

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

RECREATION

This section addresses parks and recreation facilities throughout the Planning Area, including both those owned and maintained by the City of Grass Valley and those under the purview of other agencies. City facilities were addressed specifically in Chapter Six, **Public Facilities and Services**.

Although some portions of this chapter reiterate parts of the Public Facilities and Services (Park and Recreation Facilities) chapter, this redundancy is necessary to provide a complete description of the appropriate subject matter in both chapters.

Figure 14-1 shows park and recreational facilities within the Grass Valley Planning Area, including those within the City boundaries.

Historically, land for park and recreation facilities has been donated to the City by public-spirited individuals.

The Grass Valley Subdivision Ordinance provides for land dedication for parks and recreation, and for in lieu fees through which residential developments might facilitate park land acquisition. The standard for park and recreation dedications or in lieu fees, established under provisions of the AQuimby Act@ (Section 66477 of the State Government Code), is a maximum of 5 acres per 1,000 population.

The City owns and maintains eight park/recreation facilities. These include two community parks: Memorial Park, and Condon Park. In addition, the City contracts with Nevada County to operate the Pelton Wheel Museum/Glen Jones Park which, in turn, the City contracts for operation and maintenance with the Nevada County Historical Society.

An inventory of City owned/operated park and recreation facilities follows:

- Memorial Park, 8.4 acres
- Condon Park, 80 acres
- Pelton Wheel Museum/Glen Jones Park, 1.7 acres
- Brighton Street Park (Minnie Street), 1.6 acres
- Elizabeth Daniels Park, 0.3 acres
- Dow Alexander Park, 0.5 acres

Proposed City park and recreation facilities are as follows:

- Wolf Creek Parkway, 25 acres (approx.)
- Mulcahy Field, 12.5 acres
- Morgan Ranch Park, 4.08 acres

Additional park/recreational facilities within the City of Grass Valley, but owned and maintained by entities other than the City, are as follows:

- Nevada County Country Club, 58 acres
- Sierra College Park (under development), 7.95 acres
- Hennessy School, 3 acres

When these three facilities are added to City-owned parks and recreational facilities within the City limits, the acreage and per capita acreage figures within the City of Grass Valley will be as listed in Table 14-1.

**TABLE 14-1
ACREAGE & PER CAPITA ACREAGE
CITY OWNED PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES**

	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Acreage/1,000 Pop</u>
Existing Park/Recreation Facilities	161.45	17.0
City-Owned	92.5	9.8
Other Entities-Owned	68.95	7.3
Proposed/Planned Facilities	41.58	4.4
City	41.58	4.4
Other Entities	-0-	-0-

Source: Quad Knopf, 1998.

Per capita figures are based on the California Department of Finance January 1, 1998 population estimate of 9,475 for the City of Grass Valley.

The Nevada County Country Club on East Main Street is a 58 acre, 9-hole public golf course owned and operated by a private company. It is the only golf course located within the City of Grass Valley, Sphere of Influence, or General Plan Planning Area.

The Sierra College Park, currently under development, is a soccer and baseball facility slightly less than eight acres, located on the Sierra College campus near Nevada Union High School. As part of the College campus, the park will remain under the auspices of the Sierra Community College District Board of Trustees.

The Hennessy School, located just east of Highway 49 near downtown Grass Valley, is owned by the Grass Valley Elementary School District. The school grounds and attendant facilities are classified as a community park.

Existing park and recreation facilities outside the Grass Valley City limits, but within the Planning Area, follow. The three facilities total 963.2 acres.

- Nevada County Fairgrounds, 100 acres
- Nevada Union High School, 63.18 acres
- Empire Mine State Park, 800 acres

The Nevada County Fairgrounds is a 100 acre parcel owned and maintained by the State Fairgrounds Authority. The facility is classified as a regional park. The Fairgrounds house several community facilities, including the Senior Citizens Building. The annual Nevada County Fair and other recreational activities take place at the Fairgrounds, which are used year-round.

Nevada Union High School, operated by the Nevada Joint Union High School District, includes substantial recreational and sports facilities on a 63+ acre campus located on Ridge Road. The campus is adjacent to, though not within, the Grass Valley City limits.

It should be pointed out that inclusion of the entirety of acreage devoted to the Hennessy School and Nevada Union High School tends to exaggerate the actual, usable recreation acreage in the inventory of recreation lands. A more definitive identification of usable recreation space on these properties, and the school properties in the unincorporated Planning Area (listed below) is needed.

Empire Mine State Park is part of the State of California Park system. The Park, over 800 acres, includes the old mine, historic and interpretive buildings and exhibits, and over one square mile of forested open space with trails and natural areas.

The total acreage of existing park and recreation facilities in the entire Planning Area (City limits plus unincorporated area) is 1,124.63. Proposed/planned facilities within the City of Grass Valley (41.58 acres) bring the total acreage to 1,166.2. The Planning Area encompasses 9,570 acres. Thus, existing parks and recreation areas, as defined to include school grounds with public access recreational areas, comprise 11.8 percent of the total land area. Existing and proposed/planned facilities combined bring the total to more than 12 percent.

Also included in this inventory of park and recreational facilities are facilities proposed for the currently unincorporated portions of the Planning Area under consideration for annexation to the City of Grass Valley. The size and functions of these facilities remain largely undetermined at this time, subject to future planning. However, it is logical to assume that the park and recreational lands listed below have the potential to add significantly to the quantity (acreage) and quality of the Planning Area=s inventory. All have been mentioned in earlier Plans or Capital Improvement Programs.

- Glenbrook Basin Neighborhood Park
- Loma Rica Ranch park and open space lands
- North Star Park and open space lands
- Kenny Ranch Park and open space lands
- Silver Springs High School, 10.88 acres
- Lyman Gilmore and Scotten Schools, 49.65 acres