

Grass Valley

Parks and Recreation
Master Plan



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1. INTRODUCTION

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Grass Valley is a small community of approximately 10,000, located in the gold mining country of Nevada County, California. The City of Grass Valley and surrounding areas are expected to grow by 33% in the next 20 years. Quality-of-life is an important issue to residents of Grass Valley, who particularly value the City's small-town, rural character, sense of place and history, and proximity to open space. Parks and recreation services provide opportunities for community gathering, and for the enjoyment of the area's tremendous natural resources.

PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

To assist in maintaining Grass Valley's livability, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City have set out to create the first Grass Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan describes how the City will strive to provide parks and recreation opportunities to residents for the next 20 years. This planning process provided the community with an opportunity to evaluate the parks and recreation programs, and to develop a vision that recognizes the anticipated changes and reflects the needs of the residents.

Grass Valley's parks and recreation function has historically consisted of acquiring, developing, and maintaining traditional parks. Future recreational needs will be assessed and accommodated more effectively by following the Grass Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan will guide the City's response to demographic changes in the community, and new developments in the field of parks and recreation management.

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to establish policy, set standards, identify and prioritize capital investments, and address operational and fiscal issues regarding parks and recreation facilities and programs in Grass Valley. The Master Plan will become a working document for parks and recreation staff, to be used for budget planning, developer guidelines, and coordination efforts with other county agencies and districts.

The Grass Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Needs Assessment
- Chapter 3: Vision
- Chapter 4: Recommendations
- Chapter 5: Funding Program

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

The current population of Grass Valley is approximately 10,000, with a total of 16,000 in the planning area. The Planning Area includes the city limits as well as adjacent unincorporated areas of Nevada County. The unincorporated areas are included in the planning area because they (1) are likely to be annexed in the future, (2) affect and are affected by the city, and

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(3) receive or might reasonably be expected to receive city services. To determine future community needs, anticipated changes in the city population were studied. The following are the most important facts and trends:

- The population will increase dramatically within the Planning Area, growing by approximately 33% from 16,000 in 1998, to an estimated 24,000 in the year 2020.
- Households will become smaller and more diverse. In addition to traditional nuclear families, the Recreation and Park Commission will need to recognize the varied needs of people living in nursing and foster care homes, single parent families, persons living alone, and people with disabilities.
- As California becomes more diverse, Grass Valley will experience changes in the City's cultural and ethnic composition over the next 20 years.
- Nearly 60% of the Grass Valley residents currently rent their dwelling units. Significant amounts of high-density, rental housing increases the need for park and recreational opportunities.
- Grass Valley is a popular retirement community with a high proportion of senior residents. By 2020, residents 45 years and older will represent 50.8% of the City's population. These residents have specific recreational needs such as low-impact sports, swimming, weight training, etc. Residents will also need community facilities to house senior programs and activities.
- Almost 75% of Grass Valley's population are active adults (25 and older). Today's changing attitudes towards maintaining healthy lifestyles will contribute to a high demand for a wide variety of recreational activities.
- New jobs in technology have attracted younger families to Grass Valley, increasing demand for more active types of recreation and organized sports programs.

As the City's population grows and becomes more diverse, parks and recreation services must also grow and change to meet the needs of the community. Grass Valley has an abundance of natural features and resources that contribute to the quality of life. As a result, growth and new development are attracted to the resources Grass Valley offers. The growth of the City has increased the demand for parks, open space, and recreational needs. Consequently, the Recreation and Park Commission has a pivotal role to play in shaping the future of the City. With continued community support, the recreational goals of Grass Valley can be met and the City's resources will be protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Grass Valley enjoys a tremendous natural setting in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Residents value the city's aesthetic attributes, particularly views of the hillsides and regional open space. Major streams in the area include the South Fork of Wolf Creek and Little Wolf Creek, which flow into Wolf Creek in the central Grass Valley area. Stream corridors

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provide valuable wildlife habitat and are sensitive to alteration. Additionally, Grass Valley's flood protection ordinance requires a 100-foot building setback from streams and rivers subject to flooding. These factors make riparian corridors ideal for trails and open space preservation.

Grass Valley also has a rich history in the mining industry, beginning with the Gold Rush of 1849. Many of the city's historic homes, hotels, saloons, and other structures are still used today, contributing to the town's unique character. Residents strongly support historical preservation and interpretation.

POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Grass Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been developed under the guidance of the City's newly established Parks and Recreation Commission. The Master Plan is part of an ongoing General Plan update. Additionally, the Master Plan addresses planned annexations, which will create additional demand for recreation needs as well as opportunities for providing parks and recreation resources.

Parks and Recreation Commission

In January 1999, the City of Grass Valley authorized the creation of a Parks and Recreation Commission to meet rising public expectations and expanding definitions of recreation. The City identified the following scope of duties for the Commission, which has guided the development of the Master Plan:

- Emphasize recreation programs, organized activities and events.
- Recognize the demand for non-traditional recreational facilities such as trails, cultural facilities, and natural open space.
- Address community demographic and development patterns.
- Determine park and recreation needs, standards, and levels of service.
- Assess the opportunities available through private recreation providers in designing programs that best meet the needs of the community, complementing rather than competing with private providers.

Grass Valley General Plan Update

The Master Plan is an extension of the City of Grass Valley's 2020 General Plan, which will guide the City's development over the next 20 years. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan must be consistent with the City's General Plan policy framework and standards. Since the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed concurrently with the General Plan update, the Master Plan reflects the planning assumptions and community visions presented in the General Plan.



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The goals and objectives under the Recreation Element of the 2020 General Plan for the City of Grass Valley call for expanded and diverse recreational programs, areas, and opportunities, and for providing additional cultural opportunities for the community. Tables 1 and 2 highlight the policies presented in the General Plan.

Table 1: Recreation Policies under the 2020 General Plan for the City of Grass Valley

1-RP	Provide parks and open spaces of different sizes and types to respond to the needs of a diverse population, including trails for pedestrian and equestrian use, bicycle pathways, linear parkways and park-like natural areas.
2-RP	Increase the standard of park acreage to population.
3-RP	Distinguish neighborhood park needs from community and regional park needs.
4-RP	Establish a City-sponsored open space district to operate and manage existing and future open space resources.
5-RP	Formalize and enhance walking trails in existing City parks.
6-RP	Provide non-motorized linkages between parks and open spaces.
7-RP	Include a map in the General Plan designating a trails network for the Planning Area.
8-RP	Cooperate with other jurisdictions to address regional park and recreation needs.
9-RP	Develop performing arts in various venues, including a performing arts center.
10-RP	Expand the existing library as a cultural venue.
11-RP	Create a public plaza in downtown for community events and activities.
12-RP	Support efforts to establish a community center for mixed ages and a variety of uses.

Table 2: Open Space Policies under the 2020 General Plan for the City of Grass Valley

2-COSP	Establish active program of land/development rights acquisitions in order to protect sensitive environmental areas and features.
3-COSP	Encourage clustering, density averaging and other techniques to preserve open space and natural systems.
4-COSP	Establish standards for inclusion and management of permanent open space in new developments.
7-COSP	Recognize and reinforce Grass Valley's public park system.
10-COSP	Establish a City trail network program for friendly acquisitions, development and administration of a natural trails system.
11-COSP	Return to open space those areas within which flooding poses a clear danger to life and property.
18-COSP	Develop agreements with Nevada County on a strategy for conservation and open space protection within the Grass Valley Planning area and sphere of influence.
19-COSP	Enlist appropriate efforts and interest of state and federal agencies and private foundations regarding conservation and open space protection.



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Annexations

The City of Grass Valley has entered into annexation agreements with a number of properties, including Loma Rica, North Star, Kenny Ranch, Bear River Mill, and Glenbrook. These properties, which will be developed in the near future, include plans for community parks and open space, and bike and trail linkages.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Master Plan Project Team consisted of City staff members from several departments, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, Public Works Department, Planning Department, and City Administrator, and a consulting team of environmental planners, community involvement specialists, landscape architects, and park and recreation professionals. The process has included:

- A site and program inventory of existing Grass Valley parks and open space;
- Meetings with stakeholders and city staff;
- Document review;
- Comparative standards analysis of similar communities;
- Two community workshops; and
- Meetings with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council.

The Grass Valley community showed its support and interest in the park planning process through its enthusiastic attendance of two community workshops. Over 100 people attended the first community workshop in April 2000. The planning team presented the overall planning process and goals for the project. Community members participated in a brainstorming session and group discussions regarding trails and undeveloped park sites (Mulcahy Field and Morgan Ranch), developed park sites (Elizabeth Daniels, Dow Alexander, Condon, Minnie, Memorial, Glenn Jones), and funding issues. At the second workshop, the planning team presented the draft recommendations for developed and undeveloped parks, future sites, and trails. The recommendations of this Master Plan reflect the additional input received at these meetings.



1. INTRODUCTION

Annotations
The City of Grass Valley has entered into partnership agreements with a number of partners, including Forest River, North Star, Kerry Ranch, Bear River Mill, and Clearfork. These partnerships, which will be developed in the near future, include plans for community trails and open space, and bike and trail linkages.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Master Plan Project Team consisted of City staff members from several departments, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, Public Works Department, Planning Department, and City Administrator, and a consulting team of environmental planning consultants. The project also included landscape architects, and parks and recreation professionals. The planning process has included:

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- Meetings with stakeholders and city staff.
- Document review.
- Comparative standards analysis of similar communities.
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- Meetings with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council.

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2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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The needs assessment identifies how the Grass Valley parks and recreation system can be improved to meet the needs of its residents. This Master Plan looks first at existing recreational resources and their condition, and then compares the existing resources to community needs based on newly developed facility standards. Chapter 2 includes the following sections:

- **Recreation Resources:** Descriptions of the city's park and recreation resources.
- **Recreation Inventory and Evaluation:** Assessment of recreational facilities and programs.
- **Standards:** Establishment of park and recreational facility standards for Grass Valley.
- **Community Needs Assessment:** Assessment of future park and recreation needs, based on community input and comparison of existing facilities against standards.

RECREATION RESOURCES

Parks and recreation systems are comprised of a number of different types of resources, facilities, and programs, including the following. See Table 3 for detailed parkland matrix definitions. Park types within the city of Grass Valley may include:

- **Urban Plaza:** Publicly owned and used spaces that act as civic and neighborhood activity focal points.
- **Pocket Park:** Local park within biking and walking distance of users, can be co-located with elementary school.
- **Neighborhood Park:** Local park within biking and walking distance of users, can be co-located with elementary school.
- **Community Park:** Park that provides active and passive recreational opportunities for all city residents. Accommodates large group activities and organized sports play, usually larger than a neighborhood park
- **Regional Park:** Larger park that provides active and passive recreational opportunities for all city and regional residents, and accommodates large group activities. Regional parks often include key natural resources such as lakes, streams, or other attractions.
- **Trails:** A 4-to 6-foot, soft-surfaced pedestrian path separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier. Its route may be aligned with or independent of a street right-of-way.
- **Multi-Use Trail:** An 8-to 10-foot wide, hard-surfaced path separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier. Its route may be aligned with or independent of the street right-of-way, and is often located along greenways.

City-owned and operated parks are not the only recreation resource available to residents. The community also utilizes school facilities (e.g., ball fields, gymnasiums), and privately operated recreation facilities (e.g., country clubs, athletic clubs), and the Empire State Mine. City-owned park facilities should complement those resources provided through other agencies.



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 3: Parkland Definitions

PARK CATEGORY	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE/SCOPE	SERVICE AREA	ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION	INCLUDES
Urban Plaza <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public plazas/ town squares, historical markers (Elizabeth Daniels) 	High-use public area within high-density urban developments and along transit corridors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public plazas/ town squares are publicly owned and used spaces that act as civic and neighborhood activity focal points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the day to day rest/leisure needs of nearby residents and employees, as well as shoppers, transit-users, and recreators Provides space for community events Communicates community character 	1/2 acre to 3+ acres	Service area—variable	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-purpose paved areas Children's play areas Public art/Fountains Landscaping Seating Small cafes, retail, or dining areas Multipurpose performance space Civic structures and kiosks Signage, lighting, news racks, banners, etc. Vendor areas
Pocket Park (Dow Alexander, Glenn Jones)	Local park located within biking and walking distance of users, co-located with elementary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides convenient access to active recreation opportunities for nearby residents of all ages Contributes to neighborhood identity 	¼ to 2 acres	Serves neighborhoods within ½ mile	0.25 to 0.50 acres/1000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's play area Picnic area with seating Flat area for entire site Paths Lighting Open space On-street parking
Neighborhood Park (Minnie, Morgan Ranch)	Local park located within biking and walking distance of users, co-located with elementary school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides convenient access to active recreation opportunities for nearby residents of all ages Contributes to neighborhood identity 	2 to 12 acres	Serves neighborhoods within ½ mile	1 to 2 acres/ 1000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's play areas Sports facilities including paved courts and sports fields with or without lighting Picnic areas, seating Access to Elementary School restrooms or portable restrooms Paths Flat areas (1/2 of site minimum) public street access/face (minimum of two sides) Lighting (poles or bollards) Electrical outlets Open space Parking Public Art Community Gardens
Community Park (Mulcahy, Memorial)	Larger park that provides active and passive recreational opportunities for all city residents. Accommodates large group activities and organized sports play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities for all age groups Provides environmental education opportunities Serves recreation needs of families Provides opportunities for community social activities Provides for sports facilities 	13-50 acres	Service area radius of 2 miles	2-3 acres/ 1000 population (5 acres/1000 in combination with neighborhood park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's play areas Sports facilities including tennis and basketball courts, multiple sports fields, skate parks On and off-street parking Permanent restrooms Public art/Fountains Single and group picnic areas Paths Lighting (poles or bollards) Seating Natural areas Water features Swimming pools Interpretive facilities Multi-purpose centers Large expansive flat areas (7 to 10 acres) Public street access/face (minimum of two sides)
Regional Park (Condon, Empire Mine)	Larger park that provides active and passive recreational opportunities for all city and regional residents. Accommodate large group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a variety of accessible recreational opportunities for all age groups Provides environmental educational opportunities Serves recreational needs of families Provides opportunities for community social activities 	50 or more acres	Serves entire region	5 to 10 acres/1000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's play areas Off-street parking Public art/fountains Paths Natural areas Community Centers / Amphitheatres Swimming pools Water features Public street access/face (minimum of two sides) Competitive sports facilities Permanent restrooms Single & group picnic areas Lighting Botanical gardens Festival Space Interpretive facilities Multi-purpose centers Expansive flat areas (15 acres minimum)
Trails	A 4-6 ft. wide, soft-surfaced trail separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier. Its route may be aligned with or independent of a street right-of-way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities for trail-related recreation Provides environmental education opportunities Maximizes environmental compatibility with sensitive resource areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacent to designated natural resource areas Within open space parts of community parks 	Variable	Sufficient to protect resources and to accommodate activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seating Signage Vehicle control barriers Landscaping Trailhead amenities such as bike racks and trash receptacles (picnic areas, small scale parking, and restrooms are provided in parks along the path)
Multi-Use Bike/Pedestrian Path	An 8- 10 ft. wide, hard-surfaced multi-use path separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier. Its route may be aligned with or independent of the street right-of-way. It will often be found in the greenways. <i>This is a Class I bikeway.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces auto-dependency Provides opportunities for trail-related recreation Provides environmental education opportunities Provides a fully accessible outdoor experience for people with disabilities Maximizes bike user and pedestrian safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within every greenway Along selected collectors and within selected neighbor-hoods Along parkway streets 	Variable	Sufficient to protect resources and to accommodate activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian crosswalks Curb ramps Seating Lighting Signage/Traffic signals Vehicle control barriers Landscaping Staging areas with amenities such as bike racks and trash receptacles (picnic areas, small scale parking, and restrooms are provided in parks along the path)



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RECREATION INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

Recreation Facilities

The Public Works Department conducted an inventory of the City's parks system in January 1999. Additionally, the planning team made site visits to identify recreational and open space opportunities within Grass Valley and surrounding areas contiguous with the City limits. Existing conditions were documented, and possible new components or reuses were considered for the sites.

The current parks and recreation system is comprised of approximately 108 acres of City park lands, and no formalized trails. The Empire Mine State Park, with 884 acres of open space and 8 miles of trails, is within the Planning Area. Local schools within the Planning Area provide approximately 24 acres of recreational space, including athletic fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and gymnasiums. City facilities include 2 baseball fields, 2 softball fields, 3 outdoor basketball courts, 4 tennis courts, 1 volleyball court, and a swimming pool.

Figure 1 shows the location of existing developed parks and undeveloped park sites in Grass Valley and adjacent areas. There are six developed parks (Glenn Jones, Elizabeth Daniels, Dow Alexander, Minnie, Condon, and Memorial), two undeveloped park sites (Mulcahy and Morgan Ranch), a state park (Empire Mine), and school sites with recreational resources within city limits (Hennessy), and in the Planning Area (Scotten, Lyman Gilmore, Nevada Union High School, and Sierra College). Additionally, there are several privately owned athletic clubs, and a privately operated driving range, golf course, and country club.

Table 4 on page 12 summarizes the findings of the facilities inventory.



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Table 4: Summary of Grass Valley Parks and Facilities - Built and Unbuilt

City Facilities	Total Facility Acreage	Summary Description and Possible Improvements
Urban Parks, Pocket Parks		
Dow Alexander	0.25	Pocket park for young children and neighborhood use. Upgrade play equipment, improve landscaping and accessibility, add restroom.
Elizabeth Daniels	0.16	Renovate site as urban plaza with benches, paving, art, modified restroom facility, kiosk, food vendors, access through plaza, stage area, two story building at end of park with retail on first floor, community organization on the 2nd floor.
Glenn Jones	2	Provide footpath along park edge/creek-side; continue current use and image.
Neighborhood Parks		
Minnie	2	Close Bulter Street; provide trail link to Condon; upgrade play equipment; install sidewalk around perimeter; enlarge grassy area.
Morgan Ranch (unbuilt)	4	Develop as passive recreation park with limited lawn, natural areas and trails (keep majority of trees); provide picnic tables, benches.
Community Parks		
Memorial	7.6	Upgrade/refurbish pool facility; improve parking and drop-off area; upgrade play lot; refurbish Scout Lodge; develop Memorial Trail; add tennis court; install sidewalks around perimeter.
Mukahy (unbuilt)	12.9	Soccer park with parking, restroom, trails, passive recreation, picnic, and play areas.
Regional Parks		
Condon	80	Improve visual entry into park; provide more parking; provide 2nd entry; provide additional play field; connect to Minnie Park with trail and landscaping; implement habitat management plan; formalize trail system linking park to school and surrounding neighbor
Trails (unbuilt)	0	Develop regional trail system linking key features: Wolf Creek, parks, schools, Nevada County trail system. Develop Historic Downtown Walk. Develop city trail system to link Grass Valley with future developments-Loma Rica, North Star, Glenbrook, Kenny Ranch, Bear River Mill.

2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Unincorporated areas that will be annexed in the near future also include parks and open space resources. Table 5 describes those resources.

Table 5: Planned Recreation Facilities

Annexation	Total Area	Parks/Open Space Area	Possible Key Features
Loma Rica Ranch	452+ acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 165 acres open space ▪ 50 acres recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lake MacBoyle ▪ Active Recreation ▪ Trails ▪ Equestrian Trail ▪ Music in the Mountains
North Star	760.46 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 175 acres open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Center (3-5 acres) ▪ Julia Morgan House ▪ Park Sites ▪ Schools (13+ acres)
Kenny Ranch	363.76 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 95.4 acres open space ▪ 8 acres recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trails ▪ Wildflower preserve
Glenbrook	400 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4 acres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lake Olympia ▪ Trails ▪ Park
Bear River Mill	70 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be determined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be determined

Note: The acreages listed in Table 5 reflect those proposed under the current Development Agreements. These figures may need to be revised as the developments proceed to ensure that the City meets the facility standards stated in this Master Plan.

Recreation Programs

Grass Valley has a number of local non-profit organizations that provide organized activities for the community, filling an important recreation need. These resources are a valuable component of Grass Valley's parks and recreation system. The non-profit organizations operate under Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) with the City, currently a fairly informal process. Appendix A lists the various providers of recreation programs.

Organized activities provided through these organizations include:

- Swimming
- Slow-pitch softball
- Baseball
- Adult softball
- Football



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- Soccer
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Boccie ball
- Skateboard park
- Scouts
- Senior Center activities

The City has recently hired a Recreation Coordinator. This staff position will coordinate facility use and programming, administer use agreements, collect statistics on the number of users, and serve as the contact person for discussions on park use, condition, and recreation programs offered. As the recreational demands increase, the coordinator will have a critical role in maximizing existing park resources and guiding future expansion of parks and recreation services.

PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY STANDARDS

The availability of park and recreation facilities and their ability to meet the recreational needs of the community is usually measured by facility standards. These standards are expressed quantitatively by the number of facilities needed to serve a certain number of residents (Eg., 5-8 acres of community parks per 1,000 population, 1 baseball field for every 5,000 population, etc).

Grass Valley's uniqueness makes it difficult to set facility standards. Communities as small as Grass Valley generally do not develop park and recreation master plans, and generally do not set facility standards for their communities. In addition, Nevada County also lacks both a county-wide recreation plan and any form of recreational facility standards. As a result, there are no statistics or plans available for comparably sized communities that could be used as a baseline. The planning team instead used a selection of northern California cities that have excelled in planning and providing for the park and recreational needs of their citizens. A comparison of park acreage and recreational facility standards for these communities is shown in Table 6 on the following page.

This Master Plan sets park and facility standards for Grass Valley as shown in Table 7 on page 16. The standards are set using an average of the standards from example communities. The NRPA park and facility standards were also considered. By setting these standards, the City is committing to ensuring that these resources are provided to meet the needs of the growing community. These standards may be adjusted in the future to account for changing recreational preferences and needs.



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Table 6: Comparison of Recreational Facility Standards

City/Agency	Current Population	Baseball Fields (1 per)	Softball Fields (1 per)	Soccer Fields (1 per)	Football/Rugby Fields (1 per)	Outdoor Basketball (1 per)	Indoor Basketball (1 per)	Tennis Courts (1 per)	Volleyball (1 per)	Swimming Pools (1 per)	Gym (1 per)
NRPA		5,000	5,000	10,000	20,000	5,000		2,000	5,000	20,000	
Grass Valley, CA (1)	16,000										
Davis, CA	47,000	2,500	7,750	2,500		5,000	20,000	2,000	9,000	11,000	21,500
Roseville, CA	71,600	6,000	3,500	3,500		1,000	8,000	2,000		20,000	
Auburn RPD CA	60,000	5,000				5,000		2,000	5,000		20,000
Elk Grove Community Service District, CA	65,000	3,000	5,000	2,500		10,000		2,500	10,000	25,000	
Dublin, CA	26,000	1,600	5,000	2,000		4,000		2,500		20,000	
Chico, CA	54,100	10,000	4,500	3,000				1,500			
Woodland, CA	45,000	5,000	5,000	5,500	10,000	10,000		5,000	8,500	20,000	51,000
Vacaville, CA	87,700		2,750	4,000		5,000	32,000		10,000	32,000	32,000
Gresham, OR	84,000	2,500	2,750	2,000	2,000	1,500		4,000	8,500	20,000	15,000
Pleasanton, CA	50,553	1,100	5,000	1,100	20,000	5,000		2,000	5,000		
Average/Mean	52,489	4,763	4,813	4,125	15,000	5,625	20,000	2,438	7,917	21,143	31,125
Range	16,000-87,700	1,100-10,000	2,750-7,750	1,100-10,000	10,000-20,000	2,000-10,000	8,000-32,000	1,500-5,000	5,000-10,000	11,000-32,000	20,000-51,000

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Recreation Facilities

During community meetings, residents indicated a preference for the development of the following facilities:

- Baseball - adults, kids
- Softball - adults, kids
- Soccer - large fields, adult championship size
- Tennis courts
- Better pool facilities
- Year round pool/indoor pool
- Gym
- Multi-generational facility
- Lighting for athletic fields
- Safe trails, bikeways to get to schools, parks, and for recreation
- Parking



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 7: Park Standards for Grass Valley

Park Type	Standard (acres/1,000 pop)	Recreation Facility	Standard (per population)
Urban Plaza	No Standard	Baseball Fields	1 per 4,800
Pocket Parks	.25 - .5 acres per 1,000	Softball Fields	1 per 4,800
Neighborhood Park	1-2 acres per 1,000	Soccer Fields	1 per 4,100
Community Park	5-8 acres per 1,000	Football Fields	1 per 15,000
Regional Park	5-10 acres per 1,000	Outdoor Basketball	1 per 5,600
Trails	1 system per region	Tennis Courts	1 per 2,400
Multi-Use Bicycle/ Pedestrian Path	1 system per region	Volleyball	1 per 7,900
		Swimming Pools	21,100
		Gym	31,100

Tables 8 and 9 compare current park and recreation facilities to facility standards to determine the number and type of new facilities needed to meet current demand (16,000 population) as well as anticipated demand over the next twenty years (24,000 population). Table 8 determines the need for new parks and Table 9 determines the need for recreation facilities.

Table 8: Park Standards and Needs (see footnotes at end of Table 9)

Park Type This includes Morgan Ranch & Mulcahy in total acreage	Standard ⁽¹⁾	Existing City Park Area	Other Park/ Open Space ⁽²⁾	Total Available Area ⁽³⁾ .16	Total Area Needed to Meet Standard (current pop ⁽⁴⁾)	Additional Area Needed to Meet Standard (current pop ⁽⁴⁾)	Total Area Needed to Meet Standard (projected pop ⁽⁵⁾) 2020	Additional Area Needed to Meet Standard (projected pop ⁽⁵⁾) 2020
Urban Plaza	As Needed	.16	---	---	---	---	---	---
Pocket Parks	.25 - .5 acres per 1,000	2.25		2.25	4-8 acres	3.75-7.5 acres	6-12 acres	5.75-11.5 acres
Neighborhood Park (incl. Morgan Ranch)	1-2 acres per 1,000	6	---	6	16-32 acres	10-26 acres	24-48 acres	18-42 acres
Community Park (incl. Mulcahy)	5-8 acres per 1,000	20.5	---	20.5	80-128 acres	59.5-107.5 acres	120-192 acres	99.5-17.5 acres
Regional Park	5-10 acres per 1,000	80 Condon	884 ⁽⁶⁾	964	0	0	0	0
Trails ⁽⁷⁾	1 system per region	None	8 ⁽⁶⁾	NA	1 system	1 system	1 system	1 system
Multi-Use Bicycle/Pedes- trian Path ⁽⁷⁾	1 system per region	None	None	NA	1 system	1 system	1 system	1 system



2 . N E E D S A S S E S S M E N T

Table 9: Recreation Facility Standards and Needs

Recreation Facility	Standard ⁽¹⁾	Existing City Facilities	Other Facilities ⁽²⁾	Total Available Facilities ^(3, 8)	Total Facilities Needed to Meet Standard (current pop ⁽⁴⁾)	Additional Facilities Needed to Meet Standard (current pop ⁽⁴⁾)	Total Facilities Needed to Meet Standard (projected pop ⁽⁵⁾)	Additional Facilities Needed to Meet Standard (projected pop ⁽⁵⁾)
Baseball Fields	4,800	2	2	3	3	none	5	2
Softball Fields	4,800	2	3	3.5	3	none	5	2
Soccer Fields	4,100	0	4	2	4	2	6	4
Football Fields	15,000	0	1	0.5	1	1	1	1
Outdoor Basketball	5,600	3	2	4	2	none	4	none
Tennis Courts	2,400	4	1	4.5	7	3	9	5
Volleyball	7,900	1	3	2.5	2	none	3	1
Swimming Pools	21,100	1	1	1.5	1	none	1	1
Gym	31,100	0	3	0	1	none	1	1
Community Center	NA	0	0	0	1	1	1	1

Notes:

- (1) Each entry represents the number of people to be served by one facility, e.g., for every 4,800 people, Grass Valley will need one baseball field.
- (2) Includes Nevada Joint Union High School, Sierra Foothills High School, and Sierra College
- (3) This number is adjusted to reflect that school facilities are not always available for public use:
Total Available Facilities = (No. of City Facilities) + (½ x No. of Other Facilities)
- (4) Based on current planning area population of 16,000.
- (5) Based on projected planning area population of 24,000 for the year 2020.
- (6) Empire State Mine.
- (7) The City will be performing additional studies to investigate, plan, and develop trail systems to meet current and projected needs.
- (8) Gymnasiums associated with public schools and private sport centers are generally not available due to the volume of use by existing programs.

Recreation Programs

The Grass Valley community is an active one. Recreation programs are currently being developed and administered by private organizations to meet the needs of community members of all ages. This relieves the City of organizing and delivering these programs to the community. This arrangement is working well at this time. The City can continue to provide both indoor and outdoor space, and maintenance of the facilities for the recreation programs, while private



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

organizations organize and administer the programs. A detailed listing of the recreation program providers is included in Appendix A. The City has hired a Recreation Coordinator who may develop and administer recreation programs as demand increases

Major findings relating to recreation programs include the following:

- The softball, baseball, and swimming organizations report that they are not able to enroll all those who want to participate due to facility limitations.
- Gymnasiums associated with public schools and private sport centers are generally not available for City programming. School facilities are not available while school is in session and have limited access outside of school hours. Private facilities have an obligation to their membership and may not be available for City recreational programs.
- Some of the programming issues can be improved by more efficient scheduling of field and court space, thereby accommodating the number of potential players.
- Programs and facilities are needed that appeal to the growing senior population. This includes a year-round swimming facility and a central location for senior and multi-generational activities.
- The Memorial Park Swimming Pool is not large enough to serve demand and has limited operation during the winter due to climactic conditions. A large indoor swimming pool would provide recreational swimming programs year-round for a wide range of users.
- Programs and facilities are needed that appeal to Grass Valley's growing seniors population. The current senior center has limited hours of operation and is subject to a lease agreement.
- A community center with a gymnasium/auditorium, and indoor swimming pool, and meeting space for seniors programs would serve as a year-round, multi-generational recreation center for Grass Valley. By developing a facility with these components, the City may realize a savings in construction and management costs.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

For many of the active sports programs there is an adequate amount of existing field space. Field space can be used more efficiently by coordinating scheduling and field maintenance. Having lighted fields can also extend playing time and, therefore, ease scheduling constraints. However, there are concerns that need to be weighed against the extended playtime lighted fields offer. It must be determined whether or not it is possible to install lights at existing fields, and how to mitigate any light pollution (i.e., providing shrouded lamps). Additionally, electricity costs must be included in the City's budget analysis.

User groups can continue to contribute to the maintenance of the facilities they use. However, responsibilities and maintenance standards need to be clearly defined in the Memoranda of Understanding and followed. Joint-use agreements can be established with school districts, clearly delineating the standards of maintenance and installation, and general responsibilities.



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Through joint-use agreements and Memorandums of Understanding, the City of Grass Valley can reduce some of its need to acquire more active recreational park land, and minimize increases in park maintenance staffing levels.

There are two museums in Grass Valley, the Pelton Mining Museum at Glenn Jones Park, and the Video Museum at Memorial Park. Two other organizations would like to secure a location for the display of historical carriages and historic fire engines. These played an important role in Grass Valley's history. At this time, there is no City-owned property that can house these historic vehicles. These museums offer a passive recreational venue both for residents and tourists. They are a source of community pride and they provide opportunities for volunteerism.

An increase in the active, senior population is placing demands on the programs and facilities that exist now, and this demand will continue to increase. The Senior Center has outgrown its current space at the Nevada County Fairgrounds and its lease expires in 2006. During the community workshops, the senior community expressed its desire to be part of a multi-generational community center. The senior community has formed a group that is investigating both site and funding sources to that end. The City and County should be involved in the development, construction, and programming of a multi-generational community center. This is an opportunity for the City and County to partner with non-profit organizations to bring about this long-term goal. The implementation of these facilities will place the City at a higher level of recreational involvement than they are now. As the population increases, it will not be possible to meet the user demand through schools and Memorial Park facilities.

As the hub of Western Nevada County, the City of Grass Valley serves a population far greater than its own. At this time, there is no arrangement with Nevada County for financial reimbursement for use by county residents of City facilities and programs. With the addition of a recreational coordinator, Grass Valley can compile user statistics, facility demand, maintenance costs, and other data. Grass Valley and Nevada County Planning Departments can then enter into an informed discussion of revenue sharing.



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Through joint-use agreements and Memorandums of Understanding, the City of Grass Valley can reduce some of its need to support more active recreational park land and related increases in park maintenance staffing levels.

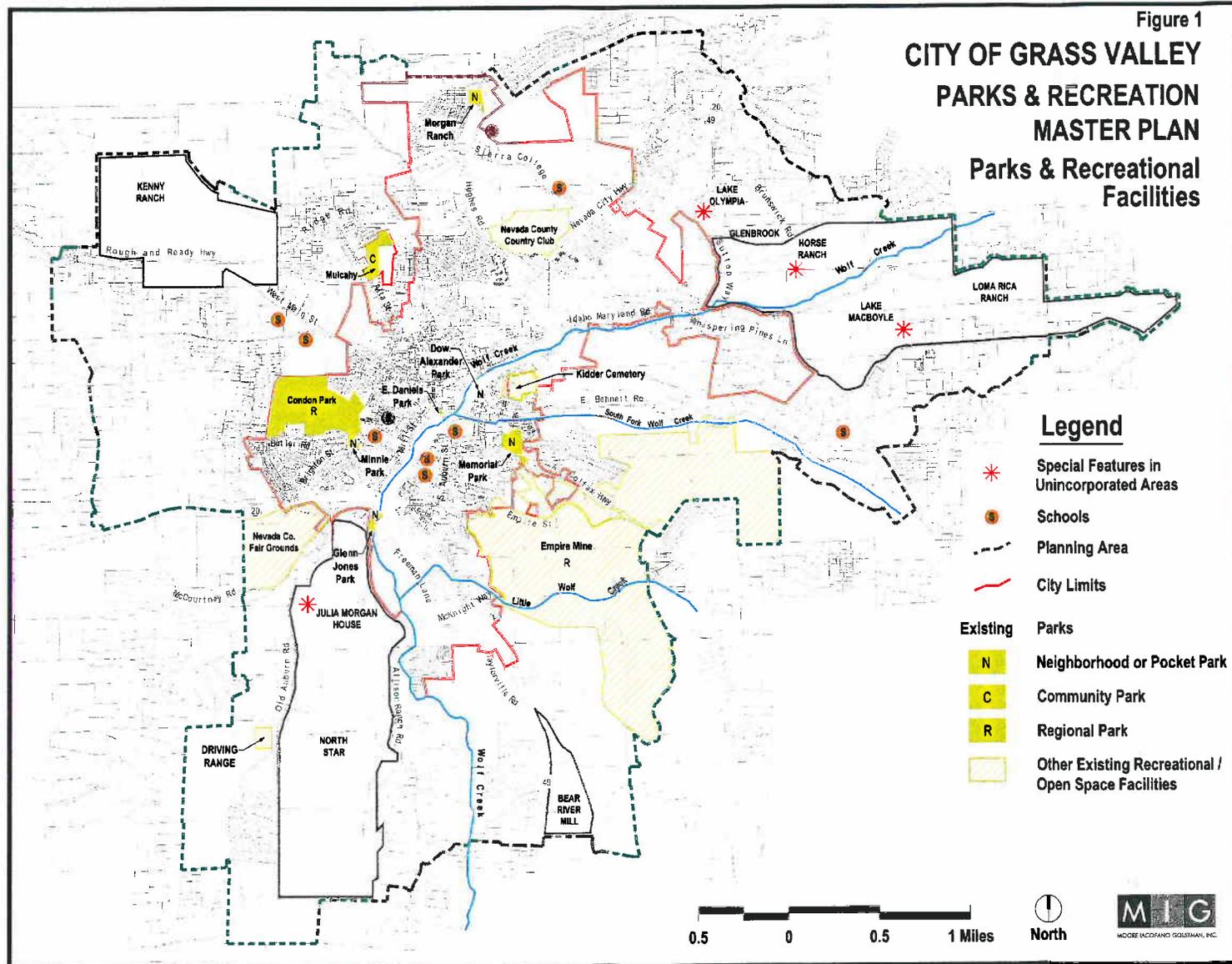
There are two museums in Grass Valley, the Yellow Mining Museum in Green Jewel, and the Vinton Museum at Mineral Park. Two other organizations would like to secure a location for the display of historical artifacts and historic fire engines. These goals are important to Grass Valley's history. At this time, there is no City-owned property that can house these historic vehicles. These museums offer a passive recreational venue both for residents and tourists. They are a source of community pride and they provide opportunities for volunteer tourism.

An increase in the active senior population is placing demands on the systems and facilities that exist now and the demand will continue to increase. The Senior Center has only one in current space at the Nevada County Fairgrounds and its lease expires in 2012. During the community workshop, the senior community expressed its desire to be part of a multi-generational community center. The senior community has formed a group that is working with the funding sources to this end. The City and County should be involved in the development, construction and programming of a multi-generational community center. This is an opportunity for the City and County to partner with non-profit organizations to bring about the long-term goal. The implementation of these facilities will place the City at a higher level of recreational investment than they are now. As the population increases, it will not be possible to meet the user demand through schools and Memorial Park facilities.

As the half of Western Nevada County, the City of Grass Valley serves a population far greater than its own. At the time, there is no arrangement with Nevada County for financial reimbursement for use by county residents of City facilities and programs. With the addition of recreational corridors, Grass Valley can compile user statistics, facility demand, maintenance costs, and other data. Grass Valley and Nevada County Planning Departments can feed this into an informed discussion of revenue sharing.



3. NEEDS ASSESSMENT





3. VISION

3. VISION

GOALS / VISION

The vision for Grass Valley's park and recreation system emerged from the Master Plan community involvement process and forms the basis for the Master Plan recommendations. Parks, recreation programs and facilities, open space, and trails are essential elements in enhancing the quality of life in Grass Valley. They foster health, active lifestyles, strengthen a sense of community, protect the environment, contribute to a healthy economy, and prevent crime. The goal of the City of Grass Valley is to provide an interconnected parks and recreation system that:

- Provides diverse opportunities for active, passive, and unprogrammed recreation to all residents;
- Provides significant acreage with level surface areas for athletic fields;
- Brings park facilities up to ADA standards for accessibility;
- Addresses the increased demand for parks and recreation facilities;
- Explores ways to generate revenue to support park facilities and programs;
- Ensures adequate funding, staffing, and maintenance for park facilities and programs;
- Develops a safe and integrated trail system for bikes and pedestrians;
- Establishes design standards for future parks, trails and open space;
- Provides sufficient facilities and programs to meet the needs of Grass Valley's growing population;
- Ensures an equitable distribution of recreation resources throughout the Planning Area;
- Builds and maintain partnerships with schools and non-profit organizations to optimize funding and facility resources and to improve recreational opportunities; and
- Provides for effective and economically sound management of public resources.



3. VISION

GOALS VISION

The vision for Glass Valley's park and recreation system emerged from the Master Plan. Community involvement process and forms the basis for the Master Plan recommendations. Parks, recreation programs and facilities, open space, and trails are essential elements in enhancing the quality of life in Glass Valley. They foster healthy active living for a sustainable sense of community, protect the environment, contribute to a healthy economy, and create a sense of well-being. The goal of the City of Glass Valley is to provide an interconnected park and recreation system that:

- Provides diverse opportunities for active, passive, and programmed recreation to all residents;
- Provides significant acreage with level surface areas for athletic fields;
- Brings park facilities up to ADA standards for accessibility;
- Addresses the increased demand for parks and recreation facilities;
- Explores ways to generate revenue to support park facilities and programs;
- Ensures adequate funding, staffing, and maintenance for park facilities and programs;
- Develops a safe and integrated trail system for bikes and pedestrians;
- Establishes design standards for future parks, trails and open space;
- Provides sufficient facilities and programs to meet the needs of Glass Valley's growing population;
- Ensures an equitable distribution of recreation resources throughout the Planning Area;
- Builds and maintains partnerships with schools and non-profit organizations to provide funding and facility resources and to improve recreational opportunities; and
- Provides for effective and economically sound management of public resources.



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

This portion of the Master Plan presents recommendations for implementing the vision for a future parks, recreation, and open space system. Recommendations address the following areas:

- Recreation Facilities
- Recreation Programs
- Staffing and Operations

Central to all recommendations, this Master Plan recommends that the City involve the general public in the design process for all new park and trail projects, and major renovations of existing parks (for example, Memorial Park). Key interest groups and stakeholders, such as property owners, and neighbors, should be invited to share their ideas and opinions on the project. The level and type of involvement will vary according to the size and complexity of the project.

RECREATION FACILITIES

To maintain Grass Valley's existing level of community livability and balance anticipated growth, existing parks should be renovated and new parks should be developed. These recreation resources should be distributed equitably throughout the community to provide access to all residents.

Parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces provide many important benefits to a community. These benefits include:

- Enhancing community livability;
- Fostering a sense of community by providing space for community social events;
- Building community pride;
- Protecting natural resources and open space for future generations;
- Providing access to recreation opportunities for residents of all ages;
- Providing opportunities for environmental education; and
- Providing trail connections that link park facilities, neighborhoods, schools, and other community facilities.

Recommendations address developed and undeveloped parks, trails, and future annexation areas. A Master Plan Map synthesizing all recommendations is presented in Figure 4 on page 43.

Park Recommendations

Each park was evaluated for potential improvements and necessary modifications based on the needs of the community, existing inventory, and the size and topography of space available for



4. RECOMMENDATIONS Trails

new parks. After the first community workshop, a series of conceptual plans were created for the developed and undeveloped park sites based on the public's comments and the inventory. These plans were presented to the community for feedback. The revised plans and tables were presented to the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Planning Commission at a public meeting to set development priorities. Recommendations were identified for the following developed and undeveloped parks:

Developed Parks

- Elizabeth Daniels Plaza
- Dow Alexander
- Minnie
- Memorial
- Condon
- Glenn Jones

Undeveloped Parks

- Morgan Ranch
- Mulcahy Field

The maps and tables provided in Appendix B describe recommended improvements or enhancements to these parks. For Glenn Jones Park, only minor trail improvements are proposed, and no map is provided.



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Table 10: Bikeway and Trail Categories

CATEGORIES	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	LINKAGES	USER GROUPS	SUPPORT FACILITIES
Bike Lane	An on-street bike lane with a 6 ft. wide portion of the roadway designated for preferential use by bicyclists. Class I: completely separated and exclusively dedicated bike path. Class II: designated bike lane; does not allow parking Class III: Not exclusively dedicated; parking allowed.	Reduces auto-dependency Provides opportunities for bicycle-related recreation Provides for bike user safety Offers a buffer between pedestrian sidewalk and moving vehicles May be used for parking or not depending on designation	All arterial and collector streets	Links neighborhoods to community destinations, including park and recreation facilities, schools and shopping Provides linkages to transit system	Bicyclists	Signage/traffic signals
Multi-Use Bike/Pedestrian Path	An 8- 10 ft. wide, hard-surfaced multi-use path separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier. Its route may be aligned with or independent of the street right-of-way. It will often be found in the greenways. This is a Class I bikeway.	Reduces auto-dependency Provides opportunities for trail-related recreation Provides environmental education opportunities Provides a fully accessible outdoor experience for people with disabilities Maximizes bike user and pedestrian safety	Within every greenway Along selected collectors and within selected neighborhoods Along parkway streets	Links neighborhoods to community destinations, including park and recreation facilities, schools, shopping and town center Connects community park and recreation facilities Provides linkages to transit system	Pedestrians and joggers Wheelchair users Bicyclists	Pedestrian crosswalks Curb ramps Seating Lighting Signage/Traffic signals Vehicle control barriers Landscaping Staging areas with amenities such as bike racks and trash receptacles (picnic areas, small scale parking, and restrooms are provided in parks along the path)
Trail	A 4-6 ft. wide, soft-surfaced trail separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier. Its route may be aligned with or independent of a street right-of-way.	Provides opportunities for trail-related recreation Provides environmental education opportunities Maximizes environmental compatibility with sensitive resource areas	Adjacent to designated natural resource areas Within open space parts of community parks Within Village Green	Provides access to and within parks, open space, and flood control areas Links neighborhoods to community destinations, including park and recreation facilities	Pedestrians and joggers Wheelchair users Mountain bikers	Seating Signage Vehicle control barriers Landscaping Trailhead amenities such as bike racks and trash receptacles (picnic areas, small scale parking, and restrooms are provided in parks along the path)
Greenway Neighborhood	A linear open space designed to protect or restore natural resources, allow recreational access along creeks, channels, or within neighborhoods and create open space corridors.	Visual resource Buffer for channels or creeks Reduces auto-dependency Allows environmental education Separates land uses and helps define neighborhood areas Reduces apparent urban densities	Through every residential neighborhood Along retention ponds, drainages and linear resource features	Links neighborhoods to community destinations, including park and recreation facilities, schools, shopping and town center Connects community park and recreation facilities Provides linkages to transit system	Wheelchair users Pedestrians Bicyclists	Multi-use bike/ped path Landscaping Fencing and signage Seating Viewing areas Staging areas with amenities such as bike racks and trash receptacles (picnic areas, small scale parking, and restrooms are provided in parks along the path) Drinking fountains Drainage systems Children's play areas Informal turf areas
Greenway Utility Easement	A linear open space designed to protect or restore natural resources, allow only limited recreational access within existing utility easements.	Visual resource Separates land uses and helps define neighborhood areas Reduces apparent urban densities Takes advantage of existing open space	Along utility easements and some other infrastructure such as drainage channels.	Links neighborhoods to community destinations, including park and recreation facilities, schools, shopping and town center Provides visual linkages to natural areas	Wheelchair users Pedestrians Bicyclists	Multi-use bike/ped path Landscaping Fencing and signage



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

TRAILS

Creating a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails is a high priority of the General Plan. Numerous trail systems have been proposed, but the only formal trails implemented are those in the Empire Mine State Park and Litton Trail. This Master Plan proposes that the City of Grass Valley develop a detailed Trails Master Plan and Design Guidelines. This trail system will provide the framework for the development of a recreational and functional greenway system safely linking recreational, educational, and employment sites.

The Trail Master Plan will include trail design guidelines for all future development areas as a required component of the development agreement. These include sidewalks, separated bike and pedestrian paths and trails, and an on-street bike path system.

The trail design guidelines will define types of paths/trails to be used, suggest developments or activity areas to be linked, recommend ways to use the trail system to limit the number of street crossings for pedestrians and bikes, identify amenities, and be accessible from major destinations, such as schools, parks, shopping, residential areas. Bike lanes should be provided on all new roads and streets (excluding freeways and expressways). Preliminary guidelines are included in Table 10 on the previous page.

The following are features of the Grass Valley Trail Network (Figure 2 on page 35):

- Provides linkages between neighborhoods, recreation areas and parks, commercial, employment and cultural centers.
- Identifies extensions and dedications to be required in future annexation areas.
- Serves pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians.
- Formalizes the proposed trail system for Condon Park, and provides connections to nearby schools, parks and neighborhoods.
- Establishes trails/linear parkways along waterways, including Wolf Creek, Little Wolf Creek, South Wolf Creek, and Nevada Irrigation District canals.
- Connects to existing and proposed external trail networks, including Empire Mine State Park trails and the Nevada County trails system.
- Develops a detailed Trails Master Plan for the City of Grass Valley and the contiguous Planning Area, including the four development areas of Loma Rica, North Star, Kenny Ranch, and Glenbrook.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

tection, location maps).

- Provide trash cans and trailheads and bridges
- Limit lighting based on needs of the surrounding properties

RURAL CREEKWAY

The eastern section of the Wolf Creek Parkway, along Idaho-Maryland Road and the Loma Rica development and the area south of the Pelton Wheel, typify the rural creekway. The creek is not constrained by development, the flood plain is wide and relatively shallow, and the vegetation ranges from forest to meadow. This section of the creekway provides the most opportunity for a natural experience along an informal trail system. The goals for this section of Wolf Creek Parkway are to:

- Provide opportunities to interact with nature--fish, observe wildlife
- Maintain the natural flood plain system
- Provide trail links to other trail systems within the City and the County

Design Guidelines for the Rural Creekway include:

- Setbacks to be 50 to 100 feet on both sides of the creek
- Footpath to be a minimum of 8 feet wide
- Surfacing for the footpath to be compacted soil, or native soil mixed with a poly-resinous material
- Provide a separate trail for horses
- Entire path to be ADA accessible
- Trail heads to be clearly marked.
- Signage to include general use instructions for the public (e.g., trail etiquette, dog etiquette, poison oak and snake information, access information, location maps)
- Provide trash cans at trail heads and periodic intervals

For the Wolf Creek Parkway to become a reality, several issues and situations need immediate investigation. It is recommended that a committee be formed to develop the Wolf Creek Parkway Plan, which includes Wolf Creek, the South Fork and Little Wolf Creek.

Issues to be investigated include:

- Ownership of the creek to the centerline
- Coordination with Nevada County Trails Plan
- Easements and dedications
- Funding sources for implementation of the Wolf Creek Parkway Plan



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Access to the creek
- How is the creek being treated in developments currently in the approval process and what opportunities are there to re-evaluate these plans
- Correction of City water quality issues
- How to engage the community in the process
- Where are the most feasible opportunities to begin implementation
- How to incorporate the schools in the process
- How have other cities incorporated their creeks into a public trail system
- Trailhead at end of Freeman Lane

Two trail components that can be implemented or improved now include:

- Formalizing the trails within Condon Park and connecting the Condon trails to the surrounding community sidewalks, schools, and neighborhoods.
- Creating a trail connection from Memorial Park to the Empire Mine Trail at Race Street.



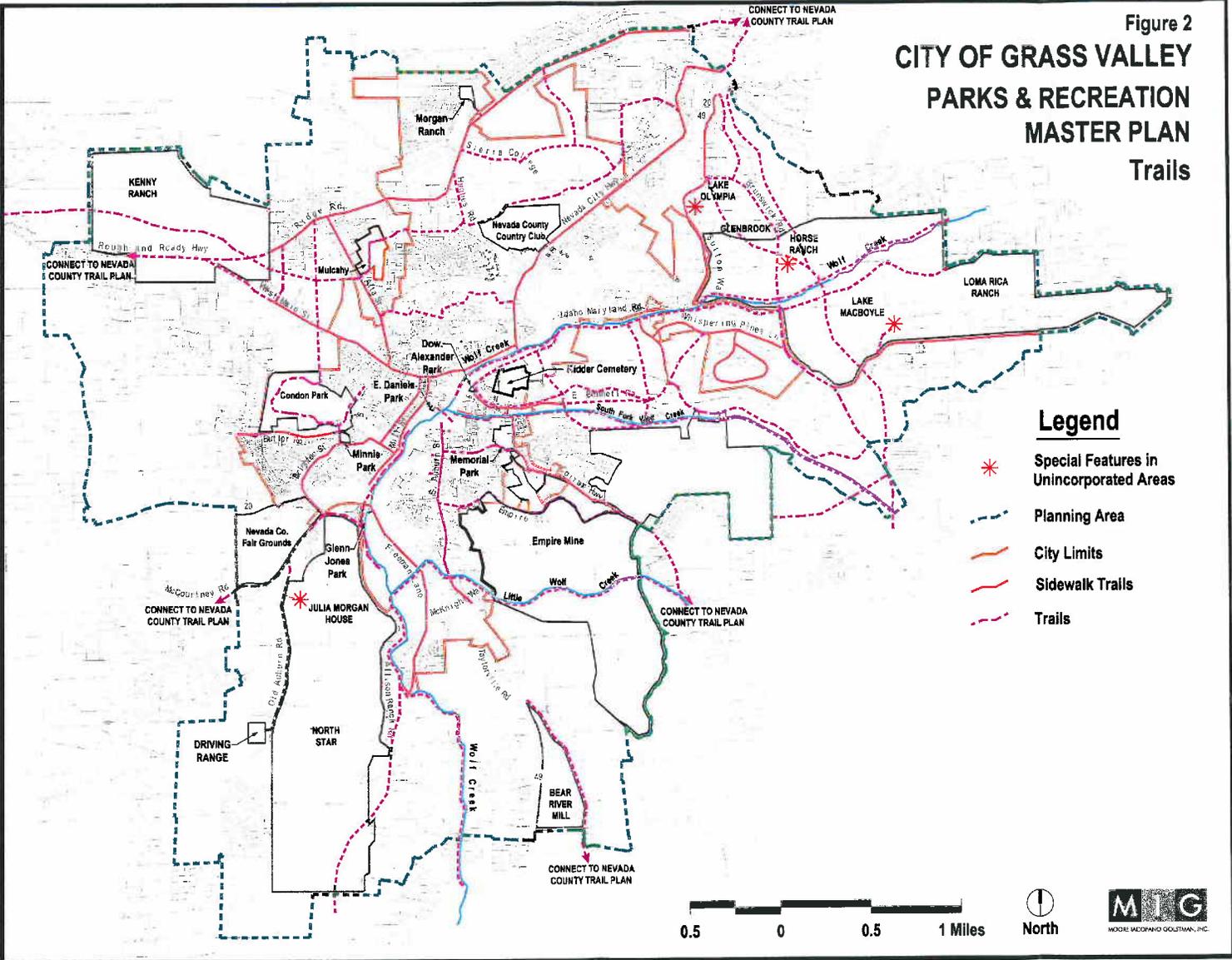
4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Access to the creek
 - How is the creek being treated in development's vicinity in the approval process and what opportunities are there to re-evaluate these plans
 - Competition of City water quality issues
 - How to engage the community in the process
 - Where are the most feasible opportunities to create riparian habitat
 - How to incorporate the schools in the process
 - How have other cities incorporated their creeks into a park system
 - Treated at end of Treatment Plant
- Two trail components that can be implemented or improved now include:
- Formalizing the trails within Gordon Park and connecting the Gordon Park trail to surrounding community sidewalks, schools, and neighborhoods.
 - Creating a trail connection from Memorial Park to the Empire Mills Trail at W. 100 Street.



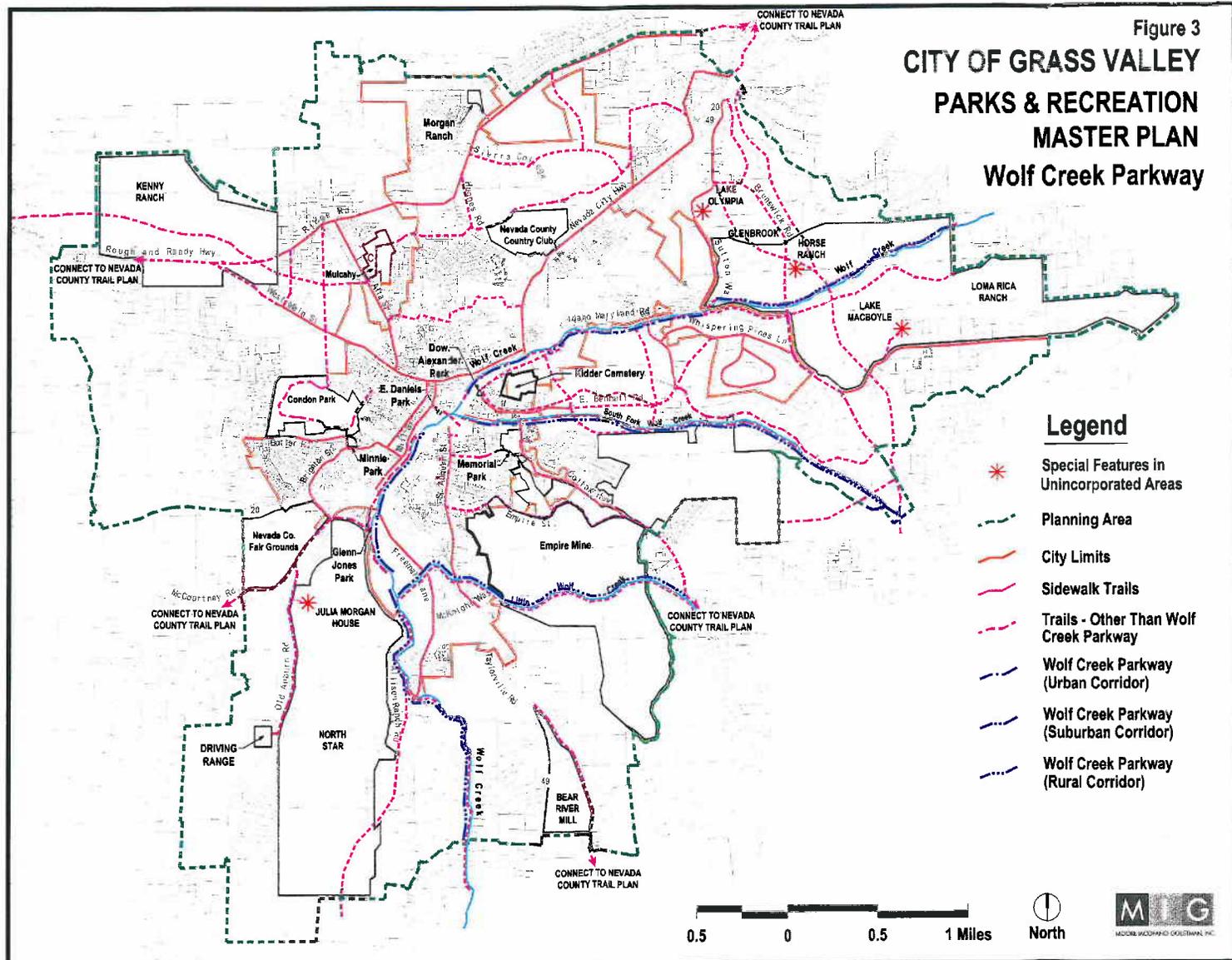
4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Figure 2
**CITY OF GRASS VALLEY
 PARKS & RECREATION
 MASTER PLAN
 Trails**



- Legend**
- * Special Features in Unincorporated Areas
 - - - Planning Area
 - City Limits
 - Sidewalk Trails
 - - - Trails





4. RECOMMENDATIONS

FUTURE ADDITIONS

As discussed in the previous chapters, Grass Valley has entered agreements to annex properties into its incorporated area, including Loma Rica, North Star, Glenbrook, Kenny Ranch, and Bear River Mill. These properties include new recreational facilities as part of their development plans. Within these properties the City has the opportunity to define and guide the type and location of parkland, open space and trails/bikeways so that they become an integrated component of the Grass Valley parks and recreation system.

Grass Valley has two existing museums - the Video Museum and the Pelton Mining Museum. These museums are located in existing parks. Proposed additions to the park and recreation mix include the addition of two new museums and a community center. However, there is no room to add a Carriage and a Fire Engine Museum at any existing parks. The recommendation is to create one site for both, either at the Fairgrounds or in downtown Grass Valley. These museums would be of regional interest, and would require a large facility to house them.

Proposed locations for the multi-generational community center and gymnasium include the Hennessey School site, centrally located in Grass Valley, or the Loma Rica or North Star developments. Table 11 on the following page lists the Master Plan recommendations for these properties. Actual acreages and facilities provided will need to meet City standards. The community center will draw from the entire western Nevada County area. As a consequence, there will be numerous physical and programming issues to address. The addition of a community center as a resource for the parks and recreation program is a long-term venture of high priority for the community, and may require the development of several funding sources, including bonds, grants, and corporate sponsorship. Some components of the facility include:

- Indoor Pool
- Gymnasium
- Flexible meeting room space
- Commercial kitchen
- Stage
- Indoor volleyball court
- Community garden
- Large multi-purpose rooms
- Water feature

Now that a Parks and Recreation Master Plan is adopted by the City, the conceptual plans for the future annexation areas should be reviewed as soon as possible so that any adjustments can now be made. These developments should be reviewed for:

- Trail and bike path connections
- Suitability of proposed open space/park locations based on this plan and parkland definitions



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Active recreation opportunities
- Waterway setbacks and trail system
- Preservation of special features (historical, natural, built) that can be incorporated into the park system

Table 11 summarizes recommendations for parks and open space, and museums and community centres. The recommendations are prioritized (high, medium, and low) and project timing is noted (i.e. short or long term).

Table 11: Future Additions to Parks and Recreation System

Recommendations	Timing		Priority		
	L	S	H	M	L
Parks and Open Space					
Loma Rica: 50 acres- Lake MacBoyle, active recreation, equestrian trail, trails: 150 acres of open space designation		X	X		
Glenbrook: 4 acres - 'Lake Olympia' area, trail and park		X	X		
North Star: 6 acres - Julia Morgan House and passive park	X				
Kenny Ranch: 8 acres - trail, wildflower habitat	X				
Bear River Mill - potential area for field space	X				
Museums and Community Buildings					
Locate museums at one location. Possible locations are: downtown, at the County Fairground, Fire Engine Museum, Carriage Museum, other?	X			X	
Multi-Generational Community Center and Gym. Possible locations are: Hennessy School and Loma Rica	X		X		

Timing: L = long-term/S = short term
 Priority: H = high/M = medium/L = low



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

MASTER PLAN MAP

The Master Plan Map illustrates Grass Valley's existing parks and open space, and the Master Plan recommendations for improvements (Figure 4, page 43). The current needs can be partially met with the addition of two soccer fields at Mulcahy Field and one ball field at Condon Park, and one tennis court at Memorial Park. However, additional field space will be needed to meet future needs in 20 years. These acres can be identified within new developments coming on line.

The proposed neighborhood and community park locations are not site specific. They are located within a 1/2 to 1 mile radius of areas where park facilities do not exist. Their exact placement will depend on existing development opportunities. To increase available field space, the neighborhood and community parks can be located adjacent to school sites.

- The Neighborhood Parks serve a 1/2 mile radius.
- Community Parks serve a 1 mile radius, and may encompass neighborhood parks.
- Special features are existing park elements with unique qualities, such as the Julia Morgan House and Lake Olympia.
- The Julia Morgan House has been severely vandalized, but may be worth restoring. When restored, it can serve as a historic community building, generate revenue, and be the focal point of the proposed community park.
- Lake Olympia is also a historic site. Now drained, this area can be developed as a neighborhood park.
- Loma Rica has several features that would greatly enhance the park system. The existing equestrian trail along Wolf Creek can remain. A community center can be located where the stables and barn are now. The natural bowl area behind the barns may be suitable for concerts and active play. Lake MacBoyle is already a beautiful recreation area and should remain so.

The Master Plan Map includes:

- *Special Facilities:* These are shown as a red star in unincorporated areas. These features may be included in future park areas.
- *Neighborhood Parks or Pocket Parks:* Existing park locations are shown light green and labeled N. These include the city owned, but as of yet undeveloped, Morgan Ranch park site. Proposed parks are dark green and labeled with a N. Exact locations for the proposed parks have not yet been determined.
- *Community Parks:* Existing Community Park are light green and labeled C. This includes the city-owned, but as of yet undeveloped, Mulcahy field site. Proposed Community Parks are dark green and labeled with C. Exact locations for proposed community parks have not yet been determined.

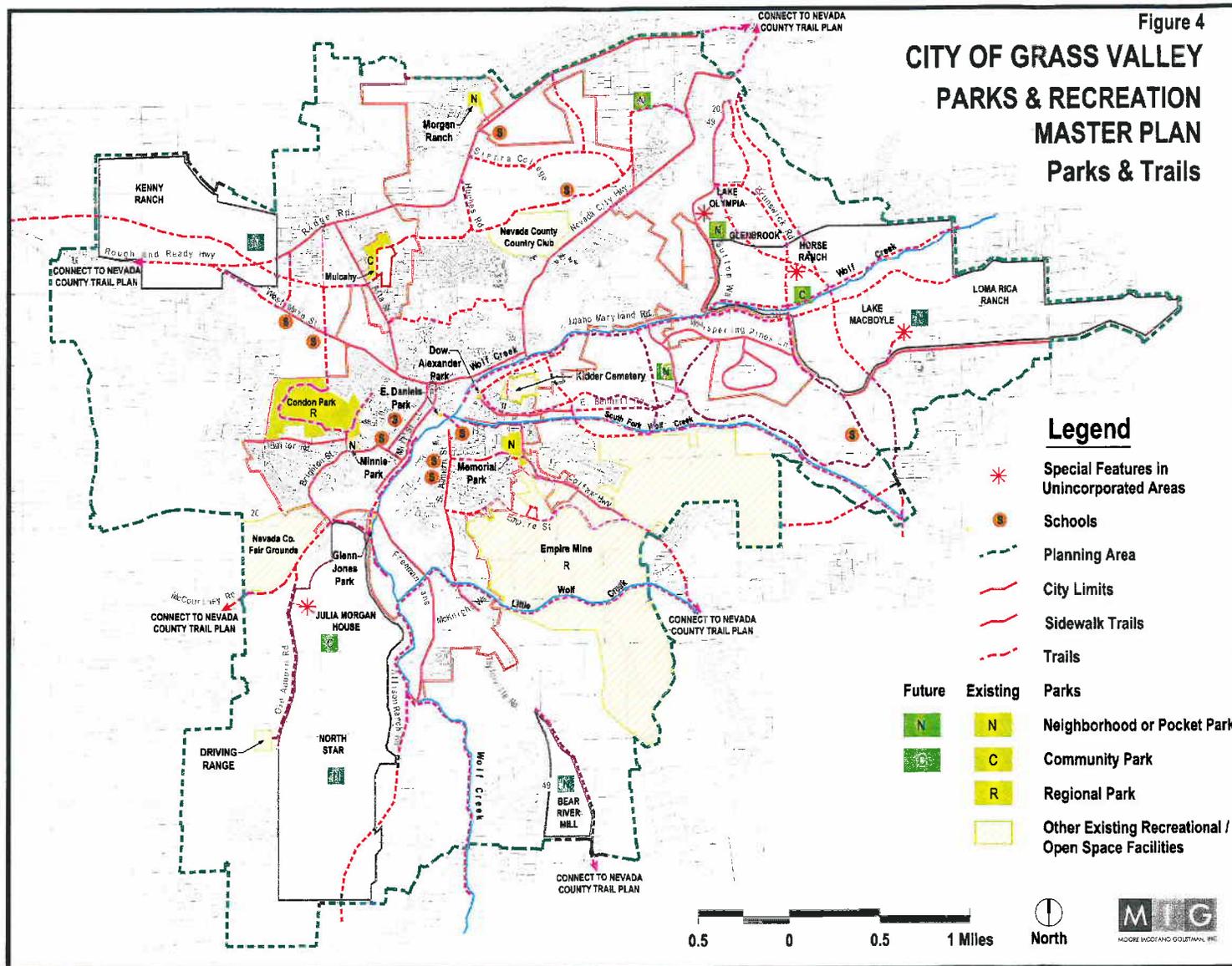


4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Regional Parks:** Existing Regional Parks are striped green labeled R. No new regional parks are proposed.
- **Trails:** Proposed trails are shown as a dashed magenta line.
- **Sidewalk Trails:** Proposed locations are shown as a solid orange line.
- **Waterways:** Waterways are shown as a light blue line. These can be linear parkways with trails.
- **Schools:** Schools are shown as an S in a gold circle.
- **Other existing recreation or open space facilities:** Golf course and driving range, Nevada County Fairgrounds, and Kidder Cemetery are shown as a hatch pattern on the map.
- **City Boundary:** The City Boundary is shown as a thick, solid orange line.
- **Planning Area Boundary:** The Planning Area Boundary is shown as a thick, dashed gold line.



4. RECOMMENDATIONS



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Grass Valley relies on a number of non-profit organizations to provide most of its recreation programs. Recreation programs provide accessible, diverse activities - both programmed and unprogrammed - for people of all ages and abilities. The benefits of recreation programs include:

- Providing positive activities for youth;
- Building a sense of community;
- Enhancing appreciation of the environment;
- Contributing to strong families; and
- Encouraging tolerance and respect for people with different abilities and backgrounds.

Currently, most recreation programs focus on active sports. Additional programs will be needed to accommodate future community growth and meet the needs and interests of residents.

Recreation Program Recommendations

- Review the fee schedule for facility use.
- Clarify maintenance arrangements and fees with non-profit organizations in Memoranda of Understanding.
- Develop a compensation agreement for non-city residents use of Grass Valley parks and services.
- Review the current practice of non-profit organizations as sole providers of recreation programs every five years.
- Collect user data from non-profit user groups for development of Capital Improvements Program budgets, staffing needs, and program development.
- Coordinate with Nevada County on recreation programming needs, space and resource allocation, fees, maintenance, etc.

MANAGEMENT

Grass Valley will be faced with managing more parkland and additional recreation programs as the population of the city increases. To effectively manage these community resources, tools and resources should be developed to guide the design and management of park facilities. Public information, community involvement, and joint use agreements should be implemented. As the park and recreation programs grow, the City may need to create a Parks Division under either the Planning Department or the Public Works Department.



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

MAINTENANCE AND STAFFING

The planning team met with the City Maintenance Staff to get their perspective on how the City can meet the needs of the community and ensure a healthy and attractive park and open space system. A summary of recommendations is provided in tables 12 and 13 on pages 46 and 47.

Currently, the Public Works staff provides park maintenance. As the park system grows, it may become more efficient to assign personnel specifically to park maintenance. Of special concern is the increased workload of parks and maintenance staff. Park maintenance staffing levels are now at twenty acres per full time staff (FTE). In addition to maintaining parklands and recreation facilities, staff are also responsible for the maintenance of several other City facilities, such as City Hall, the Police Departments, Quartz marker, downtown planters, Kidder Cemetery, and the Corporation Yard. Other demands on staff time include park renovations and improvements, training, and response to citizen complaints.

The current staff is maintaining 91.1 developed acres and 16.9 undeveloped acres of parkland. This is an average of 19.6 acres/FTE. When Mulcahy Field and the additional 1/2 acres at Minnie Park are developed, the maintenance demands will increase by another FTE. These figures are based on maintaining the parks at their existing levels of service. Other cities in the region use an average of 15 acres per FTE as a guideline for park maintenance.

Recommendations

- Review current maintenance standards and modify them to reflect changing requirements and program additions.
- Develop staffing needs based on revised maintenance standards.

Table 12: Staffing and Operations

Recommendation	Timing		Priority		
	L	S	H	M	L
Review maintenance standards		x	x		
Add 50% time FTE for current maintenance needs. When Minnie and Mulcahy Fields are built, hire additional maintenance FTE		x	x		
Use maintenance standards to determine future staffing needs		x	x		
Hire/contract for grant writer		x		x	
Keep park operations in current organizational structure. Create separate Parks and Recreation division within Engineering or Planning Department as system expands		x	x		

Timing:
 L = long-term
 S = short term
 Priority:
 H = high
 M = medium
 L = low



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Twenty acres per FTE is at the outside limits for adequate maintenance of park facilities.
- Included in the twenty acres per FTE are large areas of Condon Park that now require minimal attention (it is more like open space). If the suggested improvements are installed at Condon Park then that newly developed acreage needs to be calculated into the developed acreage when developing staffing levels.
- Develop detailed maintenance specifications for use by volunteer and non-profit organizations. This can help offset some maintenance costs.

Table 13: Recommended Maintenance Standards

Type of Facility	Maintenance Standard	Benefits	Level of Use	Responsibility
Urban Plaza	Frequent to very frequent-- NRPA Mode III	Maintains appearance and functional use Supports public safety	Moderate to low	Parks Volunteers
Neighborhood Park	Very Frequent-- NRPA Mode I	Maintains appearance and functional use Supports public safety	High	Parks Business Partners
Community and Regional Park	<i>Developed areas</i> Very frequent-- NRPA Mode II <i>Natural areas</i> Periodic NRPA Mode IV	Maintains appearance and functional use Supports public safety <i>Natural areas:</i> Supports the natural character of the area	High	Parks Volunteers
Open Space	Periodic-- NRPA Mode IV	Supports the natural character of the area Maintains functional use of facilities Maintains viewsheds Provides fire mitigation	Moderate to low	Parks Volunteers
Trails and Connectors	Frequent to periodic <i>Open space trails</i> - NRPA Mode IV <i>Multi-use hard surfaced trails</i> NRPA Mode III	Supports the natural character of the area Maintains functional use of facilities Provides fire mitigation Eliminates hazards	Moderate to high	Parks Volunteers



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Twenty sites per ITE is a reasonable limit for adequate maintenance of park facilities.
- Included in the twenty sites per ITE are large areas of London Park that are now in minimal condition (it is more difficult to maintain) and the suggested improvements are limited.
- Develop detailed maintenance specifications for use by volunteer and non-profit organizations. This can help offset some maintenance costs.

Table 13: Recommended Maintenance Standards

Area of Facility	Maintenance Standard	Level of Effort	Responsibility
Urban Park	Frequency to vary dependent-NRPA Model III Supports public safety Maintains appearance and functional use	Medium to Low	Volunteer
Neighborhood Park	NRPA Model I Very frequent Supports public safety Maintains appearance and functional use	High	Park Users
Community and Regional Park	NRPA Model II Very frequent Supports public safety Natural areas Periodic NRPA Model IV Supports the natural character of the area	High	Volunteer
Open Space	Periodic NRPA Model IV Provides the maintenance Maintains appearance Maintains functional use of the area Supports the natural character of the area	Medium to Low	Park Volunteer
Trails and Connectors	NRPA Model III Very frequent Supports public safety Natural areas Periodic NRPA Model IV Supports the natural character of the area	High	Park Volunteer





5. FUNDING PROGRAM

5. FUNDING

To successfully implement the Master Plan recommendations and expand parks and recreation facilities and services, an adequate budget is needed. This chapter identifies estimated costs for existing park improvements, maintenance costs, and potential funding sources that may be used to achieve Grass Valley's vision for the future of its park system.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ESTIMATING CONSTRUCTION COSTS

The following is a basic construction cost estimating guide to provide the City with guidelines for calculating estimated acreage or square footage costs. The unit costs in the General Guidelines may not be consistent with the line item costs for specific improvements in existing built parks.

Neighborhood and Community Parks

- \$115,000 per acre for developed and redeveloped parks
- \$130,000/acre for new construction (\$3/square foot)

Playground Improvements

- \$50,000 to \$100,000 per neighborhood park
- \$200,000 to \$300,000 per community park/regional park

Urban Plaza

- \$10/square foot: includes site preparation, concrete paving, site amenities, limited plantings and irrigation

Trail and Open Space Development

- \$400,000 per mile for developed trail: 8' wide, paved surface
- \$150,000 per mile for less developed trail development: 4' to 6' wide, soft surface, foot trails

Pool Complex

- \$2.2 million: 8000 square foot water surface and bathhouse

Community Center

- \$180 per square foot (public funding/ownership, at prevailing wages)

Wolf Creek Corridor

- Will be a combination of Urban Plaza/Park and Trail Development

ESTIMATED COSTS OF SPECIFIC PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The second section lists specific improvements for individual parks, built and unbuilt. These are rough cost estimates and are meant to be only a guideline. The costs do not reflect fees for community outreach, master planning, and construction document preparation.



5. FUNDING

salaries/benefits and maintenance/operations costs) for 108.5 total acres of developed and undeveloped parkland. The average maintenance cost per acre is \$3,246.

The current staff is maintaining 91.1 developed acres and 16.9 undeveloped acres of parkland. This averages to 19.6 acres per FTE. When Mulcahy Field and the additional .5 acres for Minnie Park are developed, the maintenance demands will increase by another FTE. These figures are based on maintaining the parks at their existing levels. Other cities in the region use an average of 15 acres per FTE for park maintenance.

The following is a basic guideline used by larger cities (50,000+ population) in developing their maintenance budgets and is included as a source of information for the City. These figures may not necessarily apply to the City, and are included as information.

- \$600 per acre for open space and undeveloped parkland;
- \$4,500 per acre for neighborhood parks and urban plazas;
- \$6,000 per acre for community and regional parks;
- \$4,000 per mile of soft-surface trails; and
- \$8,000 per mile for paved, multi-use trails

Applying the above figures to the existing city parklands and a finished Mulcahy Field, and an average salary of \$47,300 (based on the 2000/2001 budget), an estimated 10 staff would be needed to maintain the City's parks at the national standard of maintenance.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Potential Funding Sources for park system improvements include:

- Development impact fee based on park system improvement costs
- State and federal grants
- Bond issue for multi-generational community center/gym/sports fields
- Developer installations/development agreements
- Continued full use of Quimby Act exaction
- Joint use/maintenance agreement with school districts
- Continued reliance on service clubs, sports leagues, etc.
- Non-profit fund-raising or grants
- Use of State wide funds – i.e., AB 1740 in state budget
- User fees - consider increased non-resident fees
- Landscape and lighting assessment districts for maintenance
- General Fund
- CIP (Capital Improvements Program)



5. FUNDING

■ County-wide recreation district - user fee/assessments

Two of these options can be implemented immediately. They are the joint-use/maintenance agreements with schools and the standardized Memoranda of Understanding with non-profit organizations. Joint-use agreements with the school districts will clearly define what each agency is providing in exchange for the use of school property for city-wide activities after school hours. By incorporating school fields and courts into the facilities matrix, the City will not need to build additional facilities. When the school and City facilities are maintained at the same level, there will be a seamless overlay of adequate facilities.

The Memoranda of Understanding with non-profit organizations needs to be standardized. They should include a clear definition of responsibilities for the organization and the City. This includes fee schedules, 'sweat equity' options, levels of maintenance and installation, and user statistics (number of people, where they live, ages, number of users who could not be accommodated because of space limitations, facility needs, etc.).

Of major concern to the City of Grass Valley is the use of city facilities by county residents. Forty percent of the Planning Area population is outside the city limits, yet these residents use the City's facilities. The City does not receive any compensation from the County at this time for non-resident use of facilities. The City will need to identify the number of users who do not reside within the city limits and begin discussions with the County on cost sharing. Table 15 lists potential sources of initial funding of trails and open space/habitat improvements.



5. FUNDING

Table 14: Potential Funding Sources

Program	Agency
Rails to Trails	Rails to Trails Conservancy www.trailsandgreenways.org 1100 17 th Street, 10 th Floor Washington DC 20036
TEA 21 (Transportation Efficiency Act)	US Department of Transportation
Environmental Restoration Program: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration	US Army Core of Engineers
Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant	Environmental Protection Agency
Pollution Prevention Incentives for States (PPIS)	Environmental Protection Agency
Clean Water Act 205(J)	Environmental Protection Agency/ Regional Water Quality Control Board
Clean Water Act: Non-point Source Implementation Grants: 319	Environmental Protection Agency/ Regional Water Quality Control Board
Forest Stewardship Program/Stewardship Incentive Program	US Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Riparian Habitat Conservation Program	State of California Wildlife Conservation Board (with DFG)
Wildlife Conservation Board Program	State of California Wildlife Conservation Board (with DFG)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grants/ Challenge Grants	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (with NRCS, NACD)
Community Based Restoration	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center
Watershed Restoration Branch Grants (Fishery Restoration Grants)	CA Department of Fish and Game
Ecosystem Restoration Project and Programs	Cal-Fed
Resource Enhancement Program	California Coastal Conservancy
California Farmland Conservancy Program	CA Department of Conservation
Water Bank Program	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Wetland Development Program	US Bureau of Reclamation
Public and Private Partnerships	Environmental Protection Agency
Sustainable Development Challenge Grants	Environmental Protection Agency
Wetlands Protection Development Grants	Environmental Protection Agency
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Private Lands Program	US Fish and Wildlife Service
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (Standard Grant Program)	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Conservation Technical Assistance	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Emergency Watershed Protection	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Small Watershed Programs/ Flood Prevention Program	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Wildland Incentive Program	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Wetland Reserve Program	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Watershed Planning Projects	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Land and Water Conservation Fund	USDA/ USDI
Forest Legacy Program	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Habitat Conservation Fund	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Environmental License Plate Fund	California Resources Agency
Conserving California Landscapes	The Packard Foundation



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APPENDIX A
Recreation Providers

Organization	Description	Fields or Buildings Used	Months of Play	Days of the Week	Time
Western Nevada Slow-Pitch Softball	Slow-Pitch Softball	Memorial Park & Condon Park Large Field	April August September October	April: Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri. August every Tuesday September every Mon and Tues, Oct 1 st , 5 th and 8 th only	4:00-10:00 p.m.
Grass Valley Little League	Youth Baseball 450-500 participants Registration fee Serves 5-8 year olds	Condon Park (both fields). Maintain backstop, work on fences and grounds around park.	Spring: March-June All Stars: June-Aug. Fall: Sept-Nov.	Everyday during season	2-10pm weekdays March-June, 9am-10pm all weekends and weekdays mid June-July 4:30-9:00pm weekdays only Sept & Oct
Nevada County Fast Pitch League	Fast pitch Softball		June July August September	Everyday except Tuesdays. No Mondays in September. Make up games on Sundays.	
Grass Valley Scouts	300-500 Boy Scouts, \$25 fee plus outing expenditures	Boy Scout Lodge at Memorial Park (Only used by Boy Scouts, shared maintenance fees)	Year Round	All	
Nevada Union Jr. Minors	Football, 400 participants \$150 Fee	School Fields (Pay usage and maintenance fee)	Season: late July-November Clinics: Year round	Everyday during season (practice weekdays, games weekends)	Practice after school Weekends all day

Table A-1: Regional Recreation Providers



Organization	Description	Fields or Buildings Used	Months of Play	Days of the Week	Time
Gold County Soccer League	Soccer 1500-1700 participants	School Fields (pay usage fee)	Recreational Soccer: September-November Competitive Soccer: January-March	Everyday	After school, games on weekends
Rotary Club	75 members \$250 Fee	Building not city owned. Pay usage fee.	Year-round	Mondays	
Grass Valley Host Lions	42 members \$65 fee	They built LOVE Building at Condon Park, donated it to city. Use for free.	Year-round	2 nd and 4 th Thursday of the month.	
Tawnc Tennis	100 members 500 users Clinic free of charge	No formal contract with city, however, they donate towards upkeep. Use Memorial Park.	Jr. Clinic: July Year-round Tennis	All	
Memorial Park Children's Tennis	Camp and tournament Over 60 children	Maintain court on a volunteer basis. Memorial Park	June through July Tournament in August	All	Camp 8-11:30
Gold County Italian-American Club	50 members Bocci Ball, Group outings	Bocci Ball Courts. Condon Park	Year round activities		
The Senior Center	800 members Donations and fundraisers	Have outgrown current facilities at Nevada County Fairgrounds (lease expires 2007)	Year round	All	

Table A-1: Regional Recreation Providers continued



Organization	Description	Fields or Buildings Used	Months of Play	Days of the Week	Time
-Nevada Union High School	Fitness First -Courthouse Athletic Club -Pioneer Park -Penn Valley Academy of Dance	Sierra College: -Athletic Field -Weight Room -Gym	December 4, 2000- May 26, 2000	<i>NUH</i> -Weight Room MW 5-7 P.M. -Gym W 8-10 P.M. -Field Daily 2:30-5 P.M. <i>Athletic Club</i> MW 3:30-4:40 TTH 12-1 MW 7:30-8:20 TTH 8-9 TTH 1-2:15 <i>Fitness First</i> MW 11-12 TTH 1-2 TTH 8:30-9:30 <i>Pioneer Park</i> MW 8:30-9:40 TTH 11-12:15 MW 10-11:15 <i>Penn Valley Academy</i> MW 6:30-7:45 TTH 7-8:20 MW 7:45-9	See previous
Adventure Playground/Skateboard Park	Skateboard Park	Facilities under construction at Condon Park.	Year round	Same as park hours	Same as park hours
Penguin Swim Team		Memorial Park Pool	Year round		

Table A-1: Regional Recreation Providers continued



Organization	Description	Fields or Buildings Used	Months of Play	Days of the Week	Time
Music In the Mountains	Music Presentations (Summer, Spring, Fall, Winter) Paid for through fundraising activities.	Summer: Imaginarium Fairgrounds Don Bagget Auditorium Spring: Imaginarium Fall: To be announced Winter: Peace Lutheran Church	Summer: June 9-July Spring: April 3-16 Fall: Nov 9-19 (weekends only) Winter: Dec. 15-17		
Nevada County Fairgrounds	See availability in file				
Grass Valley and Bear River Basketball Leagues					
Bear River Recreation and Parks District	Volleyball Basketball Trips School Enrichment Sport Camps	Schools Used: Cottage Hill Magnolia Bear River Alta Sierra Pleasant Ridge	Adult Volleyball: March-May Youth Volleyball Oct.-November Adult Basketball: April-June Youth Basketball Dec-March Camps: Summer School enrichment: during school year	All	Times vary

Table A-1: Regional Recreation Providers continued



Organization	Description	Facilities or Buildings Used	Months of Play	Days of the Week	Time
Gold Country BMX	475 Participants 4-25yr. Olds Fees include insurance: \$5 practice session, \$10 race	-Nevada city has track but has no power or water on location. -On city property, pay city \$2 per rider (BMX covers power, electrical, etc.) -Prefer to have in Grass Valley (security, central loc., more to offer) -Ideal average land space (parking, tracks (800x600), etc.): 5-7 acres	Year round weather permitting (Usually April-September)		
Club Sierra Sports and Fitness Center	Fitness Club Membership required.	Outdoor tennis courts Racquet ball court Pool	Year Round	All	
49er Family Fun Park	Family Entertainment Center	Batting cages, Min-golf, Go-carts, Arcade	Year round	All	Times vary on season and day of week
Samba Indoor Soccer	Open to public in afternoons for fee, Adult and Youth leagues every week-night. 140+ users	1 Indoor Soccer court	Year Round	All	Times vary with game schedule

Table A-1: Regional Recreation Providers continued



Organization	Description	Fields or Buildings Used	Months of Play	Days of the Week	Time
Ascent Climbing Gym and Outdoor Center	Public use during certain hours for fee. Membership available.	Climbing all and gymnastics center to open end of November.	Year round	All	
Courthouse Athletic Club	Fitness Club Membership required.	Weight room	Year round	All	
Fitness First Health Club	Fitness Club Membership required	Weight room	Year round	All	
Ridge Racquet Club	Fitness Center Membership required (180 memberships)	4 Tennis courts 2 Squash courts Fitness room Swimming pool	Year round	All	
Nevada County Country Club	Weekday mornings: Members only. Afternoons and Weekends: Public. 325 members	Golf Course Swimming Pool open to Members and Guests only.	Year Round	All	
Quail Valley Golf Course	Public Golf Course	Golf Course	Year round	All	
South Yuba Well and Fitness Club	Fitness Center Membership required	Gym	Year round	All	

Table A-1: Regional Recreation Providers continued





APPENDIX B
Recommendations for
Individual Parks

Appendix B describes improvements needed at the City of Grass Valley's existing parks. Please note that Glenn Jones park is not included as the park is to continue its current use and image, and the proposed changes are very minor (a footpath along park/creek side).

1. Remote, redesign, protect and maintain facility
 2. Remove fence between library and park
 3. Redesign space to encompass library grounds and existing Elizabeth Daniels Park facilities
 4. Replace fence with the existing metal picket fence
 5. Mill Street entry has been replaced
 6. Information desk and entry map
 7. Site amenities include benches, trash cans, ramp, and special paving
 8. Provide plaza area for small events, Christmas trees, and event containers
 9. Provide ramp from plaza to garden lot
 10. Landscape improvements: replace Christmas tree, remove trees
 11. Public garden space: sculpture, library (bookshelves, entry)
- Public Administration, Elizabeth Daniels Park

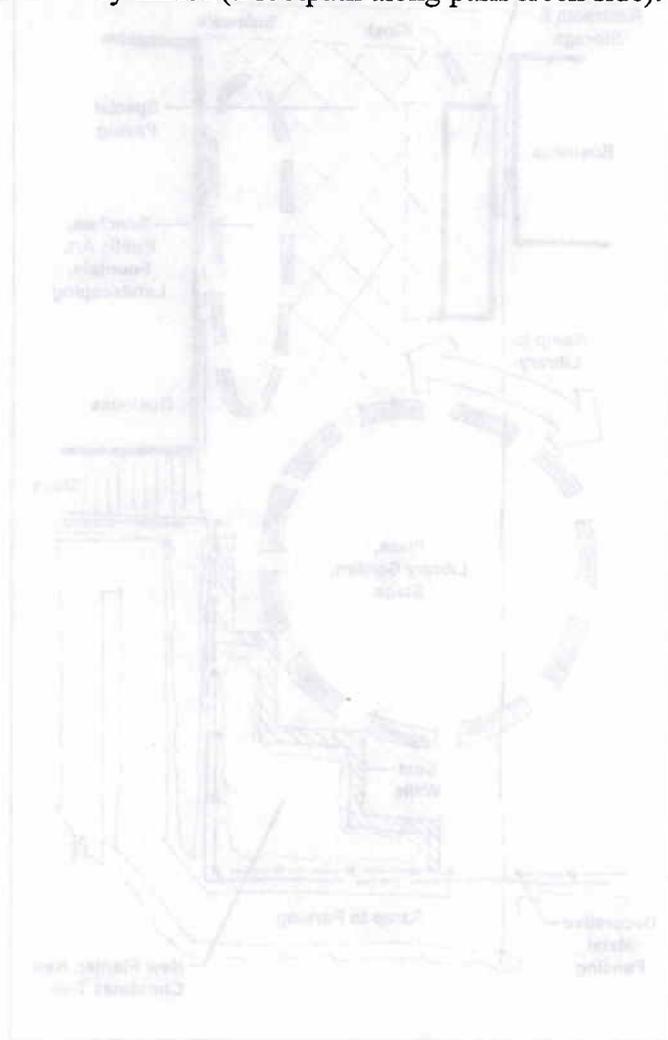
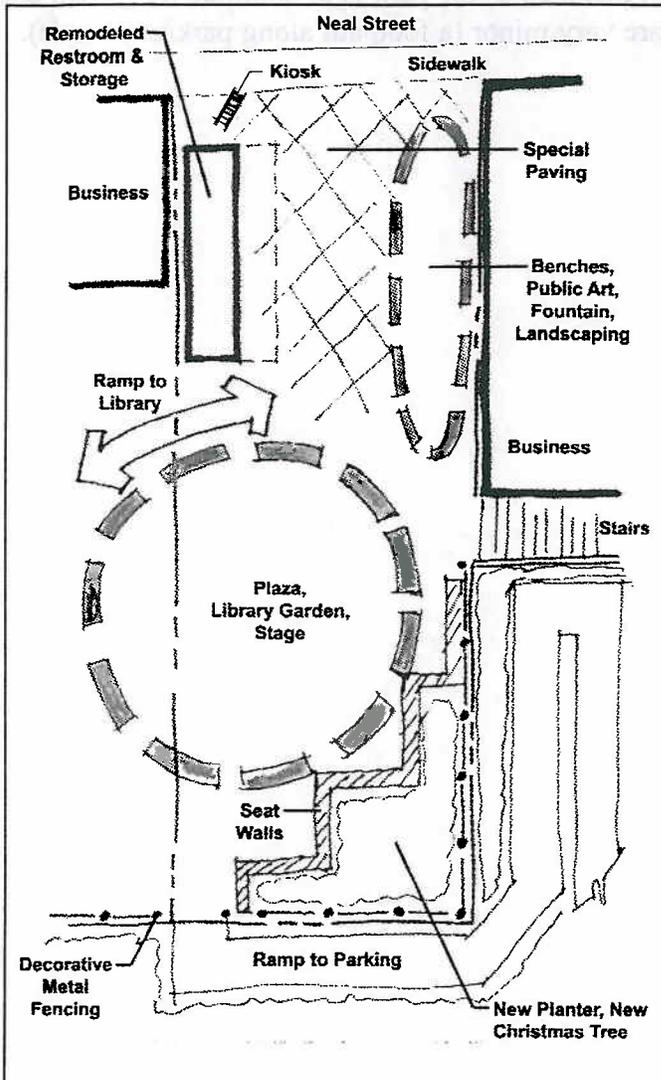


Figure B-1: Elizabeth Daniels Park Design Options

Elizabeth Daniels Park



Possible Design Options for Elizabeth Daniels Park (.16 acres)

1. Remove, redesign, restrict, and shrink restroom facility
2. Remove fence between library and park
3. Redesign space to encompass library grounds and existing Elizabeth Daniels Park to facilitate higher community use
4. Replace fence with decorative, metal, picket fence
5. Mill Street entry has lockable gate
6. Information kiosk and city map
7. Site amenities include benches, shade, trash cans, ramp, and special paving
8. Provide plaza area for small concerts, Christmas events, and award ceremonies
9. Provide ramp from plaza to parking lot
10. Landscape improvements: replant Christmas tree, remove lawn
11. Public garden space: sculpture; literary (Mother Goose, Harry Potter, Shakespeare); children's maze

Figure B-1: Elizabeth Daniels Park Design Options



APPENDIX B

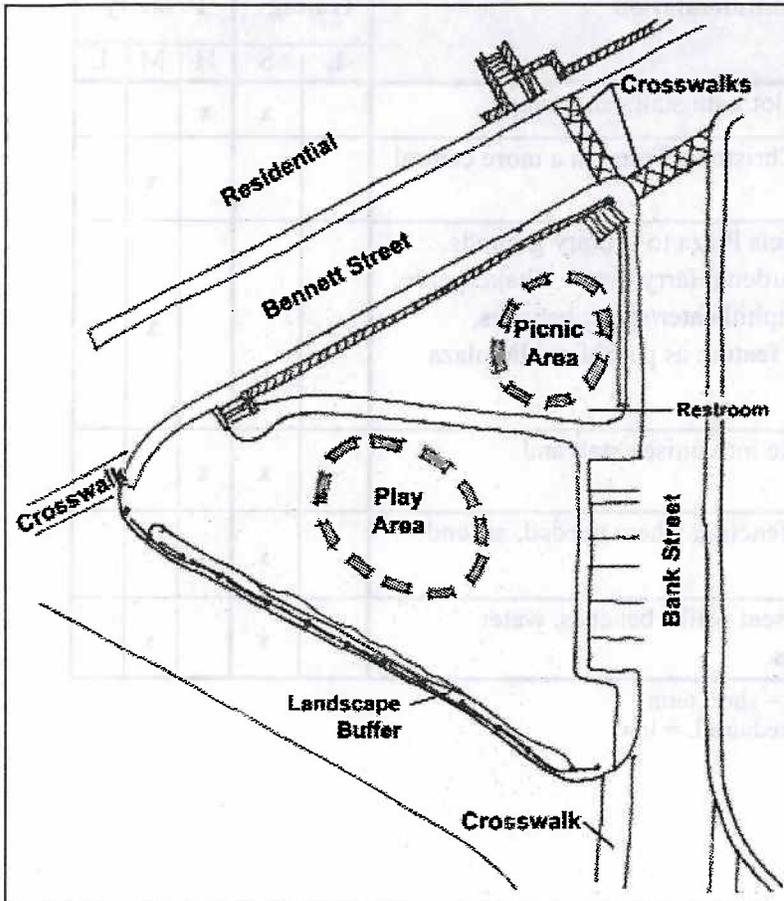
Table B-1: Developed Parks - Elizabeth Daniels Park

Recommendation	Timing		Priority		
	L	S	H	M	L
Connect site to parking lot with stairs and ramps		x	x		
Find new site for City Christmas Tree - in a more central downtown location.				x	
Connect Elizabeth Daniels Plaza to Library grounds. Incorporate a literary garden (Harry Potter, Shakespeare, Mother Goose, etc.), amphitheater/stage; benches, sculpture garden; water feature as part of public plaza	x			x	
Remodel restroom: make into unisex stall and maintenance room		x	x		
Low ornamental metal fencing, where needed, around perimeter		x	x		
Site amenities include seat walls, benches, water features, and shade trees		x		x	

Timing: L = long-term/S = short term
 Priority: H = high/M = medium/L = low



Dow Alexander Park



Possible Design Options for Dow Alexander Park (.25 acres)

1. Upgrade play equipment, use train theme
2. Improve landscape
3. Screen highway with landscape buffer
4. Enhance/enlarge picnic area
5. Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements
6. Add restroom

Figure B-2: Dow Alexander Park Design Options

APPENDIX B

Table B-2: Developed Parks - Dow Alexander Park

Recommendation	Timing		Priority		
	L	S	H	M	L
Replace/upgrade play equipment. Use train theme, historic connection to NCNG Railroad		x	x		
Keep this park as a tot lot		x	x		
Add restroom facility		x	x		
Enhance, enlarge picnic area			x		
Clean up and renovate landscaping		x		x	
Cannon - If the train theme is established then remove and place at Memorial Park or provide a marker describing historical significance at Dow Alexander		x		x	
Provide landscape screen along highway edge	x			x	
Improve sidewalk links to community along Bennet	x			x	

Timing: L = long-term/S = short term
 Priority: H = high/M = medium/L = low



Minnie Park

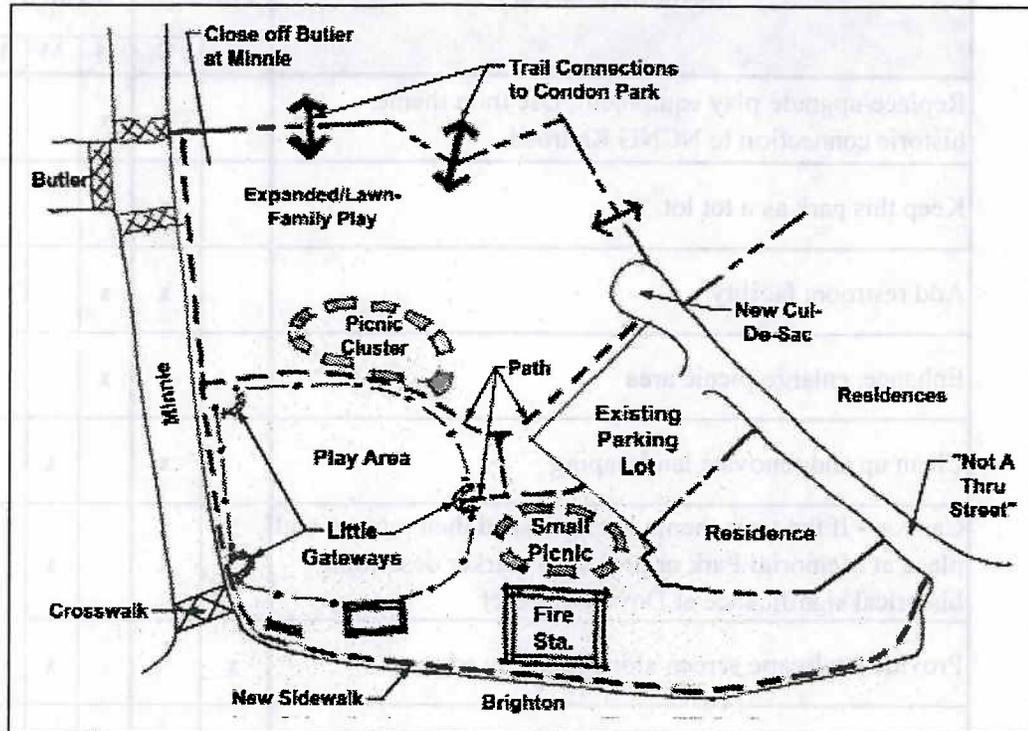


Figure B-3: Minnie Park Design Options

Possible Design Options for Minnie Park (2 acres)

1. Close Butler Street - 2 places
2. Change to cul-de-sac at parking lot
3. Refurbish play equipment and surface material
4. Remove fencing except at play area
5. Add gateways to play area and signs at corner
6. Provide ADA compliant drinking fountain and picnic tables
7. Cluster picnic areas
8. Expand open lawn area to Condon Park edge
9. Provide hard surface trail from parking lot to play and picnic areas
10. Add sidewalk on Minnie and Brighton Streets
11. Add crosswalks at Brighton and Butler Streets
12. Add trail links into Condon Park

APPENDIX B

Table B-3: Developed Parks - Minnie Park

Recommendation	Timing		Priority		
	L	S	H	M	L
Upgrade play equipment to be ADA compliant		x	x		
Close off Butler Street, provide cul-de-sac at parking lot, and add crosswalks at intersections		x			
Provide ADA-compliant drinking fountains and picnic tables		x	x		
Provide open turf area between Minnie and Condon Parks (where Butler used to be) for family play		x	x		
Remove exterior fencing when roads are removed; keep fence around play lot		x	x		
Add paved restoration/education trail linking Minnie and Condon Parks		x			x
Install sidewalks along street edges to provide accessible entry to park, and to link areas within the park		x	x		
Correct road intersection at Minnie and Brighton		x		x	
Cluster picnic tables and BBQs into tighter grouping	x				x

Timing: L = long-term/S = short term
 Priority: H = high/M = medium/L = low



Memorial Park

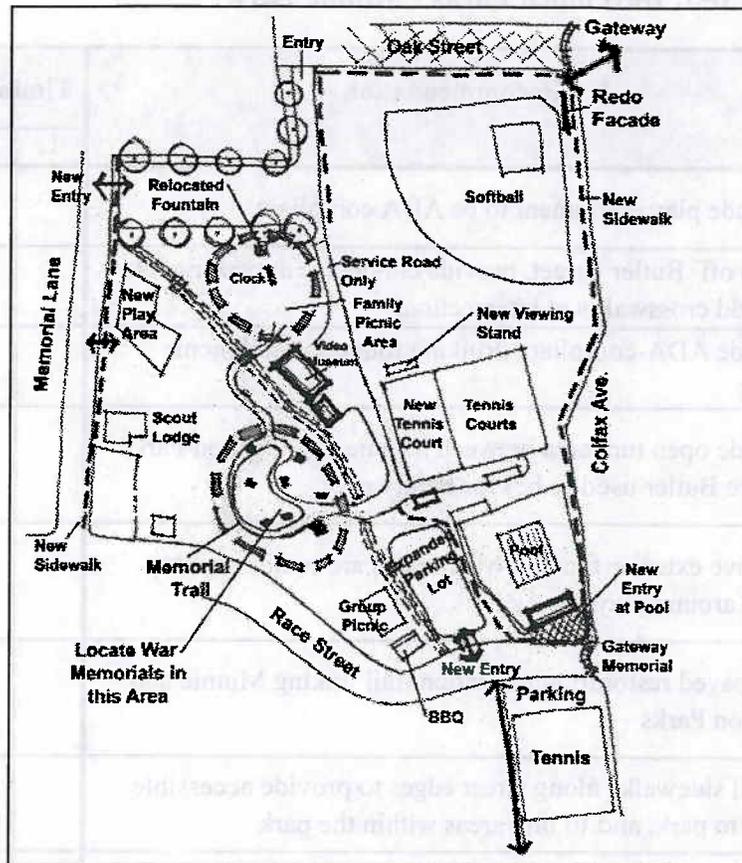


Figure B-4: Memorial Park Design Options

Possible Design Options for Memorial Park (7.6 acres)

1. Sidewalks along Colfax Avenue and Memorial Lane
2. Change paving surface on Oak Street at park edge
3. Trail heads at Oak/Colfax and Race Street
4. Gateways at Oak and Race Streets
6. Add new parking lot west of pool
7. Add plaza at pool entry
8. Refurbish pool complex
9. At grade water play feature to replace kiddie pool
10. Add new tennis court
11. Cluster war memorials, formalize trail and add signage with support of interest groups
12. Limit autos to parking lots only (Pave area at video museum and garage to be service road only)
13. Update play area
14. Add trail to Empire Mine
15. Formalize family picnic area around clock (tables, barbecue, etc.)
16. Refurbish lodge to rent to community groups and generate revenue



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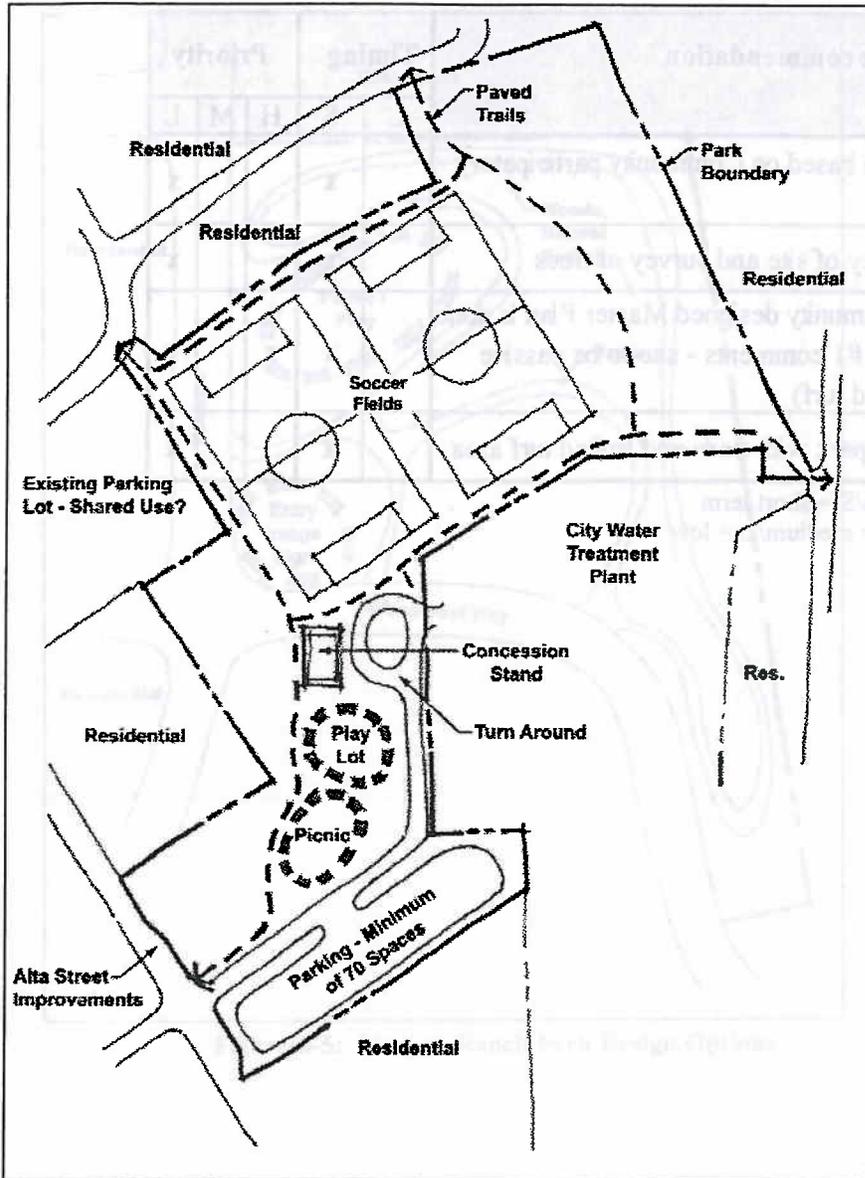
Table B-4: Developed Parks - Memorial Park

Recommendation	Timing		Priority		
	L	S	H	M	L
Do financial analysis of pool, equipment, and pool house renovations		X	X		
Complete a Master Plan before proceeding with any changes to site		X	X		
Upgrade play equipment and picnic areas to be ADA compliant		X	X		
Provide hard surface path along ball field fence to provide access to lights and picnic tables		X		X	
Upgrade pool complex, trellis/structure, handicapped access, resurfacing, equipment, water feature to replace kiddie pool		X	X		
Create focal point/gateway into Park at Race and Oak Streets.				X	
Provide safe drop off area at pool complex		X	X		
Provide more parking near pool complex		X	X		
With support of affected interest groups, locate war/veteran memorials along paved trail		X		X	
Add 1 tennis court		X	X		
Relocate non-war/veteran memorials to other park /museum sites, or to other places within Memorial Park (if possible)				X	
Refurbish Scout Lodge: utilize as revenue source for City-weddings, reunions, meetings, etc.			X		
Improve pedestrian entry into park from Memorial Lane: add sidewalks and relocate fence		X	X		
Investigate possible second vehicular access from Memorial Lane	X				X
Add sidewalk on Memorial Lane and Colfax Ave		X	X		
Provide trail head to Empire Mine and Little Wolf Creek from Park		X	X		

Timing: L = long-term/S = short term
 Priority: H = high/M = medium/L = low



Mulcahy Field



Proposed Changes for Mulcahy Field (12.9 acres)

1. 2 soccer fields
2. Add a concession, restroom, and storage building
3. Parking - 70 spaces maximum
4. Play lot
5. Picnic area
6. Paved bike/pedestrian path
7. Soft-surface foot paths
8. Natural areas

Figure B-6: Mulcahy Park Design Options

Table B-6: Developed Parks - Mulcahy Field

Recommendation	Timing		Priority		
	L	S	H	M	L
Keep site and revise existing master plan with soccer fields, parking, restroom (See Master Plan). Keep baseball at Condon Park		X	X		
Develop a contractual agreement with the soccer organization		X	X		
Improve Alta Street to accommodate increased traffic prior to construction of park improvements		X	X		
Include passive recreation and natural areas		X		X	

Timing: L = long-term/S = short term
 Priority: H = high/M = medium/L = low



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Table B-7: Developed Parks - Condon Park

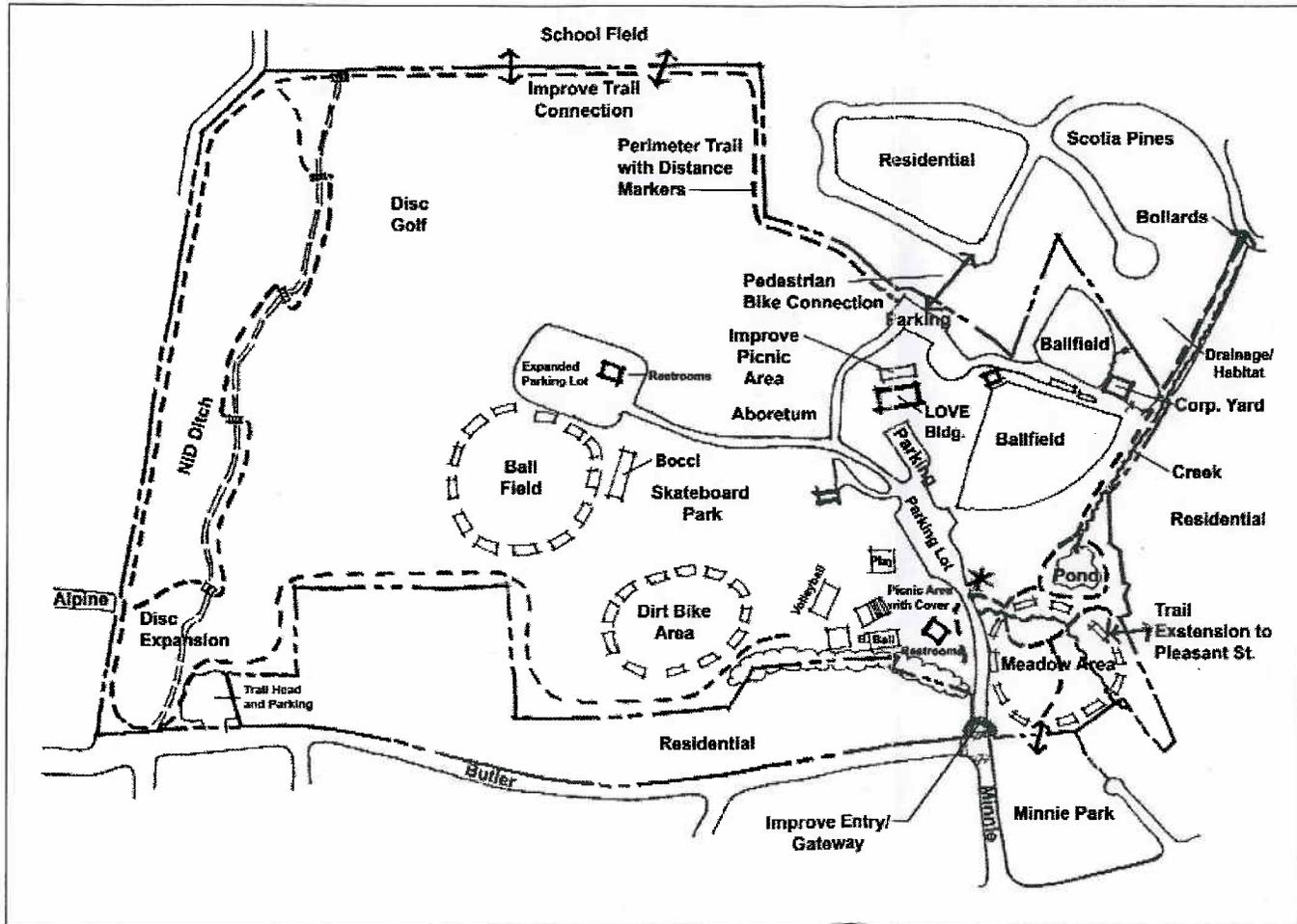
Recommendation	Timing		Priority		
	L	S	H	M	L
Provide additional trail connections - formalized, 5% grades where possible - to Scotia Pines, apartments, Butler Street, school, and along creekway		x		x	
Provide designated trail along NID ditch, connect with other park trails. Formalize loop trail around park		x		x	
Provide active recreation uses at meadow area: tennis courts, ball field		x	x		
Relocate meadow to restoration area adjacent to Minnie to open up flat area for play field		x			x
Consider Condon Park to be a Regional Park. This distinction will be important when reviewing revenue sharing with County		x	x		
Review expansion of disc golf. Association to provide funding for building it. Need master plan for expansion prior to approval			x		
Revise existing Master Plan based on City Master Plan, add vegetation map; and show Minnie and Condon joined		x		x	
Over time, reduce Corporation yard to just maintenance for Condon Park. Relocate general maintenance to Freeman Lane/Allison Ranch Rd or elsewhere	x			x	
Improve entry into park- open up view into park		x		x	
Develop educational restoration trail- connect to Minnie		x			x
Implement habitat management plan - to increase species mix, habitat value, improve long term health, looks of park. See CDF report.		x		x	
Trail plan required with standards for development, including signage, trail development, bridges, decomposed granite, major loop, minor loop, footbridge standards, hierarchy of trails					x
Provide second entrance on Alpine or Butler with parking lot and trailhead at Butler				x	
Expand parking areas around LOVE Building , and at second entry on Butler and at Bocce courts				x	
Add dirt bike track to Condon Park					
Add cover for group picnic area				x	
Locate area for grassland meadow					
Skateboard Park - continue with current action		x		x	

Timing: L = long-term/S = short term
 Priority: H = high/M = medium/L = low



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Condon Park



Possible Design Options for Condon Park

1. Limit corporate yard activities/expansion to Condon/Minnie Park. Relocate main corporation yard to another location
2. Open up main entry
3. Institute vegetation management plan
4. Continue with skate park
5. Add play field near upper parking lot
6. Expand parking lots, especially #4
7. Continue meadow restoration near Minnie Park
8. Install ADA trails to dock, Bocce ball court, meadow restoration along creek/service road
9. Improve service road along creek
10. Improve drainage pond, habitat and wildlife pond
11. Add pedestrian connections to Scotia Pines and school
12. Improve trails along NID ditch (steep!)
13. Expand disc golf area

