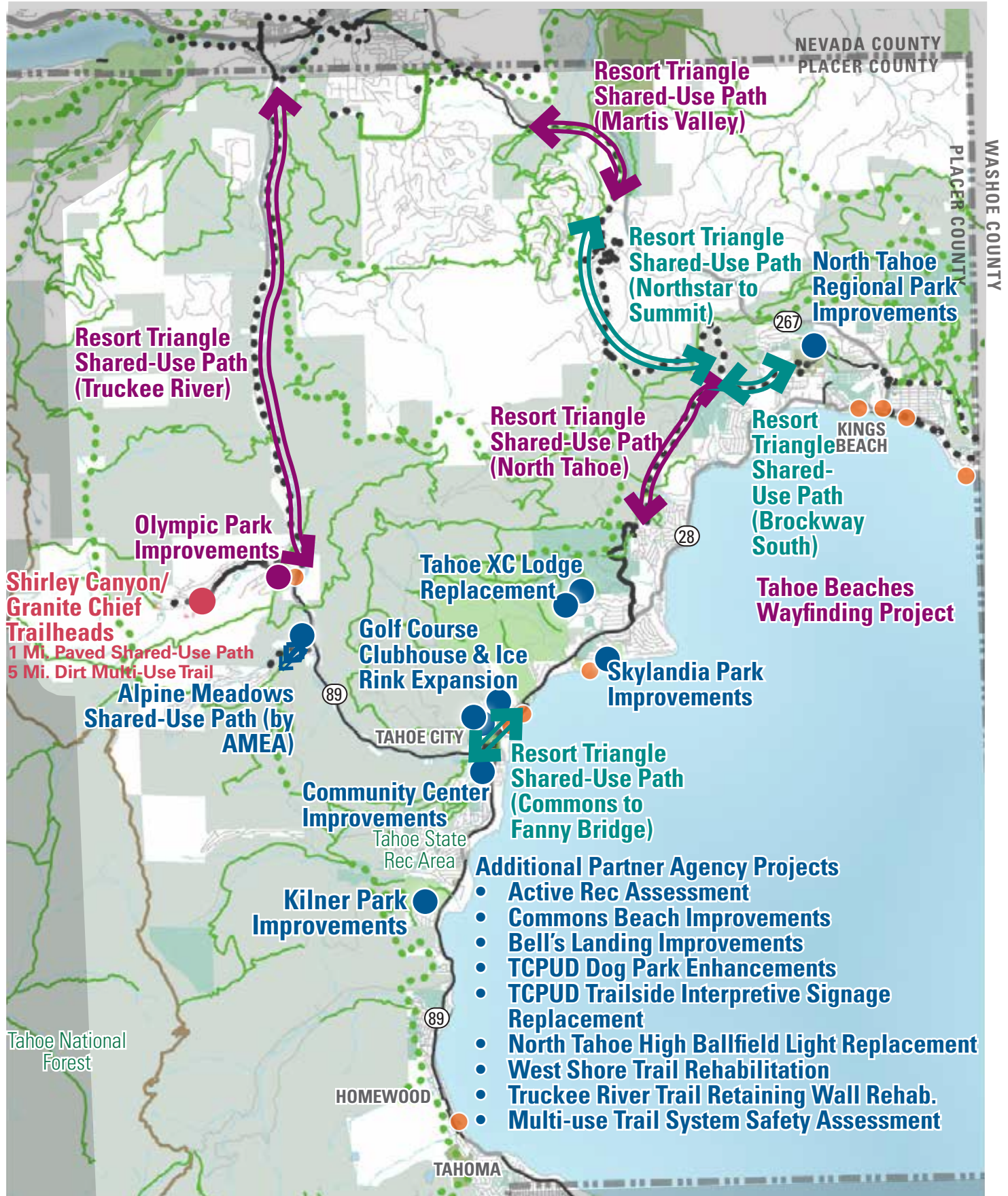


Figure 40: Respondents Who Strongly Support and Somewhat Support Providing More Trails and Recreation Access in Open Space



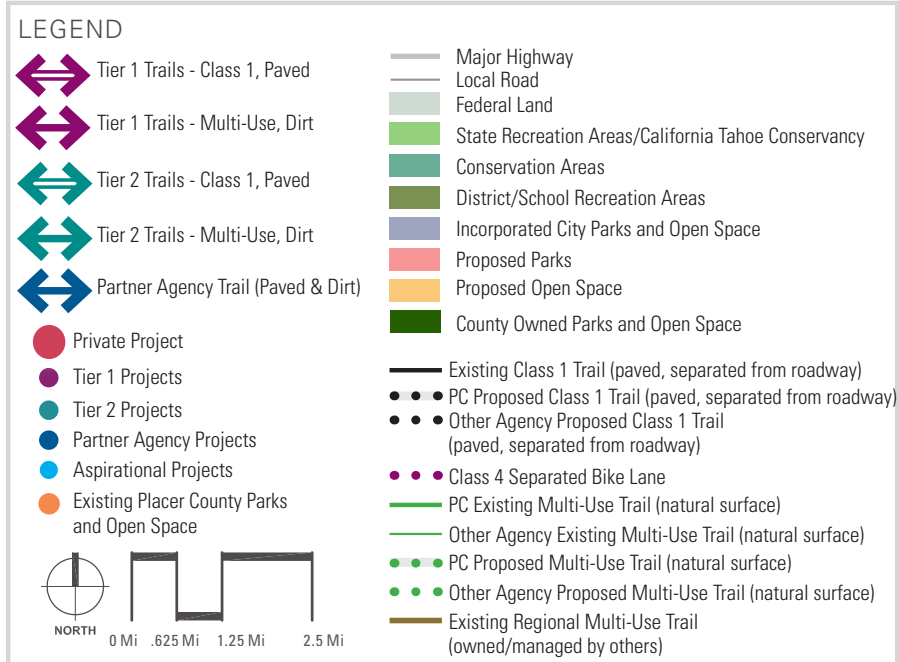
REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

TAHOE AREA CIP DISTRIBUTION



REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

TAHOE AREA PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & TRAILS PROJECTS



TAHOE DESIRED AMENITIES

ACTIVE PARKS

OPEN SPACE

TRAILS

Tahoe Area Parks and Trail CIP List

Priority	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
Tier 1	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - North Tahoe			6.0		Separated paved trail to connect Dollar Creek Trail to North Tahoe Regional Park
Tier 1	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Martis Valley Trail - Truckee to Northstar Village			6.5		Martis Valley Trail from Truckee to Northstar Village
Tier 1	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Truckee River Access Trail			8.0		Separated paved trail to connect Olympic Valley to Truckee along Hwy 89
Tier 1	Olympic Valley Park Improvements					Playground relocation, final amenities, winter opening, funding by VSVSP
Tier 1	Tahoe Beaches Wayfinding & Signage Consistency Project					Replace aging inconsistent signage at Tahoe Beaches - entry, regulation, and interpretive
Tier 2	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Brockway South			6.0		Separated paved trail to connect Dollar Creek Trail to North Tahoe Regional Park
Tier 2	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Commons to Outlet					Paved separated path from Commons Beach to Tahoe Outlet
Tier 2	Resort Triangle Shared Use Path - Northstar to Summit			3.7		Segment from Northstar to Summit
Partner Ag.	TCPUD/NTPUD Active Recreation Assessment					Assess community needs for active recreation
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Tahoe City Community Center Improvements	11				ADA/compliance improvements for public indoor recreation use and meeting/event space
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Golf Course Clubhouse & Ice Rink Expansion	46.5				Replace clubhouse and expand public ice rink
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Commons Beach Improvements	4.2				Replace parking lot, playground, and BBQ area
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - X-Country Lodge Replacement		46			Replace and expand existing year-round lodge

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Tahoe Area Parks and Trail CIP List						
Priority	Project	Quantity				Description
		Park Acres	Open Space Acres	Trail Miles (Paved)	Trail Miles (Dirt)	
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Skylandia Park Lodge & Gazebo		27.5			Replace and expand existing summer camp lodge. Add public gazebo for events and weddings.
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Tahoe City Dog Park Enhancements	0.2				Upgrade turf, fencing and dog park equipment
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Kilner Park Improvements					Replace bathrooms and playground
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Bells Landing Public River Access Park and Truckee River Trail Retaining Wall Repair Project					Rehabilitation of retaining wall that supports access to park and trail
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Trailside Interpretive Signage Replacement					Replace outdated trailside interpretive signage
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - TTUSD North Tahoe High School Upper Ballfield Light Replacement Project					Replace outdated lighting
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - West Shore Multi-Use Trail Rehabilitation Project			9		Replace Class 1 paved trail that connects 64 Acres to Sugar Pine State Park
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Truckee River Multi-Use Trail Retaining Wall Rehabilitation Project			0.15		Rehabilitate failing wall on Truckee River Trail
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Truckee River Multi-Use Trail Safety Improvement Project near River Ranch			0.15		Safety improvements to Truckee River Trail at transition at River Ranch parking lot
Partner Ag.	TCPUD - Multi-Use Trail System Safety Assessment			21		Identify issues and concerns on 21 miles of multi-use trail
Partner Ag.	NTPUD - North Tahoe Regional Park Improvements					Park improvements
Partner Ag.	Alpine Springs Water District - Alpine Meadows Road Trail Connection to Truckee River Bike Path			0.9		Paved path from Snowcrest Road to Alpine Circle Road
Private	Shirley Canyon / Granite Chief Trailheads			1.0	5.0	To be constructed by Palisades Tahoe

Note: Tahoe Area aspirational projects are part of a current assessment and feasibility study of active recreation facility needs assessment. The following amenities and facilities are being reviewed, but the list is not intended to be prescriptive or restrictive. Outcomes of the study will supersede this list.

- Recreation Center
- Aquatic Center
- Covered Sports Pavilion
- Bicycle Skills Cours
- Dog Park
- Skate Park
- Pump Track
- Pickleball Courts

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS