

Grass Valley

Parks and Recreation
Master Plan



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1. INTRODUCTION



1. INTRODUCTION

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

1. INTRODUCTION

(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

1. INTRODUCTION

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.



1. INTRODUCTION

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.



1. INTRODUCTION

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, Kroy, Kinch, Bear River Mill, and Clearbrook. 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

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2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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)



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 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.



2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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/ Pedestrian 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.





into an informed discussion of revenue sharing.

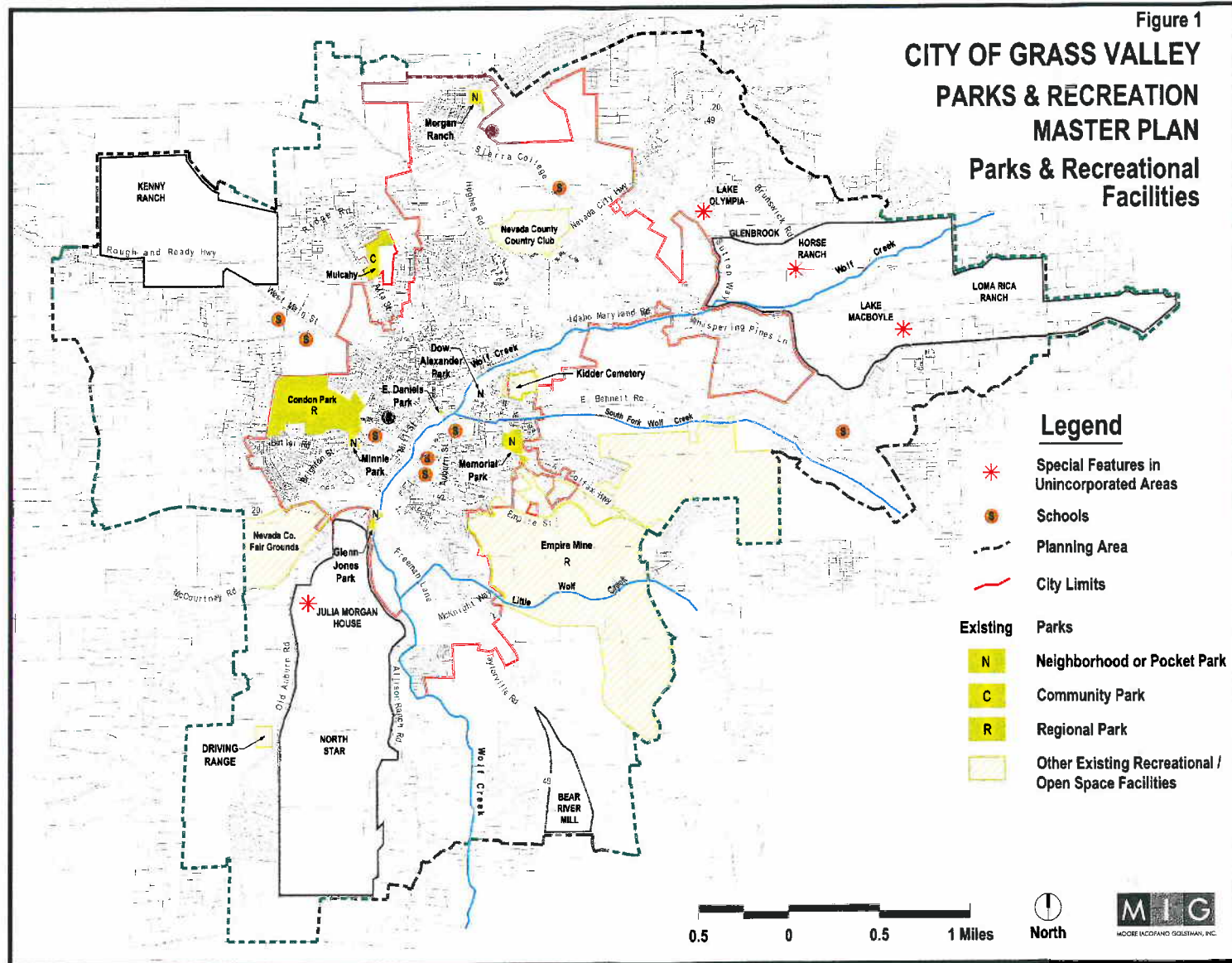
Costs and Other Data. Grant Valley and Lincoln County Planning Departments can also enter recreational expenditures from Valley and Oregon into existing user demand information base which has by county residents of City facilities and programs. With the addition of a third item, At this time, there is no agreement with Nevada County for financial information from the trip of Mountain Nevada County, the City of Grant Valley serves a population in Nevada now obtained through schools and Memorial Park facilities.

Investment Data. They are now. As the population increases, it will not be possible to meet the need. The implementation of these facilities will place the City at a higher level of responsibility for the City and County to handle. Self-sufficient organizations to bring about the same level of protection and maintenance of a multi-use recreational center. The same organization providing services to the area. The City and County should be involved in the development of a community center. The same community has formed a group that is investigating both site and facility workshops, the local community expressed its desire to be part of a multi-use national center space in the Nevada County Parklands with its focus on the area. Through the community extension and this demand will continue to increase. The Center and the park will own the. An increase in the active water population a plan of direction on the activities and facilities center.

Projects. They are a source of community funds and they provide opportunities for water projects. These investments offer a passive recreational vision both for residents and to Grant Valley's history. At this time, there is no City-owned property that can serve these for the display of historical structures and historic the citizens. There are other important role the Vista Museum in Grantsville Park. The other organizations would like to serve a historic. There are organizations to Grant Valley, the Kellon Mining Museum in Grant Park, the same organizations in back maintenance staffing needs.

can reduce some of the need to reduce more active recreational park land and create a through joint-use agreements and Memorandums of Understanding, the City of Grant Valley

5. 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

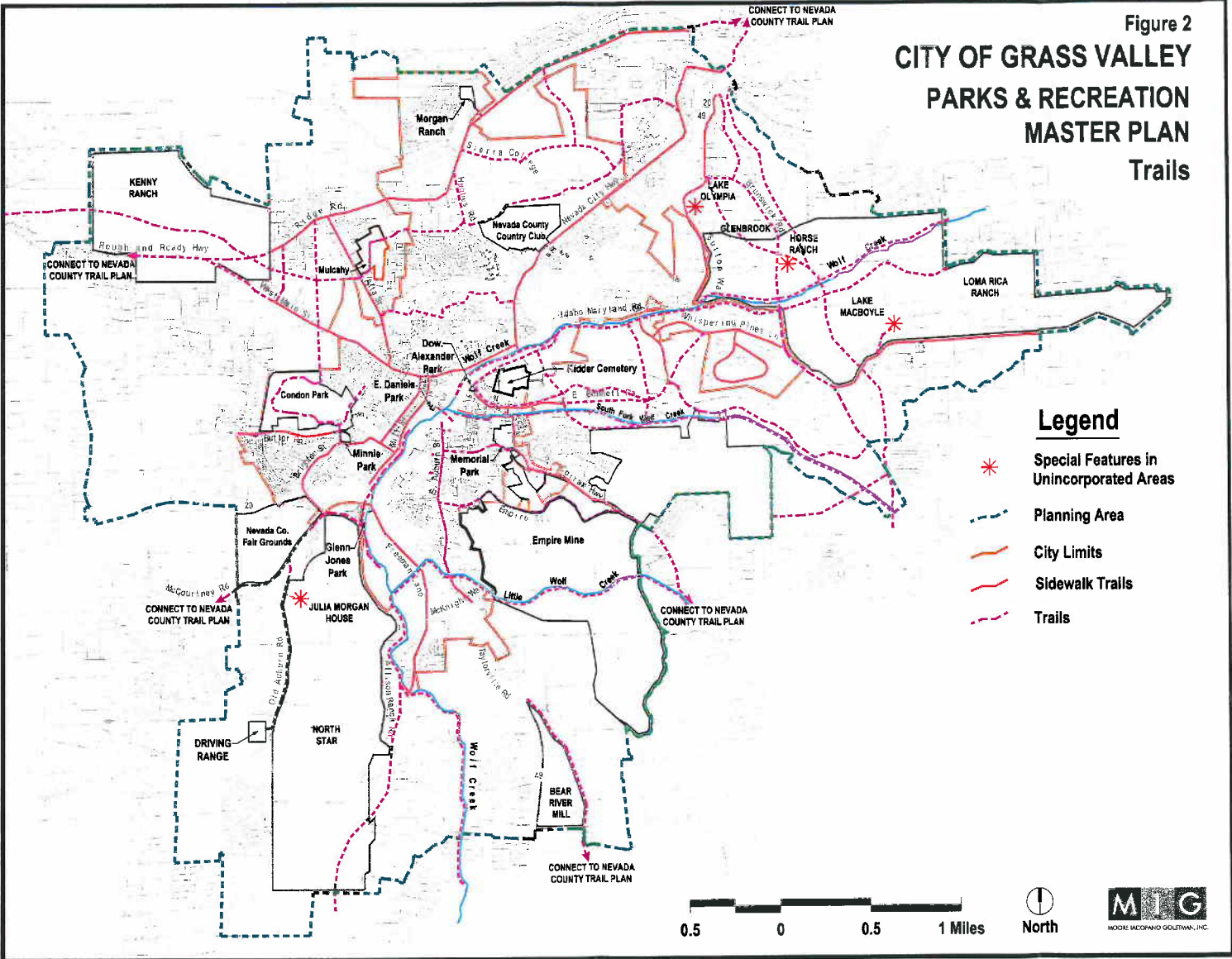
- Access to the creek
- How is the creek being treated in development's vicinity in the approval process and what opportunities are there to re-evaluate these plans
- Competition of City water quality issues
- How to engage the community in the process
- Where are the most feasible opportunities to create 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

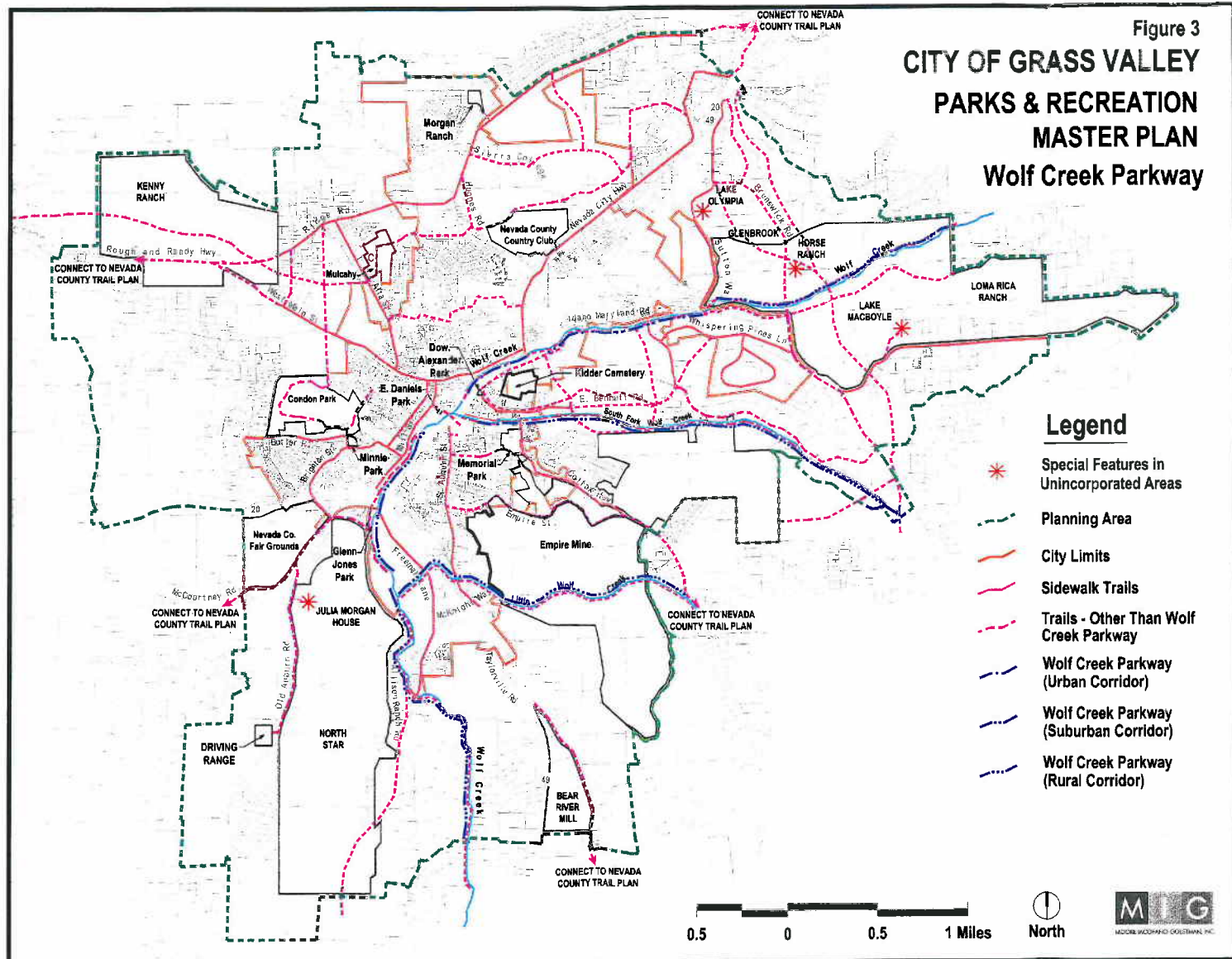
Two trail components that can be implemented or improved now include:

- 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.



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



