

CHAPTER SIX

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The City of Grass Valley is governed by a five-member City Council, elected to four year, staggered terms. The City's administrative structure consists of a City Administrator, City Clerk, Finance Department, Engineering Department, Building Department, Planning Department and Housing/Redevelopment Coordinator. The Building, Planning and Housing/Redevelopment functions are in the process of being consolidated in a new Community Development Department.

Permanent appointed bodies include a Planning Commission and a Design Review Committee.

The City provides the following public services:

- Water Treatment and Distribution
- Wastewater Collection and Treatment
- Storm Drainage Collection and Disposal
- Fire Protection
- Police/Animal Control
- Public Works
- Parks and Recreation

WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

The City's water system serves approximately sixty percent (60%) of the incorporated City of Grass Valley. The service area is 1,357 acres, approximately 2.1 square miles, with a service area population of approximately 5,855. The remainder of the City and Planning Area are served by the Nevada Irrigation District (NID).

Figure 6-1 shows the City's water system service area. Locations of the City water treatment plant and water tank are also shown.

The City purchases raw water from NID. Raw water is treated at the City's water treatment plant, which incorporates flocculation, sedimentation, chlorination and pH control. Four full-time City employees staff the treatment plant. The plant processes approximately 904,400 gallons per day. Treated water is distributed to approximately 2,120 connections.

Significant transmission line replacement is required to maintain or enhance existing levels of quality water service to residents, and accommodate increased water service needs of new development. The distribution system has grown incrementally since the late 19th century, and portions of the system suffer from age and obsolescence.

Figure 6-2 shows the location of City water storage and treatment facilities, the extent of the City potable water service area, and areas within the City Limits and Planning Area served by the NID.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT

The City provides wastewater collection and treatment service to an area of 2,884 acres, approximately 4.5 square miles. This area includes a 450-acre area outside City boundaries in the Glenbrook Basin, for which a sewer district was established by agreement with Nevada County in 1960. The 450-acre service area includes half of the Glenbrook Basin.

The City's wastewater treatment plant was built in 1950. The plant is located on a 29-acre site at 556 Freeman Lane. The plant has since been improved to a secondary treatment plant providing preliminary treatment, primary clarification, trickling filter/solids contact process for secondary treatment, filtration for effluent polishing, disinfection with chlorine, and dechlorination with sulfur dioxide. The treatment plant has a rated capacity of 1.72 million gallons per day (mgd) average dry-weather flow conditions.

The wastewater treatment plant services approximately 3,500 connections, an estimated population of 12,145. The collection system consists of 54.4 miles of sewer pipe ranging in size from 4-inch to 30-inch diameters. The system includes 1,157 manholes, 156 cleanouts, 32 lampholes, and 7 flush tanks. The City has rehabilitated and/or replaced about 11,700 feet of sewer pipeline. The City regularly maintains the collection system by periodic cleaning with a variety of equipment. Nine full-time employees operate the treatment plant.

The City has approved increasing capacity of the plant from 1.72 mgd to 2.78 mgd, completion of which is expected in late 2000. This expansion will increase capacity to accommodate a service population of 21,000 persons, the City's projected population within the Sphere of Influence over the next 20 years. Computer modeling and hydrologic analysis indicate various sewer line repairs, enhancements, and extension in certain areas will be required to accommodate anticipated growth in the Planning Area.

Currently, Grass Valley limits new sanitary sewer service connections to 100 "Equivalent Dwelling Units" (EDUs) per year, on a first come, first served basis.

Figure 6-3 shows the existing sanitary sewer service area, including Sanitation District No. 1 which provides service to 450 acres in the Glenbrook Basin.

STORM DRAINAGE

The majority of the City lies within the Wolf Creek drainage basin, a watershed covering approximately twenty (20) square miles. Wolf Creek bisects the City traveling from the northeast to the southwest. Wolf Creek is a tributary of the Bear and Sacramento Rivers.

Grass Valley maintains a storm drainage system within the portion of the City lying within the Wolf Creek watershed. A *Storm Drainage Master Plan* (SDMP) prepared in 1986 is the basis

for drainage evaluation, planning, and facility programming. The system consists of storm drains, modified channels, and natural channels. The City provides storm drainage facilities that prevent inundation flood hazard and ponding of local storm water and carries such water to downstream areas. According to the *1997 Sphere of Influence Plan Update (Master Services Element)*; future improvements will include maintenance of the existing system, up-sizing storm drains, construction of new storm drains and channel improvements (concrete lining) to accommodate new development within the City boundaries and Sphere of Influence.

The northwesterly portion of the Planning Area lies within the Deer Creek drainage basin. The City is contemplating joint development of a coordinated regional master drainage plan with Nevada County within the next five years, to include both the Wolf Creek and Deer Creek basins.

Figure 6-4 shows the area served by Grass Valley's storm drainage system.

FIRE PROTECTION

The Grass Valley Fire Department provides fire protection service within the City boundaries, servicing a resident population of approximately 9,475 (January 1, 1998 Department of Finance estimate).

The Grass Valley Fire Department (GVFD) has approximately thirty volunteer fire fighters and employs nine full-time positions consisting of a Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Administrative Clerk and six Engineers and Firefighters.

The Department maintains four fire stations: Fire Station No. 1 at 472 Brighton Street, Fire Station No. 2 at 139 East Main Street, Fire Station No. 3 at 108 Race Street and Fire Station No. 4 at 1445 East Main Street, which is a temporary facility. The Department's equipment inventory includes five engines, one aerial ladder truck and one rescue vehicle.

Five year plans currently call for consolidation of fire facilities to two locations: Fire Station No. 1 at its existing location to serve the western portion of the City, and a new Fire Station No. 2 near the Sierra College campus, to serve the eastern portion of the City.

The Ophir Hill Fire District and Nevada County Consolidated Fire District provide fire protection service to unincorporated areas of the Planning Area surrounding Grass Valley.

More detailed information about fire protection services and arrangements, including a map of fire station locations, is found in Chapter Eleven, **Safety**.

POLICE/ANIMAL CONTROL

The Grass Valley Police Department (GVPD) provides police and animal control services within the incorporated boundaries of the City.

The GVPD headquarters is located at 129 S. Auburn Street. The Department maintains an animal control facility at the Public Works yard on Freeman Lane.

The GVPD provides 24-hour service with personnel consisting of twenty sworn officers (approximately one sworn officer per 500 residents), a Chief, a Captain, a Lieutenant, four Sergeants, thirteen Patrol Officers and eight non-sworn support personnel. The Police Department also has six reserve police officers and twenty-five senior citizen patrol volunteers.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department has jurisdiction within the City boundaries. The Department has responsibility for streets and street lighting, drainage systems, water and wastewater systems, and parks/recreation facilities. In addition, the Department is responsible for all City vehicle maintenance.

The Public Works Department yard is located at 554 Freeman Lane and provides street maintenance and vehicle equipment repair. The current levels of service are 7.6 miles of streets per worker per year; 195 miles of sweeping per worker per year; 48 pieces of equipment maintenance per worker; 100-drop inlet (drainage maintenance) per worker per year; and 5,000 linear feet of drainage system maintenance per worker per year. As of May, 1998 the City had 39-3/4 miles of dedicated public roadways.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

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

The City owns and maintains six park/recreation facilities. These include two community parks (Memorial Park and Condon Park) and four neighborhood parks, ranging in size from 0.3 to 1.7 acres.

Memorial Park is fully developed as a recreation facility, although plans call for a complete remodel of the existing Scout Lodge. The Park includes a Video History Museum.

Condon Park is only partially developed. The Love Building (Community Center) occupies a portion of Condon Park near Minnie Street. Two lighted ballfields, a "disk golf" course and planned skateboard park represent active recreational facilities. The majority of the park remains in wooded open space.

The City contracts with Nevada County for the right to operate the Pelton Wheel Museum/Glen Jones Park. In turn, the City contracts out the operation and maintenance to the Nevada County Historical Society.

Brighton (Minnie Street Park), Elizabeth Daniels Park in downtown Grass Valley, and Dow Alexander Park are designated neighborhood parks, serving nearby areas.

An inventory of City owned or leased and 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 Park (Minnie Street), 1.6 acres
- Dow Alexander Park, 0.5 acres
- Elizabeth Daniels Park, 0.3 acres

Two notable park/recreation facilities owned and operated by entities other than the City of Grass Valley are the Nevada County Country Club and the Sierra College Athletic Field. The Nevada County Country Club is a nine-hole public golf course located on East Main Street. The Sierra College Athletic Field is under development and scheduled for completion in Fall, 1998. The facility will be available to community organizations for soccer and other large-field sporting needs.

Acreages of the two existing, non-city owned facilities are:

- Nevada County Country Club, 58 acres
- Sierra College Athletic Field, 8 acres (rounded)

Three park/recreation facilities are in various stages of implementation, yet remain in the “proposed” category as of October, 1998.

The Morgan Ranch Park has been offered for dedication to the City, and the dedication has been accepted. However, the proposed parkland currently remains undeveloped open space.

A proposed community park is planned for Mulcahy Field, a 12+ acre area at the City water reservoir/water treatment plant. Mulcahy Field and the water treatment grounds are within the City Limits but surrounded by Nevada County unincorporated area.

The Wolf Creek Parkway, a streamside linear park of approximately 25 acres, is proposed to run along Wolf Creek within the City Limits. Intended as an “urban trail,” the Wolf Creek Parkway was first mentioned in the 1972 Grass Valley General Plan. Two open space easement dedications have been offered to the City to date, but neither has been accepted. Exact boundaries and dimensions of the Wolf Creek Parkway have not been determined.

The inventory of planned/proposed City park and recreation facilities follows:

- Wolf Creek Parkway (Proposed, extent to be determined, multiple ownership), 25 acres
- Mulcahy Field (Proposed as park, owned by City), 12.5 acres
- Morgan Ranch Park (Dedication to City accepted, park development pending), 4.1 acres (rounded)

Table 6-1 shows acreages and per capita acreages of existing and proposed recreation facilities in Grass Valley.

**TABLE 6-1
ACREAGE & PER CAPITA ACREAGE
PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES**

	Acreage	Acreage/1,000 Pop
Existing Park/Recreation Facilities	158.5	16.73
City-Owned	92.5	9.76
Other Entities-Owned	66.0	6.97
Proposed/Planned Facilities	41.6	4.39
City	41.6	4.39
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.

Using the standard employed by Nevada County in the 1995 County General Plan Update, urban areas should have a minimum of 9.5 acres of public parkland per 1,000 residents. As Table 6-1 shows, the City of Grass Valley has slightly more parkland per capita than the County standard, with 9.76 acres per 1,000 population. As with all standards, however, per capita park acreage must be evaluated based upon local needs and preferences. It should be noted that Condon Park, alone, accounts for over 86% of City park acreage, compared to 14% for the City's other five parks.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE UNINCORPORATED PLANNING AREA

Substantial acreage is devoted to park and recreation facilities outside the Grass Valley City Limits but within the Planning Area. Notable facilities are the Empire Mine State Park and the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

Empire Mine State Park is a part of the 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, natural areas, and several miles of foot trails.

The Nevada County Fairgrounds is a 100 acre facility owned and maintained by the State Fairgrounds Authority. The Fairgrounds is classified as a regional park. The annual Nevada

County Fair and other cultural and recreational activities take place at the Fairgrounds, which are used year-round. The Fairgrounds house several community facilities, including the Senior Citizens Building.